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## Luxury of Superlatives at the Beginning of a New Age

In the year 1890 the Paris-based company Panhard & Levassor started with the production of automobiles. At that time the company could pride itself on having built the first French-manufactured automobile. Panhard & Levassor made a steady progress, had a good sense of wealthy society's wishes, had the finger on the pulse and evolved in this way into an internationally known luxury manufacture.

In the course of this company policy the Type Q, which was powered by a 10.5-liter 4-cylinder front engine with 63 hp; an extremely high engine output at that time; came onto the market in 1905. From a present-day perspective the car undoubtedly belonged into the top class of luxury automobiles. The Panhard had a wooden chassis, which was reinforced with metal sheets. Its car body; a double-phaeton body, often only designated as a Phaeton body, which was the then-designation for a four-seated car; was made by the body maker Henri Labourdette. Both

rows of seats were placed in succession as is still common today in automobile manufacturing. All conveniences were mainly designed for the rear passengers. As it was customary at that time only the rear section of the car was fitted with doors for the passengers and the foldable leather roof just covered the rear seats of the car. In addition a glass panel separated both passengers from their chauffeur and co-driver.

Due to the official number of produced Type Q double-phaetons, Panhard & Levassor utilized Henri Labourdette's high level of craftsmanship 108 times in total. The production period lasted from 1905 to 1910.

**AutoCult GmbH**

Äußere Further Straße 3  
90530 Wendelstein  
Germany

Tel. +49 / 9129 / 296 4280  
Fax +49 / 9129 / 296 4281  
info@autocult.de

[www.autocult-models.de](http://www.autocult-models.de)