



Thierry Boutsen reunites with an old friend...



March 22, 2023 — **Thierry Boutsen** has reunited with an old acquaintance - his former **Benetton B187-09** and the very same car in which he competed in the last three races of the 1987 Formula One season. At the **Mexico GP** Thierry was leading before an electric fault forced him to pull out. He went on to take 5th position in **Japan** and finished on the podium in **Adelaide**, coming 3rd.

After its success in **Australia in 1987**, the car remained untouched until three years ago when Thierry bought it from a collector, and set in motion the dream of driving it again!

The **Benetton B187-09** was initially restored by **Winfield** in **Le Castellet**, before Belgian ARA Engineering and Thierry's family team, the **BoutsenVDS Racing**, put the finishing touches to the refit project.

Thierry finally got back behind the wheel of his B187 on March 6th, at the **Circuit du Luc**, in the South of France. *"I am very proud that this car is running again, It felt like I had left it yesterday. It still had my seat and cockpit settings, so I immediately felt at home. The Ford V6 twin turbo ran perfectly well, thanks to the great restoration work done by Arnaud Mounier (EMAP Motors)."*

The **Benetton B187** had been relatively unreliable at the beginning of the 1987 season, but when the problems were solved it was a «hell of a car», Thierry said. *"I repeatedly said to Rory Byrne, this is the best handling F1 that I have ever driven."*

The B187 and its successor the B188 helped to establish **Benetton** as a serious contender in Formula One.

"I can't wait to run it again. And again!"

