

News Release



Classic Car Insurance™

For immediate release
14 May, 2009

CLASSICAL GAS

The classic and collector car market is fizzing - with consistent values and increasing interest - says specialist insurer, Hagerty

In contrast to the downturn in the mainstream motoring market, where new car sales continue to decline*, values in the UK classic and collector car sector remains strong, according to specialist insurers, Hagerty International Ltd.

“Whilst new car values have dropped sharply, those of classic and collector car are remaining consistent. This enables us to retain good levels of renewal premium rather than discounting, where the values of the cars have reduced”, says Angus Forsyth, MD of the Silverstone-based firm, whose bespoke portfolio of products is underwritten by Allianz Insurance.

Hagerty insured in excess of £450,000,000 in cars in the UK in 2008, with 190% growth in annual premium income over the previous year. The sustained buoyancy in the classic car sector is reflected in Hagerty’s strong performance in Q1 of 2009, with a further 150% growth in premium income recorded.

According to Hagerty, the classic market is being fuelled by increasing numbers of private motorists considering first-time ownership of an older, classic car.

“In the current climate, buying a classic car wisely can represent a good investment,” Forsyth continues. “As a consequence, we are seeing increasing interest in ownership amongst private motorists looking to join the ‘hobbyist’ movement, which currently constitutes some two million owners in the UK.”

“We are also receiving an increasing level of calls from existing classic and collector car owners, who are considering changing their insurance loyalties as more preferable policies and rates become available”, Forsyth concludes.

Hagerty also offers its portfolio of classic and collector car policies to other insurance brokers, who can obtain quotes 24/7 via the web, using a bespoke internet-based portal. Hagerty’s specialisation reaps significant rewards for its broker clients, besides excellent rates of commission, with access to the Hagerty team’s in-depth knowledge of vehicle values, market shifts and trends.

Hagerty’s buoyant standing is also reflected by robust trading at the world’s major classic and collector car auction houses, which serve as a good barometer of the global market.

According to McKeel Hagerty, CEO of USA parent company, Hagerty Insurance: “The days of rampant speculation, easy profit-flipping cars, and an endless buyer appetite for everything, are clearly on hold but, all in all, most industry veterans are bullish against the very depressed state of the global new car market.”

** New car registrations for the first four months of 2009 are 28.5% lower than the same period in 2008. Source: Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT)*

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Picture caption: *Interest in ownership of classic cars - such as these magnificent 1939 and 1948 Jaguar SS Saloons - is on the up, according to specialist insurers, Hagerty International*

For further press information on Hagerty International, and comment on the Classic and Collector Car market sector, plus further high-resolution images, please contact:

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About Hagerty:

- Founded in the USA in 1983, initially to provide speciality insurance to classic boat enthusiasts, parent company, Hagerty Insurance, launched its service for car collectors in 1991, and is now the largest classic and collector car insurance specialist in the USA and beyond.
- UK-based subsidiary, Hagerty International, was established in 2006 to cater for the parallel market sector in the UK and Europe, and now offers a bespoke portfolio of insurance products, underwritten by Allianz.
- Hagerty has built a robust and buoyant reputation for matching its clients' passion for classic vehicles, underlined in their belief that classic and collector cars are *'fun cars that you own because you desire them, not because you need them'*.
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