

**Edric Pan, 33 year-old, lawyer, married, one young child**

CAR OF CHOICE: 1984 Ferrari Mondial

ADVERTISED PRICE: \$98,000

PRIVATE SELLER

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It's true, your budget can stretch to a Ferrari. There's a catch though. Although this Italian exotic now resides in the realm of real-world prices, you'll still need to have a fair amount of dosh sitting in your bank account, because your chances of getting a loan for such an old, rare car are close to zilch. And even if you do get lucky, interest rates for financing on COE-renewed cars are astronomical.

But what a way to blow your savings. Hailed as one of the most under-rated Ferraris of all time, the Mondial has classic *Pininfarina* Ferrari lines – sleek and flowing, with the all-important pop-up headlamps and air intakes dramatically punctuating its flanks.

For those who still don't know which model this is, rent a copy of the movie *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*. The convertible version of this car made a brief but memorable guest appearance in it.

Ordinarily, a Ferrari would be off-limits for anyone like me who needs to transport wife and offspring around. But the Mondial, unusually, is a 2+2. Even Danny DeVito would feel confined in the rear, but any child below 5

years of age would probably fit nicely. So using this Ferrari as an everyday car is a realistic, if rather eccentric, prospect.

Running costs are going to be huge though. Apart from the road tax on that 3-litre V8 engine (subject, don't forget, to a 50 per cent loading due to the age of the car) and insurance premiums, servicing charges are daunting.

In addition, any 1980s Italian car, especially one as exotic and complex as this one, is going to suffer from build-quality and electrical woes.

But this isn't a car for which you tot up the costs. To understand what I mean, just imagine this scenario: you're at a stuffy cocktail reception, and a new acquaintance casually asks what car you drive. You may have paid under a hundred grand for the Mondial, but that delicious moment as you finger the Prancing Horse key-fob in your pocket and nonchalantly articulate that magical three-syllable word is priceless.

