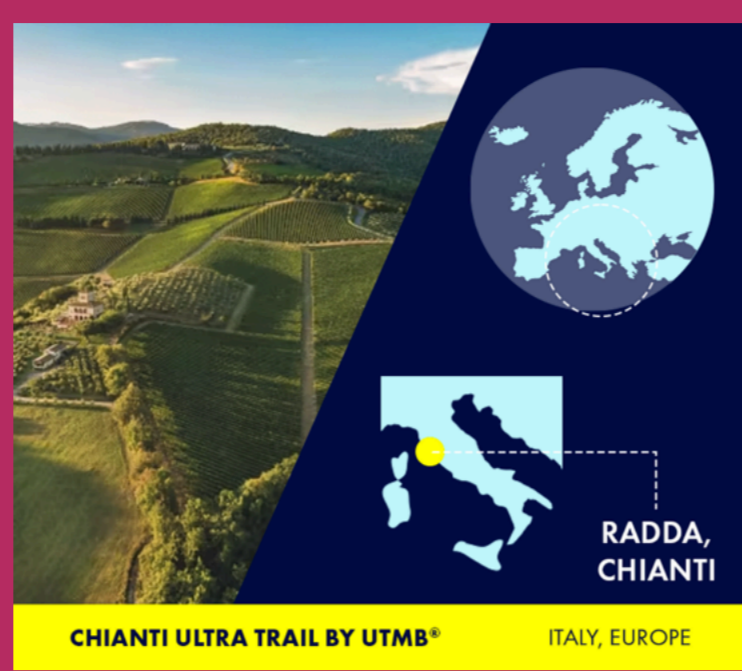


Press Release - Chamonix, Wednesday 20 March, 2024

## Back-to-back UTMB World Series races in Italy and Croatia to kickstart European race calendar

### Debut on UTMB World Series stage for Chianti Ultra Trail by UTMB at European season opener



Italy kickstarts the UTMB® World Series calendar in Europe on 22-24 March at Chianti Ultra Trail by UTMB®. The 'heart of Tuscany' will welcome runners from around the world as they discover the rolling hills, enchanting castles and sea of vineyards that make up the stunning Chianti region.

The event boasts an impressive elite field at its debut on the UTMB World Series stage, including 2019 Dacia UTMB® Mont-Blanc UTMB® winner, Pau Capell (ESP, [UTMB Index 890](#)) and 2023 Val d'Aran by UTMB® winner, Azara Garcia de los Salmones (ESP, [UTMB Index 783](#)) in the [100K Ultra Trail Chianti Castles](#).

CHIANTI ULTRA TRAIL		RACE INFORMATION		UTMB WORLD SERIES	
DATE	START	FINISH	LENGTH	STARTS	UTMB WORLD SERIES
22-24 MARCH	CHIANTI	CHIANTI	100K M	1000	100K M
22-24 MARCH	CHIANTI	CHIANTI	100K M	1000	100K M
22-24 MARCH	CHIANTI	CHIANTI	50K M	1000	50K M
22-24 MARCH	CHIANTI	CHIANTI	20K M	1000	20K M
22-24 MARCH	CHIANTI	CHIANTI	20K M	1000	20K M

[Download race information](#)

Home favorite Andreas Reiterer (ITA, [UTMB Index 908](#)) and 2023 CCC® runner-up, Emily Hawgood (ZWE, [UTMB Index 762](#)) will headline the [100K Chianti Ultra Trail](#), while a close battle is also expected in the [50K Chianti Marathon Trail](#) with Robbie Simpson (GBR, [UTMB Index 909](#)) and Dakota Jones (USA, [UTMB Index 904](#)) strong contenders.

The event unites elite and amateur athletes alike, with former Chelsea and Germany football professional, André Schürle also amongst the 3,800 starters. Now retired, Schürle enjoys testing his limits in a new sport.

Michele Evangelisti also switched sports, from rowing to running, many years ago. The sport is now a major part of his life, both professionally as a coach and personally. In 2016, his love for running saw him cross Australia on two feet, covering 3,113km over 45 days.

Racing on home soil in Italy, Evangelisti said, "I look forward to the extraordinary atmosphere at Chianti Ultra Trail by UTMB and enjoying the route that suddenly passes from fast sections to brutally steep hills. As a Tuscan, running in Tuscany will be a double test of resistance; the will to resist and fight to the finish line, alongside resisting the temptation of a countryside full of olive trees and vines that I will smell en route."



© Antonio Cinotti | Chianti Ultra Trail by UTMB

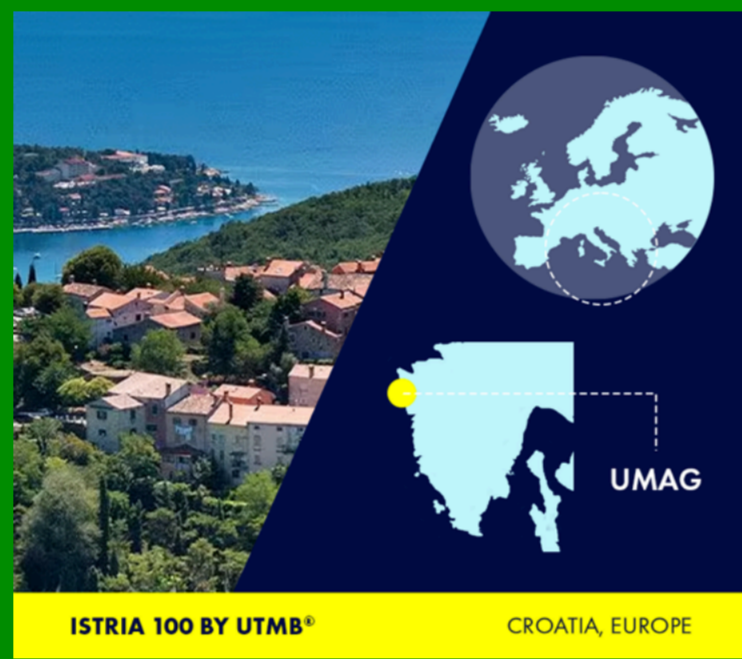


© Antonio Cinotti | Chianti Ultra Trail by UTMB



© Francesco Mazzei | Chianti Ultra Trail by UTMB

## From mountain tops to medieval villages, Croatia charms and challenges at Istria 100 by UTMB



Over 2,500 runners will take to the Croatian peninsula on 5-7 April, ready to discover Istria 100™ by UTMB®. With five race distances on offer, each course explores a mixture of lush forest, dramatic canyons and untouched landscapes that make up the magical heart-shaped region on the Adriatic Sea.

Esther Fellhofer (AUT, [UTMB Index 716](#)) returns to the [100M](#) race, hoping for better luck this year after retiring from the race in 2023 after having led for 110 km. Claire Bannwarth (FRA, [UTMB Index 708](#)) could be amongst the elites that change the dynamics at the front of the race, however and is one to watch.

ISTRIA 100		RACE INFORMATION		UTMB WORLD SERIES	
DATE	START	FINISH	LENGTH	STARTS	UTMB WORLD SERIES
5-7 APRIL	ISTRIA	ISTRIA	100M M	1000	100M M
5-7 APRIL	ISTRIA	ISTRIA	100K M	1000	100K M
5-7 APRIL	ISTRIA	ISTRIA	50K M	1000	50K M
5-7 APRIL	ISTRIA	ISTRIA	30K M	1000	30K M
5-7 APRIL	ISTRIA	ISTRIA	20K M	1000	20K M

[Download race information](#)

Despite planning to race back-to-back race weekends at both Chianti Ultra Trail by UTMB and Istria 100 by UTMB, Pau Capell should not be counted out of a podium finish in the [100K](#) race. His Spanish counterpart and one of the top-ranked athletes, Pablo Villa (ESP, [UTMB Index 879](#)) will also target a good result at his first UTMB World Series event of the season, racing the [100K](#).

In the shorter of the two [50K](#) races, 2022 UTMB Mont-Blanc TDS runner-up Claudia Tremps (ESP, [UTMB Index 755](#)) and 2023 CCC 5th place finisher, Emily Schmitz (USA, [UTMB Index 737](#)) are expected to set a fiery pace at the front.

A special mention goes to the incredible volunteer teams who play a crucial role across the events, including Nikola Zović who has the important task of coordinating over 450 volunteers.

Ahead of Istria 100 by UTMB, Zović said, "Volunteering at an international race fills me with immense pride. Every year I see familiar names reappear in the applications and that adds a special touch to this special race. Being part of the Istria 100 story and family is a truly gratifying experience and I hope that our family will only grow in the years to come."



© Marko Kadija | Istria 100 by UTMB



© Krume Ivanovski | Istria 100 by UTMB



© Dragan Stojkic | Istria 100 by UTMB

As UTMB World Series events, finishers in each of the UTMB category events will collect Running Stones in order to enter the UTMB World Series Final Lottery. The top 3 male and female finishers in the 50K, 100K and 100M categories automatically win their place at the Finals.

Follow the event LIVE [here](#).

## Images

UTMB World Series images can be downloaded [here](#).

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## Note to editors

### About UTMB® World Series

UTMB® World Series is the world's ultimate trail-running circuit that unites the sport's biggest stars and passionate runners through the best, leading international events in the most stunning locations. Built on a passion for the mountains with sustainability at its heart, UTMB® World Series gives all trail runners the chance to experience the UTMB® adventure across the world, with events taking place across Asia, Oceania, Europe, Africa, and the Americas. It is the only place where runners can begin their quest to Dacia UTMB® Mont-Blanc, France, where the prestigious UTMB® World Series Finals will be held. Launched in May 2021 through the collaboration between the UTMB Group and The IRONMAN Group, the UTMB World Series circuit brings together many of the best international trail-running events on the planet. For more information, visit <https://utmb.world/>.

### About UTMB Group

Since the creation of Dacia UTMB® Mont-Blanc in 2003 by a group of passionate friends, UTMB Group has been the driving force behind the development of trail running. The Dacia UTMB® Mont-Blanc is the sports pinnacle event, and every year, 10,000 runners earn their place on the start line. UTMB Group also pioneered the LiveTrail® technology, an innovative digital service that supports the management of endurance races. Revered by hundreds of thousands of athletes, UTMB® has become a global, premium, and leading brand. In May 2021, UTMB Group partnered with The IRONMAN Group to launch the UTMB® World Series, which brings together many of the best international events on the planet to provide exclusive access to the sport's pinnacle event, Dacia UTMB® Mont-Blanc. The UTMB® World Series is built on the founding principles of Dacia UTMB® Mont-Blanc: surpassing oneself; fair-play; respect for people and the environment; and solidarity. Find out more at <https://utmb.world/>.

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