

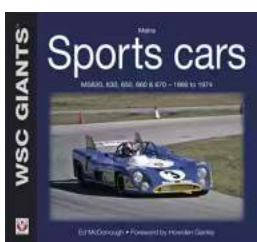
Matra Sports Cars: MS620, MS630, MS650, MS660, and MS670 (1966-1974) - The WSC Giants that Dominated Endurance Racing

When it comes to legendary sports cars that ruled the endurance racing world, few can match the extraordinary accomplishments of the Matra Sports Cars series. From 1966 to 1974, Matra created a legacy that is still revered today, through its iconic models: the MS620, MS630, MS650, MS660, and MS670. These machines stood as testaments to Matra's engineering prowess and the brand's unwavering desire for victory.

The Birth of Matra Sports Cars

Matra, initially an aerospace company, decided to venture into the world of motorsports in the mid-1960s. Their expertise in aerodynamics and composite materials made them uniquely suited for car manufacturing. Matra's determination to make a mark in racing led to the development of the first in the series - the Matra MS620.

The Matra MS620 made its debut in 1966 and quickly emerged as a force to be reckoned with in the World Sportscar Championship (WSC). Its sleek design, featuring a low-slung body, and impressive performance capabilities set it apart from its competitors. Powered by a V8 engine, the MS620 possessed the power and speed necessary to conquer the world's most challenging racetracks.



Matra sports cars: MS620, 630, 650, 660 & 670 – 1966 to 1974 (WSC Giants) by Ed McDonough (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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The MS620's Evolution - MS630, MS650, and MS660

Matra's commitment to excellence led to continuous improvement in their sports cars. The result was the birth of the MS630, MS650, and MS660 models, each representing a step forward in terms of performance, aerodynamics, and overall design.

The Matra MS630, introduced in 1967, featured refined aerodynamics and improved weight distribution, which translated into better handling and speed on the track. Equipped with a Matra V12 engine, the MS630 became a fan favorite during its time, attracting attention with its distinctive looks and impressive results.

Building upon the success of the MS630, Matra unveiled the MS650 in 1969. This model showcased further advancements in aerodynamics, with a focus on reducing drag and improving overall performance. The MS650's dominance on the racetrack was evident as it secured multiple victories, solidifying Matra's position as a force to be reckoned with in endurance racing.

By 1970, Matra introduced its most powerful iteration yet - the MS660. With a more aggressive design and an upgraded engine, the MS660 raised the bar in terms of performance. Matra's relentless quest for excellence paid off as the

MS660 achieved remarkable results, including a victory at the iconic 24 Hours of Le Mans in 1972.

The Culmination - Matra MS670

Matra saved the best for last, introducing their masterpiece, the Matra MS670, in 1972. The MS670 was the pinnacle of Matra's sports car series, combining cutting-edge technology with a design that pushed the boundaries of automotive engineering.

Powered by a 3.0-liter V12 engine, the MS670's remarkable power output allowed it to compete at the highest level. It boasted a sleek and aerodynamic body, meticulously crafted to maximize performance on long straights and tight corners alike.

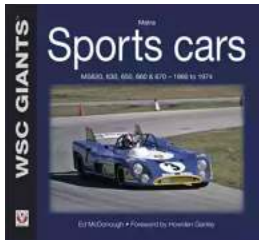
The MS670's crowning achievement came in 1972 when it won the prestigious 24 Hours of Le Mans for the first time. Its success continued into the following years, with back-to-back victories in 1973 and 1974, further cementing the MS670's status as one of the most dominant cars in endurance racing history.

Legacy and Influence

The Matra Sports Cars series left an indelible mark on the world of endurance racing. Their innovative designs, technological advancements, and relentless pursuit of victory set new standards for sports cars in the era. The Matra MS620, MS630, MS650, MS660, and MS670 will forever be remembered as the WSC Giants that dominated their competition.

Even today, the influence of the Matra Sports Cars series can be seen in modern sports cars and prototypes. Their achievements paved the way for future advancements in aerodynamics, composite materials, and engine performance.

The Matra Sports Cars MS620, MS630, MS650, MS660, and MS670 were the embodiment of excellence in endurance racing. From their debut in the late 1960s to their dominance in the early 1970s, these cars pushed the boundaries of what was possible on the racetrack. Their legacy still lives on today, inspiring the next generation of automotive engineers and enthusiasts.



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The late 1960s and early 1970s were a significant era in the world of international sports car racing. As the motor racing rule-making body moved back and forth between cars that less and less resembled road going vehicles, prototype sports car racing captured the imagination of manufacturers, teams and fans alike. Porsche vs. Ferrari vs. Alfa Romeo vs. Matra provided some of the best racing for sports cars ever witnessed, and by 1973, the Matra prototype – little more than a Grand Prix car with full bodywork – was dominating the scene. That period has always been viewed as one of the great eras in sports car racing, when all the Grand Prix drivers were fully active in sports car as well as F1 machines. This is the story of a great time, and a great model, in motorsport.



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