

Sambas? Well, not really...

Look fastly at the picture on the right and you may think: hmmm nice period shot of a Samba.

But that's untrue!

In fact, it's a 60s Renault Estafette in the plushiest execution.

The Estafette (military courier in English by the way) has been produced in many variants as the type 2 (panel van, kombi, microbus, deluxe microbus, pick-up).



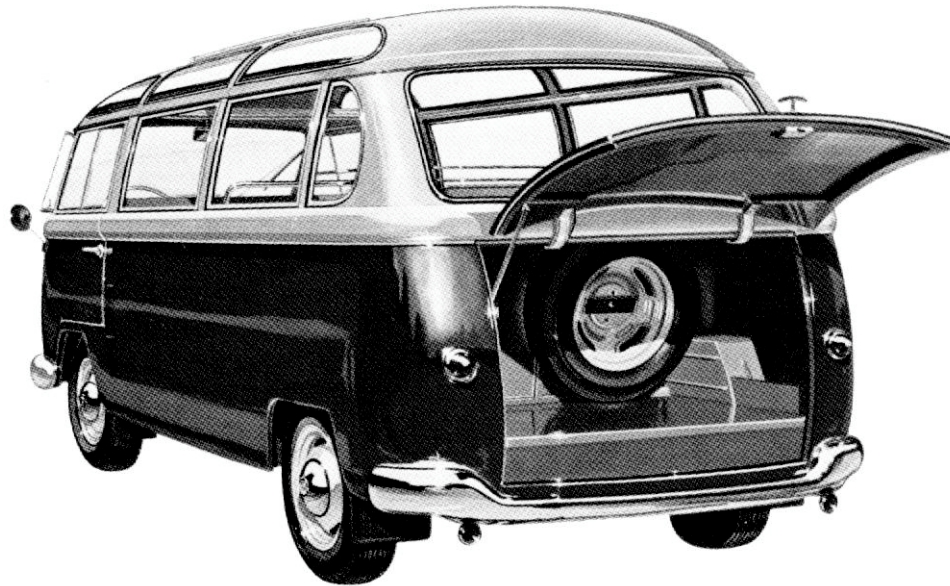
You are now most likely to encounter the Kombi derivative nowadays (sometimes with high roof) on French roads. I can't remember having seen one of those "Microcar de Luxe" as were called the Samba equivalent. Below is a photo of one of these. In fact, there were few embellishments and no nice paint as on the Sambas.



(The two photos come from a French magazine called *Gazoline*)

For the record, here is also a kind of a Samba. This one is German.

It's the Wiking. Some VW like embellishments have been added but it's not really nice to say the least...I have never seen one "in flesh" maybe because of that!



The colour photo comes from *Le Combi de mon père* (by Patrick LESUEUR, E.T.A.I. ed) and the other one from Walter ZEICHNER's book: VOLKSWAGEN TRANSPORTER/ BUS 1949-67 (Schiffer Automotives Series)

Christian Pruvot
<http://barndoor.free.fr>