



Cavalese: the finish

FOUNDING & HISTORICAL FACTS

The idea of the Marcialonga goes back a long way. In 1969, fired by the brilliant performance of Franco Nones in Grenoble Olympic Games the year before, in which he took the Gold Medal for the Men's 30 km, Italian athletes officially took part in Vasaloppet for the first time. Giulio Giovannini and Roberto Moggio managed to cross the finish line and the year after they were followed in the expedition by Nele Zorzi and Mario Cristofolini. As enthusiasm mounted, there came the idea of creating something similar, adding typical Italian warmth, seasoned with lots of imagination to the exertion of covering such long distances. The first problem was "where" to hold an event of this size and the two valleys of Fiemme and Fassa immediately came to mind. Here in the Italian cradle of cross-country skiing, the four founders were supported by a determined team of collaborators later to be joined by new volunteers. There was therefore a good basis from the organisational point of view and traditional parochialism was soon put aside in the desire to work together towards a single goal.

Finally, it was decided. The first race was to be held in 1971, the year in which the F.I.S.I. (Italian Winter Sport Association) celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. But what should it be called? The event itself, open to everyone was becoming better known and 50.000 leaflets were dropped from an aeroplane over the valley to publicise it among the inhabitants. In the end the name "**Marcialonga**" or Long March was chosen as it was felt to neatly encapsulate the idea of the hard work and friendly competition of the athletes as well as the involvement of the spectators of such great event. On 7th February 1971, the Fiemme and Fassa valleys heard the echo of the gun shot which signalled the start of the first Marcialonga, destined to revolutionise the history and traditions of cross-country skiing.

- The Marcialonga has been a founder member of the three most prestigious international cross-country skiing circuits: Alpentris, Euroloppet and Worldloppet
- Open to Ladies: 1978

- Change of technique: 2003 from free to classic
- The books: "Twenty years for a day" 1992 Author Mario Felicetti, "Marcialonga 1993-2002" 2003 Author Diego Nart
- The Soreghina: since 2002 Marcialonga has its own Kranskulla
- The mascot: Fondolo the gnome, was born in 1997
- The World Cup: in 2004 Marcialonga was included in the World Cup
- The motto: "The Marcialonga, a crusade of men rebelling against the slow death of modern life"

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL RACE

When considering the most successful race in terms of numbers, the 4th edition in 1974 can be said to be the one, with 6.880 competitors registered in the race. As far as satisfaction is concerned, the 34th Marcialonga in 2007, that was going to be cancelled for lack of snow, gave the greatest reward to the engagement and tenacity of its organisers and to the expectations of the 5.000 competitors on the perfect course. Not to be forgotten is the year 2004 when Marcialonga was a F.I.S. World Cup event.

THE MOST EXTREME RACE

The incessant rain during the 7th edition in 1978 forced more than 1.100 competitors to abandon the race. Concerning the course, the shortest length was reached in 1994: 45 km prepared mainly with the first artificial snow system owned by the organizing committee.

FEATURES

The Course

The classic course starts on the plain of Moena, Val di Fassa, and finishes in Cavalese, Val di Fiemme. After the start, it climbs towards the villages of Soraga, Vigo, Pozza, Campitello and Canazei, where competitors then turn round. Nearly twenty kilometres of gentle but continuous climbing means that the early part of the competition is definitely tough. After Canazei, the course begins to go downhill, returning to Moena and going on towards