



River&Peaks: the gravel experience that places Friuli at the heart of the journey

Mattia De Marchi embodies the spirit of a project where the landscape is more important than the stopwatch.

River&Peaks is an event that seamlessly weaves together sport, local roots and community spirit, based on the simple yet powerful idea of pure, unfiltered mountain exploration. It is more than just a sporting challenge; it is an authentic gravel experience, conceived as an introspective and sensory journey through one of Italy's wildest and most unspoilt regions.

Each **River&Peaks route** is carefully designed to offer the perfect balance of **technical riding, challenging ascents, and thrilling descents**, celebrating every metre crossed by the riders' wheels. Here, effort is never an end in itself; it is the gateway to breathtaking scenery.

As **Mattia De Marchi**, one of the creators and driving forces behind the project, passionately explains, *"it is the territory that truly makes the difference – the magical ingredient capable of transforming a ride into an unforgettable memory"*.

For this reason, the heart of the event beats in harmony with local businesses and communities. Their involvement is not just a logistical necessity, but a vital part of the mission to allow participants to taste, touch and fully experience something that truly reflects the spirit of Friuli.

Forests, rivers, gravel roads and alpine landscapes become an integral part of the story, with each section inviting riders to experience nature up close. River&Peaks is not a traditional race. Discovery lies at the heart of the experience. *"Time is just a number,"* explains **De Marchi**. *'Stopping for even a single minute to look around and truly appreciate the landscape and your efforts is often more rewarding than performance itself.'*

The event's philosophy encourages participants to experience the mountains at their own pace, turning every pause into part of the journey.

Gravel cycling is one of the fastest-growing and purest cycling disciplines today because it embodies community spirit, exploration and shared experiences. River&Peaks aims to deliver a complete, 360-degree experience. From the routes to the event village and the post-race atmosphere, every detail is designed to enhance the quality of the event as a whole. *"It's the small differences and details that may seem insignificant that often truly make the difference."*

Our partnership with Dolomia further strengthens our shared vision of environmental respect and the promotion of local heritage. The water that springs from the heart of the Friulian Dolomites symbolises purity, energy, and a connection with nature.

River&Peaks is looking to the future with ambitions to grow as an event that is deeply rooted in its territory, telling the story of Friuli through sport and exploration while offering an authentic way to experience the mountains where nature, effort and wonder converge.