



TOR DES GEANTS® 2016
September 11-18, 2016

An extraordinary challenge in the heart of the four giants of the Alps!
One of the highest peaks in WORLD, on the ENDURANCE TRAIL
330 km and 24,000 meters of ascent along the High Routes of Valle d'Aosta

RECORD NUMBER OF TOP "TRAILERS" TO TAKE ON THE TOR 2016

Expectations are growing for the competitive Tor des Géants® 2016, fueled by the growing number of participants aspiring to the highest step of the podium. Among them, according to a survey among those familiar with ultrarunning, and especially considering his performance on the field, is **Michele Graglia**, a Ligurian born in 1983, who moved to the US at a very young age to carry the family floricultural business forward and walk the international runways as a model on behalf of the big names in fashion. Forged by a long-held enthusiasm for track and field as a youth, in 2011 Graglia participated in his first ultramarathon, the Keis - a 160-km US race -, and hasn't stopped since. He now runs in every part of the world, in long races of every kind, from the 285-km of Milan-Sanremo to the 135-mile Badwater in Death Valley and the Yukon Arctic Ultra in Canada - most of which he won.

Speaking of races "in the cold," the Tor 2016 starting line will also see some "Alaskans" - as these Iditarod Invitational finishers are now called: **Marco Berni** (team Ferrino), twice on the podium for the 1000-mile; **Sebastiano Favaro**; and **Ausilia Vistarini** (on English team Montane, main sponsor of the Tor). The highly determined athlete from the Lomellina, who splits her time up between running and fatbiking, is the women's record holder in the 350-mile at the Iditarod Invitational. Team Montane will also be represented by **Petra Mücková**, strong athlete of the Czech Republic and recent winner of the Orobie Ultra Trail 2016.

Representing team Eolo - the other main sponsor of Tor - at the starting line will be **Andrea Macchi**, first Italian at the UTMB 2015; **Stefano Trisconi**, in his debut over such a demanding distance; the extremely popular Latvian-Russian-Piedmontese **Yulia Baykova**; and **Marta Poretti**, three-time winner of La Grande Corsa Bianca. So it's many worthy runners, who will have to contend with the "old faces" of the Tor, **Denise Zimmerman** and **Lisa Borzani**, first and second respectively last year, with **Silvia Trigueros Garrote**, Spanish heart and well-oiled machine. Yet there are other queens who will be trying to make it, not only over the Valle d'Aosta peaks, but to the top of the rankings: the Italian **Scilla Tonetti** (with three Tors already under her belt, and a third place in 2013); English **Jenn Gaskell**, supported by Montane and unfailingly present on the podium of mountainous European ultras since 2009; and two other star players from nearly opposite ends of the hemispheres: South African **Linda Doke**, having won over 25 Ultras in her career, including the Addo Elephant Trail Run - late February of this year -, in which she covered 100 miles in just over 29 hours and placed seventh in the overall rankings; and Icelandic thirty-one year old **Elisabet Margeirsdóttir**, who has raced outstandingly this year not only in her homeland, but over the long distances of Cortina and Hong Kong.

But there are still "big names" for the men's podium. Indeed, in addition to the athletes mentioned will also be the Emilian **Gianluca "Galactic" Galeati**, second in the Tor by a hair last year and victor of the 90-km at last month's Gran Trail Courmayeur, and **Oliviero Bosatelli**, first at the recent Orobie Ultra Trail in the 140-km distance. Other Italians to keep an eye on are **Alexander Rabenstainer**, from Chiusa (BZ), who swept one edition of the Südtirol Ultra Skyrace in record time (121 km in 18 hours and 36 minutes); young **Matteo Colombo**; **Silvano Fedel**, a strong Trentino; and Venetian **Paul Pajaro**, who has already ranked very highly in the past, as has Lombardy's **Simone Musazzi**, of team Pellissier.

Among the foreigners are **Imanol Alesom**, a Basque who finished second in the PGTA Peneda-Geres Trail Adventure 280 in 2015; Norwegian **Sondre Amdhal**, fourth in 2015 at the Ultra-Trail Mt Fuji and Transcanaria, and already in the top ten at this year's Marathon des Sables; Irishman **Dan Doherty**, first-rate star of the Tor last year; **Christian Fattori** of Switzerland, third overall in the last Nove Colli Running; and **Nauhel Passerat** of France, who made it to the podium in 2015 at the Andorra Ultra Trail Ronda dels Cims and the Grand Raid des Pyrénées. To follow is another "strong" quartet: German **Jens Lukas**, born in 1966, with a track record of successes in motorsport dating as far back as 1990 and a first place in 1999's Sparthathlon in Greece; the Russian **Vladimir Kot**; first-class New Zealander **Kieron Berry** (who has written in the "about me" section on his Facebook profile, "Mission: Tor des Géants 2016"); and Spanish **Julio Hernuda**. Last on our list by chance, but certainly first in the hearts of the Valdostani, is another Spaniard, **Pablo Criado Toca**, team Grivel, four-time finisher in Courmayeur and always among the top of the rankings. In short, conquering the podium in 2016 will certainly not be a skirmish for the few – far from it.

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The representatives of Valle d'Aosta

There are 103 (of the 350 Italians at the start and 850 competitors overall) athletes of Valle d'Aosta taking on the routes of Tor des Géants® 2016.

Among these are eight "trailers": Silvana Favre, Alida Foudon, Luigia Carbogno, Marcella Pont, Giovanna Simona Villa, Arianna Glarey, Rina Gemelli, and Elisabetta Negra.

In the men's race, all eyes will be on Marco Bethaz, Edmondo Palmet, Giuseppe Ouvrier, and Lorenzo Capra. But with the hometown "trailers," surprises are always possible.

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