



Scott-Sram MTB Racing Team Ready for Internazionali d'Italia Series in Argentario.

Rising Stars Riley & Johnston Set to Shine in Round 2 on 22nd March

Argentario (GR) is set to welcome some of the world's most talented mountain bikers as the **Internazionali d'Italia Series** returns for its second round on **22nd March**. Amongst the standout competitors, the **SCOTT-SRAM MTB Racing Team** will field two rising talents: **U.S. national champion Bjorn Riley** and young Canadian **Emilly Johnston**.

Team Director **Thomas Frischknecht** shares why **SCOTT-SRAM** is eager to compete in Italy: *"I've always loved racing in Italy, and now my athletes do too. The atmosphere is warm, the fans are incredible, and the racing conditions are excellent. As a team manager, I also see how important these events are—not just for top riders, but for developing the next generation of MTB talent."*

Frischknecht also highlights the importance of national series like the **Internazionali d'Italia** in the global MTB scene: *"Mountain biking isn't just about elite riders; we need strong national circuits to provide opportunities for juniors, U23 athletes, and future World Cup contenders. These events are the foundation of the sport."*

For **Emilly Johnston**, racing for **SCOTT-SRAM** is a dream come true: *"Joining SCOTT-SRAM MTB Racing Team for the next two seasons is beyond exciting. When I got the call from Frischi (Frischknecht) just before Worlds, I was blown away! I can't wait to learn from this team and grow as a rider."*

Her teammate, **Bjorn Riley**, echoes her excitement and shares a personal connection with Italy: *"Italy was like a second home to me before I moved to Europe. My family would holiday in the Dolomites every year, and I fell in love with the culture, the scenery, and of course, the food! The Internazionali d'Italia Series always delivers great courses and amazing crowds. For me, choosing races I enjoy is key to preparing for the next Olympic cycle."*

For Riley, mountain biking is more than just competition—it's a form of expression: *"I think there's so much art in cycling in different forms. You take a lot of inspiration from the riders you looked up to as a kid, and that shapes how you ride. I admired slopestyle riders and dirt jumpers, so I love jumping around—it's how I express myself. Doing tricks in races keeps me relaxed and excited. And when I'm happiest on my bike, that's when I ride the fastest."*

Johnston thrives on pushing her limits, both physically and mentally: *"I'm curious and always wanting to learn, to find that sense of wonder in my riding and racing style, and to see what I can do on the bike. I love the challenge and the suffering that comes with it. Being able to push myself fully every day is my biggest motivation—I love discovering how far I can go, both technically and mentally."*

She also sees this event as an important milestone: *"I'm coming into the season with an open mind, ready to absorb as much as possible from my teammates and the staff. Racing in Italy is always a great challenge—the competition is strong, and the courses are fun. It's the perfect way to get into race rhythm before the World Cup season."*

On **22nd March**, **Emilly Johnston** and **Bjorn Riley** will line up at the brand-new **Argentario** venue, ready to take on some of the world's best riders in the highly anticipated second round of the **Internazionali d'Italia Series**.