



Press release - Chamonix (France), Thursday 20 June 2024

From the heart of the Mediterranean to the heart of the Swiss Alps, UTMB World Series gears up for exciting double-header weekend

Bucket-list island race for UTMB World Series runners at Restonica Trail by UTMB



The Mediterranean Island of Corsica, France will welcome over 2,500 runners to Restonica Trail by UTMB® on 4-6 July.

The event promises an incredible atmosphere as runners discover the glacial lakes, dense pine forests, rugged peaks and beautiful valleys of the area, while also ticking off parts of the GR20 - one of the most famous hiking trails in the world.

RACE INFORMATION		DATE	
UTMB	110 km	69 km	33 km
ULTRA-TRAIL	110 km	69 km	33 km
RESTONICA TRAIL	69 km	33 km	20 km
ULTRA-TRAIL	110 km	69 km	33 km
ULTRA-TRAIL	110 km	69 km	33 km

[Download race information](#)

Elite Preview

The Corsican mountains have attracted a strong elite field, with an impressive French contingent headlining the 110 km Ultra-Trail® di Corsica race, including **Louison Coiffet** (FRA, UTMB Index 881) in the Men's race and **Jennifer Lemoine** (FRA, UTMB Index 719) in the Women's race.

The 2023 110 km winner, **Lambert Santelli** (FRA, UTMB Index 855) will return to the event, but will turn his focus to the shorter 69 km Restonica Trail for this edition of the race. In the Women's race, **Angels Llobera** (ESP, UTMB Index 706) and **Axelle Henry** (FRA, UTMB Index 704) could be amongst the protagonists at the front of the race.

Fireworks are anticipated in the 33 km Tavignanu Trail, with the distance attracting an incredible start list of talented athletes. **Remi Bonnet** (SUI, UTMB Index 940) and **Sébastien Poesy** (FRA, UTMB Index 881) are expected to bring the action to the Men Elite race, alongside **Blandine L'Hirondel** (FRA, UTMB Index 804) and **Sara Alonso** (ESP, UTMB Index 773) in the Women Elite race.

Blandine L'Hirondel said, "I wanted to take advantage of a trip to Corsica to visit my friend and coach, Lilian Gugliero who is native from the island. It is a great opportunity to complete a block of training in preparation for my next big goal: the UTMB®. I therefore don't have any big ambitions for the race, other than to enjoy and run to my full potential in my current shape."

Two-time Olympic and five-time World Champion in Mountain Bike, Julien Absalon will also be taking on the event. He said, "I started to incorporate running during the last three years of my career as a professional cyclist. I got a taste for it and, when my career ended, I started running more regularly and lengthening distances. I no longer consider myself an athlete, but as a sportsman eager for new challenges, new experiences and I am enjoying discovering the trail world, which is new to me."



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Glaciers and high passes await at oldest ultra trail in Switzerland, Trail Verbier St-Bernard by UTMB



5,000 runners will head to the heart of the Swiss Alps on 5-7 July for the 15th edition of Trail Verbier St-Bernard by UTMB®, an event famous for its technical trails, alpine passes and breath-taking glacier views.

With four race distances on offer - from 140 km to 26 km - runners will uncover highlights such as the historical Great St Bernard pass, the suspension bridge in the Panossière region, dramatic views of one of the highest peaks in the Alps - the Grand Combin - towering above at 4,314m, plus the famous 'Wall', a 1,200m climb up to the stunning ski resort of Verbier.

RACE INFORMATION		DATE	
UTMB	140 km	100 km	50 km
ULTRA-TRAIL	140 km	100 km	50 km
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[Download race information](#)

Race Director, Matthieu Girard said, "The best thing about the race is the landscape, from the high mountains and the glaciers. This makes it a challenging race but it is not too technical and the trails are in good condition. We have a good level of different elites, from Claire Bannwarth in the 100M, to Martin Anthamatten in the 100K so it will be interesting to see how it plays out."

Elite Preview

With five 100M race finishes under her belt already this race season, **Claire Bannwarth** (FRA, UTMB Index 707) heads into the Women Elite race as one of the favourites and is expected to be amongst the action at the front alongside top-ranked athlete, **Aroa Sio** (ESP, UTMB Index 745). **Gilles Roux** (ITA, UTMB Index 846) heads into the Men Elite race at the top-ranked and is on the hunt for his first UTMB World Series victory.

Martin Anthamatten (SUI, UTMB Index 895) and **Ariane Wilhem** (SUI, UTMB Index 850) are expected to excel on home soil in their respective categories in the 100K X-Transverse. 2023 HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc TDS® winner, **Christian Meier** (CAN, UTMB Index 862) could be the one to upset the Swiss magic in the Men Elite race.

Martin Anthamatten said, "I can't wait to race in this beautiful region with these incredible mountains. A region where I have had wonderful memories of my sporting successes in ski mountaineering and trail running. I already know a lot of people from this region, which of course motivates me even more to run here."

Close battles and international podiums are also anticipated throughout the remaining distances. **Anthony Felber** (FRA, UTMB Index 887), **Peter Frano** (SVK, UTMB Index 878) and **Brian Whitfield** (USA, UTMB Index 876) are expected to be vying for podium spots in the Men Elite 50K race, while **Renee Cardinaals** (NED, UTMB Index 712) looks to be the one to beat in the Women Elite 50K race. **Vlad Ixel** (AUS, UTMB Index 836) and **Morgane Crausaz** (SUI, UTMB Index 779) are expected to set a fast and furious pace at the front of the 20K Verbier X-Plore.



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To get more information about the UTMB World Series sport system and qualification for the UTMB World Series Finals, [click here](#).

Follow the action from both Restonica Trail by UTMB and Trail Verbier St-Bernard by UTMB [here](#).

Images

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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 HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc, 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 HOKA 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 HOKA 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, HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc. The UTMB® World Series is built on the founding principles of HOKA 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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