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Gianmaria Bruni

2nd in World Endurance Championship (GT)

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Bruni didn't win a world title in 2015 and nor did he add to his tally of class wins at Le Mans, but the Ferrari factory driver did constantly remind us why he is such a great talent – and arguably the fastest man anywhere in the world aboard a GT car – throughout another WEC campaign with AF Corse. At such a high level did he consistently perform that it is hard to pick out his best drives of the season.

Silverstone, though, was one of them. He and regular team-mate Toni Vilander came from the back to win after Bruni's Ferrari 458 Italia was forced off course on the opening lap. He was mega at Spa too, and would probably have overtaken the winning Aston but for a late penalty for an unsafe release in the pits. AF Corse's fightback at Le Mans was led by Bruni after an early delay with a puncture and again might have been rewarded with victory had not gearbox problems intervened in the closing stages.

This might be beginning to sound like a list of all the WEC races. It could just as well be, because Bruni was at the top of his game every time out.

Those efforts in 2015 might not have resulted in him having to find much new space in the Bruni family trophy cabinet, but his bank balance is going to be boosted in the future. Ferrari finally woke up to what a talent it has on its hands when it was forced to give him a significant pay hike for what will be his 10th season on the manufacturer's books in 2016. It had to respond to a big-money offer from Porsche, which realised that it didn't get the world's best GT driver when it signed Frederic Makowiecki for 2014.

