



PRESS RELEASE

Diversified profile for an exciting Deutschland Tour

The Deutschland Tour runs through southwestern Germany from August 23-26 and visits five German states in its first new appearance. The terrain between the start in Koblenz and the finale in Stuttgart is very diverse and inspired the course designers to create a race which will leave the question of the final overall winner open until the final day. Sprinters and aggressive Classics riders will all have their chances on the four stages, which cover more than 740 kilometers. In its comeback, the Deutschland Tour is focusing especially on the fans. In addition to an extensive participatory program, downtown finishes in every stage will provide a great cycling experience to the fans.

Four stages through five states

The opener of the stage race runs from Koblenz to Bonn. After the start on the famous landmark Deutsches Eck, the riders will cross the Rhine south of Koblenz and go up the right side of the river through the foothills of the Westerwald towards Bonn. The peloton reaches the city over the Konrad Adenauer Bridge, to end the stage with a circuit course. This first day covers more than 154 kilometers and provides no particular difficulties. That fact and the 2000 meters long run-in to the finish line in downtown Bonn are good news for the sprinters.

The sprinters won't be happy for long, though, as the next day presents the Queen Stage of the Deutschland Tour, from Bonn to Trier. With 212 kilometers, it is also the longest stage of the race. The course, cutting through the Eifel region, resembles the profile of an Ardennes Classic, with the peloton constantly going up and down. At the end of the day, the pros will have more than 3200 climbing meters in their legs. The second stage ends in Trier with a closing circuit, which includes a 2 kilometers long climb – the ideal point for a late attack.

Stage 3 starts in Trier and takes the peloton over 177 kilometers to Merzig in Saarland. The puncheurs in the field can again look forward to a Classics profile with nearly 2900 climbing meters. After a flat start phase along the Mosel and the Saar, there will be two laps of a circuit around the Saar, which will be hilly. In Merzig, the stage will be decided on the closing circuit course, which will give a small group the chance on a steep ramp in the last 5 kilometers to get away from the sprinters.

The finale of the Deutschland Tour 2018 runs from Lorsch in South Hessen to Stuttgart. At 200 kilometers, the closing stage won't be an easy one and will keep the outcome of the race exciting up to the end. In Stuttgart, two laps of a closing circuit from the World Championships 2007 on the well-known Herdweg climb await the field. After the last time up that climb, there are more than 6 kilometers to the finish line, so that the Classics riders and sprinters can slug it out for the day's victory. In the center of Baden-Württemberg's state capital, the first winner of the new Deutschland Tour will be crowned on the Theodor-Heuss-Straße on August 26.



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Former pro rider Fabian Wegmann, who helped to plan the course, said “This Deutschland Tour would have pleased me as an active rider. The stages are quite varied and will reward the aggressive riders. The sprinters and Classics riders have equal chances, so that things will remain exciting up until the final day. In order to be closer to the fans in the finales and to offer a great experience, we have built a closing circuit into every stage. I am also happy that we accomplish the race with hardly any transfers. From my personal experience I know that this a bonus for the fans and the riders.

Unique participatory concept “Deutschland. Deine Tour.”

For the first time ever for a cycling race, the fans could take part in planning the Deutschland Tour. Under the motto “Deutschland. Deine Tour” (Germany. Your Tour.), more than 1500 suggestions and tips were sent into the organizer’s website. Nearly 70% of the course suggestions lie in the region through which the Deutschland Tour will run in August, and 30 specific fan tips were integrated into setting up the four stages. “Our innovative participatory concept was a success. Already in the first new running of the Deutschland Tour we could use the wishes of the fans for the possibilities of stage cities and regions. Now that the course has been established, we continue with the specific structure of our cycling festivals. The fans can continue to take part in that,” said Claude Rach, Managing Director of the Gesellschaft zur Förderung des Radsports, the German subsidiary of race organizer A.S.O..

1 pro race – 100 other activities

The Deutschland Tour will be a real cycling festival, starting with the team presentation on August 22 on the impressive backdrop of the Deutsches Eck in Koblenz. In addition to a stage program and a large Expo, every stage city will also host a children’s bike parcours. Family-oriented rides and kids races on traffic-free streets are also planned.

On Saturday, August 25, Merzig will host the Newcomer Tour, the chance for young riders in the Deutschland Tour. On the challenging closing circuit, the pros will ride, there will also be race for U17 women riders. The Deutschland Tour supports not only young cyclists in general, but also women’s cycling.

The Jedermann Tour, the sportive of the Deutschland Tour, will take place on August 26 in Stuttgart and the Stuttgart region. Two different courses will start at the Schlossplatz and run 65 or 111 kilometers over traffic-free roads. With their registration at Deutschland-Tour.com/JedermannTour, each of the 3500 participants will receive a free jersey from Santini Cycling Wear, to be distributed with the start numbers.