



Showtime

# National Mini Cooper Day

A Mini history lesson.



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## DATE

June 13, 2010

## LOCATION

National Motor Museum,  
Beaulieu,  
Hants, UK

## WEBSITE

[www.minicooper.org](http://www.minicooper.org)

There's something about the National Mini Cooper Day at Beaulieu that sets it apart from the other shows of the season. It could be that it's almost like a Goodwood Revival for Minis, where the oldest and most fascinating cars turn up. Or it could be that it caters for all tastes without even trying to, with MINI clubs now pitching up stands alongside classic clubs. When celebrities and Mini legends decide to make an appearance, this is their Mini show of choice.

Despite being christened the 'Cooper' day, the appeal is more than just these nippy Minis. The location at the National Motor Museum in the New Forest, not far from the coast, has been blazingly hot every time I have been for the past four years; and the

quaint village, rural location and museum grounds are a beautifully picturesque setting for some gleaming Minis.

Cooper owners do get privileged parking at the front of the car displays, and when you see so many lined up next to each other it really feels like a family reunion (and not just because I have a Cooper).

Of course those with Coopers of historic interest get bumped up further in front, and every year there seems to be at least one battered Mini sat beside a lovingly restored rally hero. Amongst those heroes was TV chef, James Martin's 1962 ex-Works Cooper S – 8 EMO. He bought it in 2009 for £67,500 (£13k under the guide price!), but wasn't afraid to give it some beans as he tore up the grass in an enthusiastic display for

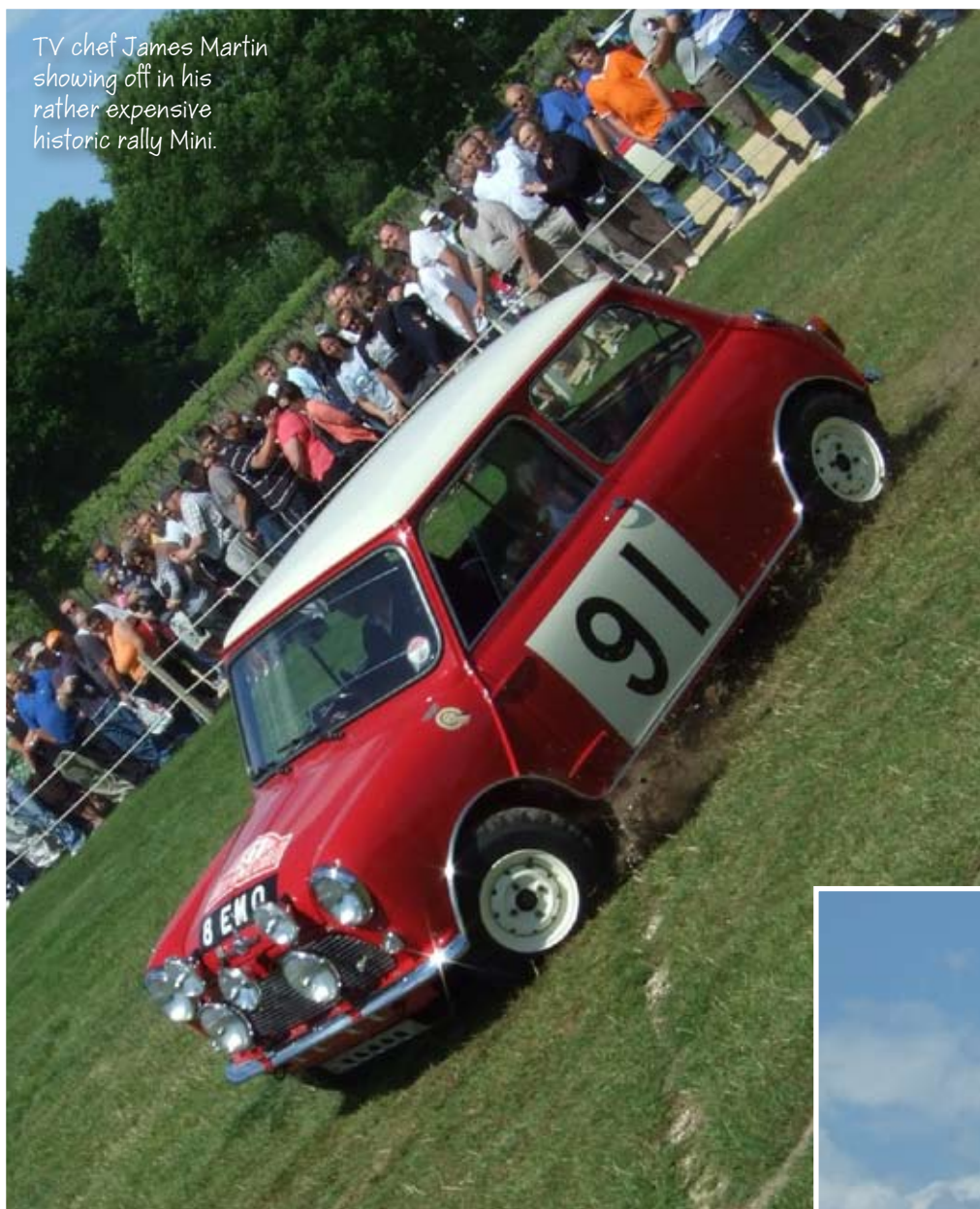


Checking detail judges

every last before the come round.



TV chef James Martin showing off in his rather expensive historic rally Mini.



standard over-priced food vans offered up the usual grub. However, the museum restaurant was a refreshingly cool atmosphere and great for some respite from the sun. Prices were higher, looking at around £7-8 for fish and chips, but the difference in the quality of food was evident. I played it smart and got a bowl of chips and a coke for about £3.50. The museum is another area that is open to showgoers during the day, housing a few Minis, and other classic cars of interest.

Another year, another excellent show at Beaulieu. This was the first Cooper Day I'd attended in my Cooper, so it was a little bit extra special for us both, and again it was great to meet up and make so many friends, new and old. ❤️

the crowd.

Over the loudspeakers, compere Graham Robinson kept visitors informed of the arena show times as they walked around the site, while also taking time to talk to other Mini historians. From

the arena club stands lined-up along the edge of the grounds while wave after wave of cars filled the space inbetween. Traders were arranged, mostly in the shade, providing mild cover to those slow browsing the goods on offer, while the

The day included Bournemouth Mini Club's annual birthday celebrations.







## Single-minded Broadspeed

Drawing plenty of admiring glances throughout the day was Chris Wooden's Broadspeed GT. Chris has a few Broadspeed GTs, but this particular car was the first of just 21 built and was also the personal transport for the designer's wife - Mrs Broad.



The MCR set aside space for dedicated MINI parking too.





So many Minis, so much to see and so little time.



Historians. In a world of their own.



## Taking the mic

Regaling the punters with historical tales was Graham Robinson (right) and John Parnell (left). The historians talked about the myths of Minis and many of the great men and women behind it.

