



MARATONA
DLES DOLOMITES



PRESS RELEASE

MARATONA DLES DOLOMITES-ENEL, A LIGHT OF JOY ILLUMINATES THE DOLOMITES

The 38th edition of the Maratona dles Dolomites – Enel, which was dedicated to 'Lüm' (meaning 'light' in the Ladin language), took place along the Dolomite passes that were closed to traffic for the day. Bathed in pale sunlight the race saw Luca Cavallo and Roberta Bussone emerge victorious in the Maratona route. This route covers 138 kilometres with over 4,000 metres of elevation gain.

Alta Badia (South Tyrolean Dolomites/Italy) - At dawn, a gentle, joyful light rose from the Dolomite peaks to greet the 7,964 participants of the 38th edition of the Maratona dles Dolomites – Enel, including 7,081 men and 883 women. This year's event, which was dedicated to 'Lüm' (light), featured the classic three courses winding through the Dolomite passes, which are an important part of cycling history.

The traditional kick-off was given at 6:30am at the start in La Villa by the president of the Maratona dles Dolomites Michil Costa on his vintage bicycle. The colourful 'serpent' of cyclists surged ahead towards the Campolongo Pass. It was light that illuminated this magnificent day: light on the roads, on the meadows and on the Dolomite spires. The race was inspired by the words of Michil Costa: *"Light is what we carry inside us, even when the world is shaking. It is a wish that this light will accompany us not only on the roads as we climb the mountain passes, but also within ourselves, where ideas, emotions and dreams are sparked. This could be our mountain gospel, written in the breath and effort of the journey."*

Thanks to the closed roads, the participants were able to fully experience the beauty of the climbs and descents across the iconic Dolomite passes: Campolongo, Pordoi, Sella, Gardena, Giau, Falzarego and Valparola. In addition to the 138 km Maratona route with 4,230 metres of elevation gain, there were also the 106 km medium route and the 55 km Sella Ronda route. Notably, nearly 1,000 women took part, about 14%, a figure that signifies more than just numbers. The bicycle is a tool that narrows distances, fosters equality and promotes a sustainable lifestyle.

As always, this year's race was broadcast live on the Italian national channel RAI 2 from 6:15 am to noon. It followed the leaders of the Maratona course, showcasing the thousands of riders and the breathtaking landscapes they traversed.

On the climbs of the Sella Ronda loop, an initial group of eleven riders broke away, but it was Spain's David Mayo, who came second in last year's edition, that rode alone over the Campolongo pass. Among the women, Roberta Bussone immediately took the lead, distancing all her rivals and beginning a long solo ride.

As always, the Giau Pass proved decisive: Luca Cavallo from Piedmont first caught and then overtook Mayo, charging ahead towards the passes Falzarego and Valparola and ultimately towards

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victory. *'We got off to a strong start in a group of ten. I set the pace on the Sella pass, but then I broke a spoke and had to carry on without changing the bike. David Mayo broke away, so I knew I had to give it my all on the Giau pass. I caught up with him and overtook him. Even though I was wobbling on every turn, I managed to cross the finish line first. I'm thrilled'* these were the words of the winner Cavallo. Luca Cavallo took first place on the Maratona course podium, completing the race in 4 hours, 25 minutes and 35 seconds. He was followed by David Mayo from Spain, who finished in 4 hours, 28 minutes and 8 seconds, and Giuseppe Orlando from Italy, who finished in 4 hours, 29 minutes and 17 seconds.

Another great performance came from Roberta Bussone from Piedmont. She won with an incredible time: *"I'm overjoyed! I gave it my all from the start and managed my pace well. This is a huge achievement and it's not easy to balance cycling with work. I'm really emotional. I promised myself at my birthday party last year that I'd try to win. With this result, every sacrifice has been more than worth it."* Roberta Bussone completed the Maratona course in 5 hours and 7 minutes. Martina Cavallo followed closely behind in 5 hours and 24 minutes and in third position Carmen Moser in 5 hours and 25 minutes.

Stefano Bonanomi won the medium course, with Stefan Kirchmair in second place and Danilo Celano in third. Laura Simenc Kramar topped the women's category podium, with Michela Santini and Elisa Leardini taking second and third place respectively.

The Maratona dles Dolomites – Enel came to a close with a spectacular light show, showcasing the Dolomites in all their glory. But now it's time to look ahead to the 39th edition, which will take place on Sunday, 5 July 2026 and will have the theme of 'pesc', meaning 'peace' in the Ladin language.

This is a word that is more important and urgent than ever, and crucial for the future of humanity. It must not remain a vague ideal, but rather be transformed into a shared reality.

"We must embody peace in our daily lives, committing to goodness, just as a cyclist would wait for a friend rather than racing alone. It's the silent act of handing a water bottle to a stranger or the friendly greeting to someone climbing as you descend when cycling. It's the common rhythm that emerges when the distance between people shrinks. The Maratona becomes a symbol of coexistence between peoples and cultures, and of shared silences. It is a hymn to peace, an exercise in fraternity and a small yet great miracle on two wheels, reminding us that no effort is wasted if it is made together. Only those with light inside can truly generate peace." said Michil Costa. See you next year.

FULL RANKING LIST

<https://datasport.com/live/ranking/?racenr=27422>

DOWNLOAD VIDEO AND PICTURES:

www.maratona.it/media

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