

FORDMAGAZINE

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EXCLUSIVELY FOR FORD OWNERS

THE MODEL GOALKEEPER

David James on
Giorgio Armani,
football, and his
new Ford GT

ON THE TRAIL OF HANNIBAL
THE LEGENDARY ALPINE
CROSSING - IN A FOCUS C-MAX

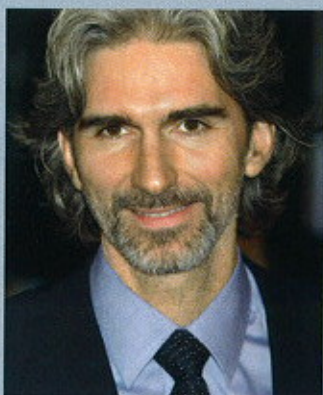
INSIDE STORY
UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL
WITH THE NEW-LOOK FIESTA

WIN A FORD FOCUS



The review: Damon Hill on his new Ford GT

Former F1 World Champion Damon Hill now runs the world's most exclusive pool of cars for members of his elite club, P1 International. He explained to *Ford Magazine* just why he loves the Ford GT so much...



GETTY

So Damon, how's life after F1?

Being an F1 driver is fairly intensive, so I've been spending as much time as possible with my family. That meant being involved with manageable projects that wouldn't overwhelm me. Like P1 International...

Tell us about P1 and your new GT...

We offer a selection of the world's best cars for a yearly subscription. Members can avail themselves of just about every sports and luxury car in existence. On the rarity scale, the Ford GT is 'extreme', so we're delighted to have it!

What sort of people tend to join?

We have some famous clients, but our members are mostly business people, entrepreneurs and people who just love cars and want to drive them on race-tracks! We take them on 'experiences', trips where they drive Formula 1 cars. I talk them through it - no real racing!

So what's the GT like to drive?

Well it looks fantastic: we've got the

blue one with a white stripe. It's really luxurious to drive, and there's actually plenty of room so you don't feel cooped up. It took me five years to recover from a bad back after my F1 career so I like it that the cockpit is a sensible size.

And what about the GT's power?

The supercharged engine gives it a magnificent sound and it's got loads of torque and a great gearbox. You're aware that you're driving something with a real sports car heritage; it's built for a circuit like the Belgian Grand Prix track in Spa, in the Belgian Ardennes.

Is there anything missing?

Less is more, really. The only things that should be in it are already there. I suppose there could be a traction control switch, but if there was and you forgot to put it on you'd end up with all sorts of problems.

What else are you up to this season?

Right now I'm driving a GP2 Formula 3000 car to help a really promising young driver, Stephen Kaye, get into racing. It's the first time in a while I've driven in a race, but I'm really just doing it for publicity, to look out for opportunities and raise funds to get him into the best car. He's got a lot of potential: an F1 driver of the future.

Interview: Tim Edwards

➤ **FOR MORE INFORMATION ON DAMON HILL AND HIS P1 INTERNATIONAL CLUB, GO TO www.p1international.com**

