



MARATONA DLES DOLOMITES – ENEL

Press release

SPORTSMEN AND WOMEN AND CELEBRITIES HOP ON THEIR BIKES FOR THE 32ND EDITION

**Balancing on their bikes there will be
9.000 CYCLISTS LIVE ON TV**

(Alta Badia - BZ - 1st July 2018). 32nd Edition of the Maratona dles Dolomites - Enel 2018.

Hopping on their bikes: famous sportsmen and women, Italian entrepreneurs and famous faces who all share the same passion for cycling. They will all come together on Sunday 1st July in one of the most fascinating and breathtaking competitions in Europe. The setting is the unique and incomparable backdrop of the Dolomites, which are equally romantic and beautiful. Among the sports stars, expect to see: Elia Viviani, recent winner of four stages of the Giro d'Italia, Miguel Indurain, Alessandro Zanardi, Davide Cassani, Paolo Bettini, Manfred e Manuela Mölgg, Dorothea Wierer, Lisa Vitozzi, Dominik Windisch, Federico Pellegrino, Christof Innerhofer, Antonio Rossi, Yuri Chechi and many others. This edition focuses once again on healthy competition and the Maratona remains the most highly sought-after international granfondo, with all 9,000 spots taken from cyclists from over 60 nations and selected from the 32,400 applications filled. The lucky participants take on seven Dolomite passes: Pordoi, Sella, Campolongo, Falzarego, Gardena, Valparola, and Giau. The three trails remain the same: the medium trail (106 km) with a 3130 m altitude gain, the long trail (138 km) with a 4230 m altitude gain and the Sella Ronda (55km) with 1780 m altitude gain.

The Maratona this year is dedicated to balance, or 'ecuiliber' as we say in Ladin: because our beloved passes, our beloved Dolomites, which belong to those who live here and those who come here to enjoy the beauty of these mountains, all need more balance. The balance between humans and nature is becoming more and more indispensable and necessary for the survival of our planet.

The competition starts at **6.30 from La Villa** and ends in **Corvara**. It covers one of the most beautiful natural settings in the world, an area which was recognised by UNESCO as World Heritage some years ago. **The Maratona will be broadcast live on Raitre** from 6:15 am to noon and, as always, all passes are closed to traffic during the race.

This year we have 4,500 Italian participants, followed by the Germans (over 1,000), the Brits (over 1,000), the Dutch, the Danes and the Belgians. There are also cyclists who hail from Qatar, Japan, Korea, Colombia and Kazakhstan. There is also significant female participation, with over 1,100 women taking part. Besides the professionals, also attending are sports enthusiasts, and there will be many famous faces. This group includes: **David Brailsford (Team Sky), Francesco Starace (ENEL), Matteo Marzotto, Mario Greco (Zürich Assicurazioni), Alberto Sorbini (Enervit), Fausto Pinarello (Pinarello), Laura Colnaghi Calissoni (Carvico), Matteo Arcese (Arcese), Emilio Mussini (Panaria Group), Giovanni Bruno (Sky), DJ Linus, Paolo Kessisoglu, Roberto Sgalla, Pier Bergonzi, Renato Di Rocco (Fci).**

Among the well-known faces from Alto Adige, there's the vice-president of the provincial council, Thomas Widmann, Stefano Podini and Gerhard Dichgans.

ALTA BADIA – UNIQUE MOMENTS ON TWO WHEELS

Summer in Alta Badia is all about cyclists, their love for the sport and for the stunning Dolomite landscape. During the summer, Alta Badia offers a range of tourist services for cyclists known as the "Bike Friendly" initiative, www.altabadia.org/bike, focusing on both road cyclists and mountain bikers. The tourist information offices provide road maps with recommended routes, and the partnership with the specialised Dolomite Biking School (www.dolomitebiking.com) allows group or individual excursions to be organised daily.

There are lots of discounts available for tourist accommodation, bike rental companies and shops selling spare parts and clothing, restaurants, and specialised mountain lodges, meeting the needs of all those who take delight in practising this sport. "Bike Expert" and "Bike Friendly" hotels provide everything that cyclists need: storage areas where it's possible to clean and repair bikes, bicycle racks, tool boxes specifically for bicycles, laundry services, a hearty and well-balanced breakfast and a cold dish or cakes in the afternoon to boost energy levels. Cable cars transport bicycles free of charge.

GUIDED BIKE TOURS

In May, June and July, Alta Badia will once again be offering its Guided Bike Tours. From 21st May until the end of July, you can go cycling every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday accompanied by expert local guides. Each day, two trips will be available to suit two different levels: "tour" for experts and "hobby" for intermediate cyclists. These trips allow you to reach the most iconic places and passes of the Dolomite mountains that have made history in the Giro d'Italia, all accompanied by expert guides and with complete peace of mind. It's possible to book the excursions, costing €27.00, at the Alta Badia tourist offices, or at any "Bike Expert" or "Bike Friendly" hotel.

DOLOMITES BIKE DAY AND SELLARONDA BIKE DAY

If you are unable to take part in the much-coveted Maratona dles Dolomites, another two cycling events are held in June which are non-competitive and open to everyone, without the need to register: DOLOMITES BIKE DAY and SELLARONDA BIKE DAY. These two events actually follow the route of the Maratona dles Dolomites and, just as for the Cyclosporive, the roads involved are closed to traffic.

The Dolomites Bike Day will be taking place for the second time on Sunday 17th June. The Dolomite passes, Campolongo, Falzarego and Valparola, play the leading role in these cycling events, a setting of epic feats that have gone down in cycling history. The route winds its way around the circuit, starting from Alta Badia to reach Arabba and the Livinallongo valley, crossing the Campolongo Pass, before then continuing to the Falzarego Pass and then the Valparola Pass, going on to reach the villages of La Villa and Corvara, the final destination. The route is closed to traffic from 09.30 to 14.30 and covers 51 km with a 1,290 m difference in altitude. It is recommended to follow the route in an anti-clockwise direction.

The now traditional SELLARONDA BIKE DAY will be held on Saturday 23rd June, when the passes around the Sella Group will be closed to traffic. Cycling enthusiasts can take part in the thirteenth edition of this non-competitive event between 08.30 and 15.30. www.sellarondabikeday.com.

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