

Proposal to host ERC2016 in Italy

1) Suggested dates of the ERC2016

Our suggested dates are March 2016. It is a good time for us so we don't cause problems for some farmers who's fields we would be crossing.

2) Location

San Gimignano. The terrain that would be used falls in an area of approximately 30 km radius around the historical town.

3) Terrain

The terrain could be described as rolling hills of flat to moderately steep country dissected by a number of deep creeks. Situated at an altitude between 350 to 700 metres. The vegetation cover is made up of both open and cultivated land and generally thick forest. There are patches of oak forests that can be crossed but also of "Macchia" – a compact mixture of scrub, spines and head high brush that is impossible to cross. Vineyards, olive plantations, fields for crops and grasslands make up the open areas. There is a rich road and path system allowing the course setter to offer many route choice problems when combining them with the open areas and the thick vegetation. Rogainers will learn quickly when the vegetation is impossible to cross from its' appearance and naturally will avoid crossing it. We have found this to be the case in the last three editions of the 6 hour events we have organized there. Generally if the forest is crossable from all sides then we will put a control inside the forest if need be.

4) The organizing group

IKP, Atletica Valdelsa

Organised the last 3 editions of 6 hour rogaining events in San Gimignano. IKP has organized numerous National Orienteering events, Trofeo delle regioni 2012, Italian Cup events.

Massimo Bianchi and members of the IKP by order of the Italian Federation were invited to take over and salvaged the organization of the 2013 Orienteering World Masters Games in Piemonte. The local organizers who failed to meet deadlines and made some superficial decisions on safety from the planning stages had to be dismissed from certain roles.

By post we will send you the maps with courses of the last three editions of Medieval Italian Rogaining. As you can see we have improved from each edition and with word of mouth publicity we have increased the numbers. People who competed in earlier editions have also come back. Rogaining is still in its infancy in Italy but we are planning three events in 2015 including a 12 hour event and with a possible "fourth" 6 hour in the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region.

We had members of IKP Mario Ruggiero compete in the ERC2013 finishing in 15th place. The club has many athletes and ex athletes of National level in Orienteering including Giame Origgi, Gianluca Salvioni and Emiliano Corona were winners of the first and third editions and also competed in Il Gran Canaria Rogaining in 2012 finishing 3rd overall.

Maurice Ongania has produced the maps for the last three Rogaining events and has over 40 years of mapping experience in all fields from orienteering to photogrammetry and GIS fieldwork. He has received guidance from Richard Robinson and David Rowlands in setting up our very first event in 2012.

Alberto Alberti is one of the cofounders of Italian Rogaining, a retired school teacher with Athletica Valdelsa. He and his wife Eda will be assisting in the catering. Eda's cakes are a much sort after delicacy in our rogaining events; some come from Latvia for the cakes. It's disappointing moment for all when they run out! Just for the culinary minded the Tuscan cuisine will not disappoint.

Technically we feel we can meet the challenge of a 24 hour event. So far we have produced maps with hill shading to help new people who are new at navigation events but with a 24 hour event we will not use shading for clarity especially during the night or in dim light. Because of our limited numbers map printing has been done on a plotter. If we were to organize an event with more than 250 competitors we would use offset printing.

In conjunction with the third edition of Medieval Italian Rogaining here in the city of San Gimignano we have had a recent meeting with Simone Burgassi, the Sports and Tourism councilor, outlining our intention to bid for ERC 2016. As we hoped the Councilor on behalf of the San Gimignano said that they will be behind our bid and will make resources such as the school gymnasium and facilities for the hash house available. The council will look into low cost accommodation; activate voluntary groups and local police to help with traffic and all other necessary services. Their collaboration will also be necessary in helping us to get approval to use the territory in adjoining councils, as we will need an extra 100 to 150 km² of terrain to fully accommodate the 24 hours. It is necessary to have the backing of councils as the majority of the land is private and it will be important to let landowners know that the council supports the event.

We feel we have some good terrain for Rogaining here in Tuscany. It is also our intention to make the event a cultural one where some control points that are visited will be near objects of cultural significance. The hosting of such an event and its timing will stimulate the local hospitality to provide package deals for the rogainers but most of all help us publicize Rogaining and with a tradition of long distance running in this Region we can entice these people to try our great sport.

Events next year:

4/01/2015 C.R.T. Chianti Rogaining Trophy (6h) near Florence

18/07/2015 #27San Clemente Rogaining (6h)

24-25/10/2015 4° edition Me.It.ing in San Gimignano (12h-6h-3h)

www.rogaining.it

Best regards

Massimo Bianchi and Maurizio Ongania