

# TopGear

[United Kingdom](#) [United States](#)

[Cars](#) [TV show](#) [Videos](#) [Games](#) [Blogs](#) [Shop](#)

## Features

[← MORE FEATURES](#)



### The new Stratos: out of this world

April 1, 2005

## Beyond the Stratos-sphere

An Austrian enthusiast is trying to revive the Stratos, the white-knuckle road-rally icon

Sniff around between the Lotus and the Bugatti stands at this year's Geneva Show, and you'll pick up the scent of New Stratos. No, it's not some splash-on male perfumery guaranteed to send womankind insensible with lust, but a reinterpretation of Lancia's all-conquering, Ferrari Dino-engined Seventies rally icon.

Only don't tell Lancia. The New Stratos has nothing to do with the Italian marque, or its owner the Fiat Group. Instead it's the creation of a 27-year-old Austrian called Christian Hrabalek. He patented the Stratos name after he discovered Fiat's rights had lapsed.

Christian expects controversy when he unveils his 360 Stradale-engined show car. "Within half an hour the Fiat lawyers will be on my show stand", he admits. "But if they ask me to remove the badge I will ask them to remove themselves!"

Within half an hour the Fiat lawyers will be on my show stand. But if they ask me to remove the badge I will ask them to remove themselves!

The son of a mechanic and car collector, Christian spent his youth restoring examples of the hairy-chested homologation specials. Today he owns 11, which he believes to be the largest private collection in the world.

The idea to recreate the Stratos was born at dinner with a dozen car designer friends. "We were talking about Lancia, and what a pity it is what Fiat is doing with the brand. It was once on a level with Maserati and Ferrari, and now it is nothing."

Christian raised the project's million-euro budget through private investors. The concept was built in Paris by D3-Prototyping, the people behind the new Mini, BMW Z9 and Renault Avantime show cars. If its Geneva outing stirs up enough interest, Christian plans to build a fully drivable version next year. He believes there's a ready-made market for an all-terrain supercar in Eastern Europe with its combination of Ferrari-hungry nouveau riche and rubbish roads.

CLICK TO ENLARGE



## Archived Content

You've found a page archived from the old TopGear.com website. As you probably noticed, TopGear.com had a major revamp in October 2008 but we left these pages up in case you missed them. Check out the new site links at the top or go straight to the [homepage](#).

Advertisement

BBC Worldwide

Top Gear international sites: [UKUSA](#)[Australia](#)

© BBC Worldwide Ltd. The Top Gear word mark and logo trademarks of the BBC and are used under licence

Bookmark with:					What are these?
<a href="#">Delicious</a>	<a href="#">Digg</a>	<a href="#">reddit</a>	<a href="#">Facebook</a>	<a href="#">StumbleUpon</a>	

Advertiser links