

GEOGRAVEL TUSCANY LE STRADE GRIGIE

1/2 June 2024

Successful second edition of GeoGravel Tuscany

Last weekend, Pomarance (PI) hosted the second edition of the gravel event created by Paolo Bettini. The event was well attended by guests and almost 250 participants.

Yesterday, Sunday 2nd June, the second edition of **GeoGravel Tuscany**, the gravel event created by Paolo Bettini to promote the wonders of the Strade Grigie, came to an end.

Nearly 250 participants from all over Italy arrived in **Pomarance (PI)** last weekend to enjoy three days of partying, music and cycling in the land of Tuscan geothermal energy.

The three-day event began on Friday 31st May with the inauguration of the GeoVillage, which was set up in the 'Piazzone' in Pomarance to house the stands of the event's various partners, kitchens ready to prepare typical local dishes, and a marquee, the beating heart of the Pomarance evenings inaugurated by local groups.

In the afternoon of the following day, Saturday 1st June, 18 brave souls set off to tackle the Ultra route - 250 km and over 5,000 metres of climbing - while in the evening the piazza was the scene of the big party, set ablaze by the music of **Saturnino, Jovanotti's historic bass player**, whose sound moved hundreds of people who had come to Pomarance from all over Tuscany and beyond.

On Sunday morning, the more than 200 participants who had signed up for the three routes, Short (46 km), Medium (77 km) and Long (110 km), set off to discover the uniqueness of the geothermal area.

Among them were the great guests of GeoGravel Tuscany 2024: **Paolo Kessisoglu, Marco Bandiera** and **Luca Paolini**, already present at the first edition, joined this year by **Giovanni Visconti**, the national team coach **Daniele Bennati** and the "Lion of Flanders" **Johan Museeuw**.

The participants were able to discover timeless villages such as Libbiano, Querceto, Canneto and Serrazzano, to travel dozens of kilometres along the Strade Grigie (Grey Roads), immersed in lunar landscapes amidst Mediterranean scrub and oak woods, and then, of course, the green power of geothermal energy, of which Larderello is the world capital, with its power stations and sulphurous water springs that make this area unique in the Italian panorama.

Back in the 'Piazzone', the event ended with a pasta party, where old friends and new acquaintances drank to the success of the second edition of GeoGravel Tuscany after three days of partying on the Strade Grigie.

These are the words of **Paolo Bettini**, creator of the event: *"After the second edition of the GeoGravel Tuscany, we are sure that this type of event will only grow in popularity and become increasingly successful. This is true both for the more strictly 'gravel' part - a movement that is also gaining traction in Tuscany, a perfect region for this type of activity - and for the GeoFestival, where this year we had the extraordinary performance from the international artist Saturnino, who made Saturday evening unforgettable. I would like to thank all the people and entities that support GeoGravel and make it possible, starting with the Municipality of Pomarance, the guys from Velo Etruria Pomarance and, of course, all our invaluable partners. What can I say, except for the date for next year, for a new edition of GeoGravel Tuscany, which will surely be even more beautiful".*