

## **1934 Lancia Belna Eclipse**

### **The most outstanding Italian car award 2016 – Donald Bernstein**

This Lancia Belna is one of just two known surviving Pourtet Belna's. The Lancia Belna was built at Lancia's first non-Italian plant that was located in France. They opened this factory in 1931 and began producing the Lancia Augusta there in 1934. All of the French-built Augustas would be called "Belna" which translates from Hungarian to "gut".

French coachbuilder Marcel Pourtout procured just a few bare chassis Belnas and would go on to build a truly distinctive and prestigious automobile. The "Eclipse" car, as seen here, features a fully retractable hardtop that was designed by automotive designer and French resistance fighter Georges Paulin. This Belna is powered by a 35 horsepower 1.2-liter V-4 engine. It is also said that it has the best tires you could get on a car from the 1930's, greatly enhancing the handling characteristics.

This prime example of a true French classic has graced the covers of several prominent classic car magazines and has garnered numerous prestigious awards throughout the United States. It is believed that approximately 3,000 Belnas were originally produced before production stopped in 1938. Of these, about 500 of them left the French factory as a bare chassis, and only two Pourtout Eclipse Belnas are known . The car before you is currently the only complete and road-worthy example in existence.