

Rally d'Italia Sardegna

Press Office



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Simo from the 1000 Lakes

Simo Lampinen, Clerk of the Course of Rally d'Italia Sardegna, talks about "his" Sardinia

He is one of the most charismatic figure of the international rallying, a wise man who during his life was able to live deeply in the rallying world. When he was young he was one of the best rally drivers, then he became organizer, race director, member of several FIA commissions and he has been also tv commentator for the Finnish television. It is difficult to teach him something, lot easier is listening to him, for hours and hours, enraptured by the thousands stories he can tell. He is strictly bound with Italy, he has been official Lancia and FIAT driver for nine years, when three years ago he has been offered by Gino Macaluso and Ninni Russo the direction of Rally d'Italia Sardegna, he accepted with enthusiasm. "Part of my heart is Italian and I had no uncertainties when I accepted the work I have been offered. Since the beginning I considered this as a big challenge: to create a brand new rally, in a place absolutely fresh in the world rallying scenery. Today on the eve of the third edition we can say we won and we made a very important rally with peculiar characteristics". Simo Lampinen goes on talking about these peculiarities "It is impossible to find somewhere else what Sardinia can offer. The charm of this island and the charm of rallies together, an unrepeatable cocktail that makes unique this great competition. We didn't want to make a common rally and we succeeded. We chose the right way since the beginning and we made changes along the way following our experiences. I can say that the route now is a high level one. We slightly increased the average speed of the rally and I believe drivers will be pleased. We didn't change the main characteristics of this event, that it is still a medium fast rally, very technical and drivers need to be concentrated all the time. Naturally we still have to grow, but there is the base for this to happen". Lampinen is happy with the job done by his group and by the job done by the Organising Committee especially by Angelo Sticchi Damiani and Antonio Turitto. "At the beginning someone here in Sardinia was looking at us with distrust, but now they are on our side. It is absolutely important to be accepted by the territory and the people living in it". To all appearance Lampinen looks fragile but is implacable when he is doing his job of clerk of the course, the role he has in Rally Turkey, World rally Championship, Rally Oman, Middle East Championship and Rally Thailand, Asia Pacific Championship. "Clerk of the Course is a very delicate job. One have to be absolutely reactive, particularly firm, but also be capable to face the others and listen to everyone. It is nevertheless important to be aware that the last decision is up to you".

Simo Lampinen - File Card

He was born in Helsinki, Finland on June 22nd 1943, he is married with Milli and has 3 children and six grand-children. He has been in competition for 20 years, 9 of which, from 1970 till 1978, with the Lancia and FIAT manufactured cars: Fulvia, Beta Coupè, Stratos and 131 Mirafiori Abarth. An excellent Palmares, among his records he entered 18 times consecutively the 1000 Lakes Rally, obtaining three wins and four second places. Among his best results the victories at the RAC Rally, Rally Portugal and Rally Morocco . After retiring from races when he was 36 years old, he was for a short time commentator of one of the most important Finnish televisions and then he started his career as official and he became pretty soon Clerk of the Course of the 1000 Lakes. He remained there for 20 years.

In 1985 he entered FIA filling different roles, Observer, member of the FIA Rally Commission and now also member of the WRCC Safety Working Group.

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