



'NON-ELITIST' EVENT FOR US

Martin Swig's Double 500 continues to flourish, fuelled by enthusiasm and clunkers

Five years ago, California Mille organiser Martin Swig was challenged to create a rally for the common man. He answered the challenge with the Double 500: 500 miles in a \$500 car.

The first two were single day 500-mile marathons that have since been sympathetically recalibrated to 500km so that more cars can finish. However, it still makes for a long day carving up the beautiful Northern California coastline in a swiftly moving procession of clunkers and theme-decorated oddities.

'The funny thing is that the

attrition rate for this event is about the same, or better than the California Mille!' Swig enjoys pointing out. 'It's unadulterated automotive enthusiasm.'

Memorable entries this year included Dodge Reidy's 'WallyWorld Volvo', a 1986 sedan inspired by the Chevy Chase movie *Vacation*, covered in dirt and sporting a haphazardly-loaded roof rack (complete with an outboard motor), vinyl adhesive wood side paneling, an ice cream truck loudspeaker and a spare tyre cleverly bolted over the expired licence plates.

An 'Alpo Milano' Alfetta sported giant dog-themed Alfa logos while a Le Mans Gulf GT40-inspired 1966 Ford Galaxie 500 with 'Rust' sponsor logos and some orange spray paint caused onlookers to do a double take. Only in America...

MASERATI RACE-READY

Everything set for a return to the track

Maserati has presented to the FIA (Federation Internationale Automobile) 25 road-going MC12 cars, signalling a welcome return to racing and reviving its reputation for innovation and sporting prowess.

Chief Executive Martin Leach said: 'The history of Maserati is one of sporting success, splendid and fascinating cars combined with exclusive customers. We have completed the series of 25 MC12 road cars, whilst the track cars in which we will make our racing return to an international championship are being prepared.

'It is an historic moment.'

