The RETURN of the PNK PANTHER

I have been fortunate to return to Panther ownership following a 28-year hiatus. Originally, owning a 1984 Kallista, V6, purchased from George Newell, a stunning car in British racing green with old English white side swathes. I owned the car for over 3 years, then life took over, a house purchase then children forced the sale.



My only link to the Panther was naming my first-born daughter, 'Kallista.' The name is Greek for 'most beautiful.'

Fast forward to early May 2025 and a phone conversation with Mike of Hallmark Sports Cars. Mike informed he had a 1983 'barn find', that had not been on the road in 27 years, it had been in storage following the owner passing away.

I went to view the car in early May 2025, Mike had already stripped the interior, and completed a recent respray, the original all red paintwork, was now red and silver. The mileage was very low at 12797 miles from new, there was comprehensive history considering its short life before being put into storage. The car came complete with a rather unusual number plate, **795 PNK**. I could see the potential in the car and shook Mike's hand once a deal for the initial specification was agreed.

To Mikes, (and his body shops) slight dismay, I requested a colour change to Atlantic metallic blue with Brilliant silver side swathes. This colour combination really lifted the car to another level, the usual discussions were had regarding interior colours, hood etc. The groundwork specification was agreed; these were the first steps in the looming restoration.





Once home, my mind was racing with the prospect of owning a Panther 'Westwinds' Kallista 2.8 once more. So much so that over the next few weeks the basic respray and tidy up of the car drastically evolved, into a nut and bolt strip down and ground up rebuild of every element of **Kallista - 795 PNK**.



The engine and drive train along with every mechanical or removable item on the car were stripped and sent away to be Soda blasted and painted, reconditioned, or replaced by Mike of Hallmark, all finishing chrome work and every nut and bolt had to be restored or replaced.
Not an easy task for a car with parts that can be difficult to source at times.
I think Mike may have regretted that original phone call!

An aluminium fuel tank was designed & sourced, whilst the rear differential, gearbox and engine were being dismantled, reconditioned, and rebuilt. The almost as new underside of the Kallista was stripped of fuel and brake lines, to serve as a pattern to replace later. The underside was then given a thorough clean, prior to coating with a proprietary stone resistant coating to all areas including the underside of the running boards and wheel arches.

The engine bay, now stripped, cleaned, and painted was ready for the gleaming rebuilt engine, now a beautiful deep blue colour, this was carefully refitted, an inch at a time.



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Ceramic coated silver manifolds brighten the engine bay, along with the new performance carburettors filter, braided hoses, stainless steel fixings, and subtle chrome work providing further contrast.
Stainless steel exhaust pipes run the length of the car to exit either side of the rear number plate valance.
The bulkhead, now in stainless steel, reflects the Atlantic blue underside of the open bonnet. The Hallmark - Signature edition build plaque is the finishing touch.

The engine bay is now a work of engineering art.

The interior was a blank canvas, the first job was a thorough clean, the interior was then coated in Raptor prior to Killmat sound deadening being installed throughout. Navy blue and beige piped handmade carpets are installed, with additional matching over mats, these are lit by warm-white foot-well courtesy lighting.





The original seats have been reshaped to provide improved lumber and leg support, now covered in Ferrari Beige leather with blue piping. Mike sourced a company to embroider the original Panther 'wings' logo into the beige seat backs, providing a focal point as you survey the open cockpit.

The door cards received a similar treatment with the Navy-blue lower sections being embroidered with the Panther 'wings,' the upper finished in Ferrari beige, the doors finally topped with new polished burr Walnut cappings.





The dashboard is no longer the black plastic affair, now transformed with full width burr Walnut, and new period 'Smiths' magnolia gauges along with a bespoke warning light cluster. The dashboard is trimmed in Ferrari beige, finished with chrome screen air vents. The original parcel shelf has been replaced with a bespoke GRP item, sound deadened prior to being carpeted and trimmed.

Further elements of the interior are a newly manufactured, leather covered, centre arm rest housing the hand brake, new gear lever gaiter, and chrome interior components. The lower centre console has been replaced completely with a custom designed unit, covered in leather and Burr Walnut, furnished with a central starter button and chrome switchgear. This sits atop of the Ferrari beige leather transmission tunnel.
A beautiful wooden, Moto-Lita steering wheel completes the high standard of finish.

To bring the audio system into the 21st century a Kenwood audio system is installed with the front and rear speakers integrated subtly into the overall vision.
The new Navy-blue mohair hood and hood cover completed the car.

From the first viewing of this Kallista to the completed 'Reimagining' of **795 PNK**, Mike of Hallmark Sports Cars and his team have treated this meticulous restoration like it was their own car, nothing was ever too much trouble. Mike spent dozens of hours

sourcing everything from engine parts, down to stainless steel nuts, bolts, and screws to ensure every element of the restoration was completed to the very highest level. He did not even block my phone number when I came up with crazy idea after crazy idea, (apparently, it was close on occasion!)
This level of detail, in design and execution, has resulted in one of the finest examples of a Panther Kallista in the world. A Labour of love that has been over 28 years in the making following the departure of my original Panther Kallista - B615 KPA.

THE RETURN of the PNK PANTHER

is now complete.
I just need to keep my daughter (Kallista) from driving it!



795 PNK 1983 PANTHER KALLISTA 2.8 COLOGNE V6

HALLMARK SPORTS CARS – *Signature Edition 001*



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