



Racing Kicks Off at Lake Garda: FSA Bike Festival Gathers Momentum

High pace, high energy, and early highlights marked the second day of the FSA Bike Festival in Riva del Garda. The MAXXIS Gravel Garda Trentino launched the morning with a fast-paced start for gravel riders, followed shortly thereafter by the Bosch eMTB Challenge – a technical, tactical, and physical test. With the first winners of the weekend already crowned, anticipation builds for Saturday's legendary Bike Marathon, the crown jewel for elite UCI riders.

Riva del Garda, May 2, 2025 – At 8:30 AM, the third edition of the **MAXXIS Gravel Garda Trentino** got underway. Riders had the choice between two stunning routes – one 100 km long with 1,750 meters of elevation gain, the other 65 km with 480 meters – both offering not only panoramic views and elevated heart rates, but also delicious culinary stops along the way. With timing measured only on specific sections, the event invited participants to fully enjoy the breathtaking scenery of Garda Trentino region. A total of 286 riders from 15 countries took part in this unforgettable gravel experience.

No time to rest – next up were the e-mountain bikers. The **Bosch eMTB Challenge** set off with a course that challenged riders across a diverse mix of climbs and descents. It wasn't just strength and stamina that mattered – technical skills and a good sense of direction were crucial. New this year: three categories – *Amateur*, *Advanced*, and for the first time, *Pro*. Yet what united all riders was the course itself: a trail designed to showcase Lake Garda's unique natural beauty – perfectly capturing the festival's 2025 motto: ***Riding Freedom***.

The real showdown is set for Saturday – with the Bike Marathon. The longest of the three marathon courses, the *Ronda Extrema* (82.77 km, 3,434 m elevation gain), is officially registered as a UCI C1 race and recognized as a key international event where licensed riders compete for valuable ranking points. Among the top contenders in the men's field are Fabian Rabensteiner (ITA), Hector Leonardo Paez Leon (COL), Urs Huber (SUI) and Jakob Hartmann (GER).

The three marathon courses Ronda Extrema, Ronda Grande (59.56 km, 2,406 m), and Ronda Piccola (30.67 km, 1,065 m) will all start at 7:30 AM. Just 25 minutes later, the all-new eBike Marathon will make its festival debut. Unlike the competitive marathons, this ride is all about shared experiences, stunning views, and enjoying the 48 km course (1,700 m elevation gain) around Riva del Garda – without the pressure of racing against the clock.

For the full schedule, event registration, photo and video galleries, and all the latest on the FSA Bike Festival Riva del Garda Trentino, visit www.bikefestivalriva.com