



San Zeno di Montagna to host first stage of the Internazionali d'Italia series tomorrow
Everything is ready for the first stage of the most important Italian cross-country race, which takes place tomorrow, Saturday 16th March.

As usual, the athletes tested the course designed by CM Outdoor Events on the trails of Pineta Sperane, a 100% natural course that will test the competitors with a wide range of possible lines, depending on the riding style and race tactics they choose.

Marco Aurelio Fontana, a well-known figure in the MTB world, has also tested the course.

This is his opinion on what the athletes will face tomorrow: *"The course will be the same as last year, with the great advantage that it has been widened for this edition. To be honest, this was the only weak point of the previous edition, because otherwise it was very beautiful, very demanding and very technical. It is the most 'Swiss' course in Italy, which is obviously a compliment. Now that it has been widened, the riders' perspective will be wider, so there will easily be higher speeds and more opportunities to overtake, especially for those who are starting at a disadvantage on race day."*

A course designed to be even more spectacular than in previous editions, where the riders will be able to show off their best features and take advantage of the weather, which is expected to be favourable this weekend.

OPEN MEN

Finally, there are high expectations for the elite challenge, where the Santa Cruz-FSA team will be represented by **Nadir Colledani** and **Luca Braidot**, who will be up against **Daniele Braidot** and **Filippo Fontana** from the Carabinieri Cicli Olympia team.

Not forgetting the U23 world champion **Simone Avondetto**, who rides for the Wilier-Vittoria Mtb Factory team.

WOMEN'S OPEN

In the women's race, much will be expected of **Chiara Teocchi** (back after two victories in recent races) and Dutch rider **Anne Tauber** of the Orbea Factory Team, who will be up against Italian XCO champion **Martina Berta** of Team Santa Cruz FSA.

Sophie Pedersen and the entire Wilier-Vittoria Mtb Factory Team will also have to keep an eye on them.

JUNIORS

In the men's category, cyclocross world champion **Stefano Viezzi** (Work Service) will be looking for a good result against favourites **Diego Milan** (ASD Rock Bike Team) and **Elia Rial** (Scott Racing Team). On the women's side, **Eva Herzog** and **Elisa Lanfranchi** (KTM Protek Elettrosystem), ranked 2nd and 4th respectively in the UCI junior rankings, and **Giada Martinoli** (Scott Racing Team), ranked 8th, will be the favourites.

THE PROGRAMME

On Saturday 16th March, the Internazionali d'Italia Series programme includes the UCI junior race at 10.00, followed by the women's race at 11.45 and the men's open race at 14.00.

Sunday 4th June will instead be dedicated to the Masters, Esordienti and Allievi categories.