

# Finnish Morganists meet in Turku



BY  
**KARI  
NETTAMO**  
(MORGAN CLUB OF  
FINLAND)

This year's annual meeting took place August 4 - 5 in Turku, Finland's most historical city. Turku was the capitol of Finland until 1812 and is situated on the southwest coast which has frequent ferries between Turku and Stockholm. This year, there were 14 Morgans and 28 participants in attendance. The oldest Morgan was the 1957 4/4 and newest models were from 2000+. There are about 40 Morgans registered in Finland, and 20 of them frequently participate in Morgan meetings.

The Morganists arrived on Friday and stayed in Hotel Börs which was established in 1894. This year, our annual meeting was held on Friday evening. Our tradition has always been to keep the meeting very informal. The club is not formally registered with any authorities and will stay this way also in the future. Pekka Vitikainen will continue as a president of our club at least one more year.

After meeting, the group had a casual dinner by the Aura River in pizzeria Via Tribunali, formerly known as Pinella. This is the oldest operational restaurant in Finland. It opened in 1836, and now focus is on traditional Italian pizzas. In the heart of the city and by the Aura River, this historical place is worthwhile visiting.

## Driving around the downtown Turku

Saturday morning, all Morgan cars were parked with special permission from the city authorities next to the Turku Cathedral. Citizens as well as tourists had a couple of hours to admire beautiful and rare cars as well as have conversations with the owners. Our Morgans have never parked next to this type of historical place in the past, and it was

truly special. The cathedral is well known and recognized icon in Finland. It was inaugurated on 17th June 1300, and it is assumed that it was established in 1249 by the Dominican order.

From the cathedral, Morgans circulated in the downtown area.

Seeing all the thumbs up and smiling faces is what Morgan Club members love the most!

From the downtown area, Morgans continued to the "Pearl of Turku", named Ruissalo island.

It is still the home of summer houses which are called "lace houses" due to their beautiful wood carvings.

Also on the island are several restaurants, cafeterias, a hotel with spa, botanical garden, golf course, camping area etc. The group parked next to the golf course and had a good opportunity to exchange experiences about Morgan cars and this past year's events. Many of owners have maintained and improved their cars over the years. It is easier to learn from other people's mistakes than your own.

## Jarno Saarinen - Finnish TT world champion

All Finnish motor sport enthusiasts know late Jarno Saarinen. He was born and lived in Turku, and had three brothers who all also rode their racing bikes. Jarno was the fastest of all four brothers. Jarno is the only Finnish world champion in the TT/RR racing world during the years when the Italian Agostini was dominating this sport. In 1972, he won the

championship in the 250 class and silver in 350 class. He also won the famous Daytona 200 race the same year.

Unfortunately, an accident in Monza the following year ended his life. Oil on the track resulted in his tragic death.

There is a small museum run by his brother Jari, which has a lot of memorabilia such as bikes Jarno used for racing, posters, and riding

gears. A big thanks to Jari for giving us a private tour and sharing interesting stories about the Saarinen family and of course Jarno's history and background.

## English "Champagne" - true or false?

There is a restaurant in Turku which specializes in a large variety of different



### CAPTIONS:

1. Morgans and Turku Cathedral
2. Ready for a city drive
3. Group of happy Morganists
4. Sharing experience
5. Jari Saarinen - brother of late Jarno Saarinen, TT racing world champion
6. L to R: author, president of our club and Jari Saarinen
7. Tasting English "champagne"

spirits such as sparkling wines and other alcoholic beverages. The tasting room, as its name indicates, offers tasting possibilities with an introduction by the restaurant's expert. We decided to focus on English sparkling wines. The name "champagne" of course is not used. To everyone's surprise, these wines were excellent and at least for the non-experts, they were absolutely first class. Obviously, it is not well known to the general public that both the grapes and soil are favourable for first class raw materials. Their years of experience shows in the quality of those four different sparkling wines we were able to taste. To answer the question above, it is true!



Later in the evening, dinner was served at Restaurant Oobu. This culinary experience focused on local foods. South and West from Turku is the rare sea area called the Turku archipelago. It consists of about 20,000 islands. There is a large fishing industry which has been serving Turku for centuries. If you like seafood, then Oobu in Turku is your best choice. The restaurant is in a historic Turku in a building dating back to 1884.

If you visit Turku, then do not hesitate to contact us. We are more than happy to be your guide to show you our historical city, and its wonders!



# PBIS

PETER BEST  
INSURANCE  
SERVICES  
EST. 1985

## CLASSIC CAR INSURANCE

Up to 10% discount for  
Car Club members



### Policy benefits may include:

- Free agreed valuations
- Free legal cover
- Roadside assistance and recovery within UK/EU
- Limited mileage options
- Multi-car cover discounts

Our best rates online, all the time  
[www.peterbestinsurance.co.uk](http://www.peterbestinsurance.co.uk)

or call 01376 574000



Preferred Insurance  
Provider



Peter Best Insurance Services Ltd  
Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.  
Registration No. 307045 | Registered in England No. 2210270