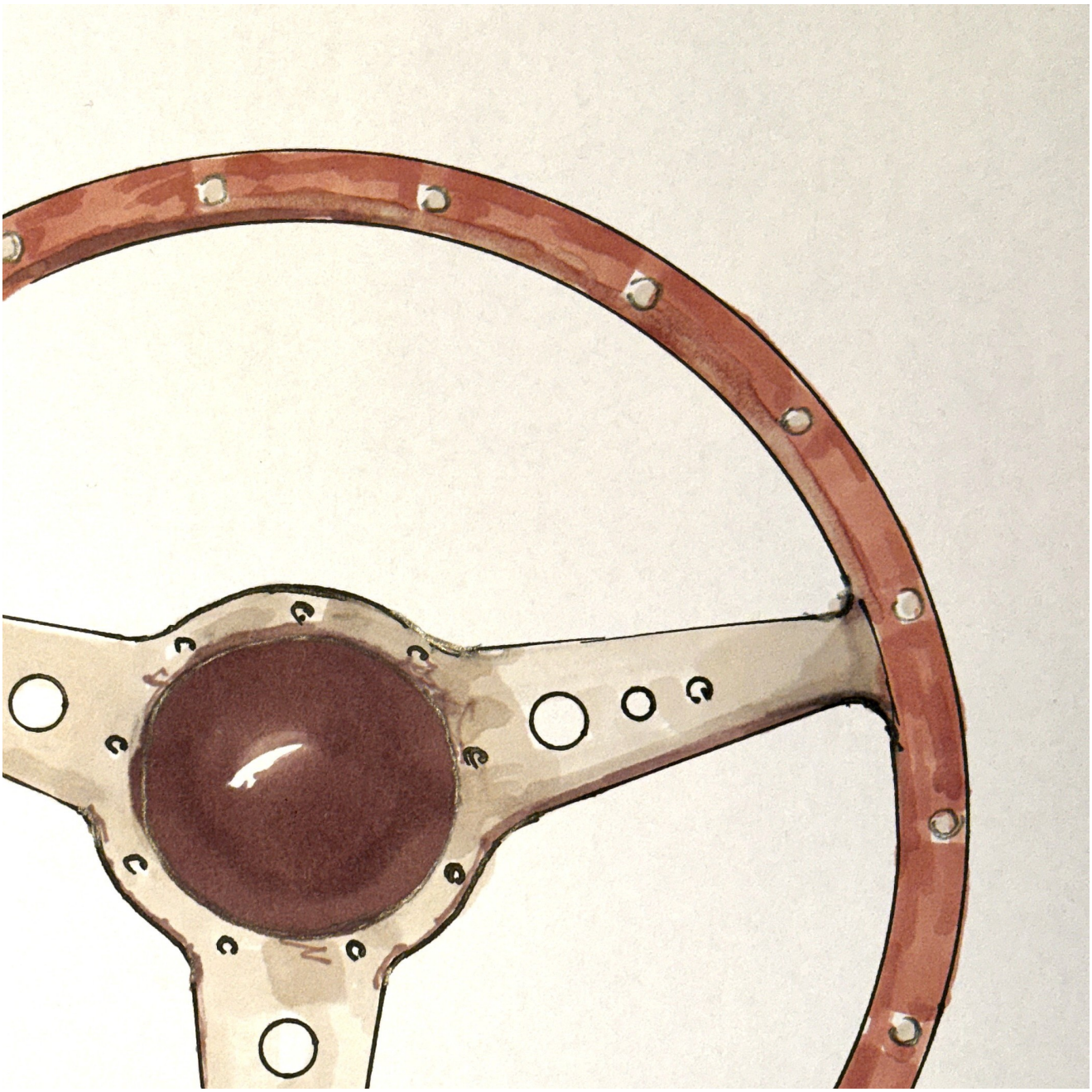
The Art of the Drive
Winter 2026

“A fine drive is not defined by distance.”



GB GT Journal — The Art of the Drive

Purposeful winter motoring.

I. The Winter Drive

How should we define winter driving ? Endurance, or hardship ? What about intention ? Planned, and with a purpose in mind. I hope you may find some ideas in this winter edition of AOTD.

The quiet satisfaction of a short journey undertaken with care, preparation, and a sense of seasonal ritual.

As the year turns, the road becomes a place of calm reflection: cold air, low sun, and the familiar comfort of a well-kept GT.

II. Travelling Well — Winter Notes

The Art of Touring: What Belongs in a Tourer's Holdall?

Why the smallest items often make the biggest difference on the road

- **or…**

Travelling elegantly without travelling extravagantly.

- You have probably seen the fitted case; ideal for country house parties and trains with porters to carry them, or large cars with chauffeurs, but in an age where not only have servants disappeared from daily life, but for the most part we actually enjoy independence and the flexibility of doing our own thing.
- But fitted travel cases are beautiful things especially the ones with proper silver topped crystal glass bottles, and speak of an age of luxury and elegance.
- One might just about get away with one of the smaller cases today but frankly these are heavy lumpy things to carry and no longer suited to our modern lifestyle. A robust canvas and leather weekend holdall which can be crushed and has less impact on the shins than a traditionally square suitcase has much to recommend it for touring GTs and smaller cars generally.
- The airport might be another matter entirely - where the Globetrotter comes into its own with distinction but for most everyday Touring Car purposes larger suitcases have their limitations (there are smaller Globetrotter cases of course!)
- Together with a premium ‘weekender’ holdall and a soft wash bag (or two) there is no reason why we cannot continue to travel in style and there are several kits which can be permed according to need

- hotel stays and late arrivals mean(depending upon the time of type of hotel) a standby supply of milk (tinned - or powdered in a pinch), fresh ground coffee, filter papers and a cone, tea bags and snacks can all form part of the emergency rations pack for the experienced Tourer or traveller.
- These things can all be enjoyed without paying the premium hotel fridge rates frequently applied, or discovering that one arrived to late for the concierge to be enthusiastic about finding them!
- Two wash bags allow for ‘wet’ wet and’ dry’ carrying and which can be a bonus four wet shavers. (I have a third washbag for the tea / coffee and catering essentials. They are of course different from each other so I know which contains what!)
- No need to sacrifice life's small luxuries here though; a razor case or a Truefitt and Hill travel razor, shaving cream in a tube or small tub of shaving soap and a travel shaving brush can all help maintain standards unless you are a designer stubble person (ladies excepted of course).
- I find if I don't shave every day it is agony trying to remove an extra day's growth.
- Also I was traumatised at a young age by a Warrant Officer providing a microscopic analysis of my chin with eyeball contact only millimetres away... after trying out my new electric shaver which he judged was not a success! (He didn't quite use those words of course, if I recall correctly, which I jolly well do several years later).
- A light microfibre towel takes up little space or weight and is a useful insurance policy too
- And for spectacles wearers the extra pair of £2 reading glasses permanently assigned to the travel bag may be a bonus
- Linen bags are a small luxury which pays dividends. Laundry can go in the bigger bag mine is made from old Gieves and Hawkes shirts purchased in the 1980s and far too good to throw in the bin once the collars and cuffs were worn out beyond repair. A laundry bag stops the ‘laundry-pending’ aroma penetrating everything else and it is easy to throw everything into the wash basket once home.
- Add shoe bags to stop polish transferring to everything else, and scratches from disfiguring the finely polished toe caps carefully nurtured by numerous coats of black fingered polishing.
- Spare shoe bags (or ditty bags if you have been a sailor) are also eminently useful for collecting together all of the miscellaneous knick knacks in one place without the indignity of using ziplock type freezer bags (though these are never to be underated for anything squelchy you might need to carry).
- Finally I have a leather accessory case which doubles up as an excellent night tray for watches, shirt collar bones, pens, wallet, cufflinks, and other pocket detritus.

- All of these things, small beer in themselves, can add up to a feeling of travelling in an organised way - efficient to pack, and become companions over numerous journeys and passing years - and the general feeling of ‘tidy bag, tidy mind’ and ‘move with elegance and economy of effort’ all have a feeling of a well ordered life. Which is a luxury in itself.
- Over time these become part of a self checking packing system, a sort of mental checklist, which avoids the worst issues of forgetting ‘stuff’ or simply the inconvenience of arriving in disarray. Properly contained packing is also a boon in the event of a breakdown or puncture and an emergency decant of the boot for tools or the spare wheel without disgorging the contents of everything everywhere!
- A fine drive is not, after all, defined by distance
- These things are part of ‘the art of the drive’ and the Art of Touring’



A canvas and leather holdall, linen bag, and a travelling poche vide; all organised and set for touring in style...

III. The Winter Driving Picnic

Winter touring has a character all its own: crisp air, low sun, quiet roads, and a sense of ceremony that summer and autumn never quite match. It is the season of Boxing Day drives, New Year outings, frosty mornings, and short, purposeful adventures.

Historically, winter motoring picnics were rare — the 1930s and 1960s books tended to favour summer and autumn — but when they did appear, they leaned heavily on hot drinks, hearty fare, and a certain stoic charm. Today's GT driver might prefer something lighter, cleaner, and more modern, but still warming and satisfying.

This Winter Edition offers a selection of **modern** recipes designed for cold weather: warming soups, compact savouries, refined sweet items, and hot drinks that elevate the moment without overwhelming it. Each dish includes subtle winter refinements — warmth, texture, colour contrast, and elegant touches — that lift the menu from the commonplace into the distinctly GB GT realm.

Two options here – a light quick bake (but more-ish and addictive for all its simplicity and speed) and more lavish options for a full day out.



Winter Menu

With a hint of festive sophistication.

The light, 'bespoke' menu

1. Rosemary shortbread

Sophisticated, quick to prepare, perfect with tea or coffee, even better with Champagne.

This is a recipe which works all year round.



Rosemary shortbread

100g butter

100g plain flour

100g grated Parmesan cheese

1 tablespoon of finely chopped fresh Rosemary

Blast in a food processor and roll out as a dough for biscuit baking – roughly the thickness of a £1 coin.

Place on a baking tray in a pre-heated oven at about 180 degrees for 15-20 minutes

Pair with fruit, and to drink tea, fresh coffee or the 'Jump Starter' alcohol free gingery warmer published in the Art Of The Drive Autumn Edition.

The Boxing Day Banquet Menu

(Note: works well on other days too!)

1. Savouries

Winter Ham & Mustard Roll

A clean, modern take on a cold-weather classic.

Ingredients Quality ham, wholegrain mustard, butter, soft roll, optional cornichon.

Method Butter lightly, add ham, spread a modest amount of mustard, add cornichon if desired. Cut neatly.

Extra Winter Touches

- Add a **thin slice of crisp apple** for freshness.
- Serve with a **small mustard ramekin** for photography if 'Facebooking' your adventures.
- Wrap in parchment with a **linen napkin** for a refined look. Consider packing and presenting in a period, or modern stainless steel, sandwich tin to elevate this to full-bore elegant touring style dining on the go.

Roast Vegetable & Herb Sandwich (Vegetarian)

Warm, colourful, and distinctly wintery.

Ingredients Roasted carrots, parsnips, red onion, olive oil, thyme, ciabatta.

Method Roast vegetables until caramelised. Season with thyme. Layer into ciabatta.

Extra Winter Touches

- Add a **drizzle of honey** before roasting, for depth of flavour.
- Finish with **rocket** for colour and freshness.
- A thin layer of **goat's cheese** elevates it without heaviness.

Mini Sausage Rolls

A winter staple, modernised by keeping them small and tidy.

Ingredients Mini sausage rolls, optional cranberry relish.

Method Serve warm or cold. Pair with a small spoon of cranberry relish.

Extra Winter Touches

- Brush with **egg wash + sesame seeds** before baking.
- Cut at a **45° angle** for a more elegant shape.
- Serve with a **cranberry-mustard dip** for a festive note.

2. Warming Dishes

Parsnip & Apple Soup (Flask-Friendly)

Smooth, warming, seasonal

Ingredients Parsnips, apple, onion, butter, vegetable stock, seasoning.

Method Sauté onion and parsnip. Add apple and stock. Simmer, blend, season. Pour into your leather-wrapped flask.

Extra Winter Touches

- Add a **pinch of nutmeg** for warmth.
- Garnish with a **thyme leaf** for photography.
- Serve with **spiced nuts** for texture.

Winter Tomato & Rosemary Soup

A deeper, richer winter variant of the autumn tomato soup.

Ingredients Tomatoes, onion, garlic, rosemary, olive oil, seasoning.

Method Sauté onion and garlic. Add tomatoes and rosemary. Simmer, blend, season.

Extra Winter Touches

- Add a **dash of balsamic** for depth.
- Garnish with a **rosemary sprig**.
- Serve with **warm rolls** for a complete winter pairing.

3. Sweet Options

Spiced Shortbread

Light, elegant, and perfect for cold weather.

Ingredients Shortbread, cinnamon or mixed spice.

Method Dust lightly with spice.

Extra Winter Touches

- Serve on enamelware for a modern-heritage look. Something like *Falcon Enamelware* offer some timeless options.

Chocolate & Orange Slice

A modern winter sweet with festive notes.

Ingredients Chocolate loaf cake or brownie, orange zest.

Method Slice neatly and garnish with zest.

Extra Winter Touches

- Add **candied orange peel** for sophistication.
- Use a **linen napkin** beneath the plate.

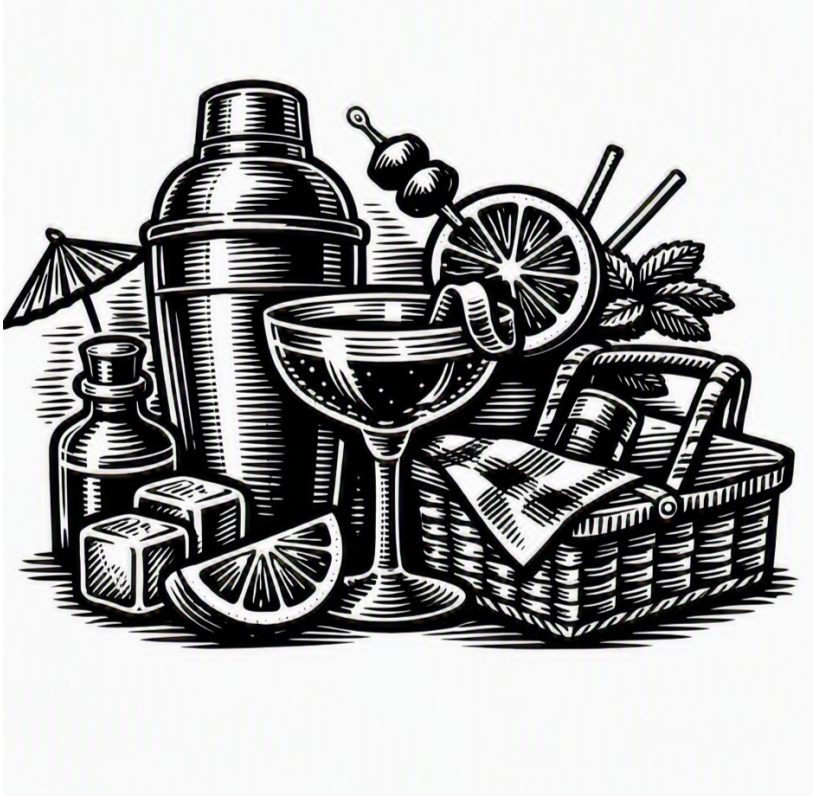
Winter GT Banquet Board

An easy win with minimal sticky mess potential!

Contents Sliced ham, hard cheese, cornichons, small rolls, spiced nuts.

Extra Winter Touches

- Add **pickled red onions** for colour and acidity.
- Include a **small pot of wholegrain mustard**.



Drinks (Alcohol-Free and ‘GT-Appropriate’)



Mulled Apple & Ginger (Light, Modern)

A modern alternative to heavy mulled wine.

Ingredients Cloudy apple juice, ginger slices, cinnamon stick, orange peel.

Method Warm gently. Strain. Serve in flask if picnic-ing. A punch bowl if this is a designated driver offering at the table.

Extra Winter Touches

- Add a **single clove** for depth.

Winter Earl Grey (Clove + Orange)

Sophisticated and aromatic.

Ingredients Earl Grey, clove, orange peel.

Method Brew tea. Add clove and peel. Serve warm.

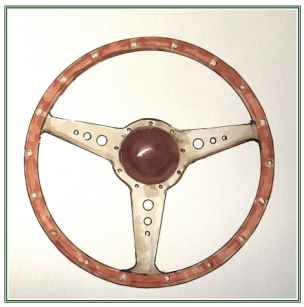
Winter Touches

- Serve in a **small enamel cup if on the road**.
- Add a **twist of orange** for colour.

IV. The Winter Banquet & Menu Cards

Ideal as a seasonal dining set for winter touring and Christmas gatherings, pdf downloads are free from the GB GT Journal at 'The Register' Library page.





Non-Spirit Fuel

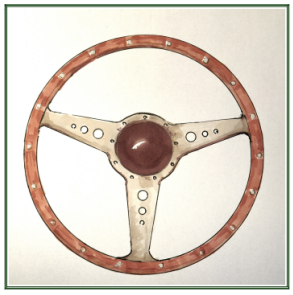
For those steering clear of spirits

A seasonal salute to the dedicated driver -
enjoy the drive, the company, and the punch.

THE ART OF THE DRIVE

- **The GB GT Menu Card**
- for festive dining; probably not for Christmas day itself but great for GT themed picnics, treasure hunts or what you will.

- **The Christmas Holiday 'Drivers Punch' or 'Spirit Free Fuelling'**
- just to advertise the right stuff to the right people.
- Perfect with the 'Jump Starter' ginger drink published in the Autumn Edition of AOTD or a spiced apple punch.



MENU

THE ART OF THE DRIVE

V. Winter Photography

Remember a microfibre cloth to keep camera lenses clean especially if moving between warm cars and colder outside air temperatures or the condensated lens will create a very foggy atmospheric effect.

VI. Boxing Day & New Year

Touring OverThe Christmas Holiday Break

Consider shaking up the holiday period with a treasure hunt for family or friends, or a drive to a well loved pub or hotel for lunch. Or a picnic spot or a wider family gathering to keep everyone entertained over the holiday period.

If stuck for inspiration, there are options for planning events at two scales - perhaps a wider circuit to a place to dine or the classy picnic place with winter views – or at the other end of the scale something much more local around your local town or village, and finishing with everyone safely parked and close to home and walking distances if you propose to rendevous for drinks to finish. A spot of internet research should generate clues and answers for local history including features in nearby churches or church yards, graves of prominent or noteworthy citizenry, artistic window dressing in your local posh shop or a special Ferrari or Aston Martin GT themed clue in your local second hand car dealers forecourt display?

Or if it is all too overwhelming 'get away from it all and plan for:

Short, purposeful drives:

- early morning calm
- quiet roads
- winter landscapes
- analogue rituals – the Irvin coat, fully wound dash clock for older touring cars, planning a route on a paper mapbook, dipstick and tyre checks, perhaps an entry in the driving logbook or a photographic record of the days drive.
- returning home with warmth and satisfaction

VII. Closing Reflection

Winter driving is not defined by distance. It is defined by purpose — the small rituals that make the season feel complete.

Sometimes it is our habits that change. Busy lives have a way of crowding out the simple pleasures we once made time for without thinking.

If this Winter Edition encourages you to take a favourite route, pack a flask, enjoy a winter picnic, or simply spend a little more time appreciating the season, then it has served its purpose.

These are things I enjoy.

Some may be familiar.

Some may be new to you.

I hope they encourage you to make time for them.

After all,… a fine drive is not defined by distance.

With best wishes looking ahead to Christmas and the New Year.
Lawrence