



Colombres Rallye 2024

'Colombres', a word like a promise of a "second home" and the "most beautiful region of north-west Spain". Both are true and we want to explain and describe a little of it to you here. The region of Euskadi, Cantabria, Asturias and Galicia, the north-west of Spain and the 'Costa verde' is always worth a trip and there is so much to see and experience that one lifetime is not enough.

But the region around the 'Picos de Europa' limestone massif is very special, as it combines sea and mountains within a strong relief and if we start in the morning from Colombres near the Atlantic, we reach the high mountains of the Picos in two hours. The views are always breathtaking and on a clear day, the images are etched in our minds forever.



Pic.1: „La Parra“ during the year. A good place always.

The hotel and restaurant 'La Parra' has been the centre of the Colombres Rallye since 2011, but that wasn't always the case. For 20 years, I've been happy to make the journey from the Black Forest (1800 km) to be part of it. The Colombres Rallye was started by Josen, his wife and the wonderful team in support in 1978.



Moto Club Pistón started in 1978 promoted by "Piston Discotheque and Club" which gave us the name. The original idea came from Ramón Calderón (painter, multidisciplinary artist and brother to the famous musical composer Juan Carlos Calderón's – yeah! You have l

listened to some of their songs performed by Herb Alpert) who was a vintage cars & motorcycles enthusiast and eventually founded "Escudería El Pistón" in 1964 (maybe one of the eldest classic motoring clubs in Spain). Moto Club Pistón is not such a veteran club but we can proudly say that we were among the first clubs devoted to classic motorcycling in Spain.

Our first meeting was held in Laredo in 1979. There were 325 entrants, a great success! We kept going on and the meeting was growing year by year, but this was not a classic bikes event. Modern bikes were the main characters. We knew that classic bike lovers were the hard core of the club so – in 1987 – with Julián Sesma (a superb motorcycling fan from Bilbao) we took part in the former Barajas Rally, where we met the "state of the art" of the Spanish classic motorcycling scene. After talking to Enrique Mayor, Joaquín García and Manolo Trapero (Barajas); Jaime Soler (Terrassa); the great Tomas Berna and Lola (Tauste) among many others, we promised that we would meet again soon in Santillana Del Mar at the Halloween weekend for the Piston Rally.

It's been a long way since then and we are still alive. (<http://www.mcpiston.com>)



Pic.2: La Parra 2024 backstage

It's the familiar and rural atmosphere, the proximity to the sea and mountains, the wonderful rural cuisine with fabada asturiana and costillas, paella and queso cabrales, chorizo cerdo and aguardiente del oro.....

What could be nicer than having been out in the mountains on a classic motorbike after a long day, experiencing a little drizzle and cold, and then being able to order a fabada asturiana at La Parra and slowly fortify yourself with white beans, black pudding and chorizo in a large soup pot steaming away on the table?



When Joson and his team announced in 2010 that the event would be moving to Santander, not everyone was thrilled, as we loved the setting in Colombres and Dennis Wray spoke to Amable to see if he could imagine continuing the traditional Colombres meeting under his responsibility, and after a while Amable agreed, as he is a die-hard motorbike fan himself and the collection in the cellar says it all. A year later and the meeting was still taking place at the La Parra centre, as if nothing had changed. The traditionalists knew that the Colombres Rally was in good hands again.

Thanks to Ana, Raul (+his wife) and Amable. The future of the Colombres Rally is secure, the day tours are new and interesting every year, good catering and top organisation. The evenings at La Parra are long and unforgettable.



Montes y

Mar

Day tours: when registering, participants receive the printouts for the road book for each day of the week, but the arrows on the signs along the way are so clear that hardly anyone can get lost.

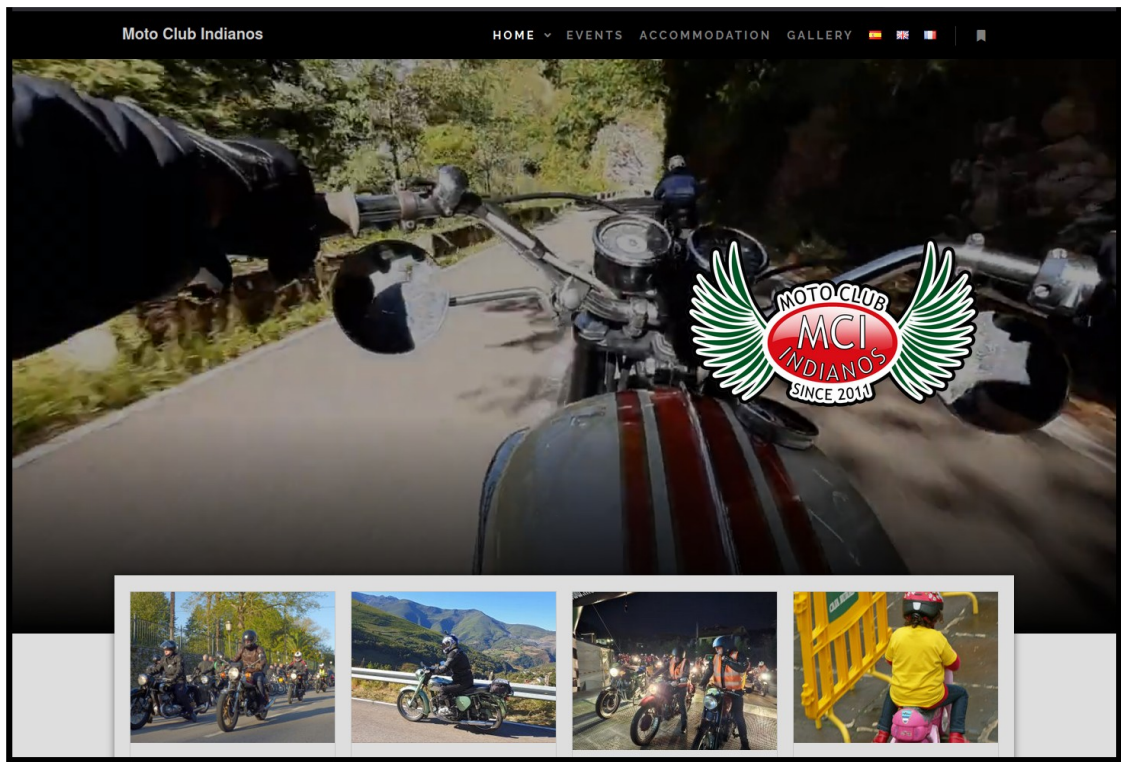


Pic.3: taking care of his bike in the evening

Pic.4: a proud owner of the MZ 250 ES Trophy



The enrolment forms are online at the beginning of the year, then fill them in, transfer a 20% deposit and you're ready to go at the beginning of October. More than half a year of anticipation and then onto the ferry to Santander, 80 kilometres west on the N634 and maybe stop for lunch in San Vicente de la Barquera with fresh mussels or other sea creatures....



<http://www.motoclubindianos.com> (spanish, english and french version)

There is something for every taste and budget in the selection of accommodation. The time-honoured Mirador La Franca on the beach, stunningly beautiful, Pension Ojambre, Hotel La Parraand no matter what you choose, the selection has been tested by Amable's team beforehand and that speaks for quality.



The MCI (Moto Club Indianos) programme now includes the following events throughout the year:

Rider Colombres

is a non-competitive and non-sporting **motorbike touring event, open to all types of motorbikes and riding levels**, which will be held in the town of Colombres (Asturias) on 6th, 7th and 8th June.

The routes on **Thursday and Friday** will have an approximate distance of **124 miles** and during them, the organization will provide the registered riders a **succulent refreshment-meal** that will allow you to enjoy the route without worrying about anything else but riding your motorbikes.

Saturday will be the highlight of the *Rider* with the celebration of the **Colombres Challenge-Picos de Europa**, with important **new features** for this edition 2024 (see *Colombres Challenge-Picos de Europa 2024* section for more info) including the **possibility of choosing between 3 routes of different distance and difficulty**.



On Saturday 8th June, will be held the **III Colombres Challenge-Picos de Europa**, a non-competitive and non-sporting **motorbike-touring route, open to all types of motorbikes and riding levels**, which will have many **new features** for this 2024 edition.

ROUTES

With the intention of encouraging smaller bikes or even classics to complete the challenge and opening the door to everyone who wants to participate in the *Challenge*, participants will be able to choose between **3 routes of different distances and difficulty**:

Rookie–124 miles (aprox) **Classic**–248 miles (aprox) **Xtreme**–373 miles (aprox)





Open to **pre-1988 bikes** and designed for riders who like to ride classic motorbikes in a more relaxed and familiar atmosphere, the North of Spain Rally continues to establish itself year after year as an alternative to the acclaimed Colombres Rally.

In this 2024 edition, we will return to the beautiful village of **Cangas del Narcea** (Asturias) where we will enjoy **6 days of daily routes between 112 and 143 miles** that will run through some of the **most spectacular and unknown roads in the north of Spain with hardly any traffic or roundabouts**. You will ride through Natural Parks declared *Biosphere Reserves* by Unesco and which are the natural habitat of one of the largest populations of brown bears in Europe. You will combine mountain and coastal routes where you will visit some of the most beautiful fishing villages in Spain, which will give you a better view of the rich landscape, gastronomy and culture of this region.



On **Saturday 5th October at 12.30 pm** we will dedicate an activity to the new generations of motorcyclists with the **"X Motorcycle race for children"** for boys and girls, taking place in **Colombres square**, where the future riders will delight the public who will cheer their evolutions with great fervour. A real spectacle guaranteed to be enjoyed not only by the little ones but also by adults.

In order to participate, **it is not necessary to register, just show up at the square 15 minutes before the start of the test.**

And remember!!! Due to the high speeds that will be reached during the test, the use of a helmet will be mandatory.



SUNDAY, 8th OCTOBER AT 12:30 PM
"HELMETS" ARE COMPULSORY
PLACE: PLAZA MANUEL IBAÑEZ
registrations: www.motoclubindianos.com



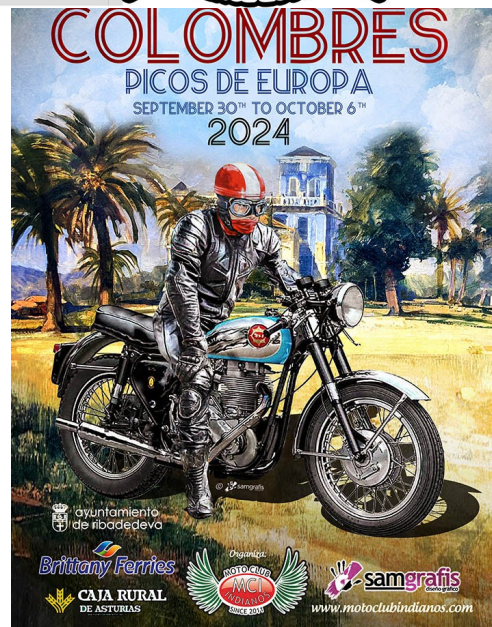
An unmissable event on the classic motorcycle calendar and internationally acclaimed as **one of the best classic motorcycle rallies in Europe**, this rally is open to **motorcycles from before 1988** and has a programme of **daily routes between 75 and 155 miles during 7 days**, covering a total of **932 miles**.

You will drive through some of the most beautiful places in the north of Spain: beaches, rivers, lakes and the highest mountains of the

PICOS DE EUROPA NATIONAL PARK.

During the routes, the organization provides the registered riders with an abundant and succulent snack that allows the riders to enjoy the route without worrying about anything else but riding the motorcycle. In addition, the registered riders have an assistance van located at the end of the group during all the routes in case of breakdown during the same.

Moreover, the organisation will provide all registered participants with a **mechanical assistance workshop** in the car park of the *Hotel-Restaurant La Parra* with all the necessary material to get the bike ready if needed (hydraulic lift for motorcycles, air compressor, tools...).



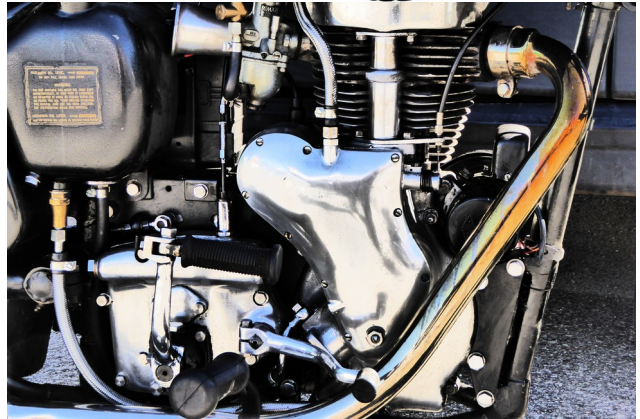
On **Saturday 12th October** the **“Unquera-Colombres hill climb”** will take place, where riders and mounts will delight the attending public, and in which every year we have the participation of a guest of honour, such as:

- **Carlos Cardús** (former official Repsol-Honda rider and runner-up in the 250 cc category in 1990, Spanish 250 cc champion in 1982 and 1983 and European champion in 1983).
- **Paul Smart** (former official Ducati rider who competed in the World Motorcycle Championship between 1968 and 1974).
- **Cesar Gracia Samper** (former Spanish 125 cc champion in 1959 and European 250 cc runner-up).
- **Benjamín Grau** (11 times Spanish speed champion, 5 times Spanish endurance champion and 24 times winner in the mythical 24 hours of Montjuic)

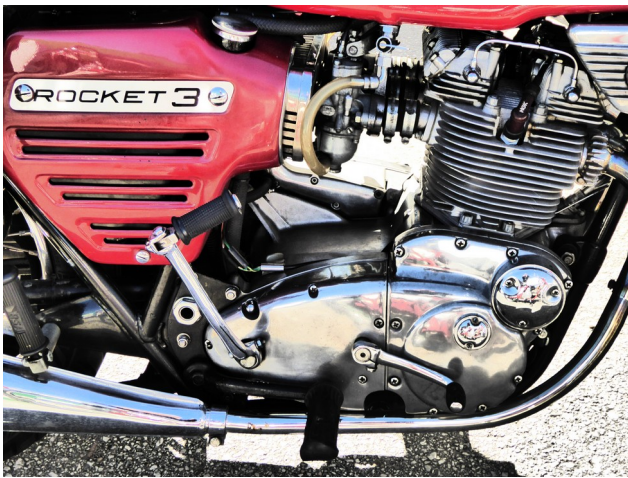
A spectacle that will leave more than one attendee open-mouthed.



Pic.5: a masterpiece of engine art



Pic.6: another Beauty



Pic.7: Triumph Rocket 3



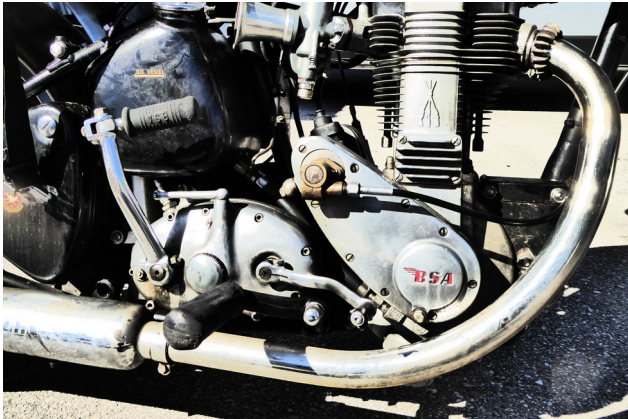
Pic.8: a Falcone from Moto Guzzi



Pic.9: „Black Bomber“ from Honda/CB450K



Pic.10: Vincent Comet



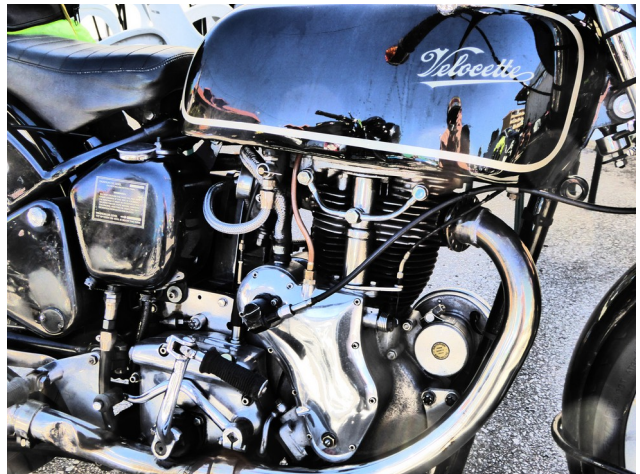
Pic.11: BSA, impressive



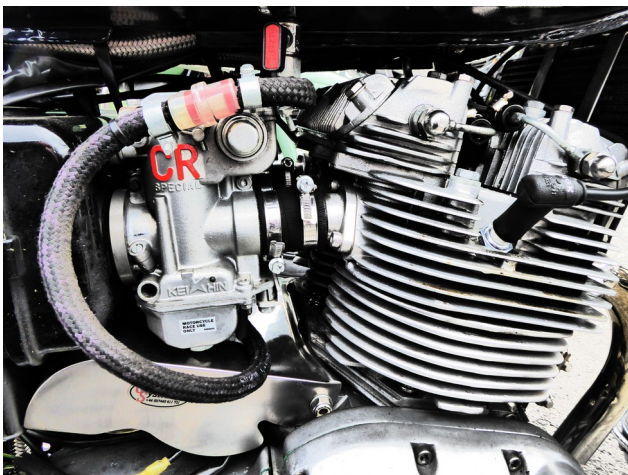
Pic.12: a Ducati Single, 350 ccm



Pic.13: Renaissance



Pic.14: Velocette one Cylinder



Pic.15: a Triumph with Keihin carburetor



Pic.16: a one Cylinder MZ/Enduro from Germany

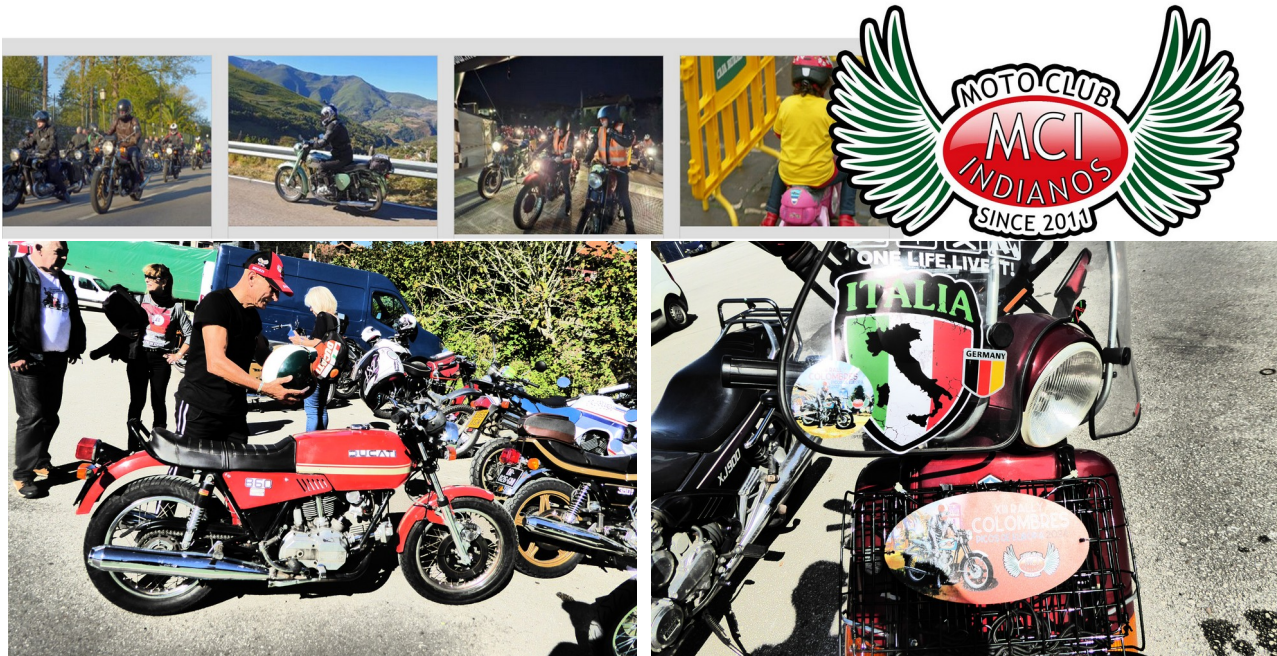


Abb.17: Ducati 860

Abb.18: Vespa Cosa LX 200 by Pit

The MCI (Moto Club) programme now includes a number of friends and acquaintances from England. Perhaps you will find some of your friends in the next picture:



Pic.19: Representatives and long-time friends of the Moto Guzzi Club GB setting the mood for the evening



Pic.20: Tresviso in the mountains. Can also be hiked from the Hermida gorge. 900 metres in altitude and 3 hours walking time at least. Used to be the only way to reach Tresviso by mule and is a challenge for the head and calves in the sun (already hiked twice). But it is one of the paths that must be walked once in the Picos. Today, Tresviso has 53 inhabitants and a good bar, as the mechanisation of agriculture caused the village to shrink from 500 inhabitants after 1900 to its current size.



Pic.21: Espicha with Costillas and Paella at La Parra



Pic.22: Pauls marvellous Guzzi from the 20th of the last century

Moto Guzzi Club GB



Pic. 23: a special place for an ignition key



Pic. 24: Sarenas front view of her Cali



Pic. 25: Moto Guzzi

Pic. 26: Moto Guzzi Stornello Sport



Pic. 27: a special Moto Guzzi/Ambassador?

Pic.28: Moto Guzzi V7/850



Pic.29: back suspension

Pic.30: a very special Moto Morini 350



Pic.31: Pete the Bee on the way back home with Michael on the flying brick and solved problems

Pic. 32: what a beautiful Harley

A little summer feeling in autumn in beautiful surroundings, sea and mountains, good wine/Rioja 828, friendly people and a dedicated team in the heart of the Picos de Europa.

'Colombres', a word like a promise of a "second home" and the "most beautiful region of north-west Spain". Discover it!

Off to the ferry to Santander!
See you at Colombres Rallye/La Franca 2025
Pit&Martin