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YOUR TURN



Taras Wolf's 1968 Mercedes-Benz 280SL Pagoda

I was born in Australia but grew up in Bangkok in the '70s and '80s and as far as I can remember there has always been a Mercedes in my life.

My father was a classic car enthusiast and over the years we enjoyed a huge array of European cars.

Dad entered his cars into concours events and there was always a ground-up restoration or two on the go.

However, it was not until the late-'90s that I got hit with the classic car bug.

My mum's 1976 SLC had grown old, tired, and desperately needed some TLC. She gave me the car and

through its restoration I learnt to appreciate the quality built into Mercedes from that era.

After the SLC I went through six more classic Mercs including a really nice black W111 280SE coupe all in the space of just two years, before moving back to live in Melbourne.

Much of my passion for the brand was fuelled by my dream to own a silver 280SL Pagoda. As a designer, I find that car to be one of Mercedes' finest achievements.

It has great looks, solid build, and yet is still very modern to drive. My father had one when I was a child

and then after seeing a fully restored car in 1998, I decided I just had to have one.

That dream was finally realised in 2008 after a four-year, ground-up restoration. The car had only 80,000 miles on the clock when I bought it, and was extremely original.

It really didn't need a

restoration but I wanted the car to feel like the day when it left the factory.

Like my father, I now enjoy entering my cars into concours events and sharing my passion with family and fellow enthusiasts. I'm proud to say that all my cars are immaculate, original, and concourse winners.

ABOVE A designer, Taras rates the Pagoda Merc's looks. **BELOW & RIGHT** The family that Benz together, stays together!



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