



Ufficio Stampa - Press Office

SHOWN IN MILAN THE RALLY D'ITALIA SARDEGNA 2008

The Italian Round of the WRC, organized by the Automobile Club d'Italia, will take place in Sardinia on May 15th – 18th.

Less than a month, this is the countdown to the 2008 edition of the Rally d'Italia Sardegna, that has been introduced in Milan at the Automobile Club during a press conference. **Mark Deans**, Director of the Ford Europe Motorsport, **Marcus Gronholm**, winner of the 2007 RIS edition, **Gaetano Thorel** President of Ford Italia, **Angelo Sticchi Damiani** President of the Organising Committee and **Antonio Turitto** RIS General Manager were all present at the Meeting. Moderator of the event was the well known journalist **Italo Cucci**. The President of the Organizing Committee Ing. Angelo Sticchi Damiani, has read a welcoming letter of Mr. Enrico Gelpi, President of the Automobile Club d'Italia. In his welcome message, Gelpi has underlined the effort of ACI for the Rally d'Italia Sardegna. "To get the best results – says the message – many qualified and passionate people work together at the event. Thanks to this great effort and to the passion in its duty, ACI can daily carry on a promotional activity for the motoring sports, trying to attract young people with even more enthusiasm and interest in practice".

The President, ex rally's driver, has also reminded that the activity of ACI can be considered as a real support to all the National Sporting Automotive Events in all its levels. During his speech Sticchi Damiani has underlined the economical importance of the rallies for the territories that decide to host them. Sardinia is a clear example of his mind: since years, RIS has helped to discover those hinterland areas in order to support the de-seasonable's process of the touristic flows.

The RIS General Manager, Antonio Turitto, has declared that in 2007, TV broadcasts have well supported the growing of the WRC and, as a consequence, of the Rally d'Italia Sardegna. This year they will try to improve the already appreciable 2007's result, through a live TV broadcast of the last Special Stage that will be raced in front of the enchanting panorama of the Costa Smeralda. Mr. Deans, General manager of Ford Europe Motorsport, has underlined the role of the rallies as good occasions to prove the N production's cars. This is why Ford is involved with the WRC since years, getting excellent results, as the manufacturer's championship in the last two sporting seasons. Deans has underlined the fact the seven, official and related Teams, WRC Ford Focus will race at the RIS. Three of these will belong to the BP Ford Abu Dhabi World Rally Team with Mikki Hirvonen, Jari Matti Latvala and Khalid Al Qassimi.

Gaetano Thorel, President of Ford Italia has underlined the effort of Ford in occasion of the Rally d'Italia Sardegna 2008. Effort expresses through the first presentation of the new Ford Kuga that will officially take place during the rally event. "With Ford Kuga – developed on the same structure of Focus – we play a main role in the crossover sector, the only one that is continuously increasing and developing in Italy and Europe. Kuga is a car thought for those one who want a beautiful car with a strong personality, without compromises. After the S-Max, the Mondeo and the recent presentation of the new Focus, we are going on with the renewing of all our products, all kinetic design".



Feel⁺



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THE RALLY D'ITALIA SARDEGNA 2008

The Rally d' Italia Sardegna, the sixth Leg of the 2008 WRC and third Manche of the Junior Championship, will take place in Sardinia on 15th /18th May. The Head Quarter will be placed in Olbia, while the Starting and the Arrival Ceremony will be organised in the charming location of Porto Cervo. The Italian Leg of the World Rally Championship, organised by the Automobile Club d'Italia, will be developed through three Days and 17 Special Stages.

The new Itinerary will be similar to the last editions, but many technical difficulties have been introduced. All the Special Stages will be raced through the Monte Acuto area, as it was last year, inside the forestall site. The first racing day, for example, will start by a new edition of the Monte Corvos stage, in the nearby of Buddusò; going on with the second Special Stage that will be developed inside the forest of Crastazza, in the nearby of Bitti. This Stage will be longer, in its final part, than it was the last edition. The third chrono, the Terranova' s one, has been planned on the already used Terranova and Monte Olia' s road but crossing the SS 389. The second racing day will start with the Punta Pianedda Stage, that will start and arrive in the nearby of the Loelle' s nuraghe. It will be a very fast stage raced inside the Loelle site but driven through some new roads without forgetting the classical passage close the plantation of cork-trees in the Buddusò area. The second chrono will be characterised by the spectacular jump of Monte Lerno, while the third one will be that one of Su Filigosu. The final Leg has been modified: the two Special Stages of Monte Olia and Sorilis, that will be developed in the homonymous forestall sites, will be characterised by a medium average speed.

The last chrono will be completely new and will take place in the Liscia Ruja area, the fascinating and enchanting scenario of the Cala di Volpe's Gulf.

354 km, on a total amount of 1.045 km of racing roads, will be timed and hosted by the territory of the Sardinian Forestall Board, fundamental partner of the Organisation, while the provinces involved in the event will be three: Olbia-Tempio, Nuoro e Sassari. The Service Park, located in Olbia – Cala Saccaia – will be operative at the beginning, at half way and at the end of each Leg. The Head Quarter and the Press Room will be hosted at the Hotel Melià, as it was last year.

One of the most important change is the fact that, for the first time, the Race will be totally developed in the same area – says the Clerck of the Course Lucio De Mori – between Monte Lerno, Monte Acuto and Monte Olia surroundings. This is very important because it allows the Organisation to better manage all the race's details. In addition spectators will not have to move too much on the territory in order to follow the race itself.

RACE'S IDENTIKIT

DAYS

Day 1: Friday 16th May 2008 - 6 S.S. for a total of 371,02 km which 131,56 are chrono timed.
Day 2: Saturday 17th May 2008 - 6 S.S for a total of 410,68 km which 134,60 are chrono timed.
Day 3: Sunday 18th May 2008 - 5 S.S. for a total of 258,65 km which 78,57 are chrono timed.



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Feel⁺



Costa Smeralda



Costa Smeralda



Costa Smeralda



Costa Smeralda Resort



Costa Smeralda



Costa Smeralda



IL MONDO DELL'UFFICIO



OLBIA Costa Smeralda
GEASAR



ENTE FORESTE
DELLASARDEGNA



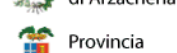
Provincia di Olbia-Tempio



Comune di Olbia



Comune di Tempio Pausania



Comune di Arzachena



Provincia di Sassari



Provincia di Nuoro

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