

PRESS RELEASE n. 5
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**ARI VATANEN JOINS THE LIST OF BIG NAMES.
M-SPORT TO ATTEND WITH THE FIESTA WRC PLUS AND REVELATION ADRIEN FORMAUX.
ITALIAN SUCCESS STORIES “LUCKY” BATTISTOLLI, PIERO LONGHI AND RENATO TRAVAGLIA.
ERCOLANI VOLTA-ROGGIA, A RALLYLEGEND TRIBUTE**

Republic of San Marino. *“We’re almost there, and that’s already a big deal!”* This could be the tagline for Rallylegend 2020, as the entry list continues to take shape, with almost 120 vehicles already confirmed and a growing list of big names set to attend the 18th edition of Rallylegend. And the line-up of legends, champions and cars looks to be of the utmost quality, despite the difficulties and setbacks owing to anti Covid-19 measures.

In addition to already confirmed stars **Francois Delecour**, **Ken Block**, **Miki Biasion** and **Franco Cunico**, the list of high-profile guests who do not want to miss the latest exciting edition of Rallylegend continues to grow.

ARI VATANEN JOINS THE LIST OF BIG NAMES

An extremely fast driver and a real personality in the history of rallying, **Ari Vatanen**, 1981 world rally champion and winner of four Dakars as well as a Rally Raid World Cup, is set to attend Rallylegend 2020. A real scoop for the Organisers of the season’s coolest rally event. In San Marino, Vatanen will be back at the wheel of the Ford Escort RS Cosworth with which he placed fifth in the 1993 world Acropolis rally, with Fabrizia Pons on the notes.

M-SPORT IN ATTENDANCE WITH THE FIESTA WRC PLUS AND REVELATION ADRIEN FORMAUX

Despite the proximity of the Turkish and Sardinian events, Rallylegend confirms the prestigious presence of team M-Sport WRT – with technical partners including Michelin and Sparco – that will bring the latest evolution of the Fiesta WRC to the Republic of San Marino. Making his debut at the wheel of the splendid “Plus” is **Adrien Formaux**, with loyal navigator Renaud Jamoul. Born in France in 1995, the young driver has entered the orbit of the official M-Sport WRC2 team after just four years of racing and some first-rate results.

It is not possible for official M-Sport WRC drivers, Lappi and Suninen, to attend this time because, like their colleagues, they are avoiding other commitments between their tightly scheduled world rally events, in order to protect themselves as much as they can from Covid-19 and the need to quarantine.

ITALIAN SUCCESS STORIES “LUCKY” BATTISTOLLI, PIERO LONGHI AND RENATO TRAVAGLIA

At what is a very particular edition of Rallylegend, where the attendance of overseas teams is made difficult if not impossible due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the presence of Italian champions and rally drivers is key. This year they will account for more than 80% of all guests, while in past years the number of Italian and foreign teams has been much more balanced.

Aside from the aforementioned **Franco Cunico**, the Italian success stories set to attend Rallylegend include **“Lucky” Battistolli**, official Opel and Fiat driver in the 70s-80s and now also a multi-titled European and Italian historic rally champion, **Piero Longhi**, two-time Italian Rally champion in 2000, with the Toyota Corolla WRC, and 2005, with the Subaru Impreza WRX STI, as well as Slovenian champion in 2011, on whose participation in Rallylegend a small reservation still has to be dissolved, as well as for that of **Renato Travaglia**, one of the most decorated Italian drivers, his achievements including two European titles in 2002 (Peugeot 206 WRC) and 2005 (Renault Clio S1600) and an overall Italian rally title in 2002.



"SIDEWAYS FESTIVAL" WITH ALBERTO BATTISTOLLI, PAOLO DIANA AND FRANK KELLY

Also ready to put on a show is **Alberto Battistolli**, the young son of "Lucky" Battistolli, a driver included in the ACI Team Italia programme, who promises big things with the Lancia 037 in the Legend Stars event. And speaking of evolutions and show, two spectacular drivers of the caliber of **Paolo Diana**, with his hypervitaminized Fiat 131, and of **Frank Kelly**, from Great Britain, with the his Ford Escort MkII, also present this year, are awaited as always by the public and their fans.

ERCOLANI VOLTA-ROGGIA, A RALLYLEGEND TRIBUTE

For those of a certain age who appreciate the history of rallying, reading the names *Ercolani Volta-Roggia* on the windows of a Ford Sierra Cosworth at the upcoming Rallylegend will surely pull on the heartstrings. **Andrea Ercolani Volta**, son of Massimo, the greatest San Marino rally champion, and **Matteo Roggia**, the eldest child of Loris, among the greatest Italian navigators (he also partnered with Ercolani, as did Roggia's wife, Cristina Larcher), have decided to put on their suits and helmets and pay tribute to their unforgettable fathers aboard a racing car. The initiative is overseen by Daniele Ceccoli, a top San Marino driver, whose very first mentor was the great Loris Roggia himself.

THE MAIN SPONSOR SPARCO IS PROTAGONIST WITH THE NEW MARTINI RACING COLLECTION AND THE "BACK TO THE FUTURE" EVENT

Sparco will be in pole position at Rallylegend as main sponsor and official technical partner. At the event, the historical company based in Volpiano, Italy, will preview the prestigious Sparco-Martini Racing® 2021 capsule clothing line, enhancing the technical racing equipment with a touch of Heritage and the typical colours of the Pessione company.

The stand will be enriched with gaming products and two vehicles that made the story of motorsport: the Lancia Rally 037 Eminence, that will be shown after 37 years from its public appearance, and the Lancia Delta S4 from the collection of the Fondazione Gino Macaluso per l'Auto Storica, that newly has signed a partnership with Sparco. On Thursday afternoon, 1st October, the Sparco stand will be open to the public with a "Back to the Future" cocktail party. Special guests such as Miki Biasion, Federico Sceriffo and M-Sport teams will be attending.

EBERHARD & CO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT RALLYLEGEND

Eberhard & Co., the Swiss watchmaker with more than 130 years of history to its name, continues as a dynamic partner to Rallylegend. *"In these unprecedented times, we decided to confirm our participation in Rallylegend in order to send a positive and encouraging message to motorsport fans, who will come in their droves to enjoy what is a high-octane weekend. Eberhard & Co. has had an affinity with the car racing world as far back as the 1930s. We share the same values and face the challenge of continuous innovation with an innate passion, without ever forgetting tradition"* – comments Mario Peserico, CEO of Eberhard Italia. The company will award the overall first placed team with watches from its own collection and will also award a special prize to one rally world champion.

18TH RALLYLEGEND 2020: CONTACT DETAILS

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