



# Phil Hill

## 1960 - 1965

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Pilote automobile né le 20 avril 1927 à Miami en Floride, Phil Hill abandonne des études de gestion d'entreprises en 1948 pour se consacrer à la mécanique et au pilotage. Il est envoyé en stage chez Jaguar en Angleterre, d'où il revient avec une Jaguar sur laquelle il remporte sa première victoire à Pebble Beach en 1949. Luigi Chinetti l'engage pour les 12 Heures de Sebring et les 24 Heures du Mans puis il signe avec la Scuderia pour la saison d'endurance de 1956, mais c'est sans la permission du Commandatatore, qu'il s'engage au Grand Prix de Formule 1 de Reims en 1958 sur une Maserati. Associé à Olivier Gendebien, la même année il devient le premier Américain à remporter les 24 Heures du Mans que le team remportera de nouveau en 1961 et 1962 pour Ferrari.

Sa collaboration avec Ferrari semble avoir reposé sur une suite d'évènements qui a obligé le Commandatatore à lui faire confiance : Phil Hill se retrouve, après la retraite de Mike Hawthorn, le premier pilote de la Scuderia Ferrari en championnat du monde de Formule 1. Il remporte avec sa victoire au GP d'Italie et sur fond de décès de son coéquipier Wolfgang van Trips le titre de Champion du Monde en 1961. L'émergence de la nouvelle garde mexicaine chez Ferrari avec notamment l'arrivée de Ricardo Rodriguez n'est pas sans dégrader les relations entre Phil Hill et Enzo Ferrari qui mettent fin à leur collaboration à la fin de la saison 1962.

Jusqu'à sa retraite en 1967, Phil Hill a participé aux 24 Heures du Mans tous les ans. Ces dernières apparitions au Mans sont l'œuvre de Jim Hall qui l'engagea sur les Chaparral 2D et 2F.

A sa retraite, il crée sa société de restauration de voitures anciennes et commente les courses pour ABC Wide World of Sport. Il collabore aussi au magazine Road & Track aux côtés de son rival de toujours Paul Frère. Il meurt de complications de la maladie de Parkinson le 28 août 2008.

Racing driver born on April 20th, 1927 in Miami in Florida, Phil Hill left early business administration studies to become a mechanic and then a driver. He went to England as a Jaguar trainee in 1949. He came back with a Jaguar in which he won his first race at Pebble Beach. Luigi Chinetti engaged him for the 12 Hours and LeMans 24 Hours in 1949. He made his debut in Formula 1 in the Prix at Reims France without the permission of the Commandatatore in 1958 on a Maserati. That same year, paired with Belgian Olivier Gendebien, Phil Hill became the first American-born winner of the 24 Hours of LeMans. They will again compete together for Ferrari in 1961 and 1962.

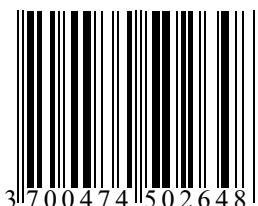
His collaboration with Ferrari seems to have rested on a series of events which obliged the Commandatatore to trust him: Phil Hill ended the career of Mike Hawthorn, the driver of the Scuderia Ferrari in the world championship of Formula 1. He won his victory in the GP of Italy and the background of death of his team-mate Wolfgang van Trips the title of Champion of the World in 1961. The arrival of the new Mexican rising star Ricardo Rodriguez, and in particular with Enzo Ferrari, was not without the relations between Phil Hill and Ferrari which ended their collaboration at the end of the season 1962.

Miami administrator came back with a team from the French Grand Prix at Sebring in 1955. He became the first American-born winner of the 24 Hours of LeMans. They will again compete together for Ferrari in 1961 and 1962.

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Until his retirement in 1967, Phil Hill participated every year in the 24 Hours of LeMans. His last appearances in LeMans were the work of Jim Hall, who entered him to drive the Chaparral 2D and 2F.

After his retirement, Hill built up an award-winning classic car restoration business and became a television commentator for ABC's Wide World of Sports. Hill had a long and distinguished association with Road & Track magazine near '60s racing rival Paul Frère. He died after a short illness from complications of Parkinson's disease on August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008.



Phil Hill  
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