

Marlene Dietrich's Exotic V-16 Town Car



Marie Magdelene Dietrich von Losch was born in Berlin, Germany and began her acting career in the early 1920's. Her first Hollywood motion picture was "Morocco" in 1930 with Gary Cooper.

Movie goers were instantly attracted to the beautiful and mysterious actress with the husky voice. Worldly, sensual, and always mysterious, she went on to become a huge star and one of the most famous women in the world. By the time 1945 came around, she was doing fewer and fewer movies. Her last film role of any substance was "Judgement at Nuremberg" in 1961. But Dietrich had a huge following and she still made live appearances until breaking a leg during a stage performance in 1979. At the height of her early film career it is said that she purchased this exotic 1933 Cadillac Series 452C V-16 town car (Fleetwood style #5525). It was as unique and flamboyant an automobile as she was an actress. Only three such cars were built that year -Dietrich purchased this one, another was acquired by actress Joan Crawford, and the fate of the third original owner is unknown. This long, sleek beauty weighs an authoritative 6,270 pounds and has a 149" wheelbase. Although originally black, it was repainted a dark "bottle green" during a previous restoration. The car has light gray upholstery in the rear compartment, a glass divider, and black leather in the chauffeur's compartment. In the rear, a special "hidden" compartment was created for Ms. Dietrich's tea pot. This car is said to have transported Dietrich's daughter (Marie Elizabeth) to Switzerland at the time of kidnapping threats on her daughter. Since 1988 Ms. Dietrich's car has been in the care of "Musee Cadillac" (Cadillac Museum) in Langeais, near Tours, France. Dietrich died in 1992 at the age of 90.



To make the huge V-16 even more extraordinary for the famous movie actress, the graceful hood goddess was plated in pure gold -- after all, this was the "Golden Age of Hollywood"!