



## **Internazionali d'Italia series, next weekend the Nervesa della Battaglia stage**

*From 3 to 5 May, Montello will be the capital of great mountain biking with the Cross Country Trials and the Italian Short Track Championships.*

**Nervesa della Battaglia - Podere Rive degli Angeli** will host for the first time a stage of the **Internazionali d'Italia series**, the most important Italian cross-country race. On Saturday 4th May, Montello will be the stage for the Junior, U23 and Elite categories, while on Sunday 5th May the Masters will take to the track, followed by the Rookies and Cadets. Compared to the first two events of the Internazionali d'Italia series, this weekend will be enhanced by the Italian Short Track Championship (XCC), which will be held on the morning of Friday 3rd May, with the biggest names in Italian off-road racing competing for the national title.

### **THE ROUTE**

The Jack Pro Rider staff, supported by the Pavanello Racing team, have worked on the course to ensure great sport entertainment and to bring it up to the latest standards of the Olympic discipline of Cross Country. The course, which is about 4 km long with 150 metres altitude gain, includes the winding and fast trails of the Bosco Montello Consortium, the vineyards of the Giusti Winery, and a more technical and spectacular artificial section at Podere Zanella.

The 1.5km short and nervous short track has been created to facilitate the competition between the riders, leaving victory uncertain until the last bend.

This third round of the Internazionali d'Italia on the Nervesa della Battaglia circuit will see some of the most in-form riders of the moment and could prove to be decisive for the overall classification.

### **THE BIG NAMES ARE CONFIRMED**

**Chiara Teocchi** (Orbea Factory Team), elated by her excellent performance in Brazil, will battle it out with defending champion **Martina Berta** (Santa Cruz Rockshox Pro Team) for the XCC tricolour jersey on Friday. Also confirmed is the presence of Greta Seiwald (Decathlon Ford Racing Team) and the two Bellunesi **Giada Specia** (Wilier-Vittoria Factory Team) and **Giorgia Marchet** (Ktm Protek Elettrosystem), who are also in contention for the title. The extra day of competition will undoubtedly play an important role in the tactical decisions for Saturday's Internazionali d'Italia.

In the men's race, **Luca Braidot** (Santa Cruz Rockshox Pro Team), the reigning Italian XCO and XCC champion, will have to defend his title against CS Carabinieri riders **Daniele Braidot**, **Filippo Fontana** and **Emanuele Huez**. **Simone Avondetto** (Wilier-Vittoria Factory Team), the hottest name on the Italian scene at the moment - after his great performances



in the last two World Cup stages in Brazil - will be among the contenders in both disciplines. Ktm Protek Elettrosystem rider **Gioele Bertolini** will also be at the start, ready to exploit his form in Friday's race and defend his lead in the overall standings of the Internazionali d'Italia series in Saturday's race.

The rain forecast for the next few days could be an unknown factor and make the course treacherous. Athletes who are more familiar with sticking-out roots and wet downhill slopes could make the difference.

### THE PROGRAMME

The weekend includes the Italian **XCC Championship - Friday 3rd May** - with the **Women's Open** at 10:00 and the **Men's Open** at 11:00.

On Saturday 4th May, the **Internazionali d'Italia Series** races will start at 10:00 with the **Juniors**, followed by the **Women's races** at 11:45 and the **Men's Open** at 14:00.

**Sunday 5th May**, starting at 8.30am, will be dedicated to the **Masters, Rookies** and **Cadets** categories.