



Press Release
- for immediate release -

20 teams, 14 Swiss riders, Geraint Thomas and other crack cyclists on the starting line: the 75th TDR is going to be cause for celebration!

The defending champion, Geraint Thomas, will be challenged by Chris Froome, Thibaut Pinot, Damiano Caruso, Ion Izagirre, Marc Hirschi, Mark Padun, Brandon McNulty, Sergio Higuita, Edward Dunbar, Steven Kruijswijk and other heavyweights: the anniversary edition brings together a peloton that promises a breath-taking race on one of the most mountainous routes in history. With fourteen representatives on the starting line, the Swiss clan is dreaming of the podium!

Lausanne, 12 April 2022 / The 75th Tour de Romandie will be cause for celebration from 26 April until 1 May. With 20 teams on the starting line - with the Swiss national team and the Kern Pharma team joining the 18 UCI WorldTour teams -, renowned crack cyclists and 14 Swiss riders competing, on one of the most mountainous routes in history, it looks like a wild race awaits us. The defending champion Geraint Thomas is going to be challenged by tough competition: the two-time winner of the event and four-time winner of the Tour de France Chris Froome, Thibaut Pinot, Damiano Caruso, Ion Izagirre, Michael Woods, Ben O'Connor, Mark Padun, Brandon McNulty, Sergio Higuita, Edward Dunbar, Steven Kruijswijk, etc. The festivities marking this jubilee edition will feature plenty of originality with a retro touch that will delight those yearning for the olden days: exceptionally, the *Le Maréchal* leader's jersey will be in the green of the past.

More than half of the riders who finished in the TDR 2021 top ten have been registered by the teams. This race will be absolutely full of suspense, undoubtedly right up to the end of the final time trial between the WCC in Aigle and Villars. Richard Chassot's dream, shared by Swiss fans, is of course for a Swiss rider to be on the podium of the 75th edition - with a stage win at the very least. With cyclists like Marc Hirschi (UAE Team Emirates), Simon Pellaud (Trek Segafredo), Gino Mäder (Bahrein Victorious) or Sébastien Reichenbach (Groupama-FDJ), the public and the TV viewers in Romandie and around the world may well experience a rollercoaster of emotions.

The rest of the Swiss legion includes the riders from the national Swiss Cycling team - Robin Froidevaux, Yannis Voisard, Mathias Flückiger, Filippo Colombo, Matthias Reutimann, Roland Thalman and Valère Thiébaud - as well as Matteo Badilatti (Groupama-FDJ), Johan Jakobs (Movistar Team), and Joël Suter (UAE Team Emirates).

The prologue in Lausanne will see the riders go around the new Stade de la Tuilière stadium and cycling on the runway at La Blécherette airport - a first! The 1st stage with a final for *puncheurs* at the fort of Castle Romont will start in La Grande Béroche (NE). Two looped stages will follow, with the first being very hard-going, around Echallens (VD), which should smile on the sprinters as there is only one King of the Mountain climb (and a category-three at that), and the second around Valbroye (VD), the fiefdom of our sponsor Le Maréchal. The Queen Stage between Aigle (VD) and



Zinal / Val d'Anniviers (VS) is one of the hardest that the Technical Director Bernard Bärtschi has ever devised! With 4,160 m of climbs and six KoM, including four category-ones, it will make a merciless selection: after Nax (1,295 m), two ascensions to Les Pontis (1,052 m), Saint-Luc (1,564 m) and Grimentz (1,563 m), the riders will climb to Zinal. On the following day, the final time trial towards Villars-sur-Ollon (VD) will also be held in Aigle (VD), in front of the World Cycling Centre, and it should see the battle for the final victory play out in the last seconds.

Festivities include the publication of the historic book of the 75th edition, a brunch for the 20 years of the World Cycling Centre on 1 May – the start line for the time trial – the “Etape Gourmande” gourmet stage on 20 May to celebrate the 75th edition and, the cherry on the cake, the first Women’s TDR from 7 to 9 October 2022.

The sponsor peloton and its new arrivals

The sponsor peloton for this 75th TDR is looking great. Behind Le Maréchal and the jerseys partners — Primeo Energie for the general mountain ranking, Banque du Léman for the best young rider, Jouez Sport for the points jersey (sprint) and Aldi as the sponsor of the stage winner — new partners have joined the organisation: Gobik, the new sponsor for the jerseys all of which are made entirely in Spain, Sunrise for telecommunications, 365° off the rocks, GVB Assurances Privées and Henry Recycling. Chicco d’Oro has changed status to become the new sponsor of the Combativity Prize.

A flagship and federating event for all of French-speaking Switzerland, the Tour de Romandie can count on the support of the Roman cantons and the canton of Berne as well as on the Loterie Romande.

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