BEKING

BACK TO BIKE

AT BEKING, CYCLING GOES BEYOND COMPETITION

Jonathan Milan, Matej Mohorič and BEKING founder Matteo Trentin share what makes the Monaco event special: a project bringing together cycling, solidarity and community.

What began as an idea shared during the Covid-19 pandemic has grown into an event that brings together professional cyclists, amateurs, families and the local community, with a purpose that goes beyond competition. As BEKING prepares for its sixth edition on 29 November at Port Hercule in Monaco, its story is best told through the people who have helped shape it and those who return year after year.

"*It all started on my balcony during Covid, when Claudia and I began talking about the idea*," recalls **Matteo Trentin**, one of BEKING's founders. "*I then discussed it with some fellow riders, and everyone was immediately enthusiastic about taking part in an event with cycling at its heart, but with a wider purpose: getting people of all ages excited about our sport and helping those less fortunate than us*."

That original vision is still at the heart of the event. For **Matej Mohorič**, who has been part of BEKING since its very first edition, its charitable purpose is precisely what sets it apart. "*What attracted me most to the project was its charitable aspect. I think it's fantastic that the event promotes cycling, as sport is such an important part of our culture. What really sets BEKING apart from other cycling events is its charitable purpose, with the funds raised going towards supporting different foundations and good causes*."
For the Slovenian rider, the opportunity to share the sport with the local community is just as important. Through the Kids Ride, children get to ride alongside professional cyclists on closed roads, in a safe environment, and experience the excitement of being part of the action themselves.

It's an experience that **Jonathan Milan** has also come to appreciate. After winning the men's criterium in 2025, the Italian rider is returning to Monaco. "*BEKING has become a little tradition! And since the event takes place practically on my doorstep, it's even nicer to be part of it. It's always a great opportunity to meet friends and fellow riders, have fun together and, above all, support a good cause.*"
His memories of last year's edition go beyond the result. "*It's special to race on the Formula 1 circuit, right next to Port Hercule, alongside so many colleagues and friends. What I remember most is seeing so many people cheering along the course, especially the children. It's a great event, where you have so much fun that the result almost takes second place. Of course, once you're racing, the competitive spirit always comes out! So I was also very happy to stand on the top step of the podium*."

For both riders, the time spent with younger fans is among the most meaningful aspects of the day. Away from the pressure and tight schedules of the professional season, BEKING offers an opportunity to slow down, meet people and share a passion for cycling. "*During the season, we're often in a rush: we arrive shortly before the start, focus on the race and sometimes leave straight afterwards. At BEKING, we can take a little more time to meet people, have a chat or take a few photos. I especially enjoy talking to the children, listening to their stories and seeing how passionate they are*," says **Milan**.

Mohorič shares the same feeling, seeing these encounters as a way for professional athletes to give something back to the next generation. "*I still remember very clearly what it was like to be a child myself, looking up to my sporting heroes with admiration. Now I want to give something back, and that brings me a lot of personal satisfaction. There's hardly anything more rewarding than putting a*

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smile on a child's face, simply by giving them a moment of my attention, a few encouraging words, a photo or perhaps an autograph."

The impact of BEKING, however, can last much longer than a single day. **Mohorič** believes that discovering cycling and sport at a young age can have a lasting influence, even for those who never dream of becoming professionals. "*Even if they never become professional cyclists, the love for sport they develop at a young age can stay with them for the rest of their lives. It's a great way to stay healthy, take care of our bodies and spend quality time with friends. I believe this can help them lead happier, healthier and more fulfilling lives.*"
This broader vision is also reflected in BEKING's commitment to road safety and mutual respect between road users, an issue **Mohorič** considers particularly important in urban environments. It is another way in which cycling can contribute to everyday life, beyond the sporting arena.

Making this a reality requires a collective effort. As **Trentin** points out, BEKING would not exist without the support of the companies and organisations that have stood alongside the project over the years, as well as the riders and the public who give meaning to the event. "*We wouldn't be here without the concrete support of our partners and supporters, both those alongside us today and those who have been part of the journey in the past. And BEKING wouldn't have the same meaning without my fellow riders and our audience.*" There are moments, he says, that make all the effort worthwhile: seeing children waiting for the start of the Kids Ride, even in pouring rain, or watching their happiness as they get to ride alongside professional cyclists. "*That's what makes us start again every year.*" This year, children will play an even more active role in the event. A group of young participants will help with the organisation becoming part of the team behind the event.

At BEKING, cycling is not just about racing: it's about bringing people together and showing how much more the sport can do.

BEKING 2026 – Sunday 29 November, Port Hercule, Monaco

- 09:30 – Pro-Am
- 11:15 – Women's Criterium
- 12:00 – Kids Ride
- 14:00 – Men's Criterium
- 15:00 – Prize-giving Ceremony

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