

## INSIDE STORY

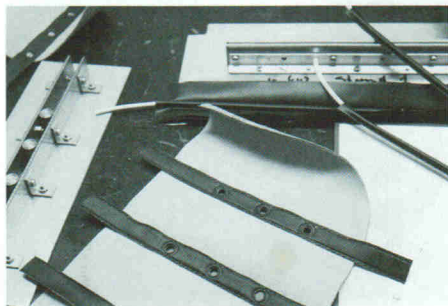
A LOOK AT YOUR CAR'S UPHOLSTERY

# Specialist workmanship for exclusive Italian interiors

**INTRICACIES OF LEATHER** FAITHFUL, ORIGINAL AND ONLY THE BEST

### HVL italian car interiors

Many Ferrari enthusiasts will have heard of Connolly leather. It's a world famous brand. But what about HVL? Exclusive Italian Interiors? Never heard of it? Yet Connolly and HVL are very much linked to each other.



HVL is a one man company run by Dutchman Henk van Lith (hence the company initials). As is customary with one man companies Henk is very passionate about his work. This is immediately obvious when you meet him. He likes to talk about what he does and doesn't mind taking the time to explain all the intricacies of the world of leather car interiors.

Nowadays, Henk specializes in Italian car interiors and more specifically in Ferrari interiors. Even Ferrari themselves turn to Henk for advice and he is heavily involved in the Classiche programme. Of course, Ferrari don't choose just any kind of company to work with. They recognise the special qualities Henk has. Not only is his work outstanding but his knowledge of leather is almost unparalleled, especially when it comes to Connolly leather, which has been used by Ferrari for years.

The world of leather car interiors wasn't exactly on Henk's mind when he joined the military years ago. But soon he was working at the sewing department, repairing the soldiers' clothes and eventually almost everything else, including the upholstery of planes and helicopters. He learned quickly and he liked what he was doing. Things got a

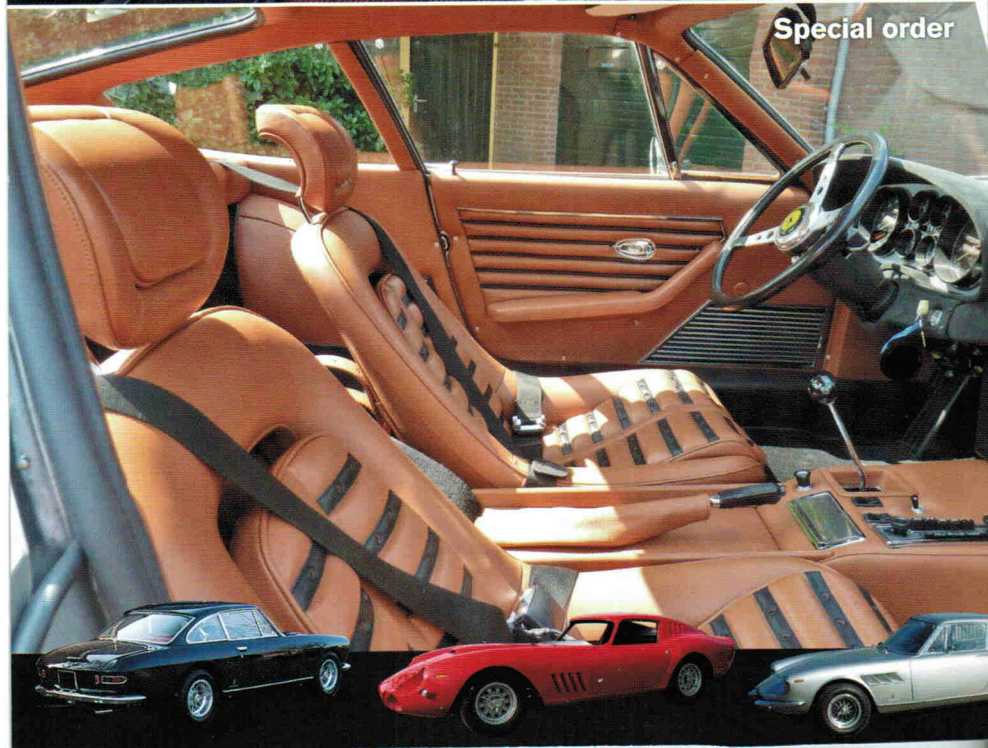
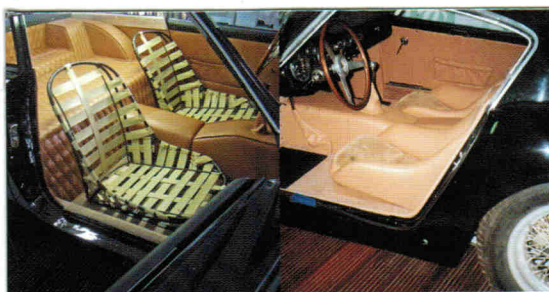
**Henk joined the military ... working on the upholstery of planes and helicopters, and before he knew it he had left the army and started his own shop ...**

bit out of hand and before he knew it Henk had left the army and started his own shop.

At first he did work for planes and all sorts of classic cars but after a while one of his Ferrari customers, Dutchman Jean-Louis Bezemer, advised him to specialise in Ferrari only. Henk visits Bezemer regularly to search in Jean Louis' archive, for information about Ferrari. Besides that he had gained a lot of experience with Connolly leather.



Connolly itself went bankrupt in 2002. Just before that unfortunate moment Henk had borrowed a big collection of swats and so on to show at a Dutch Ferrari Club meeting. Just when he wanted to return them Con-





nolly said it wasn't necessary anymore because of the bankruptcy. Henk now had a lot of information in hand and started to study everything closely. He will gladly explain all the intricacies of leather: the special grains, the scent, the paint, all the bits and pieces used to fit an interior.

Henk knows it all. And he only wants the best, keeping faithful to originality. He spent many hours sourcing the right original materials. Connolly might be no longer there, but Henk has found the same quality of hides, which even Ferrari now recognise as the only substitute for Connolly leather. He has found a large supply of exactly the right material that goes inside door panels and so on. The right carpets as well. Everything has to be exactly like it was all those years ago. Don't get Henk started on modern day leather as used by luxury car makers like Mercedes or BMW. When looking through a magnifying glass the difference is plain to see. The HVL/Connolly leather shows all

the open pores where the hairs of the cow used to be. Looking at a modern piece of leather these pores are all filled

Classiche Programme customers from all over the world have found the way to Henk's little shop in Wadenoijen, for their Ferraris to be restored

up, painted over. Henk looks disgusted when he says that you're not looking at leather, but just at paint!

Modern leather also uses all the hide of the cow, including scars and other imperfections, for cost reduction reasons. By painting these over they try to hide them. But leather will deform over time and the imperfections will show through the paint anyway. With HVL leather the imperfections are cut out in the first place, so this problem doesn't exist.

As said, HVL leather is recognised by the Ferrari factory as the choice for their cars, especially the Classiche Programme. Customers from all over the world



have found the way to Henk's little shop in a Dutch village called Wadenoijen, for their Ferraris to be restored. And not just any kind of Ferraris either.

For example Henk did the whole interior of the 250 GT Lusso that was sold for big money at the RM auction at Fiorano in 2008. Henk's work on that interior undoubtedly helped gain the high price it sold for. So if your Ferrari's interior is in need of restoration, HVL Exclusive Italian Interiors is certainly worth trying. If it's good enough for Ferrari ...

best quality materials, meticulous attention to detail, high standard of workmanship,



# HVL

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