**The winter months are full of high level events**

**TRENTINO, A LAND OF INTERNATIONAL EVENTS**

**The greatest snow sports champions are getting ready to thrill their fans: the new edition of the 3Tre FIS World Cup in Madonna di Campiglio will be held on December 22, whereas the spotlight on the final stage of the Tour de Ski in Val di Fiemme will be on the 7th and 8th of January. Save the date day on December 15th with the Men’s and Women’s Alpine Skiing European Cup and Snowboarding World Cup.**

The upcoming sports season will be a thrilling one for all winter sports lovers. Trentino will have a leading role this year due to its excellent infrastructures, its great volunteer groups and its special natural environment making it the ideal territory for hosting a long series of internationally renowned events.

**3Tre Madonna di Campiglio, following in Kristoffersen’s tracks**

The **3Tre Madonna del Campiglio race** is a recurring event on the calendar of the Alpine Skiing World Cup and will be part of the Audi FIS Ski World Cup at least up to the year 2018. The day to be marked in red on the calendar is the same as in the past, December 22nd: on that day the leading figures in the special slalom world will compete against each other through the narrow poles of Canalone Miramonti, the historical slope called “Regina delle Nevi” (“*Snow Queen”*), one of the most challenging and technical slopes of the white circuit. It is sure to be a great show, traditionally taking place at night, and the battle to reach the winning position on the podium will be fierce. Last year the winner was the Norwegian Henrik Kristoffersen. In the long history of the 3Tre race, now in its 63rd edition, the athlete who won the most gold medals was the Swedish champion Ingemar Stenmark, having won 8 medals between special slalom and giant slalom races. He is followed by Alberto Tomba, the best Italian athlete, who won it three times. Besides these unrivalled athletes many other great names in the ski world have given prestige to the race: from Zeno Colò to Karl Schranz, from Gustav Thoeni to Bode Miller all the way to Giorgio Rocca, the last Italian to win on Canalone Miramonti in 2005. In the Campiglio ski area, December 22nd will be a day to remember. Many activities have been planned to accompany the race: the festivities will start with the 3Tre Hour, offering music and tasty appetizers in the town center streets and squares, and will proceed with the 3Tre party after 9:30 pm.

**A stage of the Alpine Skiing European Cup to be held in Pozza di Fassa and Andalo**

There will be an interesting ‘preview’ of the 3Tre race in Pozza di Fassa where a stage of the **Men’s European Cup** will be held. On Thursday, December 15th the Ski Stadium Aloch will shine its lights on a special evening slalom race that will qualify as the 6th Elke Pastore Memorial. Competing for the first steps places of the podium will be the best upcoming young athletes hoping to reach the top of the rankings. The largest women’s continental review will compete in Trentino on December 15th and in Andalo on December 16th. A women’s giant slalom and special slalom will be held on the slopes of the Olimpionica2 stadium.

**Snowboarding: World cup races in Val di Fassa**

On December 15th Val di Fassa will also host two races of the **Snowboarding World Cup.** The greatest snowboard pros will compete on the sunny slope Pra dei Tori at Passo Carezza: two men’s and women’s parallel giant slalom races are on schedule as well as numerous entertainment events, such as concerts, shows and fireworks.

**The queen of snowshoeing on the day of the Epiphany**

On January 6th in Alta Val di Non, the spotlight will be on the **Ciaspolada**, now in its 44th edition. The Ciaspolada is very popular among Italian snow events and represents the main European event for snowshoe lovers. Every year it brings in over six thousand participants between athletes and fans.

**The final climb of Cermis stokes up the Tour de Ski**

On January 7th and 8th, the spectacular Nordic ski **Tour de Ski** will arrive in Val di Fiemme that by tradition is the theatre for the final stage of the event. The races will be held in the cross-country stadium (Stadio del Fondo) in Lago di Tesero and the impressive Final Climb will be performed on the Olimpia slope on Alpe Cermis, whose steepness has thrilled the live public and TV spectators ever since the first edition in 2007. On Saturday there will be the mass start trials – 10 Km for women and 15 Km for men – and the final competition will be on Sunday. At the foot of the Trentino Dolomites the winners will be crowned as the heirs of the Norwegians Therese Johaug and Martin Sundby, who won the past edition of the Tour de Ski.

**Nordic Combined skiing at home in Predazzo and Lago di Tesero**

On January 13th to 15th the spotlight will be on the **Nordic Combined World Cup.** The stadiums Salto in Predazzo and Stadio del Fondo in Lago di Tesero will host the best athletes in this sport, three years after the World Championships that were also held in Val di Fiemme.

**The narrow-ski “Bisons” face the challenge of the Marcialonga**

On January 29th the so-called “bisons” wearing narrow skis will be put to the test. This is the date of the **Marcialonga** number 44: with seventy kilometres of snow piste stretching between Moena and Cavalese, it is considered to be the queen of long-distance Nordic ski competitions. This competition will also be part of the FIS Marathon Cup, the long-distance World Cup.

**The “granfondo” (long-distance cross-country race) on Monte Bondone**

The International calendar for long-distance Nordic ski races includes a date for the **Viote Monte Bondone Nordic Ski Marathon**, now in its third edition. The event will take place on the three slopes of the Viote del Monte Bondone cross-country centre, that is, Gervasi, Val del Merlo and Cercenari. The competition is scheduled for the end of February.

**World Rookie Tour, adrenaline and entertainment for a vibrant show**

Pure fun: this is the main ingredient of the **World Rookie Tour**, the famous junior snowboarding contest held on Monte Bondone. At the beginning of March the snow park of this mountain overlooking Trento will be the arena for the sixth edition of the **Trentino Rookie Fest,** a popular event that will include a halfpipe and a slopestyle contest.

**Other winter sports events:**

* Ski-mountaineering: «Sellaronda Ski Marathon» - Canazei, March 24th, 2017
* Ski-mountaineering: «Ski Alp Race Dolomiti di Brenta» - Madonna di Campiglio
* Ski-mountaineering: «Coppa delle Dolomiti» Circuit

(m.f.)

Trento, October 2016