



SANREMO 2-3 OTTOBRE 2020

67th Rallye Sanremo, flies high on the Maritime Alps

Wednesday, August 12, entry open for the 67th edition of the Ligurian race. Which moves its competitive route to the upper part of the Maritime Alps of West Liguria, resuming special stages theater of memorable challenges in the past. In addition to the race valid for the Italian Rally Championship there will be the 35th Sanremo Historic Rally, the traditional "Legend" and the regularity "Coppa dei Fiori". Appointment on Friday 2 October for the morning technical checks and for the afternoon Shake Down. On Saturday 3 October, the event begins, with the four races that will tackle the classic tests of Teglia, Langan and Vignai for the whole day. Service Park and Regrouping in the spaces of the Old Station, Service Park and arrival platform on the Lungomare delle Nazioni. A very compact rally to avoid crowds and comply with the federation's rules that require the race to start and finish within 36 hours.

SANREMO (IM), 12 August – "Despite the restrictions imposed by the health emergency, the 2020 edition of the Rallye Sanremo will be an electrifying event". Sergio Maiga is absolutely certain of it, he who leads the organizing committee of the Ligurian race, now in its 67th edition and which opens entries on **Wednesday 12 August**, as required by the FIA directive and of the 35th edition of the Sanremo Historic Rally, which will take place on the same day, **Saturday 3 October**, and on the same roads. "To avoid crowds, we chose special stages in the highest areas of the Maritime Alps, behind Sanremo, going to retrieve sections that have made the history of the race over the years," says Maiga.

Passo Teglia (Km 9,17) – The special stage runs between the municipalities of Rezzo and Molini di Triora. The green light is located about fifteen kilometers from the town of Rezzo, in the Giara Valley; the special stage begins with a stretch of about 800 meters uphill towards Passo Teglia, located at 1385 meters above sea level, and then plunges for the other 8.3 km downhill until reaching the outskirts of the town of Andagna, a village in the municipality of Molini di Triora in the Upper Argentina Valley at about 730 meters above sea level. "The test has a fast mixed course, with some downhill hairpin bends that slow it down slightly while maintaining a high pace. Over the years the road has been made safe with guardrails that prevent exits towards the valley. It is a classic of Sanremo and was faced for the last time in 2016, starting near the town of Rezzo (it was called Bosco di Rezzo and measured 25 km) and in both passages the best time was recorded by Paolo Andreucci-Anna Andreussi. In the past, we started much closer to Rezzo, then we avoided the first section as the surface was too irregular and did not guarantee safety. The decision to start this year so high up is due to the fact of staying as far away as possible from built-up areas" underlines Maiga who points out. "A painful choice, but necessary to avoid gatherings".

This stretch of road was the scene of an episode that has entered the history of the rally. "In 1969 the special stages in this area were on gravel and in rapid sequence and advised against the crews to do assistance between one and the other, wasting time. With one of those strokes of genius, which made him famous, Cesare Fiorio, then a young Lancia sports director, sent an assistance car with the mechanics between Borgomaro and Pigna, carrying studded tires to allow his drivers to face the subsequent snowy special stage. with better traction. Everyone thought that Fiorio was crazy about wasting time in that operation, which instead turned out to be a winner. In fact, three Lancia Fulvia HF's monopolized the entire podium of the race. Källström-Häggbom won ahead of Aaltonen-Liddon and Barbasio-Sodano. A real coupe of theater, spectacular and winning". A strategy that Cesare Fiorio proposed again in Montecarlo in 1983, even changing tires in the special stage. Winning again.

Langan (Km 11.24) – After the Teglia, the rally offers a short transfer, always remaining in the municipality of Molini di Triora to meet another of the classic Ligurian stages: the Langan. Only 4.63 km without helmets, just enough time to catch your breath, and here is the second special stage of the race, which starts about a kilometer outside the town of Molini di Triora (460 meters above sea level) with a steep climb towards the Langan without reaching the summit of the mountain. In fact, 1.5 kilometers from the brow, the rally turns left climbing the slope that leads to Monte Ceppo, before continuing on a slight slope of almost four kilometers to finish the timed stretch in front of the church of San Giovanni. "We were able to recover the lower part of the test as the road was recently restored allowing the passage of the special rally cars" underlines Maiga, specifying how this test, all uphill, is "rather fast characterized by very wide hairpin bends that they don't make the competitors lose their rhythm". Like many tests of the Sanremo rally, this special stage also wrote its good pages of history. "In



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particular, the 1976 match between Sandro Munari (at that time co-driven by Silvio Maiga, brother of the current organizer) and Bjorn Waldegaard remained in the history," recalls Maiga. "The Stratos were dominating the race with four cars in the top four in the standings. But the gap between Waldegaard and Munari at the top of the rankings was negligible, and by continuing to push hard they risked running into some trouble. Cesare Fiorio imposed a draconian directive on his two drivers: whoever had set the best time on the Langan would have been the winner at Sanremo 1976. The best time SP result was obtained by the Swede and it was he who won that 18th edition of the Rallye Sanremo "

Vignai (13,60 km) – The third and final stage is the longest of the race. Called Vignai, another historical name of Sanremo, it starts from the municipality of Bajardo and ends in that of Badalucco, divided from the previous test by just 8.63 km. "This is a SS that we have never proposed in this configuration. Totally downhill, it starts from San Bernardo and goes down to Vignai and ends in Madonna della Neve near Badalucco. Despite being all downhill it is not very fast, as there are very few stretches; even if there are no sharp hairpin bends, there are a lot of curves in sequence that slow down the pace. Also in this case we have chosen a path characterized by complete protection downstream to guarantee the safety of the competitors".

The special stages of the 67th Rallye Sanremo (as well as the 35th Sanremo Historic Rally, the 12th Rally Leggenda and the Coppa dei Fiori) end here. At the end of the Vignai SS, the crews tackle the 38.94 km downhill that will take them to the spaces of the Old Station in Sanremo where they will stop for the regrouping which will be followed by the Service Park on the Lungomare delle Nazioni; before starting another round on Passo Teglia-Langan and Vignai, and, at the end of the day, proclaim the winner on the arrival platform located on the Lungomare delle Nazioni. "The choice of this route is also conditioned by the current Covid -19 legislation which requires sporting events without spectators. These three historical stages, which have made the history of Sanremo over time, have the advantage of being far from inhabited centers and easily controllable in their accesses" explains Sergio Maiga.

The 67th Rallye Sanremo will call the competitors on Friday 2 October for morning sporting checks, followed by the Shake Down in the afternoon. The competitive part will take place in a single day, Saturday 3 October, with departure at 7.10 am on Saturday 3 October, when the cars will leave the service park to head to the classic stages of Passo Teglia, Langan and Vignai, before return to Sanremo for the Regrouping and Service Park that will keep the crews on the seashore for almost two hours. In the early afternoon, a new round of the three tests, another Regrouping and Service Park starting at 3.50 pm to close in the evening with the third and last passage on Passo Teglia, Langan and Vignai, before returning to the Old Station area for the conclusion of the race. The 67th Rallye Sanremo is spread over 340.62 total kilometers of route, 102.03 of timed kilometers divided into three special stages to be repeated three times. The race is valid as the third round of the Italian Rally Championship for the Italian Rally Junior Championship, the Coppa Italia Rally Zone 2, the Renault Clio Trophy Italia, the Suzuki Rally Cup, the Peugeot 208 Rally Cup Top and as the third round of the Liguria Rally Championship. –Primo Canale.

The 35th Sanremo Historic Rally will follow the race valid for the Italian Rally Championship, as has now happened since the 2014 edition, starting from the Lungomare delle Nazioni service park at 9.56 am to make a double passage on Passo Teglia-Langan and Vignai, with a Regrouping service park in between in Sanremo starting at 13.33 and closing the race in the spaces of the Old Station at 18.16. The Sanremo Historic Rally has a development of 227.08 total kilometers, 68.02 timed kilometers divided into three special stages repeated twice. The historic race is the opening round of the Liguria Rally Championship-Primo Canale for historic cars for the Rally Zone Trophy, and the Michelin Historic Rally Cup

The Sanremo Leggenda, now in its twelfth edition, will be inserted between the modern rally valid for the CIR and the historic rally and will start at 08.26 am will tackle three stages, Passo Teglia-Langan e Vignai, and the Service Park will be at 11.43 am, exit at 1.43 pm to repeat the tests of Langan and Vignai, return to the Old Station to finish the race at 17.01. The Sanremo Leggenda route measures 204.19 kilometers of which 58.85 timed kilometers and divided into five special stages. The Sanremo Leggenda is valid as the fourth rally of the Liguria-Primo Canale Rally Championship and for the Twingo R1 Trophy, and the Corri con Clio N3 Trophy.



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As per tradition in the queue of the historic the regularity Cup of Flowers is staged which follows the Sanremo Historic Rallye, starting from the Service park at 10.31 am and closing the competitive part in front of the Old Station at 18.56, after having tackled 204.19 total kilometers and carried out 39 of medium precision tests.



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