

# One off Jaguar Pirana sells for US \$324,000 (NZ \$507,000)

*By Neville Barlow*

One of the most incredible cars ever to carry the Jaguar brand was recently sold at Southebys Auction at Monterey in the USA.

The history of this car is unusual because it came about because 'The Daily Telegraph' newspaper in England set about to create the 'Ideal Car' in 1967. The man behind the project was John Anstey who desired to build a car that could compete with Ferrari, Maserati and Lamborghini, that would offer a similar experience but at a much lower purchase price.

The idea was put to the Italian Nuccio Bertone and he quickly agreed to build an astonishing body. The Pirana was very much a Jaguar being built on a chassis from an E Type 2 plus 2 as well as having an XK 4.2 6-cylinder engine which produced 265 Bhp. It had a top speed of 235 Km/ph. and 0 to 100 Km/hr of 7.1 seconds.



**1967 Jaguar Pirana 2**



**1969 Lamborghini Espada**

Bertone had high hopes that Jaguar would put it into production but when that did not come to fruition the car was sold in 1968.

At one point the car was changed to Automatic Transmission and its air conditioning was removed from behind the front seats so it could be a four-seater. Recently it was restored back to its original specifications and reverted to a manual 4 speed gearbox.

It has had only 3 owners and many people think it was an opportunity missed by Jaguar especially when Lamborghini used it as its inspiration for their 'Espada'.

The nearest I ever got to seeing the Pirana was about 30 years ago, when I made a special trip to view a Lamborghini Espada

that was on sale in Auckland. It had done 80,000 miles and was very tired and worn. I would think it could have been the only one in New Zealand.

*Neville*