

# 80.TourdePologne®

## 29.07-04.08.2023



### **Sonny Colbrelli: Tour De Pologne is a passion**

"Matej Mohoric? A friend and a real man".

Between the photos, the autographs and the videos, Sonny keeps himself very busy and it is not easy to find him on the truck of Valsir, the leading company in the plumbing sector in Brescia. Here, the people know and appreciate him and he, with his renowned generosity, never gives up.

### **Sonny, what are your memories of riding the Tour de Pologne?**

*"I took part in the Tour de Pologne twice, 2012 and 2013. The 2013 edition had bad weather. I was coming back from the Giro d'Italia where I had caught pneumonia. Sport director Reverberi advised me not to risk a relapse, so I withdrew. This race was memorable because of how many people there were, so many happy children. There is a great passion for cycling here. I was also impressed by the advertising balloons along the route. I think it is a great idea for the organisers to promote their sponsors."*

### **Here at TdP you are now an ambassador for Valsir.**

*"With Valsir I have already done the Giro E and other events like the Beking in Monte Carlo. Here in Poland I did the Gran Fondo in Karpacz. 82 kilometres of pure passion, with people cheering us on from the roadside while we waited for the professionals to arrive. There were 2300 of us on a course that was not easy at all.*

*During the day I was at the start and then at the finish with the Valsir truck. The race is great for networking and hospitality. We have about 40 guests a day. The atmosphere is good and people recognise me and ask me about Roubaix or my career. I hope to inspire someone, especially the younger ones. They also ask me questions like "Why don't you race?" or "How's Matej Morich?" I really enjoy entertaining guests at Valsir. The company has given me the opportunity to be there. I am proud to be a part of this group. They have seen me grow in my profession and I have seen them grow as a company. We have known each other forever."*

### **What do you think of Tdp 2023?**

*"The level is very high and it is an open race, with a course that I would have liked. I don't deny that I sometimes suffer when I see runners in the race, especially in this type of race that suits my characteristics. But that's life and I have to consider myself lucky to be here and still talking about it."*

### **Who will win the 2023 Tour de Pologne?**

*"I don't have a crystal ball, but I hope Matej. He deserves it and he is a friend. After the classics, which didn't go the way he thought they would, he stuck with it, and at the Tour of Slovenia he broke through. Winning the Tour and that changed his mind, the way he saw the race. At the Tour de Pologne he already had a first and a second. The interview after the victory in the Tour moved everyone, because Matej is like that, he is a real man. As a rider I often shared a room with him. I owe him a lot, he taught me to stay calm, to wait for my moment".*

### **Is Colbrelli a happy man?**

*"Yes, I am happy and I try to find my place. When I watch the races I suffer a little, I don't deny it. But there is only one life. Life has given me the great opportunity to be here to talk about what happened to me, so I have to live every day with serenity and a smile on my face, looking for my place, even on this side of cycling".*