

# Porsche 356 SL

Between 1948 and 1950, Porsche builds 44 type 356/2 coupés in Gmünd, Austria. Thanks to their aluminium body, excellent aerodynamic efficiency and high torsional stiffness, the light alloy coupés prove ideal for competition. The 356/2 coupés weigh about 120 kilograms less than the 356 built by Reutter's in Stuttgart from April 1950. They are the first German sports cars to display the initials "SL", short for "Super Light" taken from the Italian "Super Leggera". With large fuel tanks of 78 litres, wheel covers and special gear ratios, Porsche starts at the Le Mans 24 Hours for the first time in 1951. The 356 SL promptly wins the 1,100 cc class and repeats the success in 1952. In September 1951 on the oval circuit of Montlhéry near Paris, a 356 SL with a 1.5-litre engine covers a world record-setting distance of almost 11,000 kilometres in 72 hours. Internationally, the 356 SL proves competitive right up until 1955.

Model Year:	1951
Engine:	4-cyl. flat
Displacement:	1,086 cc
Power Output:	34 kW (46 hp)
Weight:	635 kg
Top speed:	160 km/h