

## Südtirol Dolomiti Superbike

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# Revenge for World Championship in Villabassa: Marathon-World Champion, Vice World Champion and many other star athletes to start at the Südtirol Dolomiti Superbike

*Villabassa/Niederdorf (South Tyrol/ Italy), 03 July 2017 – Current World Champion Alban Lakata (AUT) and Vice World Champion Tiago Ferreira (POR) – both will start on Saturday in Villabassa. We should be prepared for a breath-taking competition, especially considering that on 25 June Alban Lakata, the experienced Austrian athlete, had beaten Tiago Ferreira, the defending champion from Portugal, for only 1 second in an incredible finish.*

Alban Lakata from Lienz (Austria), three times Marathon World Champion and twice European Champion, won the Dolomiti Superbike in 2012, whereas Tiago Ferreira finished first in 2015. In 2016, he won the gold medal at the MTB Marathon World Championship in Laissac, France. After Rui Costa (road racing) he is the second Portuguese World Champion in cycling. At the World Championship in Singen the two athletes finished after 98 km and more than 3 hours almost simultaneously, parted only by a second.

*„The parcours in Alta Pusteria is ideal for both athletes“, says Kurt Ploner, President of the Organization Committee. „Compared to the track at the World Championship, in the Dolomiti Superbike athletes need to face 557 more meters of difference in altitude. Moreover, the track is 15 km longer.“ Ferreira is nine years younger than Lakata, who on the other hand is much more experienced. „Both athletes have an extremely strong endurance, which will help them in the ascents, as well as in the plain parts of the marathon. It’s going to be incredibly exciting!“ affirms Ploner, who expects a rather high racing pace.*

Other competitors in the Dolomiti Superbike are Kristian Hynek (CZE), Hector Leonardo Páez León (COL), Periklis Ilias (GRE), Roel Paulissen (BEL) and Massimo Debertolis (ITA). Except for Hynek, all of them have won at least once in their career a World Championship (2004, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2016 und 2017).

Among the contenders for victory in the female category Sosna Katazina from Lithuania, the German Katrin Schwing and Maria Cristina Nisi from Italy must be mentioned. Katazina, who finished in 9th position at the World Championship, won the bronze medal at the Dolomiti Superbike twice, in 2015 and 2016. Schwing won the Dolomiti Superbike in 2009, whereas Nisi, one of the strongest Italian marathon specialists and 13th at this year’s World Championship, has still no podium finish at the Dolomiti Superbike.



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There are eight winners of former editions to start at this year's Dolomiti Superbike, who together achieved 9 gold medals on the long distance.

Kristian Hynek won the Dolomiti Superbike in 2013, one year after his team mate Lakata. The European Champion of 2012 and Cape Epic Winner of 2014 has an impressive physical strength, a characteristic that emerges especially on the long ascents and tough plain parts of the track.

Hector Leonardo Páez León is very experienced in marathon races. The 35-year-old athlete won in Villabassa twice, in 2006 and 2016. He was also successful at the various World Championships, winning the silver medal in 2006 and the bronze medal twice in 2013 and 2015. The multiple winner of the South America Cup, who participated also in Olympic Games, goes for the hat trick in this year's edition of the Dolomiti Superbike.

Periklis Ilias from Greece is also part of the Dolomiti Superbike history, finishing first in 2014 and third in 2012. In the same year the multiple State Champion from Greece won also the World Championship in Omans (FRA). In Singen he finished on the 13th place, after he had lost precious time due to technical problems at the front wheel.

Roel Paulissen (BEL) is one of the most experienced marathon specialists in the world. The Belgian athlete, who lives most of the time in South Tyrol, won the gold medal at the World Championship in Val Pusteria in 2008. One year later at the World Championship in Graz/Stategg he was victorious again. At the Dolomiti Superbike his best result was a first place on the short distance in 2005.

The long list of Italian participants is headed by Juri Ragnoli. The 28-year-old from Brescia, who got married only a few days ago, is the current Italian Marathon Champion and the winner of the HERO Südtirol Dolomites which took place three weeks ago. He finished in 22nd position at this year's World Championship, whereas Tony Longo on the other hand won the KitzAlpBike a week ago. His team captain Massimo Debertolis was the winner on the long distance in Villabassa in 2007 and 2009, whereas on the short distance he was victorious three times between 2001 and 2003. With his 42 years the World Champion of 2004 is definitely one of the most experienced world class athletes.

Other top athletes are Johnny Cattaneo (ITA), Christoph Soukup (AUT) and Aaron Watts (AUS).

The classic marathon track with its 113 kilometres and 3.357 metres of difference in altitude will lead the athletes clockwise through the five municipalities in Alta Pusteria/ Hochpustertal: Villabassa/Niederdorf, Dobbiaco/Toblach, Sesto/Sexten, San Candido/Innichen and



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Braies/Prags The race will start at 7.30 a.m., whereas the first arrivals are expected for approx. 12 a.m.

For further information and pictures visit [www.dolomitisuperbike.com](http://www.dolomitisuperbike.com)



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