



TOR DES GEANTS

Endurance trail della Valle d'Aosta

330km - 24000m D+ - 150h

TOR des GEANTS® 2014

7-14 September 2014

**An extraordinary challenge in the heart of the 4 giants of the Alps!
One of the top ENDURANCE-TRAILS in the WORLD**

**330 km and 24,000 meters of height difference
Through the High Routes of Aosta Valley**

**THE TOP RUNNERS OF TOR DES GEANTS®
ALL THE GIANTS OF 2014 INCLUDING NEW ENTRIES AND WELCOME COMEBACKS**

Courmayeur, 25 August 2014_ Tor des Géants® is made of deep ties, friendships born on the Aosta Valley trails that grow stronger with each edition; once you are part of this world, it's forever. This is also true of **the Top Runners**, the rulers of the Ultra Trail. They are used to race for unthinkable challenges in the four corners of the planet, but **an invisible thread links them to Aosta Valley** and its Giants (the four-thousanders), and makes them return every year to Courmayeur, ready for a new challenge. Participating in the fifth edition of what is perhaps the toughest race in the world are many internationally known faces: **Oscar Perez, Lionel Trivel, Pablo Criado Toca, Nickademus Hollon, Antoine Guillon, Christophe Le Saux, Henry Jules Gabioud, Joe Grant, Nerea Martinez Uruzola, Emanuela Scilla Tonetti, Patrizia Pensa, Denise Zimmermann**. There is also great anticipation for the return of Aosta Valley's **home heroes**, including **Francesca Canepa**, who won the Tor in 2012 and 2013, **Franco Collé**, third in 2013, **Giuseppe Grange**, ninth in 2013, and **Sonia Glarey**, second among the women in 2012. The fifth edition welcomes the arrival of precious **new entries, Scott Jaime, Emilie Lecomte and Megan Hicks**, who will give the winners of past editions a hard time.

The true champions are those who best express the **spirit of Tor des Géants®**: healthy competition, **fair play**, mutual **respect** and **solidarity**. Values that are especially essential in the mountains, where nature is king and challenges runners to **their limits**, whatever they may be, inspiring them to go beyond. That's why this year **the giants of the Tor** welcome the youngsters of **Maratonabili**, an association of volunteers that wants to bring to the attention of researchers and the public a rare disease that goes by the name of **LND (Lesch-Nyhan Disease)**. The association's athletes will be at the start line wearing their racing bibs. Volunteers will push their wheelchairs for part of the trail. A competition of great symbolic value that will have only winners. Sisportgym Genova's **Federico Mazzucchi** is among the project organizers. Many remember him because of the t-shirt he wore at the 2013 Tor des Géants®, which read "Rare does not mean alone"; he was collecting rare diseases research funds on behalf of the Italian LND Families non-profit organization. The seed planted at that time is bearing fruit.



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2014 Top Runners

Oscar Perez: a champion after Aosta Valley's own heart: winner of the 2012 Tor des Géants®, he placed second last year, only 25 minutes behind Iker Karrera, current record holder with 70 hours and 4 minutes. At the finish line, sportsmanlike and with a big smile, he gave his bib number 1 to Karrera as a sign of great esteem.

Lionel Trivel: Spain and France are usually the big Tor contenders. Lionel Trivel is the record holder among the French: he finished fourth in the total ranking in 2013, with 77 h, 2 minutes and 54 seconds.

Christophe Le Saux: he is a Senator of the Tor as he participated in all editions. Third in 2012 and second in 2011, the blond-haired "lion of French Guiana" is one of the darlings of the fans.

Pablo Criado Toca: third in 2011, fourth (but with a better time) in 2012, he managed to finish the race in under a hundred hours last year. This Spaniard will definitely give the other competitors a run for their money.

Nickademus Hollon: hailing from California, 23-year-old Hollon is the dark horse. He took seventh place last year and plans to leave his mark this time around.

Antoine Guillon: a big name in trail running since 2002, he did not run at the Tor last year, but was still in Courmayeur to cheer his fellow sportsmen on. This year, he's getting ready to make all his experience pay, especially considering this is a race that takes place over several days.

Jules Henri Gabioud: the very young winner of the second edition, in 2011, he's been going for a second win since then. After he withdrew in 2012, he could have his comeback in 2014.

Nerea Martinez Urruzola: this very strong lady from Spain went head to head with Francesca Canepa last year before finally giving in. The two will compete for first place again this year.



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Emanuela Scilla Tonetti: strongly determined and battle-tested, the runner from Varese, who was third among the women in 2013 behind Nerea Martinez and Francesca Canepa, is going for the podium.

Emilie Lecomte: a habitué of the most prestigious races across the Alps, such as UTMB, this time she's getting ready to discover the other side of Mont Blanc. Being one of the world's strongest long distance trail runners, she will undoubtedly be among the top competitors.

Patrizia Pensa: she went up on the third step of the podium in 2012 and she is getting ready for another top level performance in 2014.

Denise Zimmermann: the strongest of the Swiss withdrew from the race last year. She will try again this year, with the knowledge that she can stand up to the toughest competitors.

Franco Collé: last year, he took Italy and Valle d'Aosta up on the podium thanks to a memorable performance. Conscious of his strength and resources, he will try again this year.

Francesca Canepa: the "strongest Mom in the world" is from Courmayeur. She ran twice at the Tor, and won both times. This year, she could be the first to achieve a hat-trick. A very hard feat to accomplish, considering the level of her opponents.

Giuseppe Grange: ninth in 2013, he is one of Val d'Aosta's men of steel who arouse the enthusiasm of the fans.

Sonia Glarey: second among the ladies in 2012, unfortunately last year she was forced to withdraw. This year she'll be ready for a fight.

Joe Grant: he had to withdraw last year, but will give it his all this time around. American Joe Grant is one of the great world trail runners who can go for the big prize in this fifth edition of the Tor.

Scott Jaime: one of the best-known American runners in Europe lets results speak for him. He decided to take on the 330 km Tor this year.

Megan Hicks: she has not stopped since she won a podium finish on her 2009 debut at the Sand Marathon. She is now one of the favourites at the 2014 Tor.



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Partners





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TOR DES GEANTS® ORGANIZATION

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