

*unstoppable*

## 1895 PEUGEOT VIS-A-VIS

Over a hundred years old and still running strong is the 1895 Peugeot Vis-a-Vis. This automobile harks back to humble beginnings and reminds us of an era long gone past...

Despite its modest top speed, the 1895 Peugeot Vis-a-Vis remains etched in history as the first car to take advantage of the modified Red Flag Act, ushering in a new era of automobiles in which speed became one of the cornerstones.



Edition 21 of a special series by  
**APOLLO TYRES**



THE 19TH CENTURY WAS COMING TO AN END AND people were slowly but surely becoming more used to the idea of motorised vehicles plying on roads along side carts pulled by animals. Machinery was minimalistic back then, with cars restricted to a 4mph top speed and necessitating a man with a red flag walking in front of the vehicle at all times. It was as late as 1896 that the Light Locomotives Act was passed by the parliament and this meant that cars could now attain speeds of upto 12mph. One of the first motorised vehicles to take advantage of the Act was the Peugeot Vis-a-Vis of 1895.

The car's specifications may seem extremely primitive by today's standards but back then it was pretty revolutionary. The Vis-a-Vis was powered by a 1282cc V twin with a 75mm bore and 145mm stroke. Even with the huge capacity, the car managed to chum out all of 3HP that could propel the car to speeds of 12mph!

The change in motoring law with the Light Locomotive Act that was enforced in 1896 liberated the way for comparatively more powerful vehicles to ply on public roads without the inherent need of separate man with a red flag walking ahead of the vehicle. Enthusiasts celebrated the occasion with the first ever London to Brighton Veteran Car Run the same year. The event has been held more years since then and continues to this day. With such history revolving around it, the event stands as the longest-running motorised event ever. The event is also made special by its unique entry criteria - all participating vehicles must belong to the pre-1905 era. It is also the world's largest undisputed gathering of vintage cars - 443 of them participated in 2005!

The event is held on the first Sunday of every November and is



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Never wary of progress, never skeptical about success,  
Never scared of challenges, never tired of trying,  
Every step of the way we travel with our customers  
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flagged off from Hyde Park in London, where there is a surreal gathering of some of the rarest and oldest automotive examples from across the world - all in pristine running condition. The route spans from London and takes the participants all the way to Brighton following the A23. With a total distance of 86km the vehicles get two stops on the way - one at Crawley and the other at Preston Park - the official finish point for the event after which participants drive down to Madeira Drive on the Brighton seafont.

The organisers have forever emphasised that the event is not a race and speeds are limited to just 20mph (32km/h) for all those who can manage to achieve that velocity in the first place! Every vintage vehicle that manages to go the distance before 16.30hrs gets a medal.

It's by far the most prestigious event for a vintage car owner from the pre-1905 era to participate in, and completing the event is a big milestone not only for the participants but for all automotive enthusiasts alike.

2006 saw the 110th anniversary of the London to Brighton Vintage Car Run and leading the pack of vintage cars was none other than an immaculately restored 1895 Peugeot Vis-a-Vis that currently belongs to the Louwman Nationaal Automobiel Collection of Holland. Bearing the participant no. 1, the Vis-a-Vis continues to impress as one of the first automobiles ever to run after the Red Flag Act was lifted.



1 & 2 The immaculately maintained 1895 Vis-a-vis from the Louwman Collection was the No.1 car in the 2006 London to Brighton Veteran Car Run  
3 Technology in 1895 allowed the 1282cc V-twin to make just about 3HP

