

# GEOGRAVEL TUSCANY LE STRADE GRIGIE

23/24 September 2023

## **Nicolas Roche will be at the start of GeoGravel Tuscany.**

***The former Irish pro – already winner of two stages at the Vuelta a España – is a big gravel enthusiast and did not want to miss the first edition of the event conceived by former colleague Paolo Bettini***

Champions in Pomarance.

Welcoming the participants of GeoGravel Tuscany to the geothermal capital (scheduled for Sept. 22-24) will be not only former World Champion Paolo Bettini, the event's creator, but also another great two-wheel protagonist, Nicolas Roche.

Roche was a professional from 2005 to 2021 and won two stages in his career at the Vuelta a España, the Irish national title both time trial and road race.

After finishing, he threw himself into the world of gravel, which is why Paolo Bettini—not just a former colleague, but a friend—wanted to invite him to his new event dedicated specifically to gravel.

An invitation he immediately accepted, as Roche himself recounts:

*"When Paolo called me to invite me to GeoGravel Tuscany I opened my diary, marked the date and immediately said yes, without a second thought.*

*I discovered gravel since last summer and immediately fell in love with it. At first I practiced it just as a leisure, with friends, then this year I decided to take part in a few races and ended up racing quite a few, especially in the United States.*

*But I also love gravel as a means of discovery, as slow cycling in nature.*

*Especially in Tuscany, a land I adore for the landscapes, the food and of course the wine.*

*What can I say, I can't wait to be there, and discover together with Paolo and all the members of GeoGravel Tuscany the wonders of the Strade Grigie."*

GeoGravel Tuscany is more than a three-day sports event, it is a real gravel festival discovering the metal hills.

The event will begin in the afternoon of Friday, September 22 with the opening of the GeoVillage at the "Piazzone," a beautiful space close to the center of Pomarance that will host the GeoFestival the beating heart of the whole event, where the evening concerts will take place and local food and wine stands and dedicated shops will be set up.

The various rides scheduled for Saturday 23 (Ultra route) and Sunday 24 (Long, Medium and Short routes) will also depart from there,

For the specifics of the four planned routes, the detailed program and how to register, visit [www.geograveltuscany.it](http://www.geograveltuscany.it)