

Porsche 718 W-RS Spyder

The 718 W-RS Spyder is unique in many respects. Only one example is built in 1961 for the World Endurance Trophy – hence the “W” in the model designation. The factory runs the car for four years – very likely a longevity record. The mechanics lovingly dub the racer their “Grandma”. Featuring a longer wheelbase than the predecessor RS 60, the Spyder is designed for the new eight-cylinder Formula 1 motor, but contests the first races powered by the four-cylinder Carrera engine. A second place overall at the 1961 Targa Florio as well as class victory at Le Mans make headlines. From 1962, the Spyder tackles the World Endurance Trophy with its eight-cylinder engine and disc brakes all round. After a third place overall at the Nürburgring the RS Spyder can be seen at hill climbs and at the odd excursion to road racing in the USA. In 1963, it is the first Porsche to feature fibreglass doors and lids. The year yields another class win at Le Mans and the European Hill Climb Championship thanks to Edgar Barth, who defends his title with this car in 1964. After a very long race car life, “Granny” rolls to the tranquillity of the Porsche Museum at the end of the season.

Model Year:	1961
Engine:	8-cyl. flat
Displacement:	1,981.5 cc
Power Output:	176 kW (240 hp)
Weight:	684 kg
Top speed:	260 km/h