

#36 Alfa Romeo Convertible

\$3,000.00
Paid
From: Estate sale



1981 Alfa Romeo: Spider Veloce

Description:

I have only owned this for a short time. It is a darling car. Runs fine on city streets but SHOULD NOT be driven on the freeway. I got an inspection at Pep Boys. Oil level and coolant levels are good. There is a transmission leak. Belts and hoses in good condition. Lights all work. Filters are in moderate condition. Brakes are in good condition with 40% remaining. Rear differential leak drain plug. Suspension needs work. Upper strut mount brushing loose. This car is being sold AS IS. It has license tags from 2001 so has not been driven much. I will be happy to fax the car report to anyone who would like to see it. Damage to the bumper, rag top is torn, ding on the side and the driver door handle falls off. Damage to the leather seats. This is a great car and with a little TLC it will be awesome!

Winning Bid:

\$2,051.00

Ended: 11/30/06

History: 2 bids

Starting Bid: \$1,995.00

Winner: North Carolina

Viewed

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Alfa Romeo Convertible #36

The Story

Can you say “mistake?” I certainly can. I had bought this car back in September after a day at the spa with Mo and Melanie. Mo reminded me just the other day that she had wanted to buy it and I had talked her out of it. Lucky her. Stupid me. This is hands down the worst eBay mistake I have ever made, and it cost me at least \$1,000.

I thought I could buy this car and turn it very quickly for an extra \$1,000. I listed it on eBay in September with a starting bid of \$3,995. It did not sell and it would take me two more long months to get a rid of it (my sister says “get a rid of,” not “get rid of.”)

This was after I took it to Pep Boys and got an auto inspection. The car was a mess, despite the fact that the owners had told me that it was in great condition. Can you say “sucker”?

Anyway, my mom had an Alfa Romeo when I was growing up. It was such a cute little car, and she loved it. She even let me and Hank drive it over to Orcas Island when I was home visiting one summer. I knew that Alfa Romeos have a huge following, and how could this darling car not be worth \$4,000? Well, it wasn't. It immediately started leaking oil in my garage. And if I didn't drive it every other day, it wouldn't start.

The kids and I drove it down to the tennis courts often. I was afraid to drive it outside of our gated community on the main roads. The only good thing that came out of this was that we played A LOT of tennis.

The Alfa Romeo company was founded in 1910 in Milan, Italy. The company went through many changes over the years. It began producing race cars, and during WWI (1915) produced military hardware for the war. Also in 1915, Nicola Romeo (a skillful engineer and sports car enthusiast) took over the company, and in 1920 his name was added to make the name “Alfa Romeo.”

In 1932, the company was in trouble and the government bailed it out—it became part of Mussolini's Italy. Enzo Ferrari became the head of the race department. Alfa Romeo won many race victories throughout the 1930s. It's said that Henry Ford used to doff his hat when he saw an Alfa Romeo pass.

The Spider Veloce convertible was introduced in 1970, and the traditional rounded tail of the Alfa Romeo was cut off to be more square and yield more luggage space. My Spider was a 1981. These cars were discontinued in 1983. In 1987, Alfa Romeo joined with the Fiat group.

Alfa Romeo introduced many cars over the years: their expensive cars gave way to sporty cars, which in turn gave way to affordable cars. The Alfa has always been an object of desire, a status symbol and an image of beauty and Italian style. How can that have translated into a \$1,000 loss? Can you say, “Never buy a car that you know nothing about?” I certainly can—now.

