

# EVENT **2023** 02-04.06 PROGRAMME





# WELCOME TO FINALE OUTDOOR REGION

The Finale Outdoor Region needs no introduction. This venue is one of the most famous and loved mountain bike destinations in the world. The area has hosted high profile enduro and cross-country events for over 20 years, and it's little wonder, as the region has hundreds of trails with a wide variety of environments and terrains, from the mountains to the sea.

The huge trail network, which goes from Pietra Ligure in the west to Vado Ligure in the east up to Barditeto in the north, dates back centuries and has historical importance due to their continued use to this day. The terrain features everything from steep and rocky paths with sea views to incredible natural single tracks full of flow.

The Finale Outdoor Region is rightly considered to be a mountain bike Mecca and one of Europe's 'must ride' destinations. It feels like home, regardless of the bike you ride or riding style you prefer. The region boasts an incredible 180 trails, 590 kms and 365 days of trail work each year. Events and festivals have been a key component of the region's growth process since the early '90s.

Once again, in June 2023, the region will welcome the world, this time across two event villages, both with free access for spectators; one in Pietra Ligure and one in Finalborgo, Finale Ligure.

The UCI Enduro World Cup will be based in Pietra Ligure. The expo, start and finish area will be located in Piazza San Nicolò

Podio. The team pit area will instead be arranged between the streets of the town centre and along the seafront of Pietra. There are many places in the village where you can eat or relax, while the voice of our special speaker, the Enduro Pope himself, Enrico Guala, keeps company with the story of the race stage after stage.

The headquarters of the UCI Marathon World Cup will be Porta Testa in Finalborgo. This mediaeval town, among the most beautiful in Italy, will host the team pit area, the expo area and the start and finish area, where it will be possible to cheer the winner right on the finish line.

Music and live commentary of the race will keep the public updated during the race day. Adjacent to the paddock, in the streets of the village, it will be possible to have a cold drink, a gelato, or sit down to eat in one of the many typical Ligurian-flavoured restaurants.

## Open Racing

Perhaps the most famous enduro race destination of them all, Finale's Outdoor Region is steeped in enduro amateur racing history and welcomes riders from around the world to compete in the Enduro of Finale. This summer it will add Cross-country Marathon to its amateur racing portfolio, giving even more riders the chance to race on its hallowed trails in the mountains high above the Ligurian Sea in the Marathon of Finale.



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## MESSAGE FROM THE UCI PRESIDENT

# 2023 UCI MOUNTAIN BIKE WORLD CUP FINALE OUTDOOR REGION

I am delighted that the Finale Outdoor Region in Italy is welcoming the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup on 3-4 June.

This Ligurian area is renowned as a fantastic location for outdoor activities and events of all kinds and is the perfect venue to host the UCI World Cup that will feature the series' second-ever cross-country marathon (XCM) race. This demanding format will test riders to their limits while showcasing the wonderful countryside of the Finale Outdoor Region. And it's not just the professional riders in the spotlight, amateurs will also be competing in their droves in the XCM 100km race and then there is the excitement of top-class UCI World Cup enduro and e-enduro events too!

Indeed, 2023 marks a historic turning point for the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup. This year, the discipline's flagship series, launched by our Federation just over 30 years ago, benefits from a makeover thanks to the eight-year partnership signed between the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) and Warner Bros Discovery. For the first time, the UCI World Cup brings together six major mountain bike formats - cross-country Olympic, cross-country short track, cross-country marathon, downhill, enduro and e-enduro - and

is integrated into a brand new UCI Mountain Bike World Series that also includes events dedicated to amateurs. This innovative 2023 UCI Mountain Bike World Series features a total of 13 rounds in nine countries and three continents (Oceania, Europe and America).

I must express my thanks to the local organising committee in Finale Outdoor Region and we must not forget the valuable support of the local authorities, partners, sponsors and dedicated volunteers. The UCI Mountain Bike World Cup would not be possible without them and on behalf of the UCI, I express my sincere thanks to them all.

It only remains for me to wish the riders the very best of luck. I am sure that spectators everywhere, whether shouting their support for these superb athletes at close quarters or tuning in to the extensive media coverage, will enjoy the hugely entertaining UCI Mountain Bike World Cup in the Finale Outdoor Region.

David Lappartient  
UCI President



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# EVENT SCHEDULE

Time	Name	
01/06/2023		
09:00 - 17:00	Practice - All riders	EDR, E-EDR
02/06/2023		
09:00 - 17:00	RACE: Enduro Of Finale Outdoor Region	EDR, E-EDR
01:00 - 13:00	Track Closed - XCM UCI Inspection	EDR, E-EDR
03/06/2023		
09:00 - 17:30	RACE: UCI Enduro World Cup	EDR, E-EDR
04/06/2023		
08:00 -	RACE: UCI Marathon World Cup Men	XCM
08:05 -	RACE: UCI Marathon World Cup Women	XCM
08:15 -	RACE: Marathon Of Finale Outdoor Region Men	XCM
08:17 -	RACE: Marathon Of Finale Outdoor Region Women	XCM



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# FINALE OUTDOOR REGION'S GREATEST HITS

Sit in the Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II at around 4pm and it's just possible to think that you've slipped, perhaps under the influence of industrial quantities of gelato, into a parallel universe where everyone rides mountain bikes. All ages, all shapes, all sizes, all languages meld together as the usual everyday hubbub makes way for conversations on tyre pressures and broken rear mechs. It's as though the whole town is breathing mountain bike riding.

Finale Outdoor Region, which includes the equally bike fixated Pietra Ligure just a couple of minutes further around the coast,

is set to host its first rounds of the Cross-country Marathon and Enduro UCI World Cups 02-04 June. And it's a big deal.

It's easy to wax lyrical about just how much the small Italian towns live and breathe mountain biking but perhaps a more interesting way is to take a wander down one of the beautifully rustic shuttered back streets of some of its past glories.

Here, in no particular order, are the races that helped to make the Finale Outdoor Region the legendary trail network that it is today:

## ***1. Martin Maes' debut win***

When Martin Maes turned up at the first ever Enduro World Series (EWS) race in Punta Ala back in 2013, few knew his name. A gangly Belgian youngster on flat pedals and DH tyres, they learnt the name the hard way when he started claiming scalps. But the journey to that debut win was a slow burn and took three years.

The 2016 season had already featured four elite men's winners including no fewer than four victories going to the man who would win his second title on the bounce, Richie Rude. Maes' victory in Finale Ligure cemented his status as one of the very fastest in the world. Four more victories have since followed but all eyes are now on when the Orbea Fox Enduro Team pilot can convert a season's worth of results into a title. Pietra Ligure would feel like a good place to re-find those winning ways.





## 2. Trophy Of Nations

The Trophy of Nations began in 2019 and right from the first parade through the back streets of Finale Ligure became one of the loudest races in mountain biking. Teams of three racers competed on stage as one with each trio representing their country. The difficult years surrounding the global pandemic limited the event to just one other appearance (2022) where Team France (Isabeau Courdurier, Melanie Pugin and Morgane Charre) backed up their 2019 victory whilst Team New Zealand (Eddie Masters, Charlie Murray and Matt Walker) replaced Team USA (Richie Rude, Shawn Neer and Cody Kelly) as elite men's gold medal winners.

Aside from its unique structure, Trophy of Nations was the first time that UCI World Champion's medals were up for grabs in the enduro sphere and saw the 'big single race' vibes of Worlds meld with the 'end of season party' atmosphere of the traditional season closing battle above the beaches of Finale Outdoor Region.



## 3. Damien Oton wins in 2017

Damien Oton was one of the fastest enduro racers of the original generation of racers from the beginning of the EWS. The extremely likable Catalan had been on the cusp of some big results during the 2017 season only for events to inevitably conspire to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. He had already tasted victory, in La Thuile 2014, but his triumph at the final round of 2017 was extremely emotional and remains one of the most celebrated in the sport's history. Racing for Devinci at the time, his podium tears summed up perfectly just how tough it was to take to the top step in a series that was spiraling to ever-higher levels of bike racing.





#### 4. Cecile Ravanel and Isabeau Courdurier summon perfection



Cecile Ravanel's EWS palmares is unlikely to be bettered any time soon. But, if it is, then her compatriot Isabeau Courdurier perhaps is one of the only riders likely to lay claim to the kind of numbers required. Both rounded off perfect seasons of wins in 2018 and 2019 respectively on the edge of the Ligurian Sea.

Ravanel was forced to sit out 2019 due to a back injury sustained during training which denied fans the opportunity to see the two square off properly but that in no way detracted

what Courdurier achieved that year. It was a steamrolling. The Frenchwoman won every round and then capped it off by piloting Team France to the elite women's Trophy of Nations title in Finale Ligure. A special season capped off in a fittingly special place.



#### 5. 2020

What has become colloquially known as 'the Covid season', 2020 was a story of survival for the Enduro World Series. So much momentum had been built and stoked only for the global pandemic to threaten to put pay to just about all international sport. But there was no stopping the Finale Outdoor Region

Under a blanket of extensive precautions, the spiritual home of enduro fought back and made sport a priority to bring a little bit of normality to not only the local area but to the fans all over the world. Pietra Ligure hosted its first round (as well as a round of the new EWS-E e-bike category) and was immediately backed up by Finale Ligure with the pair joining Zermatt in Switzerland as part of a limited but vitally important season.



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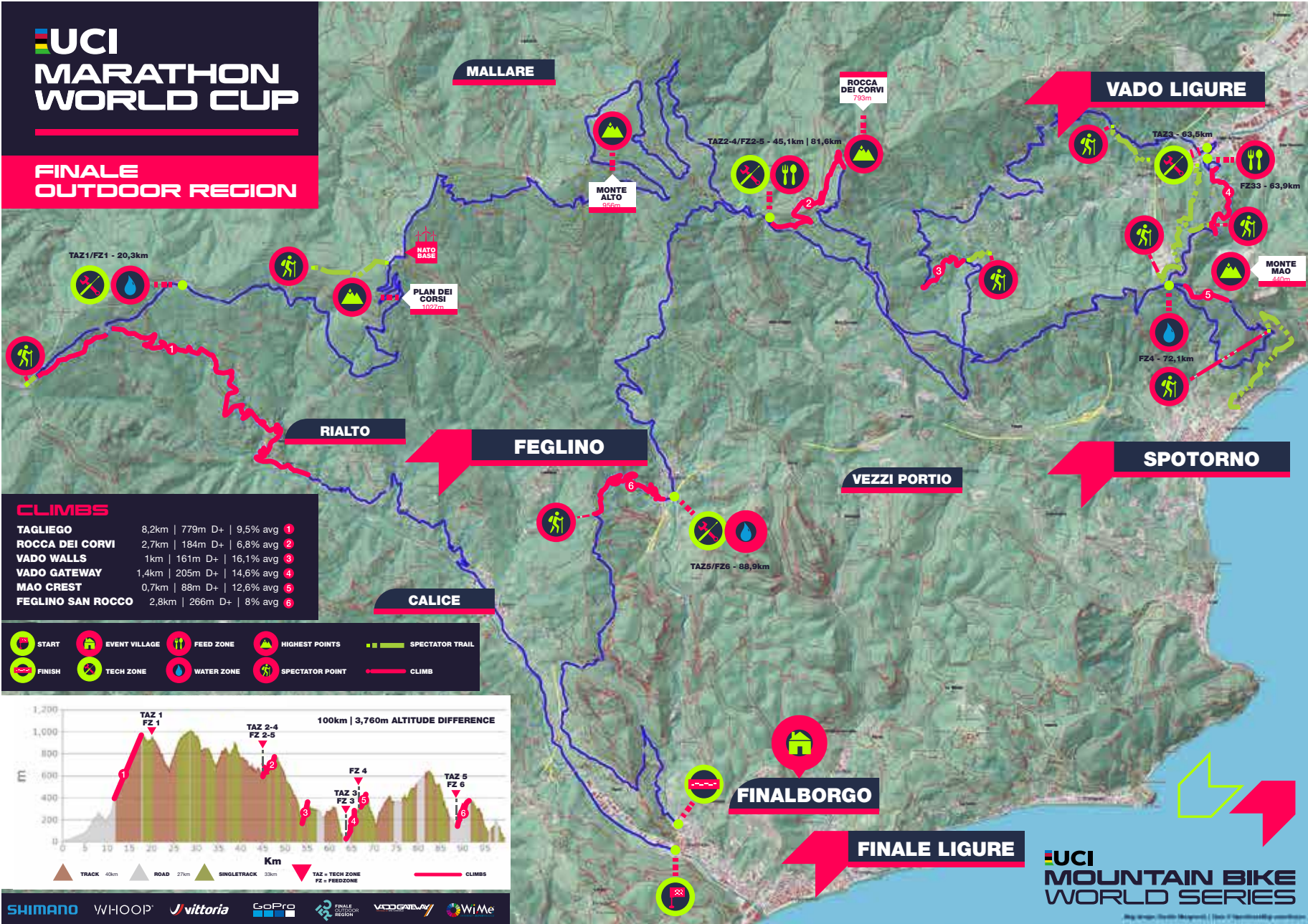




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