



Internazionali d'Italia Series 2024, a record edition at San Zeno di Montagna

With Sunday's races reserved for the masters, rookies and cadets, the first stage of the most important Italian cross-country race came to an end with an unprecedented number of participants.

The Internazionali d'Italia series made a great debut with the first of the season's four stages held in San Zeno di Montagna last weekend.

After the spectacle of Saturday 16th March, in which the national champions Luca Braidot and Martina Berta shone among the elite, Sunday 17th was dedicated to the youth and masters categories. Over the weekend, more than 1,000 athletes competed on the Pineta Sperane course, setting a new record for the number of participants in the event.

Amid the masters, Alberto Centurioni won the ELMT category, while amongst the Ladies, Federica Sesenna, who had already won here last year, really stood out.

In the afternoon it was time for the Rookie and Cadet categories, where Franz Engele (Rookie 1st year), Mattia Acanfora (Rookie 2nd year), Irene Righetto (Rookie 1st year), Giorgia Sardi (Rookie 2nd year), Dejak Lenart (Cadet 1st year), Jacopo Putaggio (Cadet 2nd year), Maria Chiara Signorelli (Cadet 1st year) and finally Meta Tancik (Cadet 2nd year) came out on top.

A great public success, enriched by the inauguration of the permanent route of Pineta Sperane XCO, a project realised in collaboration between the Municipality of San Zeno di Montagna and Internazionali d'Italia Serie.

This is a way of making the circuit accessible to everyone at any time of the year, in an area with a very high tourist vocation, as Carlo Gambino, Councillor for Tourism of the Municipality of Veronese, explains: *"The Internazionali d'Italia series is a unique event for San Zeno and for the entire Lake Garda area, hosting such an important race can only be a pleasure and an honour for us. We have been supporting this event for three years now, trying to make it better and better, and this year, together with the organisation, we wanted to make this event in Pineta Sperane a permanent one, where both competitive athletes and simple enthusiasts can enjoy it to the full. We are firm believers in this type of activity, which can attract people all year round to our area, a truly unique environment between Lake Garda and Monte Baldo that offers many opportunities in the outdoor world. You can start from Cima Costabella, at over 2000 metres, and reach the shores of the lake by mountain bike, following marked trails that can be downloaded free of charge from the San Zeno di Montagna municipal website".*

Michele Mondini of CM Outdoor Events, the company organising the event, agrees: *"We are very happy with the way this first stage of the Internazionali d'Italia series went, during the two days we had a lot of participation from both the public and the athletes. Our mentality always leads us to think where there is room for improvement, but we are satisfied because we have organised a very important event involving many local entities, first of all the Municipality of San Zeno di Montagna, with whom we have inaugurated the permanent route, but our event is also becoming a flywheel for hotels, bars, shops, all activities that have understood the importance of such days for the entire hospitality sector and not only. We hope to make people more and more aware of the importance of sport and the tourist spin-offs it can have for the whole area".*