

<u>Wish You Were Here?</u> Gran Turismo 4's Photo Modes: every virtual tourist's dream

Now Gran Turismo 4 players can capture the beauty of their favourite cars for posterity using the incredible Photo Mode, which even allows users to print out postcard-perfect photographs.

Gran Turismo has always been more than just a driving game: it's about taking pride in cars hard won as well testing players' abilities, and the exciting replays have always been integral to that. "Since the introduction of Gran Turismo, it always had two sides of enjoyable factors: the joy of driving and the joy of watching", says the mastermind behind the Gran Turismo series, Kazunori Yamauchi.

Now developers Polyphony Digital have taken this one step further with Photo Mode. Players can still save and replay their greatest victories across the 50+ race tracks but now they can take a Sunday driver roll around any chosen track, watch the replay then stop the action for an impromptu photo shoot. You can also take a photo from the replay of any full-on race, taking snaps of your own car or others.

Filling up virtual garages with hand picked cars, bought with the proceeds of fiercely contested races, has always been one of Gran Turismo's greatest pleasures. As Kazunori explains: "Anyone who owns a car is likely to agree that the times spent behind the wheel are moments of happiness, but there is also the moment of happiness when you have parked the car and look back to admire the view. Some might go further and take their car to a scenic point with the intention to take pictures."

Using Photo Travel, proud owners of virtual GT cars can take their finest vehicles to 15 worldwide destination locations, including beneath the Brooklyn Bridge in New York, Shibuya in Tokyo, the Piazza San Marco in Venice and Freemont Street in Las Vegas. Snap-happy virtual tourists can simply save the image onto a memory card or USB Flash Memory Stick for a slide show later but budding photographers can apply a number of effects to take the perfect picture, including: adjusting the focal length, applying filter effects and rotating the frame among others. Once happy with the image, it can be processed into a high resolution photograph using a compatible USB colour printer.

"The variation of photos possible to the player is unlimited, and it is likely for them to spend numerous hours with this mode", says Kazunori. He sums up "The inclusion of "Photo Mode" brings one of the concepts of Gran Turismo 'the pleasures surrounding a car other than driving' another step forward."

Just don't forget to wash your car before you take a picture!

Photo Mode Facts

- Each car has more than 5,000 polygons, capturing exceptional detail, right down to the disk brakes behind the wheel
- The in-game photo is saved as a small file to preserve memory card space but it is generated with a much higher resolution when it goes to print – 1280 x 960 pixels and 16 million colours!
- Photographs can be 'processed' in colour, black & white or sepia for a more nostalgic feel
- Every car that you unlock in the game can be photographed.
- Competitions will be held to find the best photographers see GranTurismoWorld.com for more info.

Sony Computer Entertainment Europe Ltd.

Sony Computer Entertainment Europe, based in London, is responsible for the distribution, marketing and sales of PS one and PlayStation 2 software and hardware in 102 territories across Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Oceania. At the end of September 2004, over 39 million PlayStation units had been shipped across these PAL territories, over 100 million worldwide. Between its European debut on 24 November 2000 and the end of September 2004, over 25 million PlayStation 2 units have been shipped across the PAL territories, over 74 million world-wide, making it one of the most successful consumer electronic products in history.

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About Polyphony Digital Incorporated

Polyphony Digital Inc., based in Tokyo, is known for the design and development of the "Gran Turismo" software series for PlayStation, PS one, PlayStation 2 consoles. "Gran Turismo" is the most successful game franchise over the last ten years, and is known for its benchmark setting game design quality and as the pioneer of car physics simulation technology. As of the end of September 2004, the "Gran Turismo" software franchise has sold over 13 million copies across Europe and over 36 million copies worldwide.