

# 1971 Ford Mustang

£29,995



Is there a better way of spending a long hot summer than cruising with roof down, and in a soft top Mustang you can enjoy the V8 soundtrack even better. **Matt Richardson**

## ON THE ROAD

Anyone who's grown up hearing that American cars are wallowy is in for a treat behind the wheel of this Ford, as on the road it shatters all preconceptions. Acceleration is smooth and swift, and there is little scuttle shake on the move, although it does tend to rattle on rough surfaces.

At speed, the car is stable and well mannered, before hauling to a stop on strong power brakes. Steering the large machine is thankfully power assisted, and the car corners with reassuring grip and little roll.

Despite its large size and left-hand drive configuration, the Mustang shrinks around you, making for an easy and relaxing drive.

## BODYWORK

A lifetime in an American museum means that this Mustang Convertible has seen little use, and so it looks and feels like a new car.

As expected with so few miles on the clock and most of its years spent indoors in the USA, the condition of the body is perfect and the white power hood operates as Uncle Henry intended.

Steel wheels are decorated with original Small Ford Motor Company hub caps and trim rings, and are shod in good Firestone Wide Oval tires as the originals had perished with age.

## INTERIOR

As with the body, the interior looks brand new, as if it has barely been sat in.

The seats are low but high backed and quite comfortable, dash layout is modern, controls are easy to find, and the instruments clear in their sporty separate cowls. The windows are manually wound, despite the power hood.

A medium wave radio is fitted, which could be updated with modern internals to keep the all-important original look.

## RUNNING GEAR

There's nothing to suggest the 40-year-old engine has had anything more than basic service work over the years. It starts on the first flick of the key, idles quietly and has abundant power on tap. The wonderful burble from the 351 Windsor V8 could sell the car on its own.

The automatic transmission is incredibly smooth, only the change in engine note telling you it's shifted ratios. Suspension and steering all feel tight and new, with no play felt while driving. It's unclear as to whether bushes have been changed, but it doesn't feel like they need doing.

## SHOULD I BUY IT?

A history of dry storage and little use before passing to a Mustang enthusiast in the UK make this a perfect buy for anyone wanting a rot-free, original car, and in that respect it must be among the best, with even the space-saving inflatable spare tyre unused in the boot.

The only drawback may be the price, which some may consider steep, but if you are looking for a perfect car to either preserve or drive without worry, this is the one for you.



## VITAL STATISTICS

ENGINE	5766cc/V8/OHV
POWER	177bhp@4600rpm
TORQUE	355lb ft@2600rpm
TOP SPEED	108mph
0-60MPH	8.1sec
ECONOMY	16mpg
GEARBOX	3-speed auto
MOT	12 months

## AT A GLANCE

### EXTERIOR

- Perfect paint
- Straight, rust-free panels

### INTERIOR

- Factory fresh
- Cheap plastics

### MECHANICALS

- Barely run in
- Fabulous V8

### VALUE



**PROS** Almost like buying a new car

**CONS** High ticket price and thirsty V8

### BUY IT FROM

Classic Touring  
Little Coldharbour Farm, Tong Lane,  
Lamberhurst, Kent

- 01892 891166
- [www.classic-touring.co.uk](http://www.classic-touring.co.uk)