

TERRE DI CANOSSA INTERNATIONAL CLASSIC CAR CHALLENGE 2016: RECORD-BREAKING EDITION COMES TO AN END

THE VESCO-GUERINI CREW WON FIRST PLACE, FOLLOWED IN ORDER BY DI PIETRA-DI PIETRA AND MARGIOTTA-PERNO.

**Great success for the sixth edition of Terre di Canossa,
with 105 crews representing 16 countries and 29 manufacturers.**

A 'pink' edition, due to 35% of the participants being women, but also 'green' and eco-friendly. The smiles and enthusiasm of the participants made this edition of Terre di Canossa unique and memorable.

The sixth edition of Terre di Canossa took place from 14th to 17th April 2016, on the charming roads of Emilia, Liguria and Tuscany. It was characterised by an inimitable mix of sport, passion, tourism, culture, fine wines, gastronomy and unique evenings, with the utmost respect for the environment.

The organisers worked tirelessly for a year to create a perfect event, and the results were quite evident. Crowded squares, enthusiast participants and enchanting landscapes were the protagonists of these 4 unforgettable days.

THE RALLY AND ITS WINNERS

The **85 timed trials** heated up the competition among the **105 crews**. The rally featured tough trials of every kind: long, short, located on straights or inside squares, uphill and downhill, along turns or hidden. Some of them were very fast, such as those on Mount Marcello, while others offered beautiful backgrounds, like those on Mount Serra, or unique and fascinating locations such as Lucca's old walls.

As usual, the awards ceremony took place in Reggio Emilia inside the historical Sala del Tricolore, where the Italian flag was adopted in 1797.

Crew No. 41 Margiotta-Perno won **third** place in a 1965 Volvo PV 544 Sport, **crew No. 8 Di Pietra-Di Pietra** placed **second** in a 1938 Fiat 508 C and finally, separated by just 0,72 penalty points, **crew No. 5 Vesco-Guerrini** won **first place in a 1934 Fiat 508 S Balilla Sport** and a prestigious Eberhard & Co. 'Tazio Nuvolari' wristwatch.

The winner of the Pre-War classification was once again crew No. 4 Vesco-Guerrini, in a 1934 FIAT 508 Balilla Sport.

The first place of the Modern Cars classification goes went to crew No. 105 Del Bufalo-Del Bufalo, in a Ferrari 458 Spider.

Classic Team Eberhard won the First Team trophy again.

The Ladies' Cup went to crew No. 6 Bignetti Bignetti-Ciatti, in a 1936 Fiat Balilla 508 S.

The many foreign participants fought hard for the international awards, and also for the Tazio Nuvolari wristwatch offered by Eberhard & Co. and reserved for the first among them. The prestigious prize went to Argentinian crew Tonconogy-Ruffini.

The two trophies reserved for non-priority drivers – another distinguishing feature of Terre di Canossa – were also quite coveted. The 'Trofeo Eberhard Forte dei Marmi' was won by English crew Kirkpatrick-Kirkpatrick, while the winners of the 'Trofeo Tricolore' were Giacoppo-Grillone.

Each of these two crews won a Champion V watch by Eberhard & Co.

The special classification for the average speed trials saw the victory of Gatta-Piccinelli from Brescia.

The 'Gare d'Epoca' award for the most elegant car went to the very rare 1928 Lancia Lambda VIII series 8 of the Nicolis Museum, the first production car ever to feature a load-bearing unibody chassis, the masterpiece of Vincenzo Lancia.

THE NUMBERS OF TERRE DI CANOSSA

The numbers of this year's edition are truly record-breaking:

- 105 crews: the event has sold out before the closure of the applications
- competitors from 16 countries, among which were not only European nations, but also distant ones such as the Qatar, United States, Russia, Argentina, Japan, Australia...
- vehicles from 29 different manufacturers
- 32 pre-war cars
- 23 priority drivers, whose presence confirms the competitive side of this rally
- 85 tough regularity trials along a 680 km long route
- 2 trophies for non-priority drivers
- 1 challenging average speed trial
- 300 people involved with the organisation of the race: from the Scuderia Tricolore members to the Canossa Events team, the officers, timekeepers, photographers and cameramen, policemen...
- the prizes: 4 splendid watches offered by Eberhard & co.

THE 6TH EDITION...

This year' edition paid homage to the **70th anniversary of the Italian Republic** and to the **970th anniversary of the birth of Matilda of Canossa.**, Queen of Italy during the 12th century, the "patron" of our race was one of the key figures of the Middle Ages. This progressive, independent, noble and 'red-blooded' woman played a pivotal role in the political scene of her age.

Cities of art, wonderful landscapes, ancient castles, gentle hills and tough mountain passes were the setting of one of the most important rallies in the international classic car event scene. Terre di Canossa took place on a route that is **about 680 km** long, with 85 challenging **timed trials**. However, it is not just a race. More importantly, it is a winning combination of wonderful cars and gentlemen drivers coming from all over the world for a unique opportunity to experience Italy in a special way, mixing exciting challenges with the pleasures of Italian cuisine and discovering the lands included in the route.

Indeed, the fatigue from driving was relieved every day by amazing social events.

A 'PINK' EDITION

A number in particular stands out from the others: 35% of the participants were women, without the need to introduce female quotas...Terre di Canossa reached its goal of being both a tough race and a pleasant travel experience, appreciated by the fiercest drivers and by those searching for a special vacation.

A 'GREEN' EDITION

Once again, the organisers confirmed their care for the environment by voluntarily adopting the CarbonZero protocol, which will completely offset the CO2 emissions of the race by planting new trees in the Tosco-Emilian Apennines. Terre di Canossa remains the only 'emissions-free' event in its sector.

COMMENTS ON THE SPOT

“Terre di Canossa has established itself as one of the most important races in the world, and as a gathering place for the biggest names in this business”, says Luigi Orlandini, Chairman of the Scuderia Tricolore and ingenious founder of Canossa Events. He then goes on, smiling: “Hearing the participants say ‘See you at the next Canossa’ is a real pleasure. Our success is the result of the participants’ sincere enthusiasm and the dedication of our tight-knit team, who works harder each year for 12 months to surpass the previous edition. See you soon at the next ‘Canossa’ then, from 20th to 23rd April 2017!

On behalf of the whole organisation, president Luigi Orlandini would like to thank all those who helped the event succeed: first of all the competitors, whose enthusiasm and passion made Terre di Canossa such a unique event.

Also thanks to the cities who welcomed our event, the CSAI Rally Officers and all the other collaborators, without whom organising the rally wouldn’t have been possible.

Next, a special thank you to the Italian Navy, who opened us the doors of the Arsenal to celebrate one of the most important and historic excellences of our country.

Finally, we would like to thank the Polizia Stradale, whose precious support was also acknowledged by the participants with an unending standing ovation for the officers during the awards ceremony.

A project with a broad international scope, also made possible by the fundamental contribution of its sponsors, in particular Eberhard & Co. and Abarth.

THE ROUTE AND THE PROGRAMME

As always, the long research and the many reconnaissances resulted in a new and varied route, featuring panoramic roads and all kinds of Italian landscapes: from the plains to the sea, through green hills and amazing mountains.

The beauty of this country is indeed the traditional background of Terre di Canossa and its ‘four-wheeled works of art’.

The participants appreciated the start from Parma and the passages through Piazza dei Cavalieri in Pisa, Piazza Anfiteatro in Lucca and Piazza del Duomo in Pietrasanta.

The parade over the old walls of Lucca was absolutely unforgettable.

The rally also featured amazing locations such as the Cinque Terre, Lerici, the Gulf of the Poets, the Cento Croci and Radici Apennine passes and the crossing of the Apuan Alps.

Also worthy of note is the memorable Gala Soirée inside the breath-taking setting of the Abbey of Valsarena in Parma.

THE DAY-BY-DAY REPORT

Thursday, April 14th: welcome and gala soirée

Surrounded by the beautiful scenery that only certain Italian locations can offer, the sixth edition of Terre di Canossa was started by the gala soirée inside the amazing setting of the Abbey of Valsereina. The over 200 participants were welcomed to the naves of the 14th century church not only by beautiful old frescos and other masterpieces, but also by Verdi's arias played by the 'Musici di Parma' and the exquisite dishes of Michelin-star awarded chef Massimo Spigaroli, excellent representative of the local cuisine.

The Italian national anthem was followed by an official welcome from Scuderia Tricolore's chairman Luigi Orlandini and Parma's mayor Federico Pizzarotti, who was delighted to greet the many Italian and foreign crews.

Friday, April 15th: first day. From Parma to Liguria

Friday, April 15th saw the first leg go from Emilia to Tuscany, from Parma to Bocca di Magra. At 9:00 all the cars were lined up in the spacious square of the Palazzo della Pilotta, ready to go to Varano de Melegari for the first series of special stages at the racetrack.

The next turns brought the crews in front of the famous Castle of Bardi, and then at the organised break in the centre of Borgo Val di Taro.

Several other timed trials accompanied the participants through the Cento Croci Pass, in a scenery made even more charming by the early arrival of spring. Then, once they reached the sea in La Spezia, they had the honour of parading along the ships of the Navy, engineering marvels acknowledged by the whole world.

This year, the competitors could admire the sea landscapes of the whole coast of La Spezia, from the Cinque Terre to Lerici. Once they got to the latter, the cars remained on display at the base of the Castle while a crowd of enthusiast tourists applauded and shot pictures of the event. The last panoramic although challenging series of trials brought the crews in Bocca di Magra for a well-earned rest and dinner over the sea at the Capannina da Ciccio.

During dinnertime, Ameglia's mayor Andrea Ranieri awarded the winners of the 'Gran Premio di Monte Marcello' with baskets full of local products.

Afterwards, the participants reached Forte dei Marmi and enjoyed the best hotels in town.

Saturday, April 16th: second day. Tuscany's cities of art.

"The automobile is female" – said Italian poet Gabriele d'Annunzio when asked about the gender of cars. Among his reasons was the fact that they "are beautiful and turn heads, but are also completely unreliable"... Forte dei Marmi, the poet's favourite seaside resort, witnessed the start of the second day of Terre di Canossa 2016.

After sleeping off the fatigue from the first day, cars and crews met at the Jetty of the Fort for a greeting from the town's mayor, Umberto Buratti. Then, they stopped in Pisa to admire the amazing Piazza dei Cavalieri – where the 'Scuola Normale' is located – and parade under the most famous Tower of the world.

Once they left Pisa, they started to drive uphill in the direction of Mount Serra and its beautiful view, before descending to Lucca. On the competitive side of things, the day started with the traditional series of 14 interconnected trials 'della Costanza', and then continued with the challenging and tough trials of Mount Serra. A clear sky accompanied the crews until the exciting parade over the old walls of Lucca – a UNESCO world heritage site and perfect background for some truly amazing pictures.

The city's hospitality was made even more unforgettable by the lunch at the Real Collegio and the performance of the 'sbandieratori' (flag throwers). The participants were greeted by mayor Alessandro Tambellini and the representative of the local ACI branch, Luca Sangiorgio. The long stop also allowed the many foreign participants to visit the city. Afterwards, the cars reached Piazza Anfiteatro, Piazza San Michele and then Fabbriche di Vallico for a series of very quick trials on the roads of the 'Rally Città di Lucca'.

Pietrasanta was made famous by Botero, and has become the symbol of Italian artists. This town and its mayor Massimo Mallegni welcomed the crews of Terre di Canossa in the afternoon, just in time for an aperitif and some relaxation in the cafés of the main square. A well-deserved rest, before the most awaited part of this day – maybe of the whole event: the unmissable 'beach party' at the Bambaissa in Forte dei Marmi. The participants quickly abandoned the 'driver look' for a more casual one, much more appropriate for an evening of champagne and live music.

Sunday, April 17th: third day. From Forte dei Marmi to Reggio Emilia

After Saturday evening's 'challenges' – oysters, strawberries, champagne – a quick look at some crews was all it took to know that anything could still happen in the rankings...

Once they left the seafront of Forte dei Marmi, the cars drove to the mountains. After a quick climb – along the white quarries of the Apuan Alps and the many timed trials – they reached the Radici Pass, at 1529m of height. Here, at the Casone di Profecchia, the participants found warm tea and homemade blueberry tarts waiting for them. In the meanwhile, those who drove open-top cars warmed themselves in front of the big fireplace. Many asked Frederica Kirkpatrick the time, since she and her husband Simon won the 'Eberhard Forte dei Marmi' trophy and the Champion V wristwatch offered by the sponsor of the event.

The Pass was followed by a series of trials named after the Sanctuary of the Madonna della Neve, and then the cars reached the lunch break organised inside the Castle of Montefiorino, a splendid example of medieval architecture. The windy roads favoured the numerous Porsche 356s, but even the pre-war vehicles got their chance to shine thanks to their extremely long wheelbase and less sophisticated brakes. The final part of the route witnessed the spectacular trials on the Calatrava Bridges, closed to regular traffic for the occasion.

The final arrival in the very crowded Piazza del Duomo in Reggio Emilia was followed by the presentation of the cars to the public by Sabina Confaloni, one of the most famous voices in the classic car world. During the awards ceremony inside Sala del Tricolore, some crews were already confirming their presence at the next edition with the usual "see you at the next Canossa".

It is possible to download a selection of pictures from the following links:

Awards Ceremony pictures: <https://we.tl/fZOy9mpEn2>

Day 3 Pictures – From Forte dei Marmi to Reggio Emilia: <https://we.tl/6FqIzrELkB>

Day 2 Pictures – Tuscany: <https://we.tl/uRRPpGN2ou>

Day 1 Pictures - Emilia and Liguria: <https://we.tl/IBTIICMn2F>

Pictures of the registration and scrutineering: <https://we.tl/YtnNw6tY1V>

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For further information, please visit www.gpcanossa.it