



1954 Lancia Aurelia B20 Series IV Coupe

POA

Overview

Mileage	38,000 miles
Fuel Type	Petrol
Engine Size	2.5 l
Bodystyle	2+2 COUPE
Transmission	Manual
Exterior Colour	Grey
Previous Owners	4
Registration	B20



Description

The 1954 Lancia Aurelia B20 Series IV is a landmark in the history of automotive engineering, known for its combination of performance, luxury, and innovative design. As a part of the Lancia Aurelia line, which was first introduced in 1950, the B20 Series IV represents the pinnacle of the model's development and stands out as one of the most iconic grand tourers of its era.

Background: The Lancia Aurelia

Before diving into the specifics of the B20 Series IV, it's essential to understand the context of the Aurelia line. Lancia, an Italian automaker with a reputation for cutting-edge engineering and bold design, introduced the Aurelia as its first V6-powered car in 1950. This was a significant leap forward in automotive design, as V6 engines were relatively rare at the time, and Lancia's use of this configuration set the car apart from its competitors.

The Aurelia was available in a range of body styles, including a sedan (B10), a coupe (B20), and a cabriolet (B24). The B20 coupe, however, would become the most famous and widely regarded for its combination of elegance, performance, and technological innovation.

The Lancia Aurelia B20: Evolution through the Series

The B20 was the coupe variant of the Aurelia and went through multiple series during its production run from 1951 to 1958. The Series IV, produced from 1954 to 1955, represents the midpoint of the B20's evolution.

Series I (1951-1952): The earliest B20 had a 2.0-liter V6 engine producing around 75 horsepower. It was a relatively simple but effective design.

Series II (1952-1953): This series saw a refinement in the car's suspension and increased power output to approximately 85 horsepower.

Series III (1953-1954): The power increased to 100 horsepower with improved reliability and handling.

Series IV (1954-1955): The Series IV, which we're focusing on, saw a significant upgrade in terms of both engine and

suspension design, making it one of the most highly regarded of the B20 variants.

The Lancia Aurelia B20 Series IV (1954)

Key Features and Innovations

Engine and Performance:

The B20 Series IV retained the V6 engine that was the hallmark of the Aurelia line but was improved for better performance. The 2.5-liter V6 engine in the Series IV produced about 118 horsepower, giving the car impressive acceleration and a top speed of approximately 170 km/h (about 105 mph). This made the B20 Series IV one of the fastest and most advanced cars of its time.

Transmission:

The car featured a 4-speed manual transmission, which allowed for smooth shifting and an engaging driving experience. The gearbox was well-matched to the engine, offering a balance of performance and refinement.

Design and Styling:

Designed by Lancia's in-house engineer Francesco de Virgilio, the B20 Series IV had a stunningly sleek, aerodynamic body, with flowing lines and a balanced coupe profile. The design was a refinement over the earlier models, with subtle changes to the grille, rear fenders, and overall dimensions.

Suspension and Handling:

One of the key innovations of the Series IV was its advanced suspension system. The B20 Series IV featured a fully independent rear suspension, which was a significant upgrade over the previous models that had a solid rear axle. This gave the car improved handling and ride comfort, contributing to its reputation as a superb grand tourer.

Interior:

Inside, the B20 Series IV offered a luxurious yet minimalist cockpit, with high-quality materials like leather upholstery and polished wood trim. The dashboard was clean and functional, reflecting the Italian ethos of combining elegance with practicality.

Chassis and Construction:

The Series IV had a slightly lighter chassis compared to the earlier models, making it more agile and responsive on the road. The car's balance and handling were widely praised, with the independent rear suspension enhancing its ability to take corners with precision.

Production and Rarity

Only around 1,500 units of the Series IV B20 were produced, making it a relatively rare car today. The low production numbers, coupled with the car's advanced engineering and luxury appeal, have contributed to its status as a classic in the automotive world.

At the time of its release, the B20 Series IV was aimed at the affluent customer who appreciated both performance and style. It was a car that could comfortably tackle long-distance journeys at high speeds while offering a level of refinement that few cars could match.

Racing Success and Legacy

The Lancia Aurelia B20 also made a name for itself in motorsport, particularly in endurance racing. A notable achievement was its victory at the Mille Miglia race in 1951, where a Lancia Aurelia B20 finished in the top positions. The car's performance and handling made it a strong contender in long-distance events, contributing to Lancia's motorsport legacy.

The B20 Series IV, in particular, was admired for its balanced dynamics, making it a popular choice among racing drivers and enthusiasts who sought a combination of luxury and performance.

End of the Line for the B20

Production of the B20 Aurelia continued through various series until 1958. However, the Series IV is often regarded as the most well-rounded and sophisticated of the entire B20 line. In the years following the B20's production, Lancia continued to innovate with models like the Flaminia and the Fulvia, but the Aurelia would remain one of the brand's most iconic models.

Today's Collectibility and Value

The 1954 Lancia Aurelia B20 Series IV has become a highly sought-after classic car, appreciated for its historic significance, elegant design, and pioneering engineering. Well-preserved examples are frequently featured at classic car auctions and can command high prices, often well into the six-figure range depending on condition and provenance. Its rarity, combined with the car's lasting appeal to collectors and driving enthusiasts, ensures its place as one of the great Italian sports cars of the mid-20th century.

Conclusion

The 1954 Lancia Aurelia B20 Series IV stands as a symbol of Lancia's commitment to innovative engineering, luxury, and performance. Combining a revolutionary V6 engine, cutting-edge suspension technology, and a timeless design, the Series IV represents one of the finest examples of Italian automotive craftsmanship from the 1950s. Its legacy endures, not just as a historical artifact, but as a beloved classic that continues to captivate automotive enthusiasts around the world.

Location

Classicmobilia

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MK17 8HY

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