**The 44th Giro delle Dolomiti is history**

**Bolzano, 10 August 2021 - At the end of July the most beautiful mountain passes of South Tyrol and the surrounding provinces were once more the setting for the Giro delle Dolomiti. Almost 400 cyclists from 25 countries took on the 44th edition of the renowned tour through the Dolomites with 670 kilometres and an elevation gain of over 12,000 meters, and explored predominantly South Tyrol in all its facets.**

The total of six stages took the cyclists up Mendola and Passo Palade, into the Dolomiti del Brenta with the Ski World Cup Mecca of Madonna di Campiglio, around the Sella massif, into the Catinaccio area and finally to a team time trial in Bassa Atesina. The second section up to Alpe di Siusi, Europe’s largest Alpine pasture, had to be cancelled due to the weather conditions.

While the majority of the individual sections were cycled at a leisurely pace and the participants exchanged ideas with like-minded people from all over the world, there were also one or two mountain time trials per stage on shorter sections. These times were added up to award the overall winners of the Giro delle Dolomiti 2021 at the end of a week dedicated to cycling.

**Thomas Gschnitzer and Julia Jedelhauser are the new overall winners**

In the men's race, the new champion is a South Tyrolean local athlete. 37-year-old Thomas Gschnitzer from the town of Vipiteno, won the Giro delle Dolomiti with an overall time of 1:39.12 hours. Second place went to Christian Dallago from Bolzano, a former FC Südtirol footballer. He completed the time trials in 1:41.32 hours. The podium was completed by Spain's Iraitz Goñi Diaz (1:41.44), who left the defending champion Eduard Rizzi (Val Sarentino 1:42.26) behind.

Julia Jedelhauser from Marktoberdorf in Allgäu (Germany) triumphed in the women's race. With a time of 2:02.33 she beat Francesca Sassani (2:03.22) from Bolzano and Monika Dietl (2:06.23) from Bavaria. The final team time trial in Bassa Atesina was won by Team Attutta, made up of Simone Piccina, Luca Mazzurana, Luca Monterosso, Michele Lisi and Christian Dallago. The five completed the 15.7 km course in 19.04 minutes with an average speed of a staggering 49.391 kilometres per hour.

**Many celebrities and even more positive feedback**

With cycling legends Francesco Moser and Edita Pucinskaite, former skiing ace Werner Perathoner and Rainer Senoner, OC President of the Ski World Cup in Val Gardena, personalities from the world of sport took part in at least one stage of the tour, honouring the organisers of the ASD Giro delle Dolomiti, who were virtually inundated with positive feedback after the end of the event. "We are very happy that this special edition could take place without any problems in the midst of the Covid pandemic. We are particularly pleased that the Giro delle Dolomiti went off without any injuries. The positive feedback encourages us to continue on our chosen path. Looking ahead to the next edition, we already have some ideas to improve our event even more. See you all again next year, when the Giro delle Dolomiti will most likely attract hundreds of cycling enthusiasts to South Tyrol from 24 to 30 July," OC President Bettina Ravanelli concluded.