

These are the nine cars that greeted members of the press at the Ferrari-owned Mugello race circuit not far from Florence



Its case is 44 mm in diameter and 13.3 mm thick, and it's available in white gold or black gold. The normal version will run to 1,050 examples—the same as the number of GTAs—while another version will honor the Alfa Romeo 8C. Differing slightly in its dial configuration, the markings rotated a few degrees to place the starting 1 at the usual 6 o'clock point, this model will have production limited to 500, plus one for a special friend of Mazzuoli's. Who happens to be Paul Newman.

Mazzuoli and fellow car nut Paul Newman met at Lime Rock and got on famously, so much so that Mazzuoli is offering to auction a handful of watches with the proceeds to go to Newman's Hole In The Wall charity. Better still, they will feature Newman's signature engraved on the back—making it a true “Paul Newman watch,” and the cause of much amusement in collector circles in years to come.

Expect the first Contagiris to arrive in early 2008, maybe a few

sneaking out in time for Christmas 2007. The price of the normal version will be between \$25,000 and \$30,000, with the cost of the special edition yet to be set. Regardless of any associations with Alfas, or Paul Newman, or mere limited-edition status, it's a watch to covet, especially if you're partial to large timepieces with real heft.

### The ride

And the vintage Alfas themselves? Hammering around Mugello was, as you'd expect, a blast. The cars were heavy in some areas, lighter than you'd imagine in others, shocking in most: loud as gunfire, responsive, sharp, with brakes that kept me from sampling the run-off areas. Hot, noisy, cramped—you can only marvel at men like Mazzuoli, who drove them “in anger” with a pack of like-minded competitors on all sides.

Or, preferably, behind you. ☺