2022 Europe Triathlon Winter Championships and World Triathlon Cup Asiago

Italy’s rich history of Winter Triathlon European Championships:

- 2018 Etna  ETU Winter Triathlon European Championships
- 2012 Valsesia  ETU Winter Triathlon European Championships
- 2006 Schilpario  ETU Winter Triathlon European Championships
- 1999 Mals  ETU Winter Triathlon European Championships
- 1998 Mals  ETU Winter Triathlon European Championships

Five times already, Italy has hosted the European Winter Triathlon Championships. 2022 will make it six and in February we will see Europe’s best winter triathletes head to Asiago, a location already well-known on the circuit, having twice hosted the Winter Triathlon World Championships
Italy has been a great supporter of this wonderful sport, hosting the very first world championships in Mals in 1997. So good was the event and so happy were the athletes that in 1999 both the European and World Championships came to Italy, to be held in Mals and Bardonecchia respectively.

2002 saw the world’s best come to Brusson and then to Flassin in 2007. Cogne, in 2013 and 2014 gave us the closest finishes you could imagine in the elite men’s race, with Russia’s Pavel Andreev winning a close-fought battle with Italy’s Daniel Antonioli on both occasions.

There is little doubt then, that Italy loves Winter Triathlon and that Italy is loved as a location for winter triathletes from all over Europe and all over the world.

2022 will see not only the European Championships but also a World Cup race take place over the weekend.

This year will see an exciting new development for the Elite and U23 athletes as they race the "standard distance" over the Run/Bike/Ski/Run/Bike/Ski format.

FiTri, working with Triathlon 7C will bring the very best of organisational skills, the very best of locations and the very best of courses to you at a location high above Venice.

**Friday 18th February** will see the Elite / U23 and Juniors race for medals, points and prize-money, and on **Saturday 19th**, it will be the turn of the Age-Group athletes to race for glory after the early morning Elite / U23 / Junior relays.

Of course, all the COVID-19 protocols will be in place to ensure the safety of athletes, technical officials, volunteers and everyone working at the event. FiTri has worked hard with World Triathlon, Europe Triathlon and the WHO to ensure the very best controls are in place and the event schedule reflects the need now for these extra precautions.
The reigning World Champion, Italy’s very own Sandra Mairhofer, will be hoping that a home soil advantage will work in her favour and without doubt the local crowds will be screaming their support out for her. She will come to Asiago following the World Championships that are taking place in Andorra a couple of weeks before.

The Italian men, with athletes moving very successfully up from the Junior and U23 ranks, will certainly be hoping to claim some of the places on the podium and to challenge the mighty Russians.

Coming to the race as Italian Champion, having successfully defended the title he won in 2021, Franco Pesavento will be hoping that he and Sandra Mairhofer can make some magic and deliver two gold medals to the host nation. Pesavento on the run is outstanding. In Andorra last year and in Asiago he led the field into T1. Although still young, his potential is growing with each race and he has worked hard on his biking during the summer months.
Teammates Giuseppe Lamastra, Daniel Antonioli and Alessandro Saravalle add to the strength and depth of the Italian team.

Europe has long been in charge with regard to Winter Triathlon. All the great winners have been Europeans and for the past few years, it has been Russia that has dominated. With the greater availability of events, the longer snow season and of course the great tradition of this sport in Russia, we know that when they come to a European or World Championship, the Russians are most certainly race fit and ready for action.

A surprise win in Andorra last year saw Hans Christian Tungesvik from Norway outski Russia’s Pavel Andreev. A truly exciting race there saw the Norwegian take the gold medal and world title by almost a minute. He is due to race both the duathlon and triathlon event in Andorra before hopefully coming to Asiago. Who knows, if he wins there, he might then be able to add the European title to his collection.

Sandra Mairhofer’s win in Andorra ahead of the Russians, Anna Medvedeva and Daria Rogozina, was the start of a magical year. The Italian off-road specialist went on to win gold at the 2021 Europe Triathlon XTERRA Cross Championships Dolomiti Paganella and finished the season with a silver at the World Triathlon Cross Championships El Anillo – Extremadura. She will be the race favourite for sure.

The U23 athletes will start alongside the Elite and amongst the women, it is once again the strength and might of the Russian team that is likely to dominate the women’s line up. Mattia Tanara might well add to the Italian medal collection in the Men’s U23 category. His great win in 2021 in Andorra and a solid performance at the Italian national championships only recently in Cogne shows him to be on good form.

Norway’s junior women certainly showed good form in Andorra last year and will be the ones to watch in Asiago. Amongst the junior men, it was the same story and so we can expect to hear the Norwegian national hymn being played at the Awards ceremony.

But as we all know, Winter triathlon is a big favourite amongst the Age-Group athletes and, as so many are already familiar with the location and as so many have already signed up for the race, we can expect to see many different flags at both the Opening and at Awards ceremonies.

The race courses remain unchanged from the successful editions of the World Championships.

For the Elite / U23 and Juniors:
For the Age-Group and Para athletes:

All tracks will be clearly marked and of course there will be organised familiarisation sessions on Thursday for the Elite / U23 and Juniors and on Friday for the Age-Group and Para athletes. The timings can be found in the Athlete Guide, which can be accessed with this link:

https://www.fitri.it/it/gare/calendario/download.html?file=L3Zhci93d3cvZml0cmflZmlsZXMyZXZibnRvLzAwMDAxODk4QS5wZGY=

The weekend of races does not finish on the Saturday but continues with an open race for those wishing to race the Winter Duathlon. This will be on the Sunday, starting at 10:00hrs and with a Kids and Youth race at 12:00. Bring the family. See how many medals you can collect.
Asiago – see you there!

Check the event website for regular updates

https://www.asiagowintertriathlon.com

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