

Terre di Canossa 2015: a very special fifth edition!

From 16th to 19th April 2015: these are the unmissable dates of the wonderful fifth edition of the “Terre di Canossa”, which will once again be held on the charming roads of Emilia, Liguria and Tuscany, and will as always feature its characteristic mix of sport, passion, landscapes, culture and unique evenings.

This year, the Terre di Canossa will start from Salsomaggiore Terme, with a **gala soirée** and a dinner designed by the Michelin-starred chef Massimo Spigaroli, famous “representative” of the Parmesan cuisine and undisputed “king” of the culatello. The Lands of Canossa are also the Lands of Verdi, and thus the first evening will delight not only the palates, but the ears of the participants as well: the sumptuous Salone Moresco will host a brief lyric **concert** before the gala dinner.

The race will start on **Friday 17th** morning, when the cars will drive along the thousand-year old lands of Matilde of Canossa on an extraordinary journey that will bring them from the **castles of Parma** to Borgotaro, “homeland” of the porcino mushroom, and then to the splendid sea of the **Cinque Terre** and of the **Versilia** after crossing the **Cento Croci pass**. The second evening, dedicated to the Versilia, will be held inside **Villa Ariston**, also known as “Regina Castle”: a 19th century estate with a magic atmosphere overlooking the sea of Lido di Camaiore, in the very heart of the Versilia.

Saturday will focus on Tuscany, with the spectacular parades through the centres of some of the most beautiful Italian cities of art, such as the ones under the “Leaning Tower” of **Pisa**, through the centre and on the walls of **Lucca** and in front of the **Certosa of Calci**. As always, the highlight of the evening will be the much awaited and unmissable **Beach Party at sunset with live music** on the beach of the Bambaissa, one of the most glamorous Italian seaside resorts, for an unforgettable night.

Finally on **Sunday 19th**, after passing in front of the famous marble quarries of Michelangelo and facing the tough hairpin bends of the **Pradarena pass**, the competitors will reach the traditional finish in Piazza del Duomo, Reggio Emilia, for the Awards Ceremony inside the magnificent Sala del Tricolore. Cities of art, wonderful landscapes, ancient castles, gentle hills and tough mountain passes will be the setting of this unmissable race.

Some of the most appreciated features of the past editions have been confirmed: the **Eberhard Trophy**, in partnership with the main sponsor of the event, will award beautiful watches to its winners as usual; the Pre-War Cup; the **baggage** service; the **introduction course to regularity** for beginners; the traditional homage to the **Navy**; the leg arrival in front of the Cathedral of **Pietrasanta** on Saturday, the city of Botero and many other great artists. Now, for some of the new features of the 2015 edition: the Tricolore Trophy, reserved to the non-priority drivers, who are always welcome to this wonderful event; a group of trials in the **Varano de’ Melegari Circuit**; a segment inside the **Presidential Estate of San Rossore** and a panoramic route overlooking the sea of the **Cinque Terre**.

The race will take place on a route about 600 km long, with 80 timed trials and 2 average speed trials, which will be part of a special trophy distinct from the overall classification.

Three exciting days to fully experience a perfect combination of beautiful cars, competition, tourism, gastronomy and relaxation. A “Grand Event” planned to the very last detail with the passion and determination of the people of Emilia, Italy’s undisputed motoring region.

“Today, Terre di Canossa is recognised as a leading event in the industry” says Luigi Orlandini, President of Scuderia Tricolore. “This means that our work has been appreciated. Our goal is to offer our participants a tough race on the technical side, but also a pleasing experience with great care for the lifestyle, right down to the smallest detail. Of course, all of this is possible also thanks to the enthusiasm of all the crews that make the Terre di Canossa such a special event every year, to a united and hard-working team and to the participation of partners of excellence”.

The 2015 edition of the Terre di Canossa pays homage to the 9th centenary of the death of Mathilda of Canossa, one of the only two women whose remains, along with those of Christina of Sweden, rest in the Basilica of St. Peter in Rome.

For more information, please visit our website www.gpcanossa.it

Brief introduction to Matilda of Canossa

The Great Countess Matilda of Canossa, or Mathilde (Mantova, 1046- Bondeno di Roncore, 24 July 1115) is certainly one of the most important and interesting figures of the Middle Ages: a progressive and independent woman well ahead of her time, she played an important role in the political scene of her age. The Terre di Canossa Project was created to celebrate the 9th centenary of her coronation as Queen of Italy: it involves sport, tourism, history, culture and gastronomy as proofs of the excellence of what is today known as the “Motor Valley”.

Although she lived in a period of continuous battles and intrigues, Matilda showed extraordinary strength and, for a woman of her time, an innate ability to command. A powerful feudal sovereign and an ardent supporter of the Papacy in the Investiture Controversy, her faith in the Church of her time inspired the admiration and deep love of all her subjects.

Her territory, which constituted the first Italian feudal state, extended from Brescia to Viterbo, including important cities such as Cremona, Mantova, Ferrara, Parma, Reggio Emilia, Modena, La Spezia, Pisa, Lucca, Florence, Arezzo, Siena, Grosseto and Perugia. It was, in every sense of the word, a buffer between the Papal State and the Holy Roman Empire, a feudality ruled over by her for a long period which spanned between the 11th and 12th centuries, and which was protected by imposing defensive structures dating back to the Attonidi family and, in particular, to Atto Adalberto, from whom Matilda descended.