

## The next Giro delle Dolomiti will take place in 2021

**Bolzano, 2 April 2020 - In the last few days many sporting events that should have taken place in the coming weeks and months in South Tyrol were cancelled, due to coronavirus. The traditional Dolomites cycling tour, that should have taken place from 19 to 25 July 2020, is the last in the line of summer classics that are caught out. The popular event shall next entice hundreds of cyclists to South Tyrol from Sunday 25 to Saturday 31 July 2021.**

On 3 March President of the organising committee, Simon Kofler, informed the nervous cyclists in a newsletter of the current situation regarding the corona crisis in South Tyrol and in the rest of Italy. At that time, the organizers from the ASD Giro delle Dolomiti were still hopeful that the situation would improve in the coming weeks and months so that the Dolomites cycle tour could take place. However, there are still no signs that the corona crisis, that has by now spread across all continents, will be over any time soon. When and to what extent the situation improves is nothing but speculation.

For this reason, the organising committee decided in the beginning of this week to cancel the 2020 Dolomites cycle tour. "There is currently not enough certainty to continue professional planning of the event. At present it looks as if the lockdown in Italy might be relaxed from Easter, step by step. This will depend on continued social distancing which, according to health experts, should continue for many weeks to come. How could 600 cyclists possibly keep their distance at the start, along the route and later at mealtimes? And who could possibly commit to cycling over 100 kilometres wearing a mask?" said a doubtful Mr Kofler before he continued: "During April we usually apply for roadblocks with the responsible authority, set up collaboration with the police, reserve ambulances and talk to doctors and nurses to secure their support. All these organisations that are so important for the Giro delle Dolomiti, currently have other concerns than our cycle event."

In other respects, too, time is against the organisers of the one-week long cycling classic. "In the spring, we sign our contracts with all our suppliers, from jersey providers to suppliers for the refreshment stations. These important tasks can also not be undertaken at present. Of course, we have also talked about a delay until the autumn. This was discounted because of respect for organisers of autumn events, and because of the uncertainty regarding the weather conditions. Cycling for a whole week on passes at 2000 meters and above in September and October is highly

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risky”, Chief of Competition and Vice President of the organising committee, Luca Gransinigh explained.

“We are very disappointed that, for the first time in over four decades, we cannot hold the Dolomites cycle tour this year. At the same time, we are convinced that all cycling enthusiasts will support our decision - our partners have already promised their cooperation.” Kofler and Gransinigh concluded by promising excellent conditions to ensure that the Giro delle Dolomiti 2021, running from 25 to 31 July, will again be an unforgettable and proud adventure.

Registrations for the 44th Giro delle Dolomiti from 25 to 31 July 2021 will open on 2 June.

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