



THE MYTH JUMPS BACK ON THE SADDLE TRENTO AND MONTE BONDONE (ITALY) CELEBRATE "THE LEGENDARY CHARLY GAUL"

Charly Gaul...and the legend goes on. It was June 8th, 1956, and a foggy and icy day welcomed Charly Gaul on the climb of Monte Bondone, the mountain that dominates the city of Trento (Italy). The champion from Luxembourg cycled the final uphill kilometres all alone and collapsed at the finish of what certainly was one of the most celebrated Giro d'Italia leg. After the race Gaul was wrapped in a blanket, almost frozen, but he had assured his overall Giro victory.

To those who are not very familiar with road bicycle racing, the name of Gaul could sound like any other common athlete's name. In reality, the best word to exhaustively describe what Charly Gaul was is "legendary", and in memory of him the Italian city of Trento, in Trentino region, has been organizing since 2006 the 'Legendary Charly Gaul', an international cycling event for amateur and professional cyclists that climbs the Monte Bondone right to the very top.

The 6th edition of the 'Legendary Charly Gaul' will be on the saddle next July 31st, and thousands of cyclists from the country and from abroad are expected to invade Trento and the close-by Monte Bondone. Compared to previous years, the race dedicated to the "Angel of the Mountain" has been freshened-up a little.

First of all, the cycling event has a new logo, representing the Italian mountain flanked by Gaul's stylized face in shadow. Blue and yellow are the official colours of the city of Trento.

Secondly, three exciting courses (instead of two) will be offered to participants to choose from. The 144 km Long distance, the 75 km Medium course and the 58 km Short race, all taking off from the fascinating Trento city centre, and finishing in Vason, at 1.650 meters a.s.l., on the same exact point that Gaul crossed in 1956.

Once again, Monte Bondone is the absolute star of the race. All three routes first run north towards the towns of Lavis and Mezzolombardo, get back to Trento, and from here the short course climbs up the Monte Bondone, with an elevation gain of 1.641 meters along the 38 demanding hairpin bends that forms the notorious 17,6 km long "Charly Gaul Climb".

Once Trento is passed, both the Long and the Medium route run along the Adige river down to the village of Aldeno, where the first climb to Monte Bondone will be served. A 20 km ascent through sensational pinewood forests and beautiful little villages as Cimone and Garniga Terme, which brings up to Viote. Here the cyclists may choose whether to finish the race by climbing the last few kilometres to Vason, or to keep on descending towards what is called the Valley of the Lakes (Valle dei Laghi). From there, they will attack Monte Bondone a second time, crossing the villages of

Sopramonte and Candriai, and joining here the Charly Gaul Climb. The total elevation gains of the Medium and Long courses are 1.784 and 3.595 meters respectively.

The 58 km Short course might be approached in a non-competitive way, in order to just enjoy a relaxing day among the natural beauties of this part of Trentino region.

Entertaining activities for the public (mountain bike and trekking) will be organized too on the day of the 'Legendary Charly Gaul Trento Monte Bondone', so as everyone will have the chance to explore the Monte Bondone along with the race participants (see www.bondoneday.it).

The 2011 'Legendary Charly Gaul Trento Monte Bondone' race is organized by ApT Trento, Monte Bondone, Valle dei Laghi and ASD Charly Gaul. Participation is open to all cyclists both male and female, and members of U.D.A.C.E, F.C.I., Sports Promotion Organizations and other National Federations, holding sports medicine certification for the practice of competitive cycling, as well as to foreign amateur cyclists holding regular membership with the Federation or Organization to which they belong for the year 2011.

Race entries for the 2011 'Legendary Charly Gaul Trento Monte Bondone' are now open, and the form is available through the "Registration" area on www.laleggendariacharlygaul.it. Participation fee is € 28,00 until 15th of May and € 33,00 until the 27th of July. A € 6,00 discount will be applied to those who participated at the 2010 Gran Fondo Charly Gaul.

The 2011 Legendary Charly Gaul Trento Monte Bondone is part of the following circuits: Italian GranFondo and MedioFondo Udace Championship and Criterium Leon d'Oro and cooperates with the Circuit Alpencup.

For further information:

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