



WinteRace Cortina



PRESS RELEASE N. 3, 06/02/2026

WinteRace Cortina2026: roads and culture

From the sunset on Passo Giau to the Five Lakes: a route through history, landscapes, and the shared memory of the Dolomites.

Cortina d'Ampezzo. At WinteRace Cortina, the route is never just a line traced on a map. It is a moving narrative, a thread that binds landscapes, communities, and Alpine stories. The 2026 edition, scheduled from March 19 to 21, fully embraces this philosophy, outlining an itinerary that crosses some of the most emblematic places in the Dolomites, inspired by the Olympic spirit and mountain culture.

The Prologue – Thursday evening, March 19: Passo Giau and the mountain of silence. The debut takes place at dusk along the ascent of Passo Giau, one of the most spectacular and demanding roads in the Alpine arc. Historically used as a link between Ampezzo and the Val Cordevole, Giau is today a kind of secular temple for those who love authentic mountains: open, exposed, severe. Here the Olympic Challenge comes to life, with twelve linked tests guiding the crews from sunset into nightfall, when Dolomite rock takes on unreal hues and time seems to stand still. The finish at the mountain refuge beneath the Tofane recalls the atmosphere of early Alpine competitions, when sport and togetherness were part of the same experience.

First Stage – Friday, March 20: through historic passes and Ladin villages. The first day of competition is a true journey through the cultural geography of the Dolomites. From Passo Falzarego—scene of crucial events during the First World War and now a symbol of connection between Cortina and Alta Badia—the route descends toward Arabba, a village with an ancient Ladin tradition, long tied to mountain life and the passage of travelers. The crossing of Passo Pordoi, known as the “Terrace of the Dolomites,” is one of the most iconic moments: a road that made cycling history and that, even in winter, retains an epic charm. From here the route descends to Canazei and Vigo di Fassa, towns that tell the story of a balance between modern tourism and Alpine identity, before climbing Passo Costalunga and continuing to Ora via Nova Levante and Nova Ponente, reaching Bolzano along the Wine Road.



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In Bolzano the cars will be presented to the public, and WinteRace participants will have the opportunity to visit the Mercantile Museum. Upon restarting, the caravan climbs again through the Val di Siusi toward Ortisei, the heart of Val Gardena, renowned for its woodcarving tradition and for an artisan culture that has dialogued with the landscape for centuries.

The return to Cortina via Passo Gardena, Passo Valparola, and once again Falzarego closes a stage that combines driving technique with historical depth.

Second Stage – Saturday, March 21: the Five Lakes Itinerary and the time for contemplation. The final day is devoted to the most intimate dimension of the Dolomites. From Lago di Landro, a historic gateway between Cadore and Pusteria, the route reaches Lago di Dobbiaco and the town of Dobbiaco, also linked to the figure of Gustav Mahler, who composed some of his last works here. Lago di Braies, a UNESCO World Heritage site, represents one of the most recognizable images of the Alps: a body of water which, according to Ladin tradition, guards the entrance to the Kingdom of the Fanes. It is a place where WinteRace naturally slows down, leaving room for contemplation, aided by the stop for the time control. After passing through Val Badia between Passo Furcia and San Vigilio di Marebbe, the route will reach Brunico for the lunch stop and a visit to the Messner Mountain Museum. On the return journey, crews will pass through San Candido and Sesto, at the foot of the Tre Cime, before returning to Cortina via Lago di Auronzo and, after, by Lago di Misurina—historically a place of leisure and wellness—framed by some of the Dolomites' most celebrated rock faces.

WinteRace Cortina 2026 thus confirms itself as a classic regularity event, but above all as a cultural experience in motion. Seventy cars, arriving from several countries and Italian regions, will cross territories that are not mere backdrops, but living communities—guardians of history and tradition.

An A.S.I. event, included in the calendar of the **Circolo Veneto AutoMoto d'Epoca Gianni Marzotto**, WinteRace continues to stand out for its ability to transform driving into storytelling, and the route into shared memory.



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