



'I will be buried with my BMW. For sure, no-one after me will ride this bike'

MY LIFE IN BIKES

Corrado Capra

Legendary adventure rider and organiser of the HardAlpitour - a 300-mile, 24-hour epic

AGE: 56 OCCUPATION: ENGINEER AND RALLY ORGANISER NATIONALITY: ITALIAN

What was your first bike?

During a summer holiday with my parents in Spain, I spent 15 days never stopping talking about my favourite bike. At the end of the vacation, my father was exhausted and he promised me that, if I was really good at school that year, he would buy me one. It was a Sunday morning and at 8am when I got a Guzzi Trotter 40 to start the first ride of my life. It was a revelation.

What was your first adventure?

It was 1972, I was 15 years old and I was in the mountains spending my holidays with my grandma. One

night, at 9pm, I got on my Fantic Motor Caballero and I did a night trip over some military tracks high in the mountains. I got back at 5am and I still remember how much my grandma was screaming at me.

What countries have you crossed?

I travelled through many different European countries, but I went also in Africa, many times in Algeria, as well as in Tunisia, Morocco, Niger, Burkina Faso, Togo, Benin and Libya.

What is your favourite place to ride?

I love to ride off-road throughout the



Capra on his beloved R80G/S

Italian and French Alps. I also love the Pyrenees. The tracks and dunes in both Libya and Niger are just beautiful.

How many bikes do you own?

Nowadays I only own off-road and adventure bikes. In my workshop at the moment I have a Honda Dominator, two fully prepared KTM LC8 950 Adventures, two BMW GS 1000s and a Vespa Struzzo 150 from 1955! But I've even crossed the desert on a CX500.

What is your dream bike?

I own a BMW R80G/S with which I travelled for so many kilometres in

CAPRA'S BIKES



SAND COMMUTER

Honda CX500
'In Morocco on a track towards Merzouga'



ALGERIA

BMW R80G/S
'On the track towards Djanel'

Europe and Africa. Travelling with this bike helped me through some hard times. She is 30 years old and when I dream of a bike, I dream only of her.

Why is this bike so special to you?

I developed this bike to suit my travels as the bike I needed did not exist. I took my inspiration from the BMW Paris Dakar bikes of the time. I have covered 100,000 miles on this bike. It has never broken down - never.

Is there one ride on the G/S that you'll remember forever?

It was a ride through the Ténéré from Agadez to Bilma, then the Zoo Baba and Agadem Oasis, the Termit Moutain, through the Iferouane Oasis and ended in Agadez. 1500 miles of desert!

Is it true your last will states that you want to be buried with this bike?

Yes, it is true. My BMW will be inherited by my daughter Francesca, and I hope she will be able to make my weird wish come true! For sure, no-one after me will ride this bike.

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