

The 15th Südtirol Gardenissima, 3 April 2011

The Val Gardena cult race celebrates its 15th anniversary. Counting 620 skiers, more than 1000 metres of slopes, 6 km in length and 110 gates, Südtirol Gardenissima is the longest giant slalom event in the world and the skiing event par excellence which closes off Val Gardena's skiing winter season. World cup champions are not the only people who take part in this legendary race as ambitious amateur skiers participate also: loads of fun to be expected, with a good possibility of winning! The excitement before the race couldn't reach higher peaks, not even during World Cups or World Championships. Athletes drop from an altitude of 2518 metres from the starting gate on Mount Seceda.

Narrow and dynamic curves on an open slope until Daniel Mountain Hut: this first stretch is considered, and therefore, marked with gates just like a parallel giant slalom. Before jumping off, you reach a common track and passing swiftly by Cuca Mountain Hut, a sharp curve to the right next to Sangon Mountain Hut, followed by Pramulin Mountain Hut until you reach the valley station of "Col Reiser". On the 3rd April 2011, 620 participants will race each other in occasion of the commemorative edition of the Südtirol Gardenissima. The longest ever giant slalom slope, Südtirol Gardenissima is a race par excellence under many points of view. It consists of a 6 km long slope, with a height difference of 1000 metres and 110 gates to cross. Time records are just below four minutes. It's up to three or four times longer than any giant slalom slope of a World Cup, which simply means more hard work is required from skiers: concentration, technique, appropriate physical condition and especially physical strength are a must. When your thighs start aching, there's still a long stretch remaining. Südtirol Gardenissima has been a cultural event for a long time. The unique slope and the dreamlike winter scenario contribute to its status quo, but let's not forget the skiing aces who take part in this competition every year: it's a matter of personal pride. For instance, Peter Fill, one of South Tyrol's leading athletes, winner of Südtirol Gardenissima 2004 and 2005, and let's mention also the previous editions' winners. The queen of Südtirol Gardenissima is without trace of doubt Isolde Kostner who won the 1998-2003 editions, as well as in 2005. The podium has already seen many other World Cup winners, for example Lucia Recchia, Denise Karbon, Daniela Merighetti, Roland Fischnaller, Kristian Gherdina, Pepi Strobl, Christoph Gruber, Werner Heel, Christof Innerhofer e André Bank. For these skiing champions this is a big adventure, just as it is for many amateur skiers. It's an unforgettable experience for skiers and viewers alike on one of the longest and most beautiful ski slopes on the Alps to race alongside some of the best skiers in the world. All just make the most of the relaxing and pleasurable atmosphere. Even amateurs have a good opportunity of winning.

Südtirol Gardenissima is judged based on 35 different categories: young skiers, men and women, athletes of both sex, as well as seniors, veterans and a category designed by the journalists. Even slower skiers can win, as all the classified and present skiers during the prize giving have the possibility of their names being drawn for super

alluring holidays.

Online enrolments start from the 3rd November 2010 on www.gardenissima.eu

The world's longest slalom

Infobox

Date: 3rd April 2010
Enrolment: by the 26th March 2011 or once 620 enrolments have been reached
Enrolment fee: by the 31st December 2010: for holders of FIS/FIS membership cards or third party liability insurance 40€ for non-members 90€ (purchased from Val Gardena-Groden Marketing) from the 1st January 2011: for holders of FIS/FIS membership cards or third party liability insurance 45€ for non-members 90€ (purchased from Val Gardena-Groden Marketing)
Skipass: 50% discount on Val Gardena/Alpe di Siusi skipass (1 or 2 days)
Withdrawal number plate: Saturday the 2nd April 2011 between 4.00 pm and 7.00 pm at the Iman Centre in Santa Cristina
Beginning of race: Sunday, 8.30 am from Mount Seceda
Check-up: Sunday, from 7.00 am to 8.00 am
Prize-giving: Sunday the 3rd April 2011 from 3.30 pm at Iman Centre in Santa Cristina
15th anniversary T-shirt: online purchase for 15 € when enrolling, available only until the 20th January 2011
Starting positions and final rankings: www.valgardena.it/gardenissima
Helmets are required!

