

Zen and the art of ...

Sammy Giusti, Italian-Canadian of Massarosa stock, came from Toronto to Lucca almost 30 years ago. When love came along in the form of his future wife, he knew he was here to stay. Now he's a father of two and still a lover of American cars. He also knows his way around Ferraris, Maggiolinos and even humble Fiats. Together with Ugo and several younger apprentices, Sammy runs a busy repair shop but takes the time to chat whenever he can.



Importing, licensing and refitting a rare car – like Sammy's 1969 Buick Wildcat (photos 7,8,9) with its 7000 cubic centimeter engine – will cost about 5000 euros. Then you are ready to enjoy it or sell it. If you can't afford the gas (a 20 minute trip burns about 3 liters), you can always keep it for the image or for weddings. Think how cool you would look driving away from the church in a Wildfire!

A black Corvette convertible, which Sammy refitted like a sailboat with lacquered wood interior (photo 1), was recently featured on the TG2 television program "Motori".

If you arrive at a time when the garage isn't too busy (good luck!) Sammy just might tell you about some of the cars in his shop (also Jeeps, Jaguars, Ferraris, depending on the day ...) or explain to you the inner workings of the Corvette engine (4). Look for the shop tucked between the Bingo Parlor with its tall orange plastic palm tree and the Ford dealer. *Stop in at Giusti Car Service, Via delle Ville 1041/A, San Marco ~ Lucca, tel. 0583 491844.*

Photos:

1. black Corvette featured on television after Sammy's restoration
2. Sammy working on a "Pretty Awesome" car
3. red and white Buick
- 4,5. Corvette engine and white 1980 Corvette
6. Jonata's rare car, a 1967 GT 500 Ford Mustang Viper
- 7,8,9. 1969 Buick Wildcat with white leather upholstery and matching wheel-rims
- 10,11. Pontiac Firebird (tv's talking super car from "Knight Rider")
12. Sammy and Ugo

