

Organizzatore



Automobile Club d'Italia



Ufficio Stampa - Press Office



The first leg of the Rally Italia Sardegna is going to start tomorrow. This morning, Gigi Galli, obtained the best time in the Shakedown, on the gravel itinerary of Monte Pinu. This evening in Porto Cervo the starting Ceremonial is going to take part.

Olbia, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

The enchanting scenario of the Marina Vecchia in Porto Cervo will be the glittering frame for the Official Starting Ceremony of the rally Italia Sardegna 2008.

At 20.00 in the fabulous surrounding of a Mediterranean sunset, all the 57 crews entered at the sixth Round of the World Rally Championship and third Round of the JWRC will be present for the Starting Ceremonial.

The spectators' and the sporting and local authorities' warm welcome will embrace the stars of the WRC who, after a good night's rest, will set off tomorrow at 9.00 from the Olbia Service Park, heading towards the 132 km of Special Stages on the fascinating Sardinian gravel roads, out of a total Day mileage of 370 km.

The itinerary, as always very demanding for both drivers and cars, will increase the technical and sport challenge which animates the WRC.

After the Recce and this morning's shakedown, run on the 3,7 km of the Monte Pinu gravel stage, the World class drivers concur in saying that the Sardinian event is one the most challenging of the season, and with possible changes in weather conditions, particularly for Day 2 on Saturday.

As Finland's Jari-Matti Latvala (Ford Focus Rs Wrc - BP Ford Abu Dhabi World Rally Team) said, this will be one of the key aspects for the event's outcome.

" This Rally is beautiful when dry, but in case of rain the surface is too demanding especially for the car. The lines dug by the cars and the rocks brought by the water would be a problem for all. Also because nobody wants to back off".

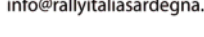
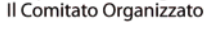
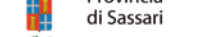
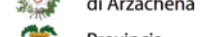
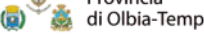
Amongst these will surely be Gigi Galli (Ford Focus Rs Wrc - VK M-Sport Ford Rally Team), the only Italian Driver in the WRC. The local hero, as always encouraged by hundreds of supporters, aims at a good result in his home event. "I'll do my best but I surely will not be able to fight for victory. It's stimulating for an Italian driver to take part in Rally d'Italia. Today I was fastest in the shakedown, I would be delighted to end the race just behind the works drivers. I hope to give my supporters some satisfaction".

Alessandro Bettega (Renault Clio R3 - Trt), who will race in the JWRC, was present at the press conference that has taken part after the shakedown, and he has affirmed he does not feel under pressure. "Everyone is looking at me, I know, but, in this situation, I'm able to do my best. Especially in my category it will be very exciting, because there will be 17 crews ready to fight, do not forget Prokop, Sandell and Ogier. I'll do all my best in order to thank the National ACI-CSAI that has helped me in anyway allowing to take part to the WRC".

In the meantime the shakedown has been just a little example of what the drivers are going to live in the next days. The race will start tomorrow morning at 9.00. The first Day will be developed along Monte Corvos' (16.43 km), Crastazza's (33.96 km)



Feel+





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and Terranova's (15.39km) area. All of them will be raced twice for a total of 131,56 km chrono.

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May, the second Day will be characterised by a total of 134,60 km developed along the Special Stages of Punta Pianedda (18,53 km), Monte Lerno (29,31 km) e Filigosu (19,46 km), all raced twice.

The third Day, Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> will start with the Special of Monte Olia (19,28) and will continue on the gravel roads of Sorilis (18,66 km), both will be raced twice. The last one will be Liscia Ruja (2,69 km), in the enchanting surrounding of the Gulf of Cala di Volpe just before reaching the podium in Porto Cervo where the Finish ceremony will take place at 14.30.

344,73 km on a total of 1.040 racing km, will be chrono timed and the most part of them will be raced in the Sardinian Forestall Area and in the Provinces of Olbia-Tempio, Nuoro and Sassari.

The Service Park will be located in Olbia and it will be once more the main base from where drivers and cars will leave each day.

After each group of Stages all the drivers will drive back to Service park (from 13.05 to 13.55, tomorrow; from 13.02 to 13.32 on Saturday; and from 10.11 to 10.41 on Sunday) and at the end of the day (at 18:00 on Friday; at 17.59 on Saturday and at 13.27 on Sunday to continue until the last Stage, Liscia Ruja, and Porto Cervo. Entrance to the Service Park will be FOC in the aim to bring the Italian and the foreign supporters even closer to the fascinating show of motor event

## Special Stages for tomorrow:

**P.S. 1-4 Monte Corvos**

First driver at 10.23 (1) – 15.18 (4)

Road closing time: 7.23 to 18.45

Monte Corvos starts in the nearby of Buddusò, it s a mid-fast itinerary, made by several parts of different special stages. It crosses the Loelle's site

**P.S. 2-5 Crastazza**

First driver at 10.50 (2) – 15.45 (5)

Road closing time: dalle 7.50 alle 19.15

Crastazza starts in the Coiluna's site and reach the Nuoro's province and the Crastazza's site. In its final part it is 3 km longer.

**P.S. 3-6 Terranova**

First driver at 12.07 (3) – 17.02 (6)

Road closing time: dalle 9.07 alle 20.30

Developped in the Terranova's and Monte Olia's site, it has been quite totally renewed and crosses the SS 389. In the nearby the famous Cannonau's production vineyards

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