TOM HARTLEY JNR

1955 MERCEDES-BENZ 300 SL Alloy Gullwing

Silver with Blue Plaid

£SOLD

Mileage	N/A miles	Engine Capacity	2996cc
Body Style	Coupe	Fuel	Petrol
Transmission	Manual	Chassis No.	500486

The 300 SL was developed by Mercedes-Benz in response to the greatest rivals of the day, namely Ferrari, Jaguar and Aston Martin. They achieved great success in the early 1950s with victories at Le Mans, the gruelling Carrera Panamericana and a 2nd place finish in the Mille Miglia.

By 1954 the model had gone into production and was proving to be incredibly popular. However, the team at Mercedes-Benz were keen to build upon their competition pedigree and commissioned a special-order *Leichtmetall*Â (aluminium bodied) car. The alloy-bodied cars weren't just lighter, they also featured a more powerful NSL engine, sports suspension and Rudge wheels.

Only 29 alloy-bodied examples would be built and they were destined for the factory's very best clients who were ready to go racing.

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Chassis 500486 is the 19th of the 29 examples produced and it was the only aluminium GullwingÂ to ever compete in the Mille Miglia in period, appearing in both 1956 and the final edition in 1957.

It was restored by marque and model specialists, HK Engineering, from 2012 to 2014 and was subsequently nominated for restoration of the year, a testament to the quality of the work carried out.

Over the past eight years it has formed part of the collection of a true motorsport icon and comes complete with its original fitted luggage, the first ownerâ€™s racing helmet and very well-documented history files.