

# TOR

TOR DES GÉANTS  
ENDURANCE TRAIL

330Km - 24.000m D+  
10/17 Settembre 2017

# TOTDRET

GRESSONEY GROADUS COURMAYEUR

TRAIL ULTRA XL - 130Km - 12.000m D+  
GRESSONEY S.J. - COURMAYEUR  
13/15 Settembre 2017

## WHAT IS THE TOR?

### The Tor is internationality

At 10am on Sunday 10 September, the 867 contestants in the eighth edition of the Tor des Géants® will be at the starting line at the centre of Courmayeur. They will reach the finish by 4pm on Saturday 16 September.

At 9pm on Wednesday 13 September, the 374 contestants of the first edition of the Tot Dret will depart from the centre of Gressoney Saint Jean.

In total, 1,241 athletes will represent 66 nations. There will be 679 Italians running in both races, followed by French, Spanish, Japanese, Swiss and Chinese runners.

For all runners, the finishing line banner will be placed in Courmayeur. The Tor contestants will have 150 hours to complete their 330-km race. Contestants in the Tot Dret will instead have 38 hours to cover their distance of 130 km.

### The Tor is competitiveness

Predictions are made to be denied and 330 km of trails offer an incredible amount of unknowns. Frenchman Lionel Trivel and Swiss Marco Gazzola know this very well. Both in have come very close to victory in the past, before fading away very near the finish line. They will try again this year, but will have to beware of some very serious challengers. The first is the very strong Basque contestant, Javier Dominguez-Ledo, who for a year has had the Tor at the top of his wish list. Even Jean Claude Mathieu, who came forth in 2015, will try to reach the podium, and with him the Japanese Masahiro Ono, who after twice coming fifth, aims to make a qualitative leap this time. And not forgetting Jules-Henri Gabioud, winner of the Tor in 2011. The Italians will certainly not be standing still: Oliviero Bosatelli and Franco Collé, both already winners at Courmayeur, will look for a repeat. To no doubt give them serious doubts will be Gianluca Galeati, who has "only" achieved one second place in the edition of the race with the most severe weather conditions. With him will also be Andrea Macchi from Varese, already a protagonist in the Tor and who this year will in no uncertain terms be aiming for the big prize, and Michele Graglia, who was very unlucky last year. And not forgetting Nico Valsesia, who is a specialist in breaking cycling and mountain racing records. Watch out too for the crew of South Tyrolean athletes: Alex Rabensteiner, Peter Kienzl, Jimmy Pellegrini and Christian Insam. They have the cards in hand to cause an upset and bring the trophy won by Ulrich Gross in 2010 back to the province of Bolzano.

Among the women, it will be daggers drawn between the reigning champion Lisa Borzani and the Iberian Silvia Trigueros Garrote, who last year was mainly let down by her inexperience. Not there merely to be a spectator will be Stephanie Case, who came second in 2016 and who has been improving ever since, as well as Italians Scilla Tonetti (third place in 2013) and Marina Plavan who twice reached the podium by coming fourth. Watch out also for Italian Giulia Vinco, winner of the Via

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Degli Dei Trail, and the Spanish Consuelo Velasco Barros, winner of the very tough Travesera 2016.

## The Tor is collaboration

On Saturday at 5pm, slightly before the distribution of racing bibs to the contestants considered favourites, a presentational press conference will be held at Le Jardin de L'Ange, in the refurbished press area made available by the municipality of Courmayeur. Taking part will be Claudio Restano, Regional Councillor for Tourism, Sport, Commerce and Transport, Fabrizia Derriard, mayor of Courmayeur, Roberto Cavallo, Managing Director of ERICA and expert in environmental research, and Alessandra Nicoletti, President of VDA Trailers, the sports company organising the Tor des Géants® and the Tot Dret.

## The Tor is respectful to the environment

The **EcoLoTor** brand will guarantee the environmental sustainability of the Tor, thanks to a project developed by VDA Trailers together with the ERICA Cooperative and sponsored by the Department of Production, Energy, Labour and the Environment of the Autonomous Region of the Aosta Valley and by the Minister of the Environment and for the Protection of Land and Sea.

An accurate analysis of supplies was carried out with the aim of reducing total waste production at source. Sourcing was selected by checking for a reduced amount of packaging for a given quantity of goods and the recyclability of the waste produced, as well as the presence of certified, biodegradable and sustainable materials.

Separate collection of waste will be guaranteed in all the life bases thanks to the "Eco Points" managed by VolonTOR aimed at facilitating the separation of waste on the part of the athletes, companions and spectators.

As far as the fight against littering is concerned, a system of traceability of supplies has been developed, which involves the application of special "tags". This will be tested on a select number of athletes taking part in the Tot Dret. On that occasion, the "Wastebusters", eco-volunteers who perform an additional "broom" service to locate and remove any waste abandoned on the trails, will also be activated.

Energy supplies will be guaranteed by photovoltaic technology at Courmayeur, in the life bases (where there will be a special green charging point for smartphones, GPS systems and headlamps) and in certain bivouacs, which up until now been supplied by traditional generators. On the occasion of the Tor, the inauguration is planned of charging stations for electric vehicles at Courmayeur and at Gressoney-Saint-Jean.

Roberto Cavallo, Managing Director of ERICA and expert in environmental research, and Roberto Menicucci will take part in the race in the capacity of eco-runner and witness.

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## The Tor is solidarity

The proceeds from the sale of the Tor 2017 solidarity bibs will go to support the initiatives of "Tutti uniti per Ylenia" ("All united for Yulnia"), an Aosta Valley nonprofit organisation, and "Emergency", that will finance Politricks – special trucks equipped with medical labs that move around the most disadvantaged areas of Italian cities offering free health services to all vulnerable people and those without assistance.

Just like every year, the MaratonAbili, wearing shirts bearing the words "Rari Non Vuol Dire Soli" ("Rare Does Not Mean Alone"), will as usual support the nonprofit organisation LND Italia, which works in favour of those affected by the rare and complex Lesch-Nyan disease.

## The Tor is emotion

The Maserati Mountain Lounge's Museo Transfrontaliero in the centre of Courmayeur will host a photo exhibition by Stefano Jeantet, Aosta Valley alpine military guide as well as photographer for the Tor and other competitions in a mountain environment, entitled "Facce da Tor" ("Faces from the Tor"). On display will be black and white portraits, in a large format and on special supports, of 18 protagonists of the last edition. The exhibition is organised by ElleErre, one of the sponsors of the Aosta Valley Endurance Trail, who has also produced thousands of yellow flags, symbols of the Tor, to be placed in the race packs of contestants and given to the public at the start and finish.

## The Tor is technology

All participants in the Tor and in the Tot Dret will be equipped with GPS locators provided by one of the main sponsors, Eolo, a Lombard company founded in 1998 and specialists in fast connectivity over a wide area. With this GPS system, the contestants can not only be traced and tracked at any time but also constantly followed from home, via the web, thanks to a three-dimensional interactive display.

## The Tor raises awareness

At the start of the Tot Dret, also present will be Francis Desandré, an athlete with disabilities from the Aosta Valley, who lost a leg in 1989 in a work-related accident but who has never stopped doing sports and going up into the mountains. The participation of the massive Chateau de Quart (Aosta) aims to raise awareness in the world of sports and trail running, in particular by offering competitions for people with disabilities.

## The Tor is safety and well-being

To keep an eye on contestants, as well as 50 inspectors who will monitor the regularity of the race along the trails, 2,000 volunteers will be present as well as all of the safety and security staff: alpine guides, law enforcement, doctors, physiologists, etc. The volunteers located at the life bases and the shelters along the routes, as well as at the start and finish, will, for example, distribute around 10 thousand bottles of water and other drinks, 365 kg of powdered tea, around 200 types of Fontina, Tomme and aged Grana cheeses, as well as 500 kg of mocetta, ham and mortadelle, 1,000 kg of

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pasta, 200 kg of rice and 1,600 eggs, while the bread will be bought and distributed on a day-by-day basis.

## The Tor is a meeting place

Between the mountains and man, between nature and emotions.

Tor des Géants® coming soon



<https://youtu.be/98v68vHB-b0>

Imagine. Get prepared. Start.  
Search. Look. Sweat. Admire. Meet. Cheers. Run. Smile. Suffer. Hug. Walk. Listen. Feel. Cry.  
Dream.

Every beginning means a new adventure.

LET IT TOR.

#Tor17 - Video production: [Pillow Lab](#)

## PHOTO

You can download the pictures in the PRESS AREA here: <http://www.tordesgeants.it/en/press-area/2017>

Please insert the credit of our photographers.

## CONTATTI

Press Office TOR DES GÉANTS® - Franco Faggiani  
M +39 335 661 4970 - [franco.faggiani@gmail.com](mailto:franco.faggiani@gmail.com)

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