

Marvel at Maserati

MOTORSPORT

By Bruce Booth

THIS weekend sees Maserati named the official “celebration marque” at the Silverstone Classic 2014, as the centenary festivities for the historic Italian car makers get into full swing.

This year's classic racing festival will play host to one of the largest gatherings of Maserati models the UK has ever witnessed, with more than 200 past and present Maseratis joining a cavalcade led by Sir Stirling Moss.

The legendary Maserati driver will take to the Silverstone circuit at noon on Sunday behind the wheel of his iconic Grand Prix-winning 250F.

He will be joined in the parade by special guest Alfieri Maserati, son of company co-founder Ernesto Maserati.

Models in the line-up range from the classic Tipo 61 Birdcage to modern greats including the GranTurismo MC Stradale.

Maserati north Europe region manager Peter Denton said: “The UK is a crucially important market for Maserati.

“With 2014 being our centenary and sales up 223 per cent year-on-year, it is an exciting time for us.

“The Silverstone Classic promises to be a fantastic showcase of Maserati's glorious racing heritage.

“The arrival in showrooms of the company's new Ghibli and Quattroporte Diesel models heralds the beginning of another exciting chapter in the Maserati story.”

Maserati enjoys a long-established relationship with the home of British motorsport, as a Maserati driven by Luigi Villorresi won the first British Grand Prix hosted by the Northamptonshire circuit in 1948.

Meantime, Silverstone played host

to the third and final European round in the Maserati Trofeo World

Series last weekend, when the single-make series saw three action-packed races.

The Maserati Trofeo is a motorsport experience organised by the marque for private customers.

Racers compete in V8, 488 horse-powered GranTurismo MC Trofeo machines that are given full race car set-up by Maserati's factory engineers.

The 2014 season's first title, The

Trofeo Europa, was won by Swiss racer Mauro Calamia, who snatched the lead from the reigning champion, the absent Renaud Kuppens.

Calamia entered the weekend as a firm favourite to take the title, thanks to a one-two-three finish at an earlier round in Budapest and a win at Spa.

The Trofeo Series now leaves Europe and heads to Virginia International Raceway in America next month before finishing off with races in Shanghai and Abu Dhabi.



▲ CLOSE Mauro Calamia in action

‘The Silverstone Classic promises to be a fantastic showcase of racing heritage’

▼ **BLAST FROM THE PAST**
Sir Stirling drives his 250F to victory in Monaco Grand Prix 1956



