

Dales on Wheels

by Neel Jaiswal

Every so often, I arrange for dentists within my Turbine group to have a driving weekend coupled with some dental CPD.

The prerequisite for these trips is a great driving road, which tends to lead us to Wales, Scotland and, in this instance, to Yorkshire.

There's a great camaraderie that develops, along with a chance to visit some really beautiful parts of Britain. We're also able to use our cars away from the burden of traffic and commuting.

My 'steed' for this trip couldn't have been better: an Aston Martin V8 Vantage Volante, kindly lent to me by Grange Welwyn Aston Martin, which as always is ever-helpful.

The current Vantage is now a 12-year-old design, but it is a testimony to designer Henrik Fisker that with some mild face lifts and constant improvement, it's still one of the most handsome cars around. Indeed, the Vantage is one of only a few cars that's been added to "The DB9 section," a fridge reserved for the supercool, on the BBC series *Top Gear*.

The lovely thing about having an As-

ton, as I found driving up the A1(M), is that everyone from children to burly truck drivers always stops to say nice things. On the three-hour journey north, it was pleasant to bring a smile to people's faces—including my own!

Arriving in one of the most notorious and coolest brands is so rewarding. The 007 connections help, too!

We arrived in Sheffield on Friday night for a convivial tasting menu at Rafter's restaurant. Then we gathered early the next morning, to avoid traffic and potential cycling clubs. It was great to see a huge variety of cars, all equally pleasurable in their own way:

- An M2 with sublime power-to-weight ratio.
- A Ferrari California T with the ability to turn into a sports car, then back to a convertible grand tourer.
- A tuned Mitsubishi Evo, which scared passers-by with its drive-by shooting noises.
- The Aston, which lives by its mantra: "Power, beauty, soul."
- The bravest driver award was given to Andy Lane, who skillfully kept up in a postwar Morgan.



Our route took us through the Yorkshire Dales, featuring stunning roads and luscious scenery. The Aston V8 made a delicious cacophony of sound, well accentuated by the Yorkshire stone walls.

We were hosted at lunch very graciously by John Holland sales who, since 1975, have vendored a stunning collections and variety of cars. The team is very friendly and helpful if anybody wants to use the facility for study clubs, meetings, etc., and they also raise money with supercar charity events and are involved with the Supercar Driver club.





We visited our hosts at the new S4S dental laboratory. We were impressed with the company's embrace of orthodontic digital dentistry and its commitment to creating awareness in bruxism and snoring and sleep syndromes.

Dinner that evening was at a local Indian restaurant. The next morning we were keen for still more driving, so we headed south to Kenwood Hall and then on to Bakewell and the Chatsworth estate, where I stocked up on Bakewell puddings, Der-

byshire platelets and Henderson's relish.

It was a sad moment when I had to return the car on Monday—it really had been the passport to a wonderful weekend.

The next trip will be visiting Optident, Harrogate and Wales on May 25, 2018.

As always, if anyone needs help in test driving, purchasing or general advice about a car, drop me a line! ■

