



Press release #006/2026 of February 1st, 2026 – ENG

MARCIAGRANPARADISO 2026: DE FABIANI DELIVERS A MEMORABLE PERFORMANCE IN THE 43RD EDITION OF THE GRANFONDO

A fabulous edition for the iconic Valdostan granfondo. A day filled with sunshine, sport, and great emotions, made even more special by the return to the traditional course.

The main race of the MarciaGranParadiso weekend got underway right on schedule at 9:30 a.m. from the Prati di Sant'Orso, with the adult granfondo representing the sporting heart of the entire event. It was an edition marked by strong participation, with 529 starters representing 11 nations across three continents, once again confirming the international appeal of the iconic Valdostan event.

Further enhancing the start list was the presence of two outstanding guests: France's Maurice "Momo" Manificat, a true benchmark of world cross-country skiing and member of the Équipe de France de Ski de Fond, and Italy's Francesco "Defast" De Fabiani, who delivered an exceptional performance destined to remain in the memory of fans for a long time.

From the very first kilometres, the race immediately settled into a blistering pace. De Fabiani set the tempo right from the opening stages, gradually thinning out the field. After just a few kilometres, a leading group of around ten athletes emerged, though it was destined to shrink further as the race progressed. Shortly afterwards, De Fabiani and local Valdostan skier Wladimir Cuaz made their decisive move, pushing on and leaving the rest of the pack chasing behind.

As tradition dictates, the long course proved spectacular in every respect: a sequence of sections immersed in the natural beauty of the Gran Paradiso National Park, allowing all participants – the legendary "bisonti", as MarciaGranParadiso competitors are traditionally known – to fully enjoy a day of pure cross-country skiing. Weather conditions played a key role, with bright sunshine, clear skies and perfect visibility making the experience even more memorable.

In the upper section of the course, the athlete representing the Centro Sportivo Esercito changed gear once again. In one of the toughest and most selective sectors of the race, characterised by long shaded stretches and temperatures dropping to -9°C , De Fabiani managed to definitively distance his last remaining companion, Cuaz, steadily increasing his advantage.

The fast descent towards the valley saw the group racing through Sylvenoire and reaching Épinel before tackling the final decisive effort of the day: the climb back towards the village of Cogne through the hamlet of Cretaz. Here, the warmth and enthusiasm of a large crowd lining the course accompanied the athletes through one of the most iconic and spectacular passages of the entire route, creating the atmosphere of a true international sporting event.





At the finish line, Francesco De Fabiani crossed in splendid isolation, completing his first-ever MarciaGranParadiso in a time of 1h55'. He was followed by Wladimir Cuaz in second place, 3'30" behind, while François Vierin claimed third position, finishing 5'37" adrift.

In the women's race, Chiara Caminada, a park ranger and highly experienced athlete, once again confirmed her status as the standout performer, dominating the event and finishing in 2h45', ahead of runner-up Amalia Laurent, with Anais Segor and Nikita Boretta sharing third place with the same time, after a race marked by consistency and determination.

On the Light course, competition was intense in both the men's and women's fields. Among the men, Aimé Lombard claimed victory in 1h29', ahead of Cien Chadel and Semmi Mortara. In the women's race, success went to Czech athlete Karolina Bikova, who finished ahead of Anna Abigail Longo Borghini and Emilie Beltrami.

Here are the results of the **MarciaGranParadiso** for the two courses, Marathon and Light.

Marathon Course Men

1st DE FABIANI Francesco	(ITA)	Centro Sportivo Esercito
2nd CUAZ Wladimir	(ITA)	GS. VV.F. Godioz
3rd VIERIN François	(ITA)	Sci Club Gran San Bernardo

Marathon Course Ladies

1st CAMINADA Chiara	(ITA)	Sci Club Valle Ellero
2nd LAURENT Amalia	(ITA)	Sci Club Gressoney Monte Rosa
3rd SEGOR Anais	(ITA)	n/a
3rd BORETTAZ Nikita	(ITA)	Sci Club Gran Paradiso

Light Course Men

1st LOMBARD Aimé	(ITA)	n/a
2nd CHADEL Chien	(ITA)	Sci Club Gressoney Monte Rosa
3rd MORTARA Semmi	(ITA)	n/a

Light Course Ladies

1st BIKOVA Karolina	(ITA)	n/a
2nd LONGO BORGHINI A. A.	(ITA)	Sci Club Valle Anzasca
3rd BELTRAMI Emilie	(ITA)	Sci Club Drink ASD

Rounding off a day of outstanding sport, the second part of the MiniMarciaGranParadiso also took place in the morning, dedicated to the Ragazzi and Allievi categories. The young skiers competed over distances of 5 and 8 kilometres, enjoying a unique and highly emotional experience.

For them, the most thrilling moment was undoubtedly the shared start with the entire MarciaGranParadiso field—a rare opportunity that allowed the youngest athletes to breathe in the atmosphere of major competitions and to ski, from the very first metres, across the legendary Prati di Sant'Orso. A symbolic venue, rich in history, capable of evoking memorable chapters of cross-country skiing and of inspiring genuine emotions in the new generations, protagonists of a day destined to leave a lasting mark on both their sporting and personal journeys.





Here are the rankings from the second part of the **MiniMarcia**:

Ragazzi Ladies Category

1st BOCHICCHIO Viola	(ITA)	Team Ski Torgnon 2.0
2nd LONGO BORGHINI M.E.	(ITA)	Sci Club Valle Anzasca
3rd DORIGO Emilia	(ITA)	Sci Club Valdigne Mont-Blanc

Ragazzi Men Category

1st BESENVAL Thierry	(ITA)	Sci Club Fallere ASD
2nd PERACINO Vittorio	(ITA)	Sci Club Valsavarenche
3rd MODINA Xavier	(ITA)	Sci Club Gressoney Monte Rosa

Allievi Femminile Category

1st BENETTI Alenie	(ITA)	Sci Club Gran Paradiso
2nd PIEILLER Eleonora	(ITA)	Sci Club Saint-Barthelemy
3rd TRENTO Severine	(ITA)	Sci Club Valdigne Mont-Blanc

Allievi Maschile Category

1st GALLET Thierry	(ITA)	Sci Club Amis de Verrayes
2nd BORTOLOTTI BARREL E.	(ITA)	Sci Club Amis de Verrayes
3rd FOLCHI Martino	(ITA)	Sci Club Valle Anzasca

Here are the rankings from the second part of the **SkiriMini**:

Ragazzi Ladies Category

1st BOCHICCHIO Viola	(ITA)	Team Ski Torgnon 2.0
2nd LONGO BORGHINI M.E.	(ITA)	Sci Club Valle Anzasca
3rd MARGUERETTAZ Noemie	(ITA)	Sci Club Fallere ASD

Ragazzi Men Category

1st BESENVAL Thierry	(ITA)	Sci Club Fallere ASD
2nd PERACINO Vittorio	(ITA)	Sci Club Valsavarenche
3rd MODINA Xavier	(ITA)	Sci Club Gressoney Monte Rosa

Allievi Ladies Category

1st PIEILLER Eleonora	(ITA)	Sci Club Saint-Barthelemy
2nd BENETTI Alenie	(ITA)	Sci Club Gran Paradiso
3rd TRENTO Severine	(ITA)	Sci Club Valdigne Mont-Blanc

Allievi Men Category

1st QUATTRONE Pietro	(ITA)	Sci Club Fallere ASD
2nd FOLCHI Martino	(ITA)	Sci Club Valle Anzasca
3rd IANNIELLO Andrea	(ITA)	Sci Club Gran Paradiso

The MarciaGranParadiso thus confirms itself not only as one of the most fascinating granfondo events in the cross-country skiing calendar, but as a celebration capable of combining top-level sport, extraordinary landscapes and strong public participation, set against the unique backdrop of Cogné and the Gran Paradiso National Park.





It is possible to relive the event dedicated to adults on the **Facebook** page @Marcia Gran Paradiso, on the **Twitter** profile @MGranparadiso and on the **Instagram** profile @marciagranparadiso. Three are the official hashtag for the event: **#marciagranparadiso**, **#MGP2026** and **#SkiClassicsChallengers**.

It is possible to relive the event dedicated to youngsters on the **Facebook** page @MiniMarciagranparadiso, on the **Twitter** profile @MGranparadiso and on the **Instagram** profile @marciagranparadiso. Three are the official hashtag for the event: **#MiniMarcia**, **#MiniMGP2026** and **#SkiriMini**.

Press Office MARCIAGRANPARADISO
Written and translated by Nicolò Caneparo, Nickland Media
info@marciagranparadiso.it

