



River&Peaks

gravel race
powered by
DOLOMIA

Fabio Antonelli and Nicole D'Agostin claimed victory at the first edition of River&Peaks, powered by Dolomia.

A successful debut for the inaugural gravel race through the UNESCO-listed Friulian Dolomites. Sunday is dedicated to a non-competitive ride open to all.

Fabio Antonelli (Pusharder Cycling) and **Nicole D'Agostin** (Spezzotto Bike Team) are the winners of the first edition of River&Peaks powered by Dolomia, the gravel event that throughout the weekend brings athletes, cycling enthusiasts and visitors into the heart of the UNESCO-listed Friulian Dolomites. The two winners were presented with their awards by **Federica Brignone**, alpine skiing champion and ambassador for Dolomia, the event's title sponsor. Today's programme featured the competitive race, included in the official Friuli Venezia Giulia Cycling Federation calendar. Riders faced a demanding 75-kilometre course with 1,700 metres of elevation gain, crossing white roads, fast gravel sections, forests and some of the most spectacular landscapes of the Valcellina valley.

Starting from the Ice Stadium in Claut, competitors tackled a technical and scenic route passing through Cimolais and the Claut cycling bridge, then climbing up to the Rifugio Pradut area. This decisive section ultimately played a key role in determining the race outcome. Fabio Antonelli won the men's race with a time of 3h 42' 24", finishing ahead of Daniele Troian (Mentecorpo Team) and Simone Lapo Zoadelli (ASD Team MP Filtri). Nicole D'Agostin won the women's race in 3h 11' 4", finishing ahead of Patrizia Romanello (TORPADO KENDA FSA) and Tatiana Cappellaro (ASD U.C. Castagnole).

The first edition of River&Peaks powered by Dolomia won over the participating riders. *"The scenery is spectacular. It's almost difficult to race here because you want to keep looking around and admiring the landscape,"* said **Fabio Antonelli**. *"The climb to Rifugio Pradut made a huge selection, and that's where the real battle began. The course surprised us from start to finish with its fast descents, technical sections, and constantly changing scenery. For a first edition, it was a truly fantastic race."*

Nicole D'Agostin also highlighted the strong connection between the route and the surrounding environment. *"Today was tough. I expected it to be easier based on the distance, but it definitely wasn't a leisurely ride. The course is beautiful, though. What I love about gravel riding is the connection with nature, and these areas really deserve to be discovered by bike. I'd ridden here before on the road, but never on gravel. There's always a first time."*

From the opening kilometers, the race featured an intense battle among the leading riders, with a group of around ten athletes setting a strong pace. The long ascent toward Rifugio Pradut proved to be the decisive moment of the day, progressively selecting the strongest competitors and highlighting the qualities required to master such a complete and demanding course.

"It was a pleasure to discover River&Peaks," commented runner-up **Daniele Troian**. *"The route combines fast sections, technical terrain, and a long climb, making it a great challenge."* A sentiment shared by third-place finisher **Simone Lapo Zoadelli**. *"A beautiful race in a stunning location. The organization was excellent, and the course was perfectly marked. It's an event that successfully combines technical riding, spectacular scenery, and pure fun."* Among the participants was Austrian rider **Felix Schneider**, the winner of his category. He discovered the event almost by chance while on holiday in the area. *"My girlfriend and I just found out about River & Peaks a few days ago and decided to sign up. The course is challenging yet enjoyable, and the setting is stunning. We will definitely come back next year."*





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The first edition of River&Peaks, powered by Dolomia, was made possible thanks to institutions and partners who embraced the project's vision. *"The places you rode through today in the municipalities of Claut and Cimolais are part of the extraordinary heritage of the Friulian Dolomites Natural Park,"* said **Claut Mayor Federico Francesco Tomè** before the start. *"Today, your goal is to achieve the best possible time, but I invite you to return and explore these places at a slower pace. Discover the natural beauty and unique characteristics that make them so special."*

Sunday: The Non-Competitive Ride

Now that the competitive race is over, River&Peaks powered by Dolomia will shift gears on Sunday, June 7, with a non-competitive ride open to everyone.

The 50-kilometer route features approximately 800 meters of elevation gain and welcomes gravel bikes, mountain bikes, and e-bikes. It guides participants through forests, rivers, mountain villages, and the local flavors of the Valcellina Valley. This slower, more immersive journey through nature, culture, and local gastronomy is designed for all.

The ride will start at 9:30 a.m. at the Claut Ice Stadium.

Created to showcase the Friulian Dolomites through the universal language of gravel cycling, River&Peaks powered by Dolomia continues its journey between sport, territory, and outdoor culture. The event transforms a race weekend into an experience that leaves a lasting impression far beyond the finish line.

