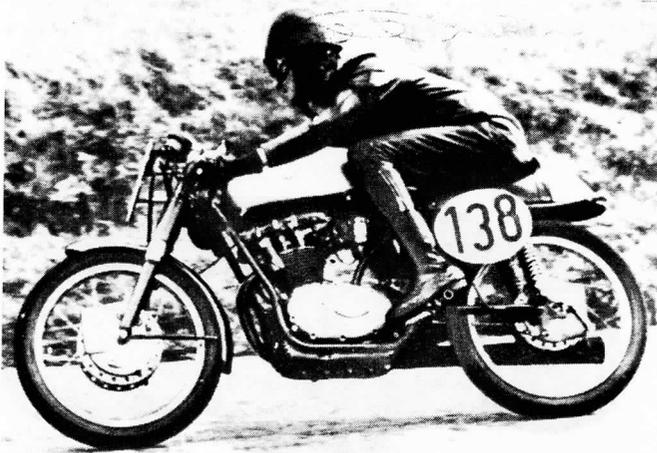


# features



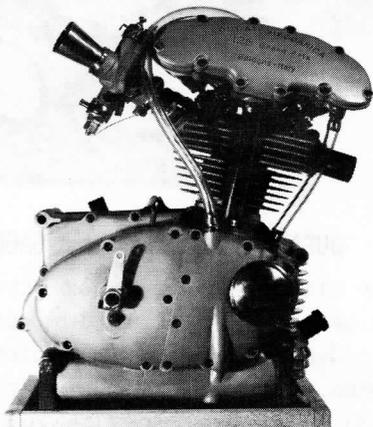
## THE DUCATI 125 GRAND PRIX

Awhile ago, I got some photos from Ron Titensor featuring a 125 Grand Prix engine and very little info. I wrote Ron and he dug up some old letters from Ducati Meccanica and some more data pertaining to this fascinating little machine. Now I know there is more to this little machine than what we are offering here so I would like to hear from any of you folks out there that know more about this 125 GP racing single, so we can fill in any gaps which we will certainly leave open here. Of course, if you have any photos to send along, great! We promise to return any copy or any pictures sent. Anyway here is what we have.

Dear Joel, Here is the information I promised. Four photos of the double knocker. The bike (number 138) is the only photo I have seen with the double knocker head (1959 version).

I believe it was ducati's practice to let their team run the Desmos for the season, then remove the tripple cam head. They would sell the bikes with a twin-cam (valve spring) head. This probably saved Ducati some time and money, and they wouldn't have to worry about some idiot fooling around with their exotic Desmo valve gear.

An English acquaintance of mine -- and a Ducati bug/buff -- looked at the photos, and says the engine dates from 58-59, because the head bears cast-in logos.



If it is a six-speed, it probably dates from 59.

My English friend said that it was normal practice for the factory to take off the desmo heads when the tam bikes were sold at the end of each season, and fit Grand Prix heads. He absolutely freaked when he saw my 125 Desmo because he had no idea that there were any 125 triple cam heads ever released on a permanent basis.

He should know I guess as he has the first 125 triple cam desmo -- the actual bike that won the first GP it entered in 1955. Expect he doesn't have the desmo head for it. It has the GP head.

## THE 1959 125cc SEASON - DUCATI PLACINGS

Isle of Man	3rd	Mike Hailwood
Hockenheim	3rd	Mike Hailwood
	4th	Francesco Villa
	5th	Bruno Spaggiari
GP of Holland	2nd	Bruno Spaggiari
	3rd	Mike Hailwood
	6th	Ken Kavanagh
Belgian GP at SPA	3rd	Luigi Taveri
	5th	Ken Kavanagh
	6th	K. Kronmuller
Swedish GP Kristianstad	4th	Mike Hailwood
	5th	Ken Kavanagh
	6th	O. Swensson
Ulster GP Belfast	First	Mike Hailwood
	4th	Ken Kavanagh
	5th	A. Pagani
	6th	A. Wheeler
Italian GP Monza	3rd	Luigi Taveri
Finish GP	First	Ken Kavanagh

## THE FIRST FIVE PLACES OF: THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 1959 125cc

1st Place	Carlo Ubbiali	M. V. Agusta
2nd Place	Tarquinio Provini	M. V. Agusta
3rd Place	Mike Hailwood	DUCATI **
4th Place	Luigi Taveri	DUCATI/MZ *
5th Place	E. Degner	MZ

\* Luigi Taveri placed second at the Isle of Man on the MZ, he placed 3rd at SPA on the Ducati, and 3rd at Monza on the Ducati

**T.T. MOTORS**  
Motorcycle Sales — New & Used — Parts — Insurance  
Street & Racing Repairs Competently Done

**Norton**

DUCATI

MOTO MORINI

**TRIUMPH**

LAMBERTA

2800 Adeline Street  
3 Blocks North of Ashby Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94703

Tuesday - Saturday  
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
(415) 845-8235

NORTON                      PREMIER                      DUCATI

**WHEELS UNLIMITED**  
AUTHORIZED SALES & SERVICE

M.R. 73 - BOX 172  
ROCHESTER, MINN. 55901

TIM & TOM FRUTIGER  
(507) 288-5630