

“Moto Guzzi - Wings on Wheels” interactive e-book from Sprea Italy

“Does the world need yet another book on Moto Guzzi?” Fair question; for a marquee with such limited production figures the amount of literature is staggering. Seminal works by Mario Columbo, Ian Fallon and Mick Walker are joined by hosts of others on the bookshelves of motorcycle enthusiasts. So why bother with another book?

Because this book reminds me of my 50th birthday spent in Mandello del Lario. Imagine arriving in the material and spiritual home of Moto Guzzi (a town described in one guide book as “an industrial town in northern Italy which is best avoided in favour of Bellagio a little farther north). Imagine, after 30 years of riding Moto Guzzi motorcycles, meeting fellow enthusiasts and studying the marquee you meet in Mandello someone with family ties to the factory. Their intimate knowledge of the bikes and the people is only surpassed by their glowing pride and quiet, powerful enthusiasm. After a few hours over your weekend you feel as if the knowledge you had has been brought to fruition and has gained a soul to match its heart. This book does just that. It is an enthusiasts book far more than a “rivet counters Bible”.

The e-book format is easy on the eye and navigation is problem free. The quality and range of illustrations is above that in many other greats in the field. The occasional odd turn of phrase adds to the narrative quality and “readability”. The technical specs are a useful addition but do not cover every model (this would be a book in itself). The specifications do, however, give a synopsis of how technically advanced and innovative Moto Guzzi’s bikes have been for over 90 years (and why Guzzi were Sashiro Honda’s favourite motorcycle manufacturers). The description of the de Tomasso years best demonstrates the authors passion and heartfelt truthfulness.

This book is set apart from its contemporaries by one more significant factor. Cost. At a little under £5 this is an absolute bargain.

It’s a classic motorcycle book with its own style and deserves to be on the e-bookshelf of motorcycle enthusiasts and historians regardless of their favourite brand.