



Asiago
2022



Asiago: Ready for the best athletes in Europe

Only a few days remain now until the hills above Asiago will be filled with the cheers of athletes, supporters, families and friends as the 2022 Europe Triathlon Winter Championships and World Cup kicks off.

As ever, the volunteers are ready to welcome you all, so come with a smile and be part of the social media whirl that will see photos and videos being posted daily. Make everyone back home so envious – because you are the Winter Triathlon European Championships, 2022!!



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We heard about the Age-Group athletes in our last press release. It is always great to hear about them and to see such a fantastic range of ages competing for medals, titles and for the chance of being here in Asiago with friends.



Now it is the turn of the Elite, U23, Juniors and Paras. We have the finalised start lists now available and for certain, there is going to be a lot of local interest.

The authorities are delighted that once again the region can host such a top-quality event and to showcase the outstanding natural beauty in this easy to get to venue, high above the magical Venice.



The President of Veneto Region, **Dr Luca Zaia**, sends his best wishes, “to all participants and their supporting teams hoping that this festival may represent a good opportunity to familiarise with the Altopiano dei Sette Comuni, with its beautiful nature and culture that belong to the rich heritage of ‘Veneto, the Land of Venice’.”

He praised the Local Organising Committee that has dedicated so much to delivering events that have seen the participation of so many athletes from around the world and recognised that such sporting events really enhance the rich reputation of the Veneto Region.

His praise was echoed by Europe Triathlon’s President, **Renato Bertrandi** who will be making his third visit this year. “It is with great pleasure that I welcome our Elite and Age Groupers to Asiago at our European Championships. Asiago has been able to build, in a relatively short period of time, a great reputation among our passionate Winter Triathletes thanks to the fantastic location, the great hospitality and the professionalism of the Organising Committee.



This year it will be my 3rd time in Asiago and I am really looking forward to meeting you all at the race. We will deliver our first



European Title of 2022: I am looking forward to honouring you with the Medals. A special thanks to the Organising Committee and to the Italian Triathlon Federation for the support.”

And of course, from FiTri’s President, **Riccardo Giubilei**, “Not just the numbers, but also the enthusiasm from the Organizing Committee and the happiness spread by all the participants, both Italian and foreign, have encouraged us once again to bring back the international Winter Triathlon right on the Altopiano, to the apex of a season which saw born for the first time a national circuit dedicated to winter triathlon with 5 different stages.

This is a concrete proof of how much the Winter Triathlon is loved in Italy and how much our Federation counts on this fantastic discipline. Asiago Winter Triathlon Festival guarantees competitive opportunities for



athletes and offers further moments of promotion and spreading of this discipline, steadily increasing.”

For the full text of the welcoming speeches, please click this link and go direct to the Athlete Guide https://www.competitions.com/uploads/events/Asiago_2022_ATHLETE_GUIDE.pdf

The Elite, U23 and Junior races will all take place on Friday 18th February, with the Mixed Relays scheduled for Saturday.

With the new format, of run, MTB, ski, run, MTB, ski having been tested at the World Championships in Andorra, we can expect to see much more focus on those all-important transitions. One small error there could lose a medal chance.

Coaches will have been looking closely at the small margins of error in Andorra and will have been working hard with their athletes to ensure that any weaknesses are gone by the end of this week.

Start Num	First Name	Last Name	YOB	Country
61	Katja	Krenn	2003	 AUT
62	Lena	Goller	2004	 ITA
63	Kseniia	Skvortsova	2006	 RUS

The Junior Women, simply by finishing, can be on the podium. A small line up this year but as the world of sports finds its feet after the pandemic, we can all look forward to a future where the numbers are much higher.

For the host nation, the cheers will of course be loud for Italian Junior Champion, **Lena Göller** but on paper at least, it looks good for the Russian athlete, **Kseniia Skvortsova**, whose silver medal in Andorra was won with just under a minute lead over Austria’s **Katja Krenn**.

The Austrian was much stronger on the bike but against the superior running of the Russian, she lost out, coming home with a bronze medal.



The Junior men’s race sees a bigger field and we can expect some really tough battles out there on the snow. 9 athletes racing for three medals. 4 nations hoping for a medal chance. Italy with six chances of a medal against single representatives from Germany, the Netherlands and Russia. The Italian national junior champion, **Guglielmo Giuliano**, is there and with a solid silver medal at the World Championships, will no doubt be hoping that he can upgrade to gold this Friday.



He faces Russia's **Semen Zakutin** who, after a DNF in Andorra, will be fired up and ready to put those ghosts to bed. He performed well in the Junior Mixed Relays, helping his team win silver but there are other athletes he has not had a chance to race against who might make it less than straightforward.

Start Num	First Name	Last Name	YOB	Country
51	Riccardo	Giuliano	2006	ITA
52	Lukas	Lanzinger	2004	ITA
53	Semen	Zakutin	2003	RUS
54	Maarten	Beute	2006	NED
55	Luca	Brusaferro	2003	ITA
56	Guglielmo	Giuliano	2003	ITA
57	Matteo	Sfregola	2003	ITA
58	Diego	Lampe	2006	ITA
59	Ludwig	Sigl	2005	GER

Moving to the Women's U23 and we have 4 nations represented. Once more, only three medals to win, so the competition will be hot.

Start Num	First Name	Last Name	YOB	Country
45	Valeria	Kuznetsova	1999	RUS
46	Lydia	Drahovska	1999	SVK
47	Gina	Bin	2000	AUT
48	Zuzana	Michalickova	2002	SVK
49	Martina	Stanchi	2002	ITA

The reigning World Champion, Russia's **Valeria Kuznetsova**, used her run and ski power to storm to the lead in Andorra. She won bronze there in 2021 and knows the Asiago course, having placed 4th here back in 2020. Without the presence of the Norwegian athlete who came 2nd, she will face a strong challenge from the Slovakian duo of **Lydia Drahovská** and **Zuzana Michaličková**.

Moving up from the junior ranks, Michaličková won here in 2020 to take the World Junior title and has since moved into racing in the summer on the World Cup and World Championship Series circuit, where she has gained strength and experience of racing at the highest level.

Italian fans will be hoping that **Martina Stanchi** can secure a podium finish. Runner up at the Italian National Championships in Cogne this year, she won Age-Group gold (16-19) at the 2020 Asiago ITU Winter Triathlon World Championships and is the reigning Junior European





Champion from her win at the 2021 Europe Triathlon XTERRA Cross Duathlon Championships Dolomiti Paganella.

What better incentive to race hard can there be than a start list of 4 athletes, with only gold, silver and bronze medals available to win?

Well, in the Men's U23 that is exactly what we have. Two Slovakian athletes, one Russian and one Italian. This is going to be an epic battle.

Start Num	First Name	Last Name	YOB	Country
21	Mattia	Tanara	2000	ITA
22	Mario	Kosut	1999	SVK
23	Danila	Egorov	2001	RUS
24	Peter	Zacik	1999	SVK

The Italian athlete, **Mattia Tanara** will be racing on home soil. He will be racing as the reigning World Champion, having picked up the Winter Duathlon World U23 title as well in Andorra. His win there in 2021, making him the two-times World U23 Champion has set him firmly in place as the race favourite.



Tanara's superior ski skills took him to gold ahead of Russia's **Danila Egorov**, but they will both have to watch out for Slovakia's **Mario Kosut**, who rode so well in Cheile Grădiștei in 2020 to take silver.



The U23 athletes, both men and women, will start alongside the Elite athletes and will have to try and resist the temptation to kick hard on the first run, unless they truly have the power of someone like, say Franco Pesavento.



Before we move to the Elite, we have to mention of course, our Para race. Traditionally, there has been a battle in the snow between Romania and Spain but this year, only Romania's **Robert Tamirjan** will be racing.

He first came onto the international circuit in 2016 at the Balkan Cross Duathlon Championships in one of the best venues on the international circuit, deep in Transylvania, Târgu Mureş. Since then, he has amassed a huge collection of medals and both World and European titles.

With 21 podium finishes and 17 wins, he has established himself as one of the most successful off-road para-athletes of all time.

He comes to this race having competed in the "Konzul Kupa" cross-country ski competition at Harghita Băi.

He will be racing on Saturday and doing his best to catch up as many Age-Group athletes on the bike as possible – he is truly an amazing power on two wheels

and it is always interesting to compare his bike splits at races.

So, now to the Elite and what a feast of racing we have for you in both men's and women's events.

First up, the Elite Women.

Start Num	First Name	Last Name	YOB	Country
31	Yulia	Surikova	1982	RUS
32	Daria	Rogozina	1996	RUS
33	Svetlana	Sokolova	1997	RUS
34	Sandra	Mairhofer	1992	ITA
35	Maria Luisa	Rasina	1997	ROU
36	Aneta	Grabmullerova	1993	CZE
37	Carina	Wasle	1984	AUT
38	Anna	Medvedeva	1989	RUS
39	Elisabeth	Sveum	1989	NOR
40	Kristina	Lapinova	1983	SVK
41	Marina	Ladiashkina	1990	RUS
42	Lorena	Erl	1990	GER

The Italian supporters, always very, very vocal around the course and we can expect them to be even louder than usual after the stand out performances in Andorra.



In the Women's race, the 2021 World Champion and local favourite, **Sandra Mairhofer**, will have to dig deep if she is to beat the incredibly on-form **Daria Rogozina** from Russia.

With World titles in 2019, 2020 and 2022, Rogozina has come back into racing after starting a family and was simply outstanding on the run and ski segments in Andorra. The reigning World Champion comes back to Asiago.



The only athlete to get anywhere near her was Mairhofer, who outran any threat to secure silver. Her victory here in 2021 was followed up by an outstanding victory at the Europe Triathlon XTERRA Cross Championships Dolomiti Paganella in the autumn.



The reigning European Champion, from her victory in Cheile Grădiștei, **Svetlana Sokolova**, had a disappointing race in Andorra, suffering on both bike and ski segments. The Russian team is a strong one, with **Yulia Surikova**, 2-times World Champion, and gold medal winner in Etna back in 2018 when she took the European title. Traditionally strong across all three disciplines, she comes to the race as the oldest athlete in the Elite ranks.

A start line full of world champions. That's what we have for you. Austria's **Carina Wasle** became world champion back in 2009 when the championships were held at Gaishorn am See. A home victory. Since then, she has raced off-road in the summer and in winter and has a massive haul of titles on the XTERRA circuit.

At that championship in 2009, Norway's **Elisabeth Sveum** won the world U23 title and later that year won the European Championships. In Andorra recently, she fought Mairhofer for a podium finish, to claim bronze.

A possible medal chance, she was close in Andorra in 2021, is there for **Aneta Grabmüllerová**. The Czech athlete, now based in Norway, was the 2011 Junior World Champion and has raced here before, back in 2020 when she helped her team to bronze in the relays.



1	Pavel	Andreev	1983	RUS
2	Giuseppe	Lamastra	1984	ITA
3	Pavel	Yakimov	1992	RUS
4	Franco	Pesavento	1997	ITA
5	Viorel	Palici	1989	ROU
6	Evgenii	Uliashev	1988	RUS
7	Alessandro	Saravalle	1996	ITA
8	Pello	Osoro Gutierrez	1992	ESP
9	Evgenii	Evgrafov	1998	RUS
10	Ivan	Zalavtsev	1998	RUS
11	Oivind	Bjerkseth	1988	NOR
12	Sebastian	Neef	1989	GER
14	Manuel	Bortolas	1986	ITA
15	Arthur	De Jaegher	1994	BEL
16	Denis Georgian	Serban	1991	ROU
17	Ondrej	Petiska	1997	CZE

For the Elite Men, we see the return of Russia's Pavel Andreev. 8 times World Champion, 7 times European Champion, the reigning European Champion, he has for so many years been the King in Winter Triathlon. His race in Andorra fell apart when he set off from the penalty box too soon.

His early departure resulted in the first DSQ in his international racing career. It ended any chance of a 2022 world title.

Andreev is resilient and put all the disappointment behind him to race with Rogozina in the Mixed Relays. With their son being looked after on the side-lines, the pair stormed to victory. Andreev did not go home empty-handed but no doubt he will be even more determined to race hard here on Friday.



We have had the pleasure of seeing Italy's **Franco Pesavento** go from strength to strength.

Winning the U23 World title here, in what is effectively his back yard, in 2019 and again in 2020, he went on to win the European U23 title that year in Cheile Grădiștei and shook the field with his incredible running power. Winning a bronze medal here in 2021 at the World Cup, he went to Andorra this year and smashed the field to win both the Winter Duathlon and the Winter Triathlon world titles.

We can expect to see him lead from the start and to use his run power to break up the pack. With the run, MTB, ski, run, MTB, ski format and with the five visits to the Transition Area,



even the smallest error in changing shoes could lose valuable seconds and even a place at the High Table of the European Championship podium.

Watch out for this epic battle for gold.



Pesavento will be supported by his teammates, **Giuseppe Lamastra** and **Alessandro Saravalle**. Each of them with a chance for a medal but to get onto the podium they will have to work hard; really hard.

Evgenii Uliashev, with his World Championship bronze medal, is on form and looking stronger than **Pavel Yakimov**, the 2014 U23 World Champion.

With **Viorel Palici**, the powerful Romanian athlete, who comes with a silver in the Winter Duathlon Worlds, added to the mix we can be assured of a truly exciting race at 09:00hrs on Friday morning.

The races will be streamed live. You can follow the action by clicking this link:

<https://triathlonlive.tv>

For all start lists, please click this link:

<https://www.triathlon.org/events/start-lists/2022-world-triathlon-winter-cup-asiago>

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