

19th ACEA MARATONA DI ROMA

Sunday, March 17th, with live broadcast in 74 countries all over the world, a legendary edition of the Rome Marathon is going to be celebrated in the heart of the Eternal city.

*Start at 9am from the Colosseum
(4pm in case of concurrent Pope Enthronement)*

The **19th Acea Maratona di Roma**, IAAF Gold Label Road Race is going to be held on Sunday, March 17th 2013. Start will be at 9:00 am from the Colosseum, with the finish line placed there too. Should the Enthronement of the new Pope fall on the same day, flag-off will be postponed to 4:00pm.

More than 14,000 athletes have entered the race.

8,000 runners come from Italy, more than 6,000 from abroad. 82 countries will be represented at the start – this makes of the Rome Marathon a truly international event.

12,500 runners and 49 handbikers finished the Rome Marathon 2012, which has been the 18th largest marathon of last 2012, among more than 2,400 others.

The event will be broadcast live in Italy on La7, from 9:00 am to 12 noon CET (live broadcast from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm CET in case race start is postponed).

Live broadcast will be provided also on La7 official YouTube channel.

Swedish TV rights distribution company IEC guarantees live coverage in 74 countries of all continents, from 8:45 to 11:45 CET.

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. Start is scheduled at 9:15 am, unless postponement of the marathon.

THE ROME MARATHON RACECOURSE

The concurrence with the Pope’s Election may lead to last-minute variations in the Rome Marathon course. The traditional Rome Marathon racecourse, though, is considered by runners and spectators one of most scenic in the globe. In facts, it appears to have been designed by Rome’s tourist board, for how it leads runners by many of the city’s wonders and sites. The competition seems to be held in an outdoor museum, as the starting line is placed in front of the **Colosseum**, with the course continuing past **Piazza Navona**, **Trevi Fountain**, **Spanish Steps**, **Piazza Venezia**, **Theatre of Marcellus**, **Circus Maximus**, through narrow, cobblestone streets, past other magical sites of the Eternal City, then crossing the finish line as runners return back to the ancient **Colosseum**.

More than 500 monuments, landmarks and archaeological sites are included in the course.

Time limit is **7 hours**.

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 15,000 m² (7,000 indoors and 8,000 outdoors), where **80,000** people have the opportunity to visit **120** stands. From **Thursday 14th to Saturday 16th** (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

merchandising will be also sold at the Village. **Entrance is free.** During these three days (from 11:00 a.m. to 06:30 p.m.) the Pasta Party "Gragnano in Corsa – La Pasta degli Sportivi" will be welcoming runners for tasty carbo-loads, thanks to the cooperation of Gragnano Pasta. The Marathon Village is also the **official registration site for RomaFun-La Stracittadina.**

UNA CITTÀ IN FESTA, AN ALL-CITY CELEBRATION: 50 EVENTS ON THE ROUTE

Maratona di Roma Acea 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 CHARITY PROGRAM 2013: TOP FUNDRAISER AWARDED WITH THE MEDAL OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

The organizers work to stage a great sports event and to bring about opportunities for improvement for the community. Since the very first editions, tens of Italian nonprofit organizations have raised funds through registration for the 5k RomaFun. From this year's edition, the associations included in the "Charity Program" will have the opportunity to raise funds through registrations for the 42-km race, as associations in Anglo-Saxon countries do. The marathon runners who decide to support one of the charities and collect donations amounting to at least 200 EUR will be given a free marathon bib as a gift by the associations. Those who want to run for a charity simply have to click on the association's link; they will be re-directed to the association page on **Retedeldono.it**, Maratona di Roma's partner fund-raising portal. The athlete who raises the highest amount of funds for a NPO, showing the greatest ethic and social commitment, will be awarded the medal the **President of the Italian Republic, Giorgio Napolitano** offered to the organizers.

THE 2013 MEDAL: CHOSEN THROUGH A STUDENTS' CONTEST

In 2012, together with Premio Fidia and L'Altrosguardo-Artisti Associati, Acea Maratona di Roma launched a contest for the creation of the 19th edition medal. The students of art schools in Rome took part in the contest and sent over 100 drafts to organizers. 20 of them were selected by a jury of artists, art school teachers and organizers of Acea Maratona di Roma. Olympic marathon runners **Gelindo Bordin** and **Stefano Baldini**, together with **Augusto Frasca**, an expert in the history of sports, were part of the jury who selected the winning work. The winner was 25-year old **Marco Pittacci**, from Rome. Marco graduated from the Rome Fine Arts Academy and is specialized in set design. The medal will be awarded to marathon runners who cut the finish line.

ROMAN LEGIONARIES AT THE START

A delegation of "legionaries" from Gruppo Storico Romano will be at the start line and welcome runners on the finish line. Gruppo Storico Romano is a nonprofit cultural association created in 1994. Its purpose is to revive and study everyday life in Ancient Rome. Gruppo Storico Romano signed several Memorandum of Understanding with

MiBAC, Università di Tor Vergata and Roma Capitale. It was awarded several prizes, including the Gold Medal of the Presidency of the Italian Republic. The medal was awarded during the celebrations for the anniversary of the founding of Rome (which take place yearly on April 21st). Since 2003, over 1,800 fans of ancient Rome from all over Europe come to the Eternal City to celebrate and organize revivals.

THE ROME MARATHON TEAMS UP WITH ROME'S PREMIERE AMATEUR CYCLING EVENT

This year, Maratona di Roma and Gran Fondo Campagnolo started an unusual twinning, where two sports widely practiced by amateurs get together: running and cycling. It is a captivating "remote duathlon", a partnership giving the athletes the opportunity to face a double challenge, both running and cycling, with special rankings and prizes. A 15% discount on the registration fee is granted to those who take part in both events. See www.maratonadiroma.it and www.granfondroma.it for more information.

THE ELITE RACE: 49 TOP ATHLETES (29 MEN AND 20 WOMEN) FROM 12 COUNTRIES

MEN'S RACE: AFRICAN CONTINGENT PUTS COURSE RECORD AT THREAT

African athletes, the kings of the marathon, are, as usual, the favorites: indeed, according to the Rome Marathon Hall of Fame, **Kenyan athletes have won the marathon 11 times**, Ethiopian runners 4 times and Italian runners 3 times. After the default of European Cross Country Champion **Andrea Lalli**, recently injured, potential winners come all from Africa. They are Kenyan Chele **Dechasa**, whose personal best is **2:06.33**, and Sylvester Kimeli **Teimet**, (**2:06.49**), Ethiopian Bekana Tolesa **Daba** (**2:07.04**) and Getachew Terfa **Negari** (**2:07.32**), Kenyan Stephen **Chemlany** (**2:07.55**), Luka Lokobe **Kanda** (**2:08.40**) winner of the 2012 edition, Samson Kiprono **Barmao** (**2:08.52**), and, finally, Ethiopian Dereje Tadesse **Raya** (**2:08.46**). There are five more African athletes who might win the race: Kenyan Jacob **Kiplagat Yator** (**2:09.02**), Victor Kipchichir **Lagat** (**2:09.13**) and Raymond **Kiplagat Kandie** (**2:09.23**), alongside with Cosmas **Koech Kimutai** (**2:09.25**) and Ethiopian Haile **Haja Gemed** (**2:09.34**). Also some European athletes will run to win: Russian Artem **Aplachkin** (**2:13.10**), Portuguese Hermano **Ferreira** (**2:13.28**) and Estonian Kaur **Kivistik** (**65.36 – half marathon**).

WOMEN: EUROPEAN RUNNERS CHALLENGE AFRICAN ATHLETES

The women's race might be surprising: a European athlete may win the marathon. No European athlete has won the race in the last 5 years. The last one was Russian Galina Bogomolova, who, in 2008, flew over the streets of Rome and finished the marathon in 2:22.53, setting the course record (still unbroken). After that, two fantastic athletes have won the race: Ethiopian Firehiwot **Dado** (2009, 10 and 11) –who, after having won Maratona di Roma three times in a row, won the New York City Marathon 2011–and, last year, Kenyan Hellen Kimutai (she will take part in this year's edition too).

This year, the Kenyan and Ethiopian athlete group is certainly high-level. However, Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian and Turkish athletes will certainly take up the challenge. Let's start from African athletes. The pole position is composed of Ethiopian Ashu Rabo **Kasim**, with a highly-valued PB of **2:23.09** and Kenyan Helena Loshanyang **Kirop**, **2:23.37**. Four other Ethiopian athletes will run for victory: Goitetom Haftu **Tesema** (**2:26.21**), Sechale Adugna **Dalasa** (**2:26.27**), Derbe Godana **Gebissa** (**2:27.31**) and Biruktayit Eshetu **Degefa** (**2:27.34**), as well as Kenya's Hellen Jemaiyo **Kimutai** (**2:25.53**, defending champion) and Hellen **Mugo** (**2:27.16**).

Among European athletes, the favorite is Sultan **Haydar**, a Turkish runner of Ethiopian descent with a personal best of **2:25.09** (she set this time at the Paris Marathon 2012, where she ranked second), setting Turkish national record. Other runners who will run to win come from Easter Europe: Ukrainian Tetyana **Filonyuk** (**2:26.24**), Russian Olga **Glok** (**2:27.18**), Belarusian Nastassia **Staravoitava** (**2:27.24**) and Lithuanian Drazdauskaite **Rasa** (**2:29.29**).

The standard prize for marathon winners, both men and women, amounts to **EUR 25,000**. Athletes ranking second will be awarded EUR 16,000 and those ranking third

EUR 10,000. There are also financial bonuses for outstanding performances. The records to be broken are the 2:07.17 record set by Kenyan Benjamin Kiptoo in 2009 and the 2:22.53 record set by Russian runner Galina Bogomolova in 2008 (they still are **Italian all-comers records**).

DISABLED ATHLETES: PARALYMPIC CHAMPION ALEX ZANARDI TO COMPETE

Around 110 disabled athletes will line up at the start on March 17th. **Alex Zanardi** – winner of 2010 and 2012 editions, racecourse holder (**1:11.46**) – will be among the most representative athletes in the handbike category (which counts the highest number of racers, with approximately **60 participants**). The former Formula 1 driver entered the history of Paralympic Sports at the 2012 London Games, when he won gold medals in the individual H4 time trial and the individual H4 road race, followed by a silver medal in the mixed H1-4 team relay (with Fenocchio and Podestà). Raffaele **Panebianco** instead will take part in the race in the blind athletes category. As usual, the **Progetto Filippide** relay will run the marathon: tens of young people affected by autism will alternate on the marathon or the RomaFun route with their operators.

GIRO D'ITALIA HANDBIKE TO FLAG OFF FROM ROME

On March 17th, via dei Fori Imperiali will host another important event: the start of the first stage of the Giro d'Italia for hand-cranked bike riders. The race for disabled athletes is the opportunity to inaugurate a partnership – which will certainly grow over time – with Rome's 42K. Marathon organizers, indeed, have always attached special attention to the world of Paralympics. More than 60 handbikers are expected at the Giro start line. Learn more at girohandbike.it.

MAYORS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATORS' CHAMPIONSHIP

The race will be valid for the national Mayors and Public Administrators' championship, thanks to the collaboration with Emilia Romagna's ANCI. This year, two more races have been added to the championship: one in Carpi and one in Florence.

42K FOR ALL: PACEMAKER, PASSO CAPPONI, ARCHEORUNNING AND FITWALKERS

Pacemakers are also known as "the Angels of Marathon Runners". For each time range, (3h, 3h15, 3h30, 3h45, 4h, 4h15, 4h30, 4h45, 5h, 5h30), a group of **5 pacemakers** will help athletes enjoy the unique pleasure of running in Rome (the 5h time-range has four pacemakers, the 5h30 time-range has one). Pacemakers are easy to recognize: they hold colored balloons with running times printed on them. During the marathon, one pacemaker will head the group, while the others will run among the runners according to their final time, in order to assist them. The service is provided by Training Consultant.

The **Passo Capponi** team (their balloons are white, black and red) will assist those who only want to run together, have fun, chat and enjoy the marathon with the most beautiful route in the world.

For archeology connoisseurs, CoopCulture and "Timorosi Astenersi" offer the opportunity to run with **Archeo-runners**: they will tell the runners the story of the monuments on the route through special "whisper" earpieces (paid service).

Maratona di Roma is also **RomaFitwalking**. The race maximum time (7 hours) will allow

the lovers of fitwalking to take part in the race. This initiative is implemented in cooperation with the Fitwalking Project by Maurizio and Giorgio Damilano, the promoters of this specialty in Italy.

FIRST CLASS MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

The Rome Marathon medical assistance is organized according to a unique and extremely functional model. Our team is composed of hundreds of medical and paramedical professionals. 30 doctors, resuscitation experts, orthopaedic doctors, cardiologists, sport medicine doctors, 40 masseurs and over 100 highly-specialized nurses will be present on-the-route. 11 emergency wards (one every 5 km) will be especially organized on the route. Moreover, 11 ambulances, 11 mobile resuscitation units, 2 emergency cars and 6 emergency motorcycles will be in service especially for marathon runners.

CULTURE, CINEMA, THEATER AND THE AFTER PARTY

MARATONA DI ROMA ART CARD: DISCOVERING ART IN ROME

On the Maratona route only, runners will run into over 500 pieces of our amazing art, historical and architectural heritage. Thanks to a convention with **Zètema Progetto Cultura**, each registered runner will receive the new "**Maratona di Roma Art Card**" included in their race kit. The cards allows access to all exhibition facilities of the Roma Capitale Museum Network at a reduced price (see list on maratonadiroma.it). Moreover, with Maratona di Roma Art Card, runners will be able to buy the "**Roma Pass**" enjoying a 2-Euro discount.

THE ROME MARATHON AFTER-PARTY - IN ONE OF THE COOLEST CLUBS IN TOWN

Marathon: mission accomplished. It's time to party! Runners and their friends, relatives, audience can celebrate their participation at the official **After Party**, which will take place from 06:30 p.m. until late at night at the Lian & Teatro Centrale Carlsberg (via Celsa 6 - Piazza del Gesù). A fantastic opportunity to show off your medal and share your passion for running with marathon runners from all over the world.

SPIRIT OF THE MARATON II TO BE RELEASED IN JUNE IN U.S. THEATRES

In 2012, Maratona di Roma was chosen as the subject of "**Spirit of the Marathon 2 - La Maratona di Roma**", the sequel of "Spirit of the Marathon", a feature-length documentary movie filmed in 2008 during the Chicago Marathon. The film won the *Audience Choice Award* at the Chicago Film Festival and the *Best Picture Award* at the Mammoth Film Festival. Spirit of the Marathon 2 **will be released in June 2013** in US cinemas. In September, distribution will start in cinemas all over the world and, later, the film will be distributed on TV, DVD/blue-ray. Directed by Jon Dunham, it is about the stories of seven runners at different levels, from amateur to top runners. Footage was filmed mainly during the 18th Rome Marathon and, later, in North America, other European cities, Kenya and Ethiopia.

MARATONA DI ROMA ON STAGE AT THE ARGOT THEATRE IN ROME

From April 23rd to May 5th, "**The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Runner**" (by Alan Sillitoe, with Alfredo Angelici, directed by Nicola Pistoia) will be playing at the Teatro Argot in Rome. Rome Marathon runners will have the opportunity to enjoy the piece at a reduced price (you only need to show your race bib at the box office). It will be possible to tell your marathon experience, your relationship with the race and with the sense of loneliness you experience during the 26 miles. Runners can email their comments, thoughts and stories to lasolitudinedelmaratoneta@gmail.com). The comments will be published on the website of the play (lasolitudinedelmaratoneta.it), then printed and displayed in the theater foyer. Some comments will be read before the show each evening.

ROMA-FUN: THE CITY'S 5K STROLL

ROMAFUN-LA STRACITTADINA: 5 KILOMETRS OF FUN

As for the **RomaFun** is concerned, the **5-km non competitive race also known as "La Stracittadina"**, over **80,000** participants are expected to take part in the race. The start is at 09:15 am in via dei Fori Imperiali, then the race will continue through some of the most scenic streets of Rome. Bibs and race kits (EUR 8 with the official Asics tee) can be booked and purchased at the Marathon Village and in Rome Marathon points – full list at maratonadiroma.it).

Men's best friends will run the race too: the initiative "Stracanina di Roma" will involve "dogs and their human friends", in the name of fun, friendship and mutual respect.

The Stracittadina has its village too: the **RomaFun Village**. The Village will be organized in Parco del Colle Oppio, at the finish line of the non-competitive race and will be a celebration of outdoor sports: **entrance is free**. In RomaFun Village, you can taste the products offered by the partners of Maratona di Roma Acea and enjoy the shows organized in the park, take part in sports and leisure activities. The media partner, Radio Lattemiele, will ensure music and fun.

PRESS VADEMECUM

A **Media Center** for press and journalists will be set up in the **NH Hotel Villa Carpegna** in Via Pio IV, 6. **From March 14th until March 16th, from 10:00 am to 08:00 p.m.** journalists can collect their pass and work in a dedicated area of the hotel - the same hotel where the Top-Athletes and the Rome Marathon press team will be staying.

The official inauguration of the Marathon Village (the Rome Marathon Expo) will take place on **Thursday, March 14th at 12 noon.**

On the race day, March 17th, the media center will be set in the Information and Exhibition Center (also known as "Visitor Center") in via dei Fori Imperiali (entrance from via del Tempio della Pace, at the corner with via del Colosseo). Admission with press pass only.

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