



Excalibur SS Phaeton, one of just 1500 cars made by Excalibur Automobile Corporation in 15 years.

# EXCALIBUR

## THE STUFF DREAMS ARE MADE OF

Humphrey Bogart, as Sam Spade in the *Maltese Falcon*, said, "It's the stuff dreams are made of." Bogart was talking about the *Falcon* statue Sydney Greenstreet and Peter Lorre had tracked across the world. Although Bogart never saw an Excalibur, (it was designed and built in 1964, Bogart died in 1957) he could have been speaking of it.

Driving an Excalibur is an unsettling experience: the car is massive, yet sleek; exotic, yet contemporary, expensive, yet worth it.

There is no way to drive an Excalibur and not draw attention to yourself. The Excalibur is reminiscent of an early 1930's Mercedes Benz SS, with its cycle fenders, floating chrome-headlights, and exhaust headers. It has two side-mounted spare tires placed between the front fenders and passenger doors. The tires are in wheel-shaped cases with mirrors mounted on them. The running boards, air-horns and exhaust headers contribute to the look that attracts people to the Excalibur.

Another reason why the Excalibur draws attention is its noise. It's not the noise of a hotrod; raucous and loud. It's not the noise of an econobox; high and whining. The noise of an Excalibur is low, bass and rumbling; pleasing to car fanciers.

Driving an Excalibur makes scenes from old movies flit around the edge of your mind. Scenes of glamorous women with platinum hair and mink

stoles, men in double-breasted tuxedos and carrying metal cigarette cases. You soon envision yourself on Riverside Drive, heading for Park Avenue, and an evening at the Stork Club.

Another old-movie scene one gets while driving an Excalibur is arriving at the country club on a hot, sunny afternoon for a round on the links. The scene plays with plus-fours and Tam O'Shanter hats, and women sitting on the veranda, sipping lemonade.

People want to see the Excalibur. They want to touch it, admire it, and ask questions about it. If they don't know it, and don't get a close look at its nameplate, they try to guess what make it is. They also want to see who is driving it; who is the person who can afford such a car, and how did that person become one of the Beautiful People?

Quite frankly, all of this attention exists because of the surface of the car. It looks exotic, but underneath it isn't. The Excalibur is powered by a regular Chevrolet big-block 454 cubic-inch engine connected to a Chevy drive-train. About one-third of its components are stock GM parts. Over 1000 parts are standard American automotive equipment, and 1,000 are of Excalibur's design and manufacture. If an Excalibur needs mechanical work, any qualified auto mechanic is able to do it. The frame is bolted, instead of welded. This means if any frame part needs replacement, it can be replaced with just a

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