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Mechanical Souls

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Introduction by Yann de Pontbriand

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Binding	Hardback
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- An intimate look beneath the bodywork: revealing the intricate architectures, materials, textures, and colours of automobile engines, subjects often hidden from view
- Automotive history through engineering: tracing the evolution of engines from early mechanical inventions to sophisticated modern designs
- Photography as mechanical portraiture: presenting engines as sculptural forms and immersive visual landscapes, highlighting their aesthetic as well as technical qualities
- A tribute to automotive craftsmanship: recognising the expertise of engineers, mechanics, restorers, and specialist artisans who maintain and preserve exceptional automobiles

Mechanical Souls explores the hidden beauty, engineering, and cultural heritage of automobile engines, revealing the intricate mechanical worlds beneath the bodywork of exceptional cars. Through high-fidelity photographic portraits and research by Percy Kerlo, the book invites readers to discover engines as more than technical achievements: they are the beating hearts of automobiles, shaped by ingenuity, craftsmanship, and generations of human knowledge.

From early mechanical inventions to increasingly sophisticated engine architectures, the publication traces the evolution of motorisation and the remarkable diversity of engineering solutions it has produced. Detailed imagery brings the contours, materials, textures, and colours of these complex structures into focus, transforming mechanical components into immersive visual landscapes. The book also reflects on the emotional significance of automotive heritage and the people who preserve it. Engineers, mechanics, restorers, artisans, collectors, and institutions all contribute to keeping these exceptional machines alive for future generations. In his introductory text, Yann de Pontbriand, President of the Automobile Club de France, situates the history of engines within a broader story of technological progress and human ambition. Combining historical research with a strong visual appreciation of mechanical form,***Mechanical Souls*** celebrates the enduring relationship between engineering, craftsmanship, memory, and the automobile.

Percy Kerlo is credited with the research, writing, and photography behind ***Mechanical Souls***, a publication devoted to the history, engineering, and cultural significance of automobile engines. His approach combines historical investigation with an appreciation of the mechanical structures that define exceptional automobiles. The book explores the diversity of engine architectures and the knowledge, ingenuity, and craftsmanship involved in their development, while acknowledging the specialists, restorers, collectors, and institutions responsible for preserving this heritage. Through the publication, Kerlo seeks to make this technical and cultural knowledge accessible to a wider audience of automotive enthusiasts and readers interested in engineering and design.

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