



The 2017 Stella Alpina
a special edition comes to a close: 70 years together!
The appeal of a classic regularity rally: hairpin bends, scenery, and passion

6th - 9th July 2017 – The 70th anniversary Stella Alpina has just come to a close: the regularity rally organized by Scuderia Trentina with the support of Canossa Events.

Its winning combination of sport, passion, spectacular panoramas, hairpin bends, superb hospitality and breathtaking scenery in the marvelous Dolomites, delighted all those taking part: people who love competing with their cars but appreciate the opportunity to see new places and sample some special food and wine at the same time.

The rally was divided into two sections: one reserved for classic cars and another for modern Ferrari's, with around sixty crews at the starting line, soaking up the friendly yet competitive atmosphere.

THE CHALLENGE AND THE PODIUM

There were **95** challenging **timed trials** putting the crews competing to the test and getting everyone's pulses racing. All the trials were technically challenging and covered all types of terrain: roads and town squares, climbs and descents, some fast legs and others more panoramic and full of appeal.

The battle to win the rally continued right until the last leg, when the winners were announced during the Awards Ceremony held at Cantine Ferrari.

The winners on the **podium of the classic cars** were team 16: Mario Passanante and Raffaella De Alessandrini in a 1938 Fiat 508C who also won the sought-after Azimut Trophy reserved for pre-1957 cars. The team was determined to leave no space for rivals, employing all their skill and resources to remain at the top of the standings from day one.

Giordano Mozzi and Stefania Biacca came second in a 1955 Triumph Tr2, whereas Andrea Giacoppo and Daniela Grillone Tecioiu came in third in a 1972 Lancia Fulvia.

As regards the **podium of the modern Ferraris**, first place went to Mauro Trifero in a Ferrari 456 M GT, followed by Francesco Guilla and Felicia Crisafulli in a Ferrari California T, and then the patron of the event, Enrico Zobebe with Ivana Trentinaglia in a marvelous Ferrari 488 Spider 70°.

Club Orobico Bergamo Corse won the Banca Galileo Trophy reserved for the **first ranking scuderia**.

The **Ladies Cup** went to Gabriella Scarioni and Ornella Pietropaolo in a 1960 Porsche 356 B. The **international cup** - Cuervo y Sobrinos Trophy went to Stefano Ginesi and Susanna Rohr in a 1956 AC ACE.

The beautiful 1967 Maserati Mistral Spider driven by Peter Straub and Madeleine Villiger won the Gare d'Epoca prize reserved for the **most elegant car**.

Two special prizes were also assigned to Vincent and Marie Tourneur for taking part in the rally with the only open pre-war barchetta, a 1936 Delahaye 135 S, and to Giorgio and Claudio Montagni, known as Cirpino, the only crew that had taken part in the very first Stella Alpina in 1947.



The 70th anniversary rally

The 2017 Stella Alpina covered the same itinerary as the first rally in 1947 on the enchanting roads in west, east and south Trentino, giving the teams the chance to experience the thrill of reliving its glorious past.

The race set off and returned to Trento every day, just like the first edition.

For four days, these four-wheeled gems were out on parade on the most beautiful roads in Trentino, following a 700 km route that also included the historic Trento Bondone hill climb, where the teams raced to make the best time with differences between them in terms of hundredths of a second.

This year also marked the 70th anniversary of Ferrari and so the organizers were determined to pay homage to the Prancing Horse: the regularity rally for classic cars was preceded by a rally reserved for modern Ferrari's with the same trials and routes but with its own separate ranking.

The Route and the Legs: Events Day by Day

Thursday 6th July – Checks and Trento-Bondone hill climb

The grounds at Cantine Ferrari started to fill up from 1 pm on Thursday 6th July, as the sixty crews started to arrive for the Stella Alpina, all full of enthusiasm and ready to take up the challenge of the legendary Trento Bondone hill climb. Race documents were checked, the welcome gifts offered by the sponsors and organizers were handed out, and the cars were inspected and admired in this superb parterre. The atmosphere was electric with anticipation, as drivers and navigators greeted old friends and made new acquaintances, swapping ideas and sharing tips, with the "historic" crews who had several past rallies under their belts offering advice to those taking part in this historic rally for the first time.

The race got off to a start at 6.30 pm in Piazza Mostra in the shadow of imposing Castello del Buonconsiglio where the cars were presented to a very enthusiastic public who came to admire them ... a flourish of the Italian flag and the race began.

The perfect road surfaces, the great weather and the unwavering pursuit of victory made for some unforgettable memories for both drivers and navigators. The first group of 10 timed trials was challenging and spectacular, following the same route as the most famous hill climb in Europe that has just come to a close. The teams were able to relax over dinner at a mountain-top restaurant, enjoying the specialties from Trentino while taking in the majestic panorama.

Friday 7th July – Second leg. Driving across west Trentino

After setting out from Trento, the teams headed towards west Trentino, driving through marvelous Val di Non and passing through Cles, Palade Pass, Merano, Appiano and Mendola Pass. Lunch was en-route before the teams set off again, passing through Val di Sole as far as Dimaro and then turning left towards Madonna di Campiglio, Valle dei Laghi, Terme di Comano and Sarche.

An itinerary of around 290 kilometers with 46 timed trials. A decidedly exciting tour, especially for competitors less accustomed to driving through the scenery proposed by the Stella Alpina.

Saturday 8th July – Third leg. Driving across east Trentino

On day three, the crews took to the spectacular roads in east Trentino, passing through Valsugana, San Martino di Castrozza, Rolle Pass, Bellamonte, Predazzo, Moena and Canazei

before crossing Sella Pass, the gate to Alto Adige, into Val Gardena with Selva, Ortisei and finishing up at Bolzano.

After completing 27 timed trials and driving 250 kilometers in the morning, the drivers finally relaxed over lunch at Moena, the “enchantress” of the Dolomites. The day’s events came to a close in Piazza Walter at Bolzano.

There was just time for a short rest and a change of clothes in preparation for the gala dinner held at the illustrious MUSE Natural Science Museum designed by Renzo Piano, a popular attraction for visitors from all around the world. Some cars lined up at the entrance of the famous museum and the effect was astonishing: past and present, science and engineering, mountains and evening gowns ... it was certainly a fabulous sight.

Sunday 10th July – Fourth leg. Driving across south Trentino

The last day of the race and the last 60 kilometers. This is where the final ranking was decided ... the atmosphere was loaded with adrenalin among the crews competing for a place on the podium during the last 12 trials. The route was “lighter” and took the crews to Vallagarina and across Coe Pass.

The route of the rally then returned to the starting point, closing a virtuous circle at Cantine Ferrari, where the highly-anticipated awards ceremony was held.

There was time to relax and chat with the other crews while waiting for the rankings to be published, trading stories about the trials and the route, saying goodbye to old and new friends and setting the date for the 2018 rally.

The cups and watches were on display in the room where the winners were to be announced, the timekeepers handed over the rankings, the doors opened, and Enrico Zobele, along with all the team, were ready to welcome the competitors and the winners of this exceptional edition...

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

“This time Raffaella and I came to Trentino with one intention: to win! – said Mario Passanante, winner of the 32nd edition – This victory was missing in my book of records. Coming in a pre-war car obviously gave me a major advantage in terms of coefficient, even if covering so many kilometres in a car like this with so many special stages, is no easy matter. I have to say that the Fiat 508C behaved well. The only problem happened yesterday when the belt broke, but it was repaired overnight by Plinio, the legendary mechanic provided by Canossa Events, who I would to thank”.

Giordano Mozzi, winner of last year’s rally, was just as happy: “The coefficient did penalize us somewhat, but we also made a few mistakes too many that prevented us from getting closer to first place. But we are happy to come second because we are once again confirming our standing on the podium of this lovely and impeccably organized rally.”

The patron of event, Enrico Zobele, explained the ties of the Stella Alpina with its glorious past: “In the very first rallies, it was all about speed and cutting seconds was important, whereas nowadays you need precision if you want to win and the difference in time is down to hundredths of a second. The Stella Alpina is a special rally and I am proud to be its patron. It is a challenging race with lots of kilometers to cover and mountain passes to cross, but it is also a rally that gives you the chance to take a look around and enjoy the spectacular scenery, the trees in bloom, the Dolomites and the marvelous modern and classic cars who are the real protagonists. We have great confidence in this event and this is why we have applied for the title of Grand Event, which we are hoping will be granted in October 2018”.



Fiorenzo Dalmeri, president of Scuderia Trentina, talks about the passion that drives the people who choose to take part in this event: “It has been 70 years since the very first Stella Alpina, but the passion for motoring in these mountains goes much further back: imagine, the first motoring race in Trentino was held in 1925. This year’s Stella Alpina is confirmation of this tradition and the love of motor sports, of marvelous cars, of our special scenery, as well as the determination of the many people who risked driving their prized classic car on some truly challenging winding roads and hairpin bends. I think this combination of unique countryside and beautiful cars is also an excellent way to promote our area and its unique and spectacular natural attractions. While we are talking about passion for motor sports, I think it is my duty to mention another prized part of our motoring heritage: the legendary Trento Bondone hill climb, the most important hill climb in Europe which has just come to a close”.

Thanks:

On behalf of Enrico Zobeles and Fiorenzo Dalmeri, we would like to thank all those who helped to make this year’s event a success: first of all the competitors, be they newcomers or old-timers, whose enthusiasm made this year’s rally truly unique.

Thanks to the City and the Provincial Government of Trento, as well as the local authorities in all the towns we passed through, Automobile Club d’Italia, all our friends at Scuderia Trentina and Scuderia Trentina Storica, the team at Canossa Events, the many CSAI Rally Officers, all the race management staff, the guys at Adige Sport, and all our supporters and volunteers as none of this would have been possible without their support.

The success of the Stella Alpina was also possible thanks to our prestigious partners, especially Azimut Wealth Management, main sponsor acknowledged with its own challenge Trophy; Cuervo y Sobrinos, official timekeepers of the race, who presented 4 splendid watches to the winners; Banca Galileo which gave the prize to the best Scuderia; and Cantine Ferrari which hosted part of the event and was acknowledged with the ranking of the modern Ferrari’s. Thanks also to Fassi, Zuccari which presented each team with a pack containing various beauty products; Tridentum Auto which made several splendid Maserati’s available to the Organization; Brugger which designed the splendid bracelets offered by the Patron to the crews; Digitech and Gare d’Epoca which commemorated the most elegant car.

Details of the 2018 Stella Alpina will be announced in September as usual, but Enrico Zobeles will be inviting people on behalf of all the crews to “the 2018 rally that will reinstate the three-day race formula in the mountains with a base in one of the most iconic locations in Trentino Alto Adige”...

A brief history

The Stella Alpina was the brainchild of Giovanni Canestrini who was born in Trentino and a legendary journalist who was particularly interested in cars. Mr Canestrini had the idea for the “perfect” race to be based in one of the towns in Trentino to make it more convenient for competitors and the press, which he called the Quadrifoglio Alpino (Alpine Four-Leaved Clover), as he thought the race should be divided into four legs and be based in Merano.

In actual fact, the first race held in 1947 was based in Trento, also on account of the support and enthusiasm of Count Sigismondo Mancini, President of ACI (Italian Automobile Club) at the time, who reworked Mr Canestrini’s original idea. It got the name Stella Alpina right away, also to honor the mountains in Trentino.



Like the other races around at the time, the Stella Alpina was originally intended as a speed trial, with the unusual addition of its adrenalin-packed downhill sections. 51 competitors took part in the first edition and no less than Tazio Nuvolari fired the starting gun.

After years of success, also due to the top drivers of the time taking part, the Stella Alpina came to a standstill in 1957, like all other road rallies.

It was resurrected as a regularity race for classic cars in 1984, the year when Scuderia Trentina decided to pay a tribute to this important challenge by organizing a sort of classic car pageant consisting of a regularity race. The first pageant was such a success that Scuderia Trentina continued to organize it year after year, followed by Scuderia Trentina Storica, and is now ready to host the 32nd edition from July 6th to 9th, 2017.

You can download a selection of photographs of the event here:

- Photos of the awards ceremony: <https://we.tl/7FXsCMdNou>
- photos of leg 4: <https://we.tl/JMBtmMbNCf>
- photos of leg 3: <https://we.tl/869K8HTDeJ>
- photos of leg 2: <https://we.tl/jgYJdj6KSh>
- Photos of leg 1 and checks: <https://we.tl/JdEgJVnqoL>

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