



Stellar challenge in San Zeno: Top riders ready for the debut of the Internazionali d'Italia series

Bertolini, Teocchi, and Colledani analyse the course and share their expectations and goals for the first round.

San Zeno di Montagna is getting ready to welcome the world's best athletes for the opening round of the Internazionali d'Italia series. Among the top contenders for this edition are last year's champion Gioele Bertolini (KTM Protek Elettrosystem), Chiara Teocchi (Lapierre Racing Unity) and Nadir Colledani (Mondraker Factory Racing XC), who have shared their expectations and goals ahead of the circuit's inaugural race.

Gioele Bertolini, the overall winner of the 2024 Internazionali d'Italia series, is determined to defend his title: "My goal is to maintain my performance and, if possible, improve, even though the level of competition is increasing every year. The organisers are constantly working to provide us with courses similar to the World Cup circuit, which attracts top athletes. I will approach each race with maximum determination, trying to interpret each stage in the best possible way and see how the standings evolve."

The KTM Protek Elettrosystem rider is optimistic about his chances in San Zeno: "Last year, I was still adjusting to my new team and equipment, and I wasn't at 100%. This time I'm coming with a solid preparation after a strong winter, so I'm confident that I can be in the front and fight for a podium place. The track is very technical and fun, with some tricky sections. It's quite narrow in some areas, making overtaking difficult, so being well-prepared will be crucial."

Chiara Teocchi also likes the track for the first round of the Internazionali d'Italia series: "San Zeno is one of my favourite tracks - it is natural and scenic and I always enjoy coming back here. Last season I managed to finish on the podium. I'm not at my best right now, so I'm going to concentrate on putting in a strong performance and doing my best without too much stress."

After joining Lapierre Racing Unity this year, Teocchi explains: "With my new team we have signed a long-term contract that will allow me to target the Olympic Games in Los Angeles. I immediately appreciated their structured approach and season planning. I will try to take part in as many races of the Internazionali d'Italia series as possible in order to prepare for the World Cup events. The technical courses and the high level of competition make these races incredibly stimulating and ideal for preparing for the biggest events of the year."

After a positive 2024 season in which he achieved strong results, Nadir Colledani has joined the Mondraker Factory Racing XC with hopes of further growth: "Last year went well, although I didn't achieve all the goals I had set myself. This year I'm confident that with my new team I'll have the chance to grow as an athlete and continue to improve. The team's vision is perfectly aligned with my ambitions and expectations, providing a supportive environment where I can focus on my development on a daily basis. My main goal for this year is the World Championships, as the course is particularly suited to my characteristics."

However, the Friulian's start to the new season has been far from ideal, following shoulder surgery: "The recovery is going well, although it was difficult to get back on the bike after a month and a half of complete immobilisation. I struggled a lot at first, but things are improving, and I'm feeling good. In 2024 I had a great race in San Zeno, but this year, after such a long break, I don't know what to expect. I'm not going to set myself any specific goals based on results; I'm going to focus on my sensations on the bike and how my body reacts. The course is physically demanding and testing it will help me fine-tune the bike, suspension settings and tyre pressures. It's a fun and varied track - one of the best in Italy in my opinion."

With its technical and spectacular course, San Zeno di Montagna is set to be one of the season's most exciting events, reaffirming its status as a must-attend competition for enthusiasts and professionals alike.