20,000 BENDS IN THE ITALIAN AND FRENCH ALPS

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This year the 20000 bends saw an increase in participants. 140 people coming from all over Italy and only one, myself, Vittorio Caminiti, from Great Britain.

The event had 3 routes, the first from Bra to Alba, about 300 kilometers, crossing the "Langhe" with roads that required the utmost attention to be always well interpreted and in addition to the sun has given some wonderful feelings.

From Alba, we all moved in Cuneo, the base of the "daisy" route of the last two days of the event, taking possession of the exquisite Galimberti Square, in the centre of town, which has become the base of departures and arrivals but also the location of the "skills tests" and the parking lot of the bikes.

The square was a sort of paddock with the Suzuki VStrom 650 ABS on display designed for the absolute winner.

The second route should have reached about 400 km, with the passage of the "Val Varaita" to "Casteldelfino" and the climbing of the "Colle dell'Agnello" (2,748 m) but the organization had to give up on the climb of the "Colle della Bonette", in the French territory, due to a landslide dropping right in the hours before the event arrived, so we returned to Italy through the beautiful "Colle della Maddalena".

The last and third route focused on the south-west through the "Valla Stura" to the "Vinadio" and so climbing to 2000 meters to the "Sant'Anna di Vinadio" shrine.

From there the ride to France, with the crossing of the "Mercantour National Park", the "Colle de Turini" and the return to Italy from the "Tenda Colle" and "Limone Piemonte". In total another 300 km, beautiful and challenging.

As announced by Daniele Alessandrini (the organizer) the "20000 Pieghe" formula has been revolutionized: gone the penalties and their "punitive" character with the introduction of a new "rewarding" system that assigns points for every correct behaviour.

That means respect of the start time and correctly completing all the steps in the roadmap, certified with the selfies (another innovation that was very welcome) with the controls or the stamps.

Of course, very important, in the purely competitive aspect, the skill tests in the main square, six in total.

Substantially the event wanted to enhance the sense of travel, discovery, guidance and the sense of the "group", leaving the agonistic aspect to a secondary level.

At the time of the greetings, at the end of the awards ceremony always held in the immense Piazza Galimberti of Cuneo, Daniele Alessandrini unveiled the next location of the "20000 pieghe" 2018, the Dolomites, having base at the Hotel Shandranj in Tesero (TN).