

ENGLISH




GIRO D'ITALIA LEGENDARY CLIMBS

DOLOMITI
THE MOUNTAINS OF VENICE







Aaah...the Dolomites! They not only are the most beautiful mountains in the world, but also the most captivating and unique background, perfect to experience intense emotions on a bike, whether the routes are pink as those of "the hardest race ever in the most beautiful country" or as the side of the mountains at sunrise or at sunset.

Giants linked together by passes, hairpin turns as backdrop to many sport fights and dramas, exaltations and endeavours, which glorified these mountains and many champions through the years. Knights on two wheels in the presence of cathedrals and castles made of stone, which Time designed, and Humankind preserved. There is no Giro d'Italia without the Dolomites, in particular without Belluno's Dolomites. It would be like playing football without a ball. Cycling&Dolomites is a hundred years long fellowship and its heroes have been challenging on these routes through dust and storm, in the mud and under the sun. Belluno province has the pride to tell about these incredible stories, since it has experienced them directly. Here, the myth of cycling goes under the name of immortal legends like Gino and Fausto, Eddy and Felice, Charly, Miguel and Giovanni, Marco and Vincenzo, Alberto and Laurent, Beppe and Francesco, Jaques and Fiorenzo, Roger and Gianni and many others. All of them have cycled hard through hell and fire to finally gain the view of this paradise. Racing, winning or losing on these routes is always an unparalleled privilege. Welcome, then, in the Pink Paradise.

— Giovanni Viel

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LEGENDARY PLACES, WHERE THE MOST MEMORABLE SPORT CHALLENGES WERE FACED. CLIMBS, WHICH HAVE GLORIFIED MANY CHAMPIONS TO THE LEGEND. THESE ARE THE GREATEST CLIMBS OF THE GIRO D'ITALIA IN BELLUNO. THE RACERS HAVE CYCLED THEM UP UNDER THE SUN, IN THE RAIN OR EVEN IN THE SNOW, THUS LEAVING LASTING MEMORIES IN THE PAGES OF THE WORLD CYCLING HISTORY. A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF LANDSCAPE BEAUTY AND SPORT HISTORY JOINED TOGETHER IN A SPECTACULAR WAY, WITH THE ABILITY OF SHOWING ROUTES FULL OF MEMORIES AND CHALLENGES. THROUGH ROCK PEAKS, WILD WOODS AND GREEN FIELDS, THE ITINERARIES TURN AND TWIST INTO UNFORGETTABLE VIEWS. BELOVED BY CYCLING FANS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, THEY CAN RAPIDLY CHANGE THE FATE OF THE GIRO. COME AND DISCOVER THE GREATEST DOLOMITES CLIMBS ON WWW.INFODOLOMITI.IT

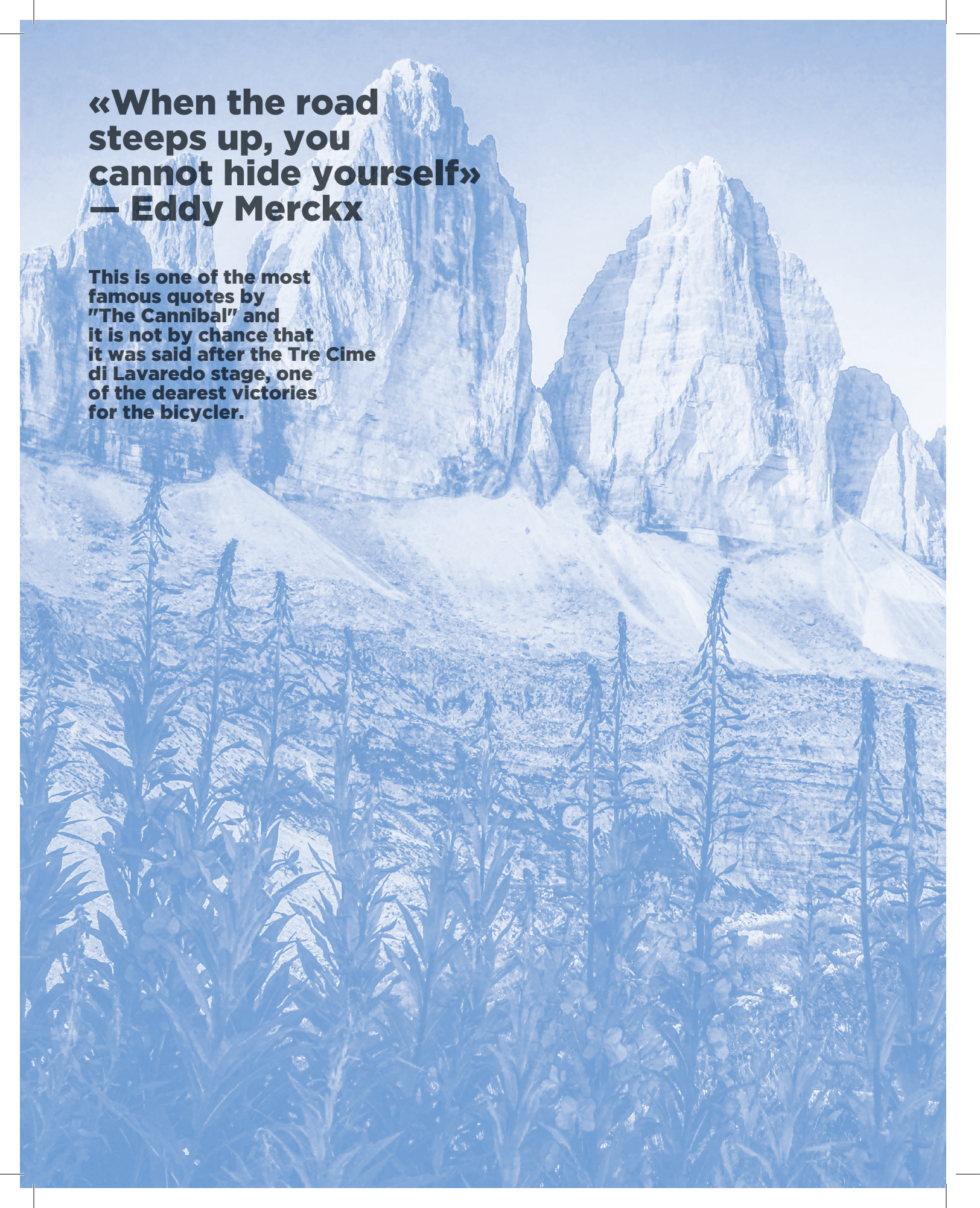
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**The Giro d'Italia Great History starts
in the province of Belluno in 1937.**

The Giro has never cycled in such a beautiful sight before. Pink light, naked, majestic and pale peaks come after woods and steep slopes, such to be defined even rough. The Vittorio Veneto-Merano race is the first stage of the "Giro d'Italia" in the Dolomites and nothing will be the same as before May 26 th, 1937.





**«When the road
steeps up, you
cannot hide yourself»
— Eddy Merckx**

This is one of the most famous quotes by "The Cannibal" and it is not by chance that it was said after the Tre Cime di Lavaredo stage, one of the dearest victories for the bicycler.

TRE CIME DI LAVAREDO

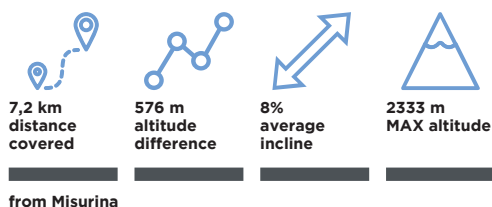
The Cannibal becomes legend

On the 8th of June 1967 the Tre Cime di Lavaredo became part of the Pink Race for the first time and they made clear from the outset, how much this finish line costs to the racers and the fatigue pledge they demand. However, only in 1968 the finish line at the Auronzo Refuge became a true Legend. The Flemish Eddy Merckx turned in fact into "The Cannibal", from championship to the myth, after the most heroic victory ever, standing out on the rest of the group with huge advantage from legendary names: 4' from Motta and Zilioli, 6'19" from Gimondi. The pictures of this stage finish are meaningful: a pair of enormous black gloves on Merckx's hands, heavy snow, freezing air.

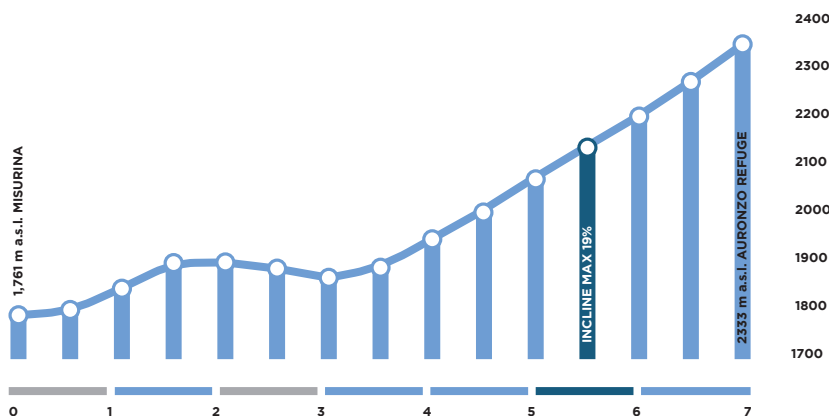
He was truly exhausted and was immediately wrapped in two warm blankets after crossing the finish line.



This climb has become legendary in all fans' heart since the first time, an icon of the Dolomites World Heritage UNESCO and of the landscape beauty of Belluno province. 7 stage finishes were celebrated here at date, in a sort of world tour which first crowned Gimondi (IT — 1967) and then Merckx (BE — 1968), Fuente (ES — 1974) Breu (CH — 1981), Herrera (CO — 1989), Riccò (IT — 2007) and lately Nibali (IT — 2013).



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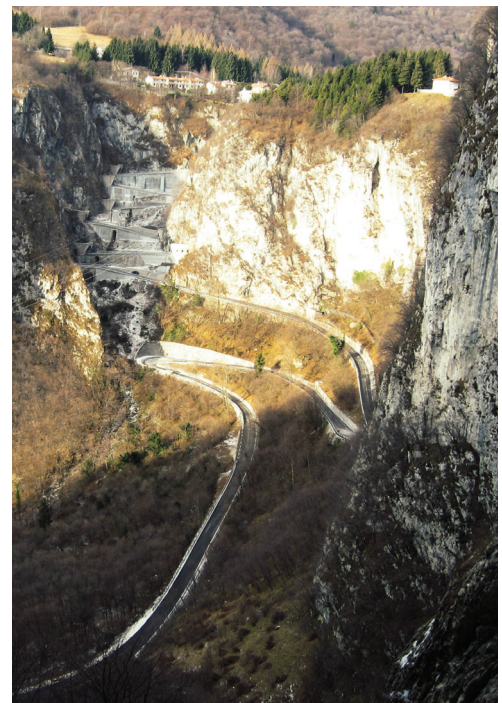
SAN BOLDO PASS

Monsieur Jaques and the 100 Days

Climb dedicated to Jacques “Monsieur Chrono” Anquetil, legendary champion who rode it during the 1966 Giro d'Italia, followed by a young Gianni Motta with the Maglia Rosa (pink jersey). The first who reached the top was Pietro Scandelli, who then won the stage. After 53 years, the Giro d'Italia ran the 100 days road in 2019. The 18 hairpin turns that connect Treviso to Belluno gave again the intense and unique emotion that only the Giro d'Italia can give. Jubilation of the public.



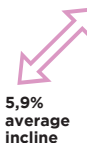
from Tovenà



CIMA CAMPO

Gibo Simoni beginning

During the 1999 edition of the Giro, in Cima Gogna, Gilberto “Gibo” Simoni conquered his first podium in third position, as a sort of prelude to the following overall victories of the 2001 and 2003 editions. He is cousin of the Sacred Moser, a pure climber, and he has built his career by winning many mountain races. He is still considered one of the best bicyclers of the last twenty years.



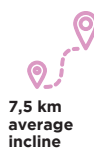
from Arsè



VAJONT

In the name of Rigonator

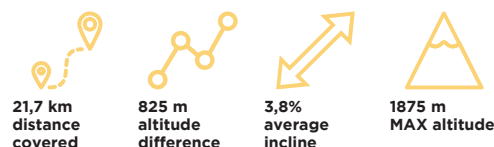
The climb of Vajont is one of the uncontested protagonists of 2013 Giro d'Italia that with this finish line commemorates 50 years from the Vajont Dam tragedy. After having won the stage of the day before during the 11th stage, a Colombian climber stands out: Rigoberto Urán. The “Rigonator” will become the first Colombian to get on the podium during the Giro d'Italia.



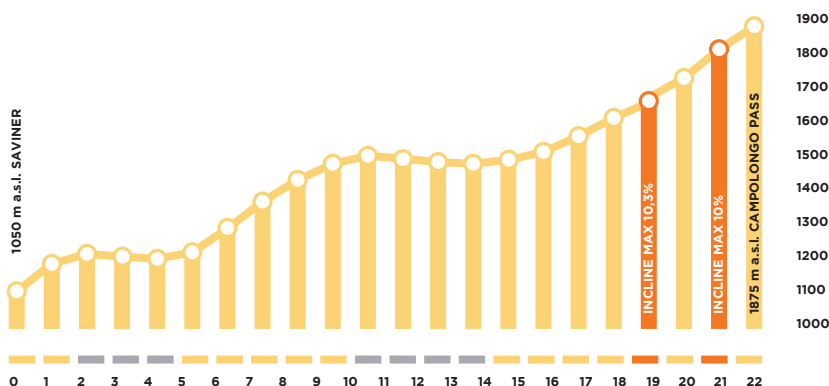
von Longarone

CAMPOLONGO PASS

The Navarro resisted to The Diablo



from Saviner di Laste



In the 1993 edition of the Giro Indurain was the favourite. The 14th stage started and ended in Corvara. Bugno lengthened his Stride on the Pordoi Pass, but he was soon retaken. The spectators were out of control shouting "Go Italians! Stop the Navarro!". "El Diablo" Chiappucci jerked on the Campolongo Pass but was then retaken. He decided to get in the slipstream and stuck to Indurain's back wheel. The final sprint was heart—stopping, Chiappucci passed in a flash and the "Navarro" lost for 1".



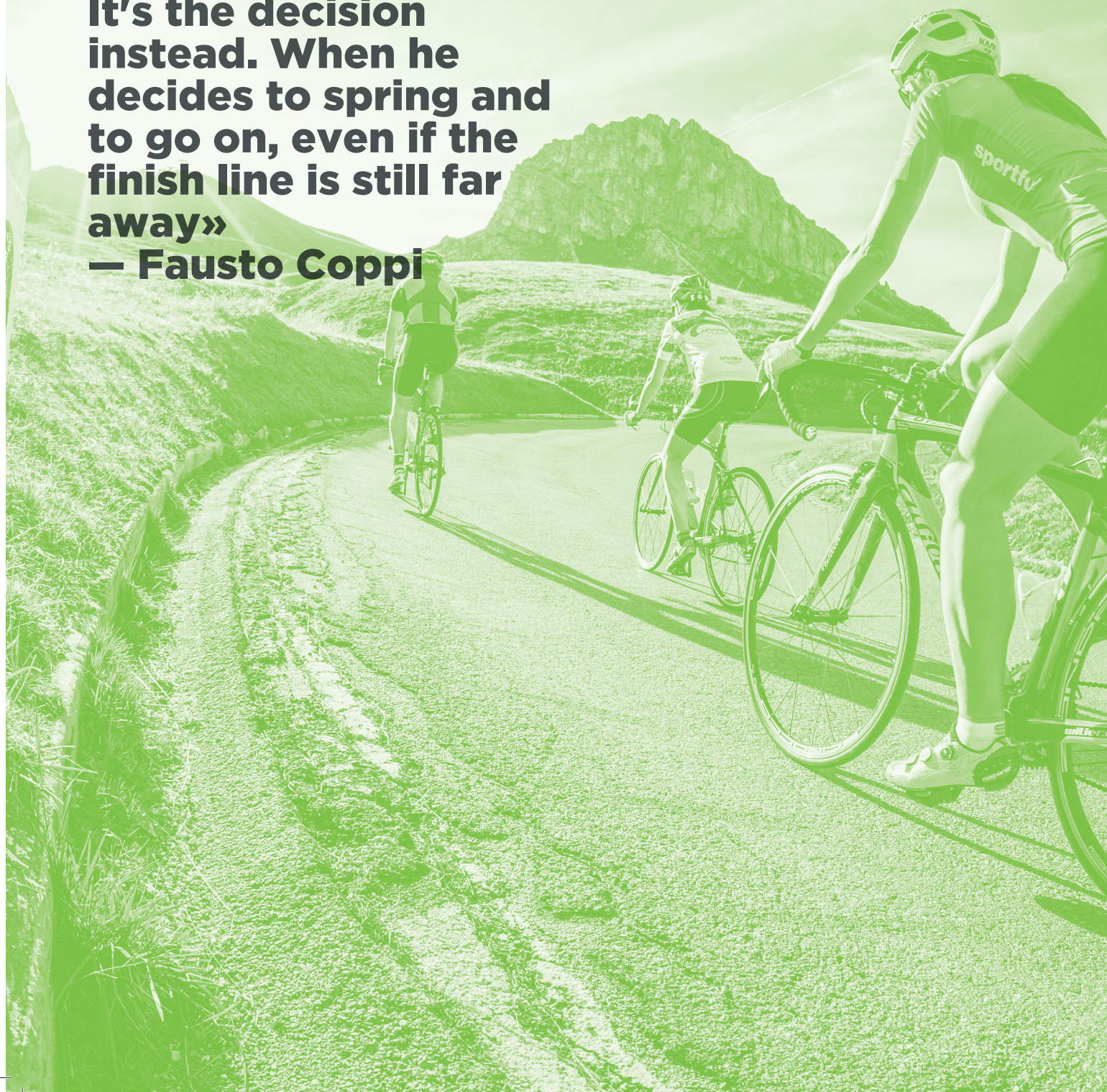
«The runners I remember with more pleasure are Gianni Bugno, Claudio Chiappucci and Tony Rominger. Many times, I've been face to face with them, I beat them, and I was beaten. However, the confrontations were always fair and ended with a handshake»
— Miguel Indurain



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**«For a runner,
the most exciting
moment is not when
he crosses the finish
line as the champion.
It's the decision
instead. When he
decides to spring and
to go on, even if the
finish line is still far
away»**

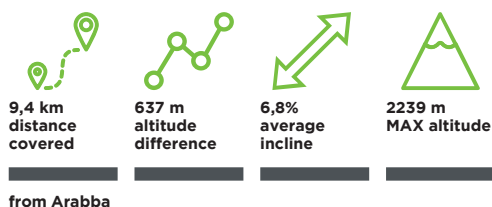
— Fausto Coppi



PORDOI PASS

The peaks of the Great Champion

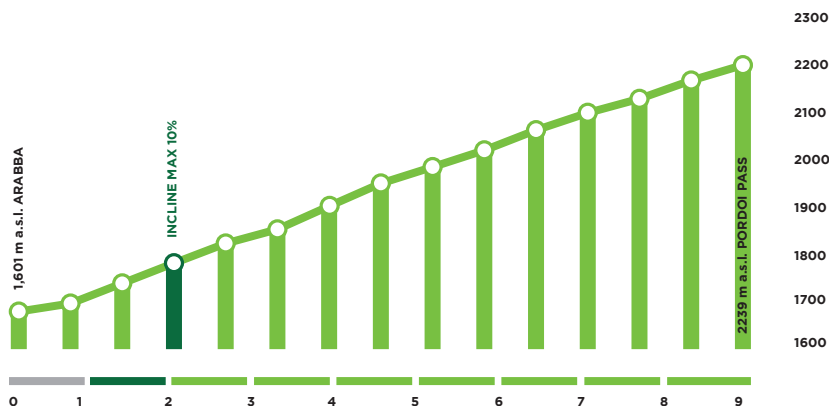
It is impossible to mention every great bicyclist who offered memorable performances on this pass. Among the many endeavours, the Fausto Coppi solo is unforgettable and legendary. During the Pieve di Cadore—Trento stage in 1947, the rival Bartali fell on the Falzarego. Coppi took advantage and then on the Pordoi he took a large detachment from Bartali, about 8' at the stage—finish. The 1940 crisis seemed to be a distant memory, when he got off his bicycle gripped by strong pains and intended to abandon the race. Bartali, who was a rival but also a friend, saw the scene, turned back and reminded him all the sacrifices made to get this far. After pulling his face in the snow, he convinced him to come back to the competition. The passage in 1984 is also unforgettable, during the Selva di Val Gardena—Arabba stage the French Fignon made a perfect escape and took off the Pink T—shirt to the untouchable Moser. He ended the stage with 2'19" on the Trentine.



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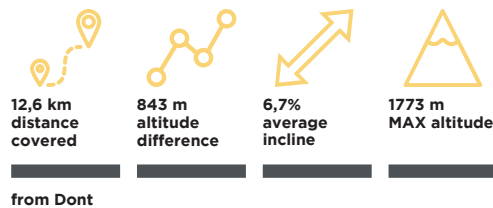
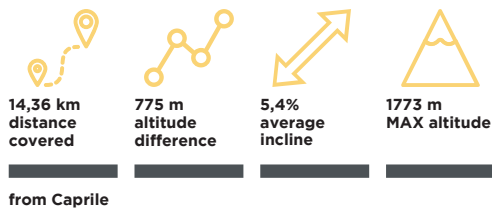
This dolomitic giant, between the Sella and the Marmolada, is one of the most meaningful passages of the whole Giro d'Italia history. Undoubtedly Coppi helped to ennoble it for five times during this stage. Today, at the very top of the pass, it is possible to admire the memorial raised to honour "The Great Champion".



STAULANZA PASS

The Badger climb

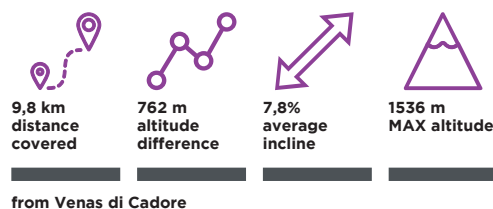
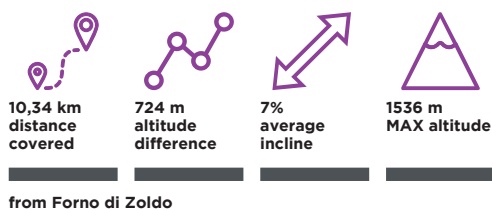
In 1980 the clarity of strategy of Bernard "the Badger" became history, he managed perfectly the passage on the Staulanza and on the other passes of the stage. Even though Battaglin had the apparent superiority as climber, Hinault took over with great detachment from the others, thus defending his final victory. He is still the first bicyclist ever to have won twice all three of the Greatest Giro d'Italia editions: he won the Pink Race in 1980, in 1982 and in 1985 ahead of Moser.



CIBIANA PASS

Van Der Velde's endeavour

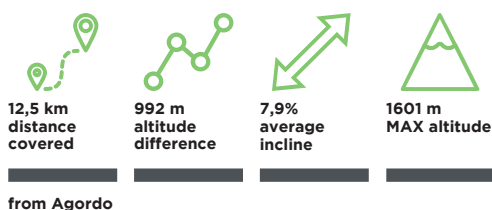
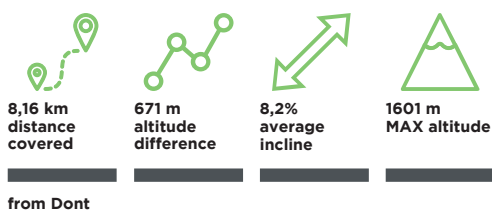
The Cibiana Pass is well known thanks to the characteristic village of the same name with its various murals and thanks to the Messner Mountain Museum Dolomites, however it has been also the backdrop of many sport endeavours. In 1970 Zilioli stood up fiercely to "the Cannibal" Merckx. In 1988 the passage of Johan Van Der Velde entered history, when he almost froze during the Gavia stage and despite the difficulties, after a few days he won the Pink T-shirt again crossing the Cibiana Pass.



DURAN PASS

The Hawk in dive

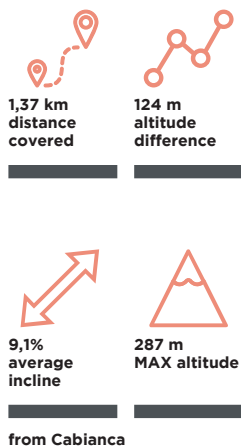
In 2005 on the Duran, chaos broke out. Basso showed his hand and jerked, with Simoni and Savoldelli on his tail. The group fell apart and Cunego crashed. The Duran started to descend, one of the hardest downhills of the Giro, extremely technical, and the "Hawk" Savoldelli faced it in a dive, designing a textbook masterpiece of cycling. In the end, the seconds gained here brought the victory of the Giro to him that year.



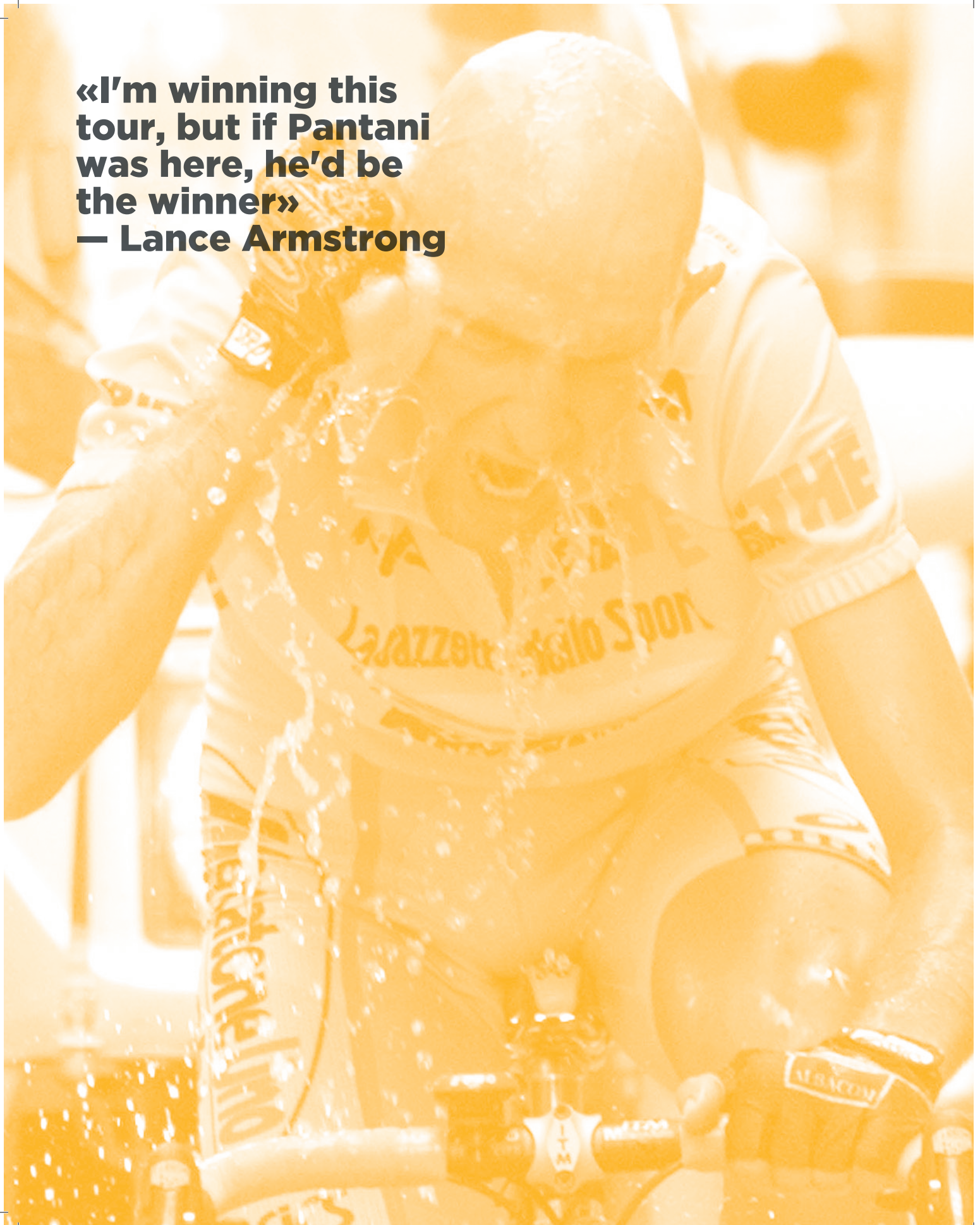
CEREDA PASS

Gaul and the Monti Pallidi ride

2nd June 1962. On this occasion, the Dolomites showed the power of their wildest side through an apocalyptic stage: Duran, Staulanza, Forcella Aurine, Cereda, Rolle, Valles and San Pellegrino. A super stage, very difficult and hard as it is, but on that day, in addition to this, there were 20 cm of snow on the street. The runners fell as snowflakes. Even the favourite "Mountain Angel" Gaul fell. The stage was suspended on the Rolle Pass, it was impossible to go further.



**«I'm winning this
tour, but if Pantani
was here, he'd be
the winner»
— Lance Armstrong**



FEDAIA PASS

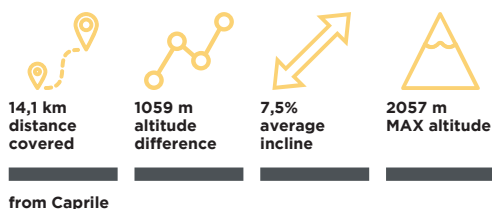
The Pirate becomes Legend

Since 1970, year of its debut, the Marmolada continues being a natural show beyond words, an overcrowded theatre, full of cheering people ready to applaud to mythical endeavours. In 1991, Chioccioli led the race and for a moment he looked like Coppi; in 1993 Chiappucci crushed on the very top of the pass the "Navarro" Indurain. However, it's 1998, the year of Pantani, when it enters the legend forever. The "Pirate" flew and glued the whole of Italy to the television.

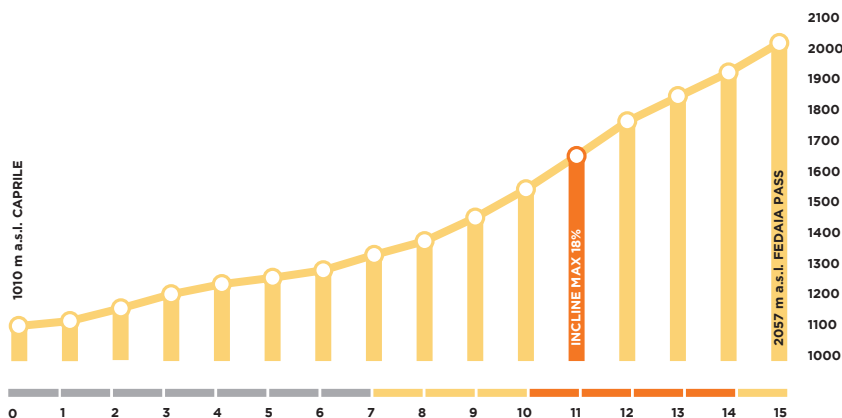
On the Fedaia pass there were hundreds of thousands of thrilled fans. Pantani and Guerini started together through the Dolomites peaks, a hairpin turns after another, larch after larch, pedal after pedal. The Pirate's jerks were extremely precise and powerful. Among the other runners of the Giro, there was who climbed more tread effort, many were bend on their handlebars, as if to remind us that behind every beauty there is suffering. A moment of true glory.



The Fedaia Pass is the real Giant of the Dolomites, with all its climbs. The climb that starts after the village of Malga Ciapela is the hardest one. The straight road before the final hairpin turn is truly difficult. The turns that lead to the Fedaia Lake have at times over 20% incline. Reaching the top of the Fedaia Pass is a legendary endeavour.



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VALLES PASS

The thrilling descent of the "Red Cloud"

The dolomitic stage of 1971 is amazing to remember. Merckx didn't take part to the Giro that year and Gimondi and Motta were the new favourites, if Martini hadn't lined the Swedish Gosta Petersson up, who in the end prevailed on the other beloved champions. However, Gimondi "Red Cloud" left an unforgettable sign in the fans' memory, namely his ride from the Valles to Falcade. He was constantly pursued by the Swedish, but he continued without giving up and in the end, he crossed the stage finish.



19,9 km
distance
covered



1259 m
altitude
difference



6,3%
average
incline



2033 m
MAX altitude

from Cencenighe Agordino



SAN PELLEGRINO PASS

Fatal to Francesco Moser

During the 1978 edition of the Giro the odds were in favour of Moser. However, the Trentine found on his path first De Munyck, who was fierce, fit and supported by a luxurious gregarious as Gimondi. Then the snow, that forced to change route, since the Pordoi and the Falzarego were impossible to climb. The runners passed through the San Pellegrino Pass. The gentle incline seemed to favour Moser, who lost against all odds precious seconds and it costed him the final victory.



18,2 km
distance
covered



1144 m
altitude
difference



6,3%
average
incline



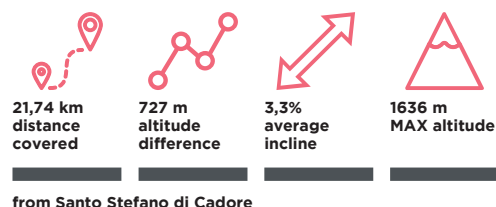
1918 m
MAX altitude

from Cencenighe Agordino

SANT'ANTONIO PASS AND MONTE CROCE COMELICO PASS

The places of "Mad Heart" Bitossi

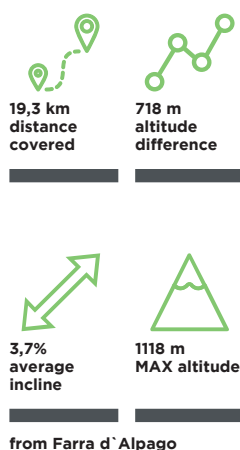
It is worth remembering the passage here, during the Rocca Pietore—Dobbiaco stage in 1970, that was won by the incredible "Mad Heart" Bitossi, who that year with his peculiar jerky gait was able to undermine the victory chances of Merckx. The pictures of him in that moment are unforgettable, he is pressing the hand on his heart while leaning on a bollard or lying on the street, with all the assistants gathered around to protect him, until the heart stabilises, and the race keeps going.



CANSIGLIO

The Gregarious Epic

"Enough, I give in!" these are the Lievore's words that steeped in history thanks to the famous and improvised interview with Zavoli during the Belluno — Vittorio Veneto stage in 1966. After having led the way along the route, Lievore was passed by Scandelli. The legs started to give in and he surrounded. It fell to the reporter to support the bicycler going on. "Well — so Lievore convinced himself — I'll probably die, but only after crossing the finish line".



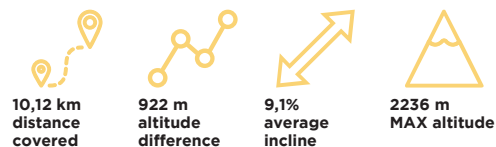
GIAU PASS

The Professor's ordeal

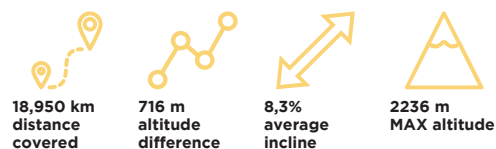
«Ok, Laurent, this is just another battle...and you must fight...who's been in sports, already knows what it is about and what's coming. As a race, as a competition, as a mountain»
— Laurent Fignon about his illness



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from Selva di Cadore



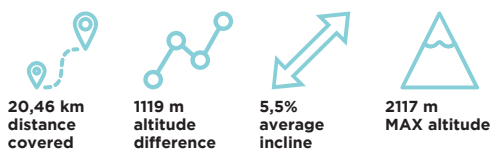
from Pocol

This pass is very appreciated for its landscape beauty, however in 1992 it became a real ordeal for Laurent "The Professor" Fignon. The cold and the hunger blocked his reflexes, he stopped, he left again downhill, but hypoglycaemia was too strong. His assistant Dirk De Wolf came to give him aid with his jacket, he literally pushed him until the finish line, with his hand on Fignon's back. A meaningful moment of sportsmanship and dedication.

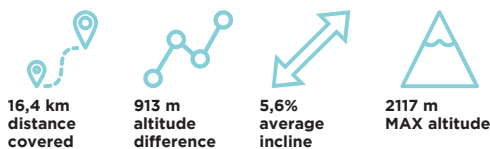


FALZAREGO PASS

Ginettaccio Challenge



from Caprile



from Cortina d'Ampezzo

On the Falzarego, in an Italy just come out of the Second World War, Coppi won for the first time the uphill challenge with Bartali, who threatened to retreat right before, on the Cadore Dolomites. Here, during the passage of 2004, Damiano Cunego was noted, on the overcrowded Falzarego Pass, full of enthusiastic fans, where the writing "You're many, but one is missing" dominated the scene, in memory of the recently passed away Pantani.



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**«Fausto Coppi —
who was very clever
— well knew that
without my presence,
many of his victories
would have lost their
legendary side»
— Gino Bartali**

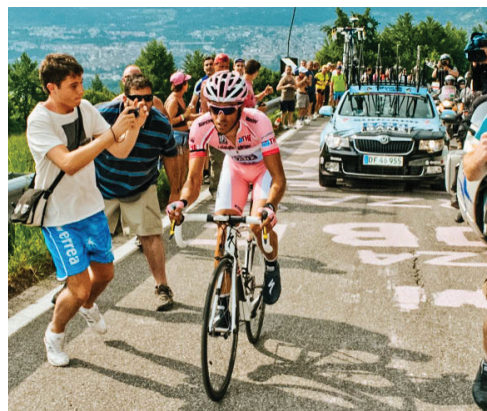
**«I show up to every
appointment to win,
or at least I struggle to.
Never just to train myself»
— Alberto Contador**



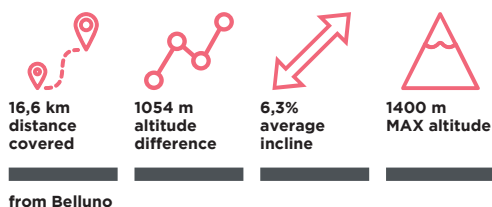
NEVEGAL

The Gunfighter Ascent

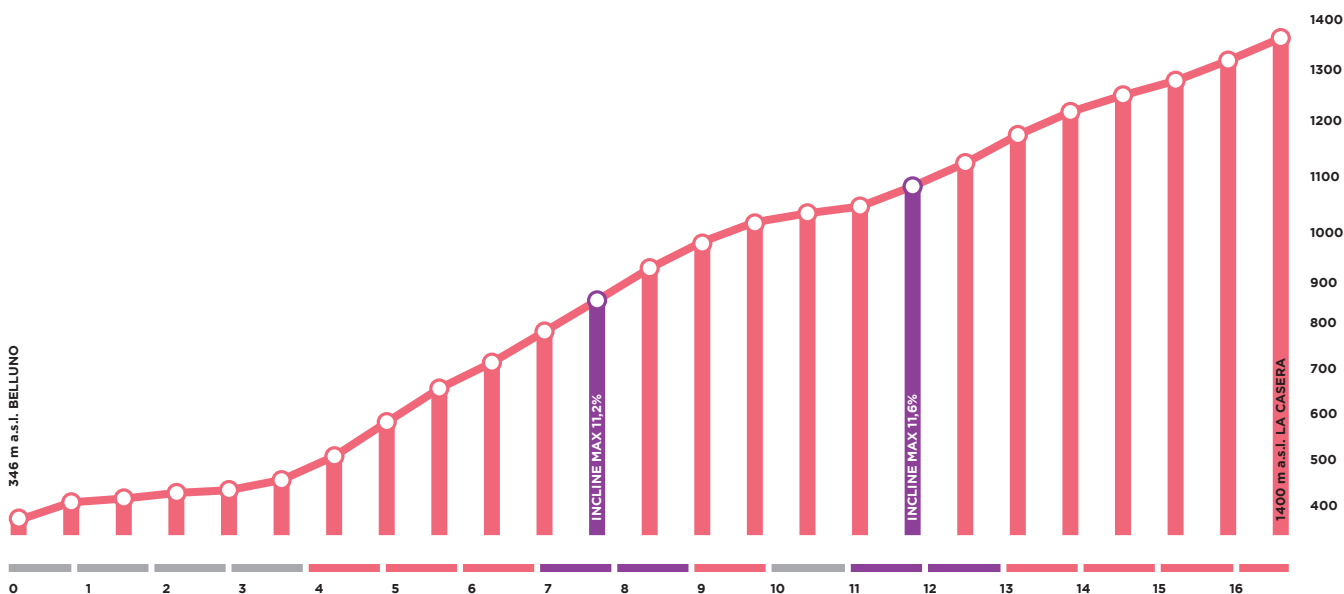
It was elected stage finish for the first time in 1962, with the triumph of Giulio Carlesi on the French Desmet. The Nevegal was the finish line again in the following year, 1963, when the champion was Armando Pambianco "the Gabanein". Nevertheless, only in 2011 one of the most memorable sport shows in the whole history of the Giro went on stage. The "Gunfighter" Alberto Contador made this climb unforgettable, since he snatched the victory from the favourite Vincenzo Nibali's hands and closed the time trial in 28'55", with 34" of advantage over the Sicilian. A jubilant crowd greeted the extraordinary endeavour and cheered excited during the passage of the young Davide Malacarne, who comes from this area, the pride of his homeland that welcomed the Giro after almost 50 years.



The average incline of this climb is 8% and it is worth conquering its top only to understand why local people call it "The terrace on the Dolomites". It is right and fit to mention the Gorizia—Nevegal stage in 1963, which brought the Giro in Longarone 125 days right before the Vajont Dam tragedy.



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MAURIA PASS

From the beginning till Cadel Evans

Scene of the legendary duels between Coppi and Bartali, the Mauria Pass has seen all the greatest champions of the history of cycling. In 2013 a great Cadel Evans tried to overtake Vincenzo Nibali in the descent towards Lorenzago in the stage that finishes with the climbs that from Longarone go to the Vajont Dam. The only Australian cyclist to get on the podium of all the Great Tours finished the Giro in the third place.



12,5 km
distance
covered



568 m
altitude
difference



4,5%
average
incline



1298 m
MAX altitude

from Pelos di Cadore



TRE CROCI PASS

The Jerk of Little Eagle

Right here, on the Tre Croci Pass, the destiny of the 1981 edition of the Giro is decided. Battaglin "the Little Eagle" of Marostica jerked ahead together with the Swiss Breu and Fuchs and at the same time he outdistanced from Saronni and Prim. He cycled up between two lines of jubilant people that incited and pull him until the end of the stage. He conquered the third position and the Pink T-shirt, thus gaining precious seconds for the final victory.



11 km
distance
covered



693 m
altitude
difference



6,3%
average
incline



1805 m
MAX altitude

from Ca San Marco



8,1 km
distance
covered



575 m
altitude
difference



7,1%
average
incline

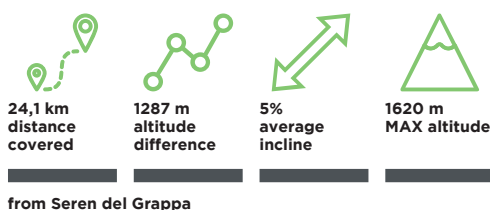


1805 m
MAX altitude

from Cortina d'Ampezzo

MONTE GRAPPA

The Shark on the podium



The 100th edition had place in 2017, the Giro climbed the Monte Grappa as a tribute to Italy and its fallen soldiers during the First World War. Six runners remained until the very last minute to put it all on in a range of just 1'30". Among them, there was "the Shark" Nibali, who placed himself in third position — like it would be in the final podium. For the first time the winner was a Dutch, "the Dutch Butterfly" Dumoulin, second the Colombian Nairo Alexander Quintana Rojas.

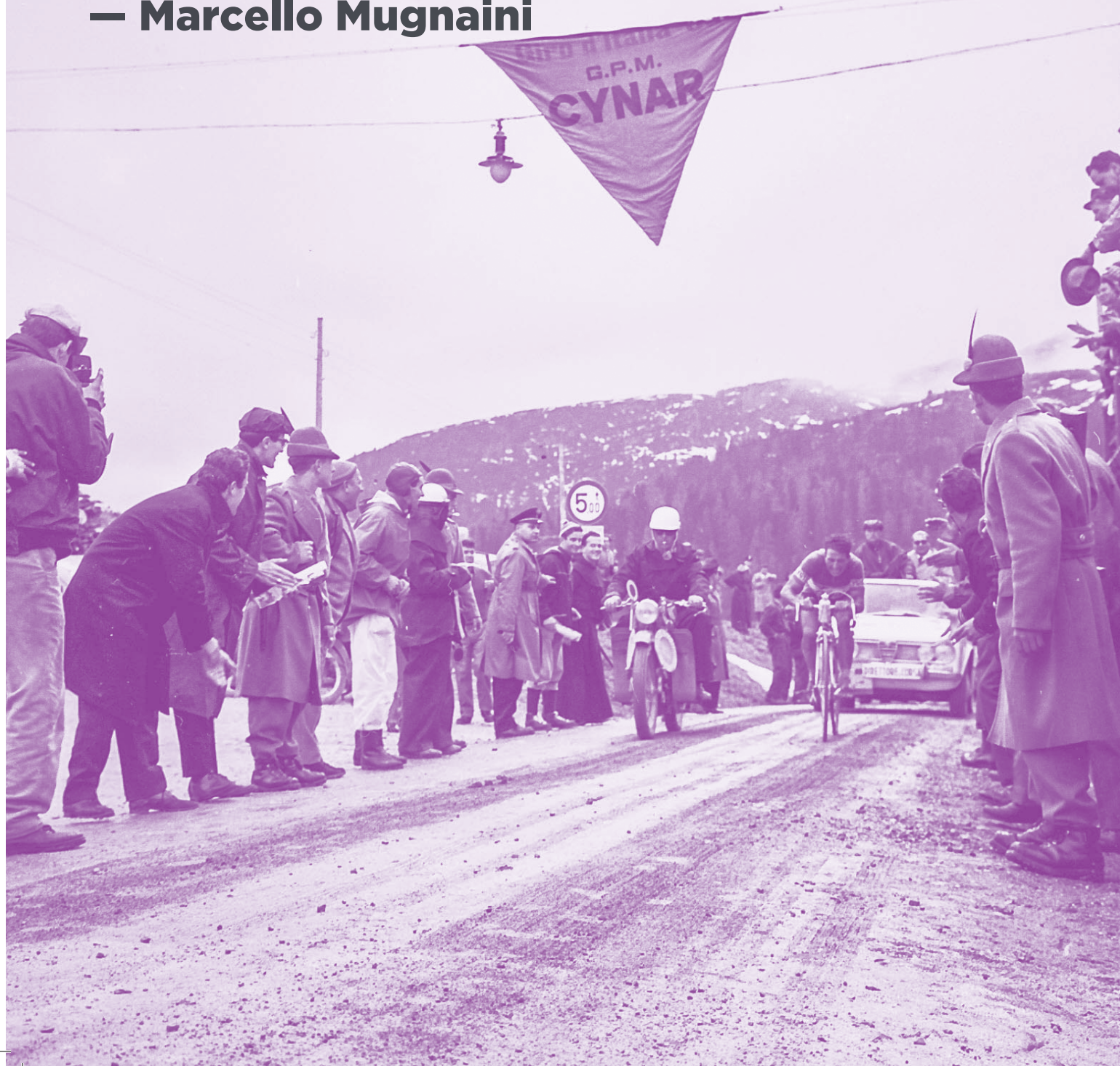


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«I'm very instinctive. Surprising my rivals is a strategy. I personally like to surprise and to attack, if there's a chance. Halfway, uphill or downhill, no matter where, but with decisive actions»
— Vincenzo Nibali

**«I beat Taccone and
Anquetil in this incredible
and difficult stage.
The Croce D'Aune was
an ordeal. Now I know
what I'm worth»
— Marcello Mugnaini**

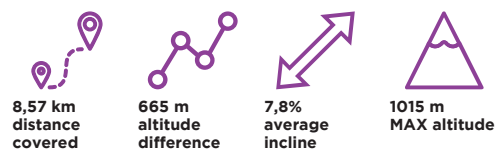
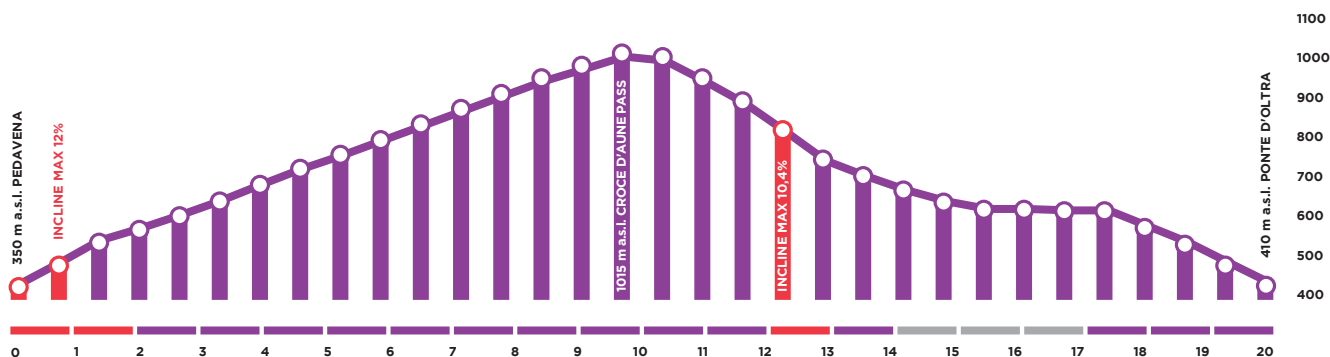


CROCE D'AUNE PASS

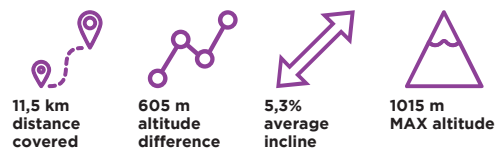
The brilliant idea of the Rod Gear

On the 4th of November 1924, during the Great Prix of the Victory, a young Tullio Campagnolo raced and climbed the Croce D'Aune Pass and the hope of winning was strong. Everything crashed when the cold impeded him to take apart and put back together a wheel. This is the moment that inspired him to invent the Rod Gear. Here, on this climb, the cycling started to change forever. The 1st of June 2019, the hairpin turns of the Croce D'Aune Pass were part again of the stage of Belluno in the Giro d'Italia, with starting point in Feltre. Thousands of people were looking at the passionate duel among Nibali, Carapaz and Rogli in the stage that celebrates the 25 years of the Sportful Dolomiti Race, the hardest Gran Fondo in Europe, that occurs every year in June.

It was included among the dolomitic stages in 1964 and it is still an incredible passage where, just for one day, the Giro seems to go back to the time of the legendary Coppi and Bartali. A dirt road and at least 300 punctures along the route. Vito Taccone was leading the race and he punctured seven times uphill and downhill. It was firstly a nerve-wrecking challenge, as well as a legs challenge, where Marcello Mugnaini crossed the finish line in first position, ahead of Zilioli and Motta.



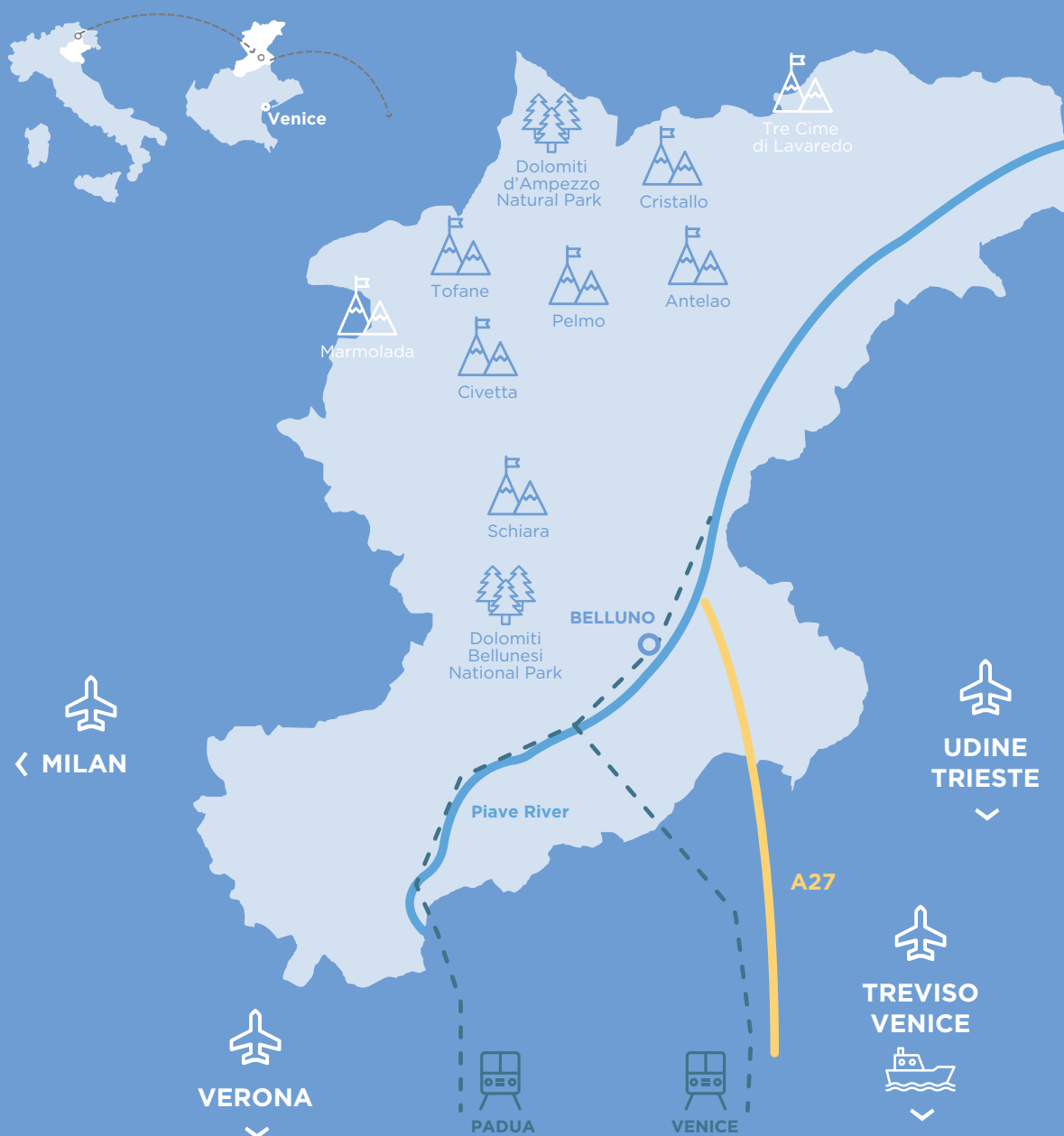
from Pedavena



from Ponte d'Oltra



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HOW TO GET HERE

TRAIN

There are two different rail links to the Dolomites 1. Venice (S.Lucia) — Belluno — Calalzo Pieve di Cadore Cortina 2. Padua (Centrale) — Feltre — Calalzo Pieve di Cadore Cortina

CAR

A27 Highway Venice — Belluno Exit at Belluno — Pian di Vedoia

AIRPLANE

The nearest airports are Venice "Marco Polo" (95 km), Treviso "Antonio Canova" (75 km), Verona "Valerio Catullo" (175 km), Trieste "Ronchi dei Legionari" (155 km), Milano "Malpensa" (360 km)

SHIP

Venice Tourist Harbour (110 km)



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