



Internazionali d'Italia Series: San Zeno di Montagna ready to host the first round of the 2025 edition

A natural and technical course awaits the best riders for the start of the new cross-country season

Less than a month remains until the long-awaited return of the **Internazionali d'Italia Series**, the most important mountain bike race in Italy. As tradition dictates, the first round will take place in **San Zeno di Montagna**, whose technical course confirms it as the ideal place to start the competition.

"When the opportunity arose a few years ago to add a new race to the calendar, San Zeno immediately came to mind," explains **Michele Mondini of CM Outdoor**. "I know the Pineta Sperane Park well and I was aware that its terrain offered the possibility of creating a high level course. This was our chance to step up, not only in the management but also in the organisation of an event, using our experience and the valuable feedback from Enrico Martello and the athletes who have raced the course. What's more, we have always had the strong support of the local authorities, which has allowed us to create a permanent course that can be used all year round".

Fabio Castellani, Municipal Councillor for Sport, adds: "San Zeno di Montagna has become a permanent stop on the Internazionali d'Italia series, thanks to the strong collaboration between the circuit and the town council. This year, the events organised in the town and the involvement of local businesses will provide a warm welcome to athletes and fans alike. The 'Pineta Sperane XCO' track, inaugurated last year, is already a popular training area, confirming the growing anticipation for this event, the most important in the Monte Baldo area. The administration is developing the 'Pineta Sperane Bike Park Baby' project, a space dedicated to children, amateurs and families, with the aim of strengthening the bike-friendly identity of the area and widening its tourist offer. We look forward to welcoming you all to experience the excitement of the Internazionali d'Italia series and discover our beautiful region!"

Unlike many modern international circuits, which often feature artificial elements, the San Zeno track stands out for its authenticity. "Our aim has always been to offer the athletes a technical and exciting course, avoiding artificial jumps and obstacles," says Mondini. "The Pineta Sperane trails are perfect for this purpose - we have created a completely natural course that offers several racing lines: one that is easier but slower, and another that is faster but requires more skill and concentration."

The 3.5km course has been designed to fully respect the natural morphology of the area. The organisers have cleared and connected existing trails to create a permanent route that is suitable for all riders and can be ridden in all weather conditions. The majority of the course is unpaved, with rocks and roots, with significant changes in altitude and steep descents that require a high level of concentration from the athletes.

To further validate the San Zeno di Montagna course, **Mirko Celestino**, head coach of the Italian national MTB team, will bring a group of ten junior athletes to train on the course. "At the beginning of March we will take part in a race in Verona, followed by a training camp focused on refining technical skills with some of the best junior riders," he explains. "The San Zeno circuit is perfect for this: it's a permanent, well-maintained track. The layout is complete and quite technical - ideal for the development of young riders. It will also serve as a scouting ground ahead of the first round of the Internazionali d'Italia series."

As in previous years, the international race on Saturday will be accompanied by a national youth competition. Due to the high demand, the organisers have decided to limit the number of entries by introducing a limited entry system. The Internazionali d'Italia series is set to deliver another thrilling season and the opening round at San Zeno already promises to be one of the most exciting stops on the circuit. The date is set - the countdown has officially begun!