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Porsche 911: 50 Years



Synopsis

In Porsche 911: 50 Years, bestselling author Randy Leffingwell celebrates a half-century of one of the world's premiere sports cars, focusing on the major themes that have defined Porsche's rear-engined wonder. Randy tells the whole story--design and development, racing and competition, engineering and technology, style and culture. All the iconic 911 models are included: the original 901 prototype that set the standard; the legendary RS models that made the little Porsche a dominant force on the world's racetracks; the infamous Turbo, the car that kept the performance flame alight during the dark, dismal decade of the 1970s; the fabled 959, the model that redefined the term "sports car"; the 993, last of the original air-cooled models; and the 996, 997, and 991, the liquid-cooled cars that brought the 911 into a new millennium. Beyond telling the story of the cars, Porsche 911: 50 years also spotlights the people behind them: Ferdinand "Butzi" Porsche, the son of legendary Porsche founder Ferdinand "Ferry" Porsche, who co-designed the instantly recognizable 911 shape; Peter W. Schutz, the Porsche CEO who saved the 911 from extinction; and Dr. Helmuth Bott, the engineering genius behind many of the groundbreaking technologies that have defined the 911, including fuel injection, turbocharging, and all-wheel-drive. Leffingwell also tells the story of the 911 community--the clubs and culture that surround the car. Together, all of these facets make Porsche 911: 50 Years the most essential book in any Porsche owner or fan's library.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A newly released book is taking a prominent position on my Porsche Book Shelf. I have plenty of

coffee table books that are good for lots of pretty pictures, but this one is between them and my hard core references such as Karl Ludvigsen's. There are two areas where it excels, the use of quotes from Porsche people at and below the department heads, and the other is why each generation of the 911 was changed, especially the 991 generation. The author, Randy Leffingwell, has written dozens of books on transportation, including photographic duties. Porsche 911: 50 Years is 256 pages with 300 photos, including many photos and drawings from Porsche's archives. It is well worth it. It starts with the 356 era, and Erwin Komenda's shop's design for variations and replacements. Randy had access to interviews, new and old, with the less familiar names such as Eugen Kolb, Gerhard Schröder, and Heinrich Klie. You get a much better feeling of how executives such as Ferry and Komenda got along. You also discovered how these lesser known names should be credited with some well-known designs or ideas. This kind of depth continues through each generation of the 911. You get a better understanding of how Porsche kept getting smarter with their designs. From a 901 design with no thoughts of a convertible, and very little thought of racing it, to designing the 991 for 22 models and racing versions before it hit the auto shows. I was surprised to learn they wanted to water cool the 993, but there was too much to do in little time. The 911 street generations are followed by a racing chapter. It starts with the 911 hill-climbers, and proceeds through 935s, 959s, and GT series. The book ends with a statement from Peter Schutz.

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