

## Road Trip: Dallas to Aspen in a 2005 Porsche Boxster - June 2019

**Specs:** 2005 Porsche Boxster – seal gray with black top, graphite gray interior, 240 hp 2.7 liter flat 6 cylinder engine, 5 speed manual transmission.

**Wednesday, June 12** - We left Dallas a bit later than planned, as things always seem to come up out of nowhere on the morning of departure. With 2 trunks, the Boxster easily accommodated luggage and other items for the 6 day trip. Starting odometer reading: 55,501. We finally hit the road at 11:30am, intent on reaching Santa Fe before the 9:00pm closing time of one of my favorite restaurants there. After an uneventful drive through Texas towns such as Electra, Chillicothe, and Amarillo, we crossed into New Mexico and arrived in Santa Fe just before 8:00pm, in plenty of time for enchiladas with red sauce and posole at La Choza.



**Thursday, June 13** - After blue corn blueberry lavender donuts from Whoos Donuts in Santa Fe, we topped up the tank and headed north, passing through Ojo Caliente in northern New Mexico, into Colorado through Antonito and Alamosa as the scenery became greener and more impressive. Then, my favorite part of the drive: Independence Pass. The winding roads through the mountains can be fun in any car, but significantly more so in a mid engine Porsche! Upon reaching the peak at the Continental Divide (elevation 12,095 ft.), we were surprised to see at least a foot of snow still on the ground, in mid June. After stopping for a photo, we headed into Aspen, arriving 5:00pm at our accommodations for the next 3 nights, Chateau Eau Claire, overlooking the Roaring Fork River.





The Aspen Food and Wine Classic is an annual 4 day event, which we have attended a few times before. The event centers around tastings, exhibitions and demonstrations in the main tent, but there are also numerous smaller events, parties and dinners hosted by distributors and winemakers.



Our first stop was a dinner at Casa Tua, hosted by Santa Margherita Wines. I happened to be seated next to a member of the Marzotto family, who founded Santa Margherita over 80 years ago. The conversation eventually turned to cars, and we talked about the Mille Miglia, which I had attended about 20 years ago. His brothers have driven in the event several times in their vintage Lancia. He has attended numerous times, but his participation so far has been limited to driving one of the courtesy cars, a Porsche Panamera.



**Friday, June 14** - A day full of events, starting with Bubbles and Truffles at 10:00am, also hosted by our friends at Santa Margherita and featuring a variety of their excellent sparkling wines as well as some truly outstanding caviar. Lunch was at the Clucking Awesome party. Held at a private residence with amazing views of Aspen Mountain, guests were asked to remove their shoes upon entry, and were provided a pair of very comfortable slippers, embroidered with the Clucking Awesome logo (a chicken and a champagne bottle). Fried chicken, Krug and Dom Perignon champagne were offered in abundance.





Next stop was the Terlato Wine Group party at the rooftop of the Dancing Bear...absolutely top notch as always. Fortunately, this was only about a block away from the St. Regis Hotel, where my 3:30 massage was scheduled (and I was ready for a break anyway). While relaxing after my massage, a waiter approached and asked if I would care for a glass of complimentary champagne. Of course, I answered yes, and followed him and a few other guests to a nearby courtyard, where a young lady was standing, holding a large bottle in one hand, and an even larger sabre in the other. After a brief description of the wine at hand, she proceeded to use the sabre to open the bottle in dramatic fashion, then poured a glass for everyone in attendance.



A sublime feast of a dinner that evening at Matsuhisa was hosted by our friends at Vintus Wines. Restaurant owner and renowned chef Nobu Matsuhisa was in attendance that night, and stopped by our table a couple of times to chat and answer questions.

**Saturday, June 15** - After the previous day's full schedule, Saturday's first stop was the always popular Hangover Brunch. On to a few more events during the day, then back to the condo for a nap. Our final event of the day was the BBQ with Zonin. Held at a mountainside residence, a wide variety of Zonin wines were flowing, food aplenty, and sabring of Zonin sparkling wines on the deck. Conversation with Francesco Zonin also turned to cars, as we talked about his participation in the Mille Miglia years ago and Italian cars in general.





**Sunday, June 16** - Dropped off the condo keys to the Frias Property Management office at 10am and hit the road. Odometer reading: 56,420. Another fun drive over Independence Pass, this time with top down and seat heaters on. Lunch of burgers and onion rings in Buena Vista, CO, arrival in Santa Fe by 5pm. Dinner at Maria's in Santa Fe....margaritas, Carne Adovada, sopaipillas.



**Monday, June 17** - Departed Santa Fe at 9am. Tempted by the 72 ounce steak at the Big Texan in Amarillo, but settled for lunch at Braum's. After a couple of close calls with police radar in Texas small towns, arrived home in Dallas 6pm. Odometer reading: 57,337.

Total miles driven: 1,836

Average MPG: 29.4