**21st ACEA MARATONA DI ROMA**

***Sunday, March 22nd, with live broadcast in 65 countries, a legendary***

***edition of the Rome Marathon is going to be celebrated in the heart of the Eternal city.***

***Start at 8.50 am near the Colosseum.***

The **21st Acea Maratona di Roma,** IAAF Gold Label Road Race, is going to be held on Sunday, March 22nd 2015. Start will be at 8:50 am from Via dei Fori Imperiali, near Colosseum, with the finish line placed there too.

**Over 15,000** athletes have entered the race (registrations will close on March 5th). Over 8,000 **runners are expected from Italy and over 7,000 from 110** countries. **65 disabled** athletes have entered the race.

The event will be broadcast live in Italy on **RAI Sport**, from 8.35 am to 11.45 noon CET. Live broadcast will be provided also at www.raisport.rai.it. Suisse TV rights distribution company **Exora AS** guarantees live coverage of 3 hours in 65 countries (coverage: Europe, Africa and South America).

Alongside with the marathon, also the traditional **“RomaFun”** will be staged. A huge non-competitive 5k, whose participation in recent years rocketed over 80,000. For the second time this year the finish line will be inside the **Circo Massimo**.

**RACECOURSE 2014: THE FINISH WILL BE FROM PIAZZA VENEZIA TO THE FORI IMPERIALI**

Acea Maratona di Roma 2015 racecourse is the same of last edition. The start and the finish line will be in Via dei Fori Imperiali. The start will be in the direction of Piazza Venezia while the finish will be in the opposite direction. The course, sliding average, includes 77 changes of direction (no elbows) and approximately 7.6 km of cobblestones. The half marathon mark is set at Via della Giuliana. The course touches many of the most important and famous Rome landmarks.

**MARATHON VILLAGE: THE HOME OF THE MARATHON RUNNER**

The **Marathon Village** is in **Palazzo dei Congressi** (Piazza John F. Kennedy, 1). The village covers an area of 21,000 m2 (13,000 indoors and 8,000 outdoors), where **80,000** people have the opportunity to visit **140** stands. From **Thursday 19th to Saturday 21st** (from 10:00 a.m. to 08:00 p.m.), several events will take place in the Village: conferences, shows, sports exhibitions, music, shows for children, games. The Marathon official New Balance merchandising will be also sold at the Village and the RomaFun registrations will be also available. **Entrance is free**.

**THE ELITE RACE: AFRICA, EST EUROPE AND ITALY RACE FOR THE PODIUM**

In the woman field the spotlight is focused on the Italian Deborah **Toniolo**, for the first time in Rome. The 37 year-old athlete from Schio, Vicenza (pb 2:28:31) will be in race with the aim to reach the podium. Among the most credited for the success, the very young Ethiopian athletes Meseret **Tolwalk** (classe 1993 – pb 2:27.26) and Alemu Mokonnin **Ourge** (born in 1994, pb 2:31.20), and the two expert east Europe athletes, the Byelorussian Natassia Ivanova **Staravoitava** (pb 2:27.04) and the Ukrainian Olena **Burkovska** (pb 2:27.07) stand.

In the man field, to defend the Italian colors there will be Ruggero **Pertile** (pb 2:09.53), the 40 year-old from Camposampiero, Padova, winner in Rome in 2004, who, in August, will participate to World Championships in Beijing. In race for the winning there will be different African athletes. The most credited are the Kenyan John Kipkorir **Komen** (born in 1977 – pb 2:07.17) and Peter Chesang **Kurui** (born in 1990 – pb 2:08.56), the Ethiopians Teshome Gelana Etana (born 1983 – pb 2:07.37) and Habtamu Assefa **Wakeyo** (born in 1985 – pb 2:08.28) and the Moroccan Mustapha **El Aziz** (born in 1985 – pb 2:07.55). Among the possible surprises, there could be the Ukranian Oleksandr **Sitkovskyy** (born in 1978 – pb 2:09.14) and the Italian beginner Jamel **Chatbi** (born in 1984 – pb on the half marathon 62:38).

**“UNA CITTÀ IN FESTA”, AN ALL-CITY CELEBRATION**

**Acea Maratona di Roma** has always been something more than simply a sports event. All over the route, a cultural, arts and music event will cheer on the runners as they struggle to the finish line: "**Una città in festa**", a celebration involving the whole city and offering free entertainment to the audience for the whole duration of the race. This year, over 50 events will take place all over the route (see maratonadiroma.it). The leading event, as always, will be the International Folk Fest located at the Circo Massimo.

**NEW BALANCE SHOE DEDICATED TO MARATONA DI ROMA**

As a result of the partnership, “**1980 Zante Maratona di Roma”,** official shoe of **Maratona di Roma**, was presented by **New Balance**.

**1995-2014: HIGHLIGTHS OF MARATONA DI ROMA HISTORY**

Since the last century and until 1991, there were several marathons in the Capital. After three years without a 42 k (1992-1994), in March 12th, 1995 the Maratona di Roma became the only one 42 kilometers of the City. The first athlete to write his name in the Hall of Fame is the Ethiopian Belayneh Tadesse (2:10:13). Other 5 Ethiopian athletes won the Maratona di Roma. One of unforgettable moments in 2010 when Siraj Gena won the race (2:08:39) arriving barefoot at the finish line to celebrate 50th Anniversary of Bikila Olympic gold medal and the last year winner, Getachew Terfa Negari with the second best time ever in Rome (2:07:56). In 1998, after the Ethiopian triplet, comes the first Italian success, signed by Stefano Baldini, who closed in 2:09:33. The Hall of Fame is dominated by the Kenyan athletes, in 1999 Philip Tanu was the first Kenyan winner and others 10 won the Maratona di Roma. Among these, Kiptoo Benjamin, winner in 2009 with the undefeated best performance on Italian soil: 2:07:17 and Josephat Kiprono, winner of the unforgettable edition of January 1st, 2000 (2:08:27). Two other Italians complete the Hall of Fame: Ruggero Pertile, winning the 2004 edition in 2:10:12 and Alberico Di Cecco, winning in 2005 in 2:08:02.

Italian athletes dominates the female Hall of Fame with 6 victories, than 5 Ethiopian, 3 Kenyan and Russian and 1 Estonian, Ukrainian and Algerian. In 1995 prevails the Russian Elena Sipatova in 2:37:46 and in 2008 another Russian, Galina Bogomolova, wins in 2:22:53, signing the best performance on Italian soil. In 1996 it is the turn of Ethiopian marathon legend Fatuma Roba closing in 2:29:05, she won the gold medal at the Atlanta Olympic Games the same year. Another Ethiopian marks the history of the Maratona di Roma, Firehiwot Dado, able to win the race three times in a row, from 2009 to 2011. In 1998 comes the first Italian success, by Franca Fiacconi, and the second one right away with Maura Viceconte the following year. In 2000 comes the first Kenyan victory with the 3 times Half Marathon World Championships, Tegla Loroupe, and world’s marathon best performance holder at the time. From 2001 to 2004 Italy rules: Maria Guida, Maria Cocchetti, Gloria Marconi and Ornella Ferrara in 2004 preceding her compatriots Bruna Genovese and Rosalba Console. Ferrara’s the last Italian victory at Maratona di Roma.

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