

A QUICK GETAWAY, ENGLISH-STYLE 1954 MK1 SUNBEAM ALPINE



1955 - Grace Kelly and Cary Grant overlook Monaco, driving an amazing sapphire blue Sunbeam Alpine MK1, in *To Catch a Thief* by Alfred Hitchcock

In 1899, British manufacturer Sunbeam which had been making bicycles since 1887, built its first prototype 4 hp belt-drive car. Thus was born the **Sunbeam Motor Car Company Limited**. Right from the outset, the make was known for the quality of its builds.

The Sunbeam Alpine is a two-seater convertible coupé built by the UK manufacturer between 1953 and 1955, and then again between 1959 and 1968. The Alpine was derived from the Sunbeam-Talbot 90 Saloon, colloquially known as the «**Talbot**» **Alpine**. On its first competitive outing – the 1953 **Coupe des Alpes** – the new car won the Coupe des Dames with Sheila van Damm at its wheel. Of the 1582 cars built, **fewer than 200 still survive** today.

The **MK1 Sunbeam Alpine** was popularised in 1955 by Alfred Hitchcock in *To Catch a Thief*. Grace Kelly – at the wheel of this superb sapphire blue Alpine – and Cary Grant are seen speeding through the French Riviera followed by a black Citroën Traction driven by the French police. Then once the Citroën has come off the road, the Sunbeam comes to a stop on an overhang overlooking Monaco. There is a rare elegance underpinning the whole scene.

The car on show at the **45th Rétromobile** at the Monaco Top Makes stand is a rare left-hand drive vehicle, identical to the one seen in the film. Purchased in 2012 by **Prince Albert II of Monaco**, it was restored in the Collection workshop so as to look like an exact replica of the Sunbeam Alpine registered in 1953 in France's Alpes-Maritime, which has sadly been filed as missing by the vehicle registration service..



1954 - Sunbeam Alpine MK1



1954 - Sunbeam Alpine MK1 at the Palais
Princier de Monaco

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