

## □ And the most famous rally

### *The Rally of Danube/Romania*

This is the most prestigious rally in Romania. Intended to go through the countries along the River Danube, its length has been cut in the meanwhile. In the end it covered just Romania's routes. It takes place in the summer of each year. After 1989 its name turned to the Rally of Romania. It is part of the European Championship of Rallies.

In 1964, the motor racing forums of four European nations (FRG, Austria, Hungary and Romania) reunited their efforts aiming to create a rally, which would follow the watercourse of the River Danube. The finish line was in Romania. 45 crews took part in the first edition. In 1967, the winner of the rally was an Englishman, Tony Fall. The next year, the winner was the European champion Pauli Toivonen. The 1970 competition sees a record number of stars: Andruet □ who will become a European champion, Fall, Warmbold, Poltinger, Ciubrikov. The winner is the Austrian Gunther Janger on a Porsche who also wins the 1971 contest. A certain Walter Rohl (Opel Ascona) who came before the very famous S.

Barbasio (Fiat Abarth 124) and Sandro Munari (Lancia Fulvia HF) won the 9th edition (1973). On the fourth place came Eugen Ionescu-Cristea (R 12 Gordini). In 1974, the winner is still Walter Rohl on Opel Ascona. In 1978, F. Wittman wins on an Opel Kadett GTE, while in 1979 Vaclav Blahna on a Skoda 130RS comes first. In 1980, M. Pregliasco on an Alfa Romeo Alfetta GTV Turbo. The winner of the 1982 rally is Leo Pavlik on a Renault 5 Alpine, and in 1983 and 1984 the victory goes to Ferjancz, this time on a Renault 5 Turbo. Ferjancz on Renault 5 Turbo wins the 20th edition (1985) of the rally again. In 1987, the winner is for the first time a Romanian crew: Ludovic Balint □ Constantin Zarnescu on a Dacia 1300. Starting from 1991, its name turned to

the Rally of Romania. That edition was won by French Dominique Rumeau - Lionel Campo on a Peugeot 205 GTI. In 1993 the rally is won by M. Tarabassi □ G. Decour on a Lancia Delta Integrale 16v, in 1994 by G. Berti □ B. Serra on a Lancia Delta Integrale 16v, and in 1995 by Laszlo Ranga on a Ford Escort Cosworth who also won in 1996 but on a Subaru Impreza. In 1997 for the second time the victory went to a Romanian driver: Constantin Aur on a Toyota Celica. In 1998 the title went to a candidate for the European title: Jasen Popov, on a Ford Escort WRC. 1999 is a sad year as, because of the lack of sponsors the rally did not take place. In 2000, 2001 and 2002 Titi Aur won the rally and in 2003 the winner was Dan Gartofan.

