

The Rally d'Italia Sardegna 2011 starts tomorrow

The numbers confirm the extraordinary success of the event organized by the Automobile Club d'Italia and counting for the FIA World Rally Championship, the FIA Super 2000 World Championship, and the WRC Academy.

Olbia, May 4th 2011 – The Rally d'Italia Sardegna, the Italian round of the World Rally Championship, organised by the Automobile Club d'Italia, will start tomorrow. After the long months of preparations at last the action will begin. The first official act will be the shakedown, the final test for cars in race trim, to be held tomorrow morning from 8.00 to 14.00. The test will take place over a distance of 2,5 km in the Monte Pino venue near Olbia.

The shakedown will be the competitors' first taste of the Sardinia gravel roads. The first to test their race cars will be the very best drivers of the World Rally Championship. In the evening the official start ceremony will be held on the Olbia start podium, located opposite the Archaeological Museum on the waterfront. This is the start of the three days which will see in competition, from Friday, the world's best drivers and the cars of the most prestigious brands. Three days which will see the drivers tackle a total distance of 1,183 km, including 18 special stages all on gravel for 339,70 km timed.

Everything is ready for the 2011 edition of the Rally d'Italia Sardegna. The countdown has started, and after the pre-event tests the teams have already set up their cars. In the meantime, on the eve of the event it is already possible to talk about a great success. This is confirmed by the extraordinary figures which regard this edition of the Rally d'Italia. 64 Crews have entered the event, 21 of which with the all-new 1600 Turbo WRC, 10 with Super 2000 cars and 18 participants in the WRC Academy, the new series commissioned by the FIA for the young talents of world motorsports. All this to set a record with 27 nationalities represented.

There are about 300 accredited journalists, TV crews and photographers. Of these, only 40% are Italian. Some other record figures are those regarding the organization. For example, there will be more than 800 marshals, who will ensure the smooth running of the event, 20 doctors along the route, 40 paramedics

There are also many side events to the rally, which will have its heart in the Isola Bianca Service Park in Olbia, where the service crews will be based. A park, a real city that will live day and night throughout the whole race. Inside the service park, for example, a kart track has been set up and will be available to the public. Also at the park on Friday and Saturday evening, at the end of the first and second leg of the rally, the most famous drivers of the World Rally Championship will meet the fans for an autograph session.

At the start ceremony tomorrow at 20.00 on the Molo Brin in Olbia two complimentary tickets to attend the Acropolis Rally mid-June in Greece will be drawn amongst the attending spectators on the grandstands. Tomorrow afternoon Volkswagen Motorsport will announce to the press the programme which will see the German manufacturers' return to rally in 2012.