



SANREMO, 16-17-18/10/2026



The town of Sanremo is 'buzzing' with excitement over the ADAC Opel GSE Rally Cup

For the first time in Italy, a rally for fully electric cars is taking place. In the City of Flowers, thirteen crews from nine countries will compete from 16 to 18 October at the wheel of the German saloon car, which, in terms of performance, is every bit as good as the high-performance Rally4 cars taking centre stage at the 73rd Rallye Sanremo. Two promising young talents from the Italian rally scene – Valentino Ledda from Sardinia and Matteo Greco from Alba, Piedmont – will be challenging the frontrunners in the standings.

SANREMO, 12 October – Can an electric car compete in a rally just like a car with a combustion engine? Opel's motorsport management (the Rüsselsheim-based company with a rich rallying heritage, having won the 1982 World Rally Championship with Walter Röhrl and the Ascona 400) answered 'yes' in 2021, converting the ADAC Opel Rallye Cup – previously contested with small petrol-powered Adams – into the ADAC Opel GSE Rally Cup, reserved for the Opel Corsa Rally Electric, which has been replaced this year by the Opel Mokka GSE Rally Cup – a car capable of delivering 207 kW and 345 Nm of torque, enabling performance on a par with a state-of-the-art Rally4-class car.

For the first time in rallying history, an all-electric single-make series will take to the Italian special stages, and it could only be Sanremo to launch such an innovation. Thirteen competitors from nine European countries (Wales, Germany, France, Sweden, Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Austria and Italy), starting with the championship leader, Welshman Joan Lloyd, co-driven by Sion Williams – winner of the second round on the calendar, the Rallye Vosges in France – who holds a lead of just seven points over the German duo Timo Schulz and Marissa Lade, the series' standout performers with three victories in four rounds (Rally Eindhoven, in the Netherlands; Rallye Weiz, Austria; the Stewweder Berg Rally in Lübeck, Germany), although they scored zero points in the Vosges after retiring. Third place goes to the Frenchman Tom Dufour, ten points off the top, who shares the Mokka with his compatriot Alex Dubois. They were in the lead before the North Rhine-Westphalia rally, but on Friday they went off the road, forcing them to restart in the Super Rally on Saturday, though they still managed to cross the finish line.

Two Italian competitors will be taking on their electric rivals: Valentino Ledda from Burgos, originally from Sassari, who will be joined by his fellow Sassari native Claudio Mele – a driver who, at just 19 years of age, is already a star of Italian rallying within the ACI Team Italia set-up, and who has been competing on European special stages for three years, having raced in the Baltic republics since the age of sixteen (where you can compete without a driving licence), and is currently competing in the European Rally Championship, where he sits ninth in the Rally4 category – a commitment he alternates with rounds of the Opel Mokka GSE Rally Cup. Matteo Greco, a 28-year-old from Alba (CN), co-driven by Enrico Brovelli, is also competing full-time in top-level rallies, having taken part this year in the Lancia Ypsilon Rally4 Trophy, which he left at the Sanremo rally to focus on the Opel Mokka GSE Rally challenge.

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The Mokka crews will report for duty between 7.30 am and 10.30 am on Thursday 15 October in the area designated for the ADAC Cup within the Service Park on Via Adolfo Rava, opposite the Old Station. On Friday 16 October, the rally will get underway from Pian di Nave at 11.30 am to tackle the day's three special stages: San Romolo-Ghimbegna (10.28 am, 10.28 km), Molini-Buggio (15.28, 19.11 km) and Semoigo-Bajardo (16.41, 7.39 km), before returning to Piazza Colombo in Sanremo for the overnight regrouping. On Saturday 16 October, the race will resume from Piazza Colombo at 12.57, and the crews of the electrifying Mokkas will compete on the Carpasio-Ville San Pietro stage (14.30, 14.70 km), Caravonica-Rezzo (17.03, 24.83 km) and will return once more to Piazza Colombo at 21.03. On Sunday 18 October, the third stage begins at 9.34 am, starting immediately with the Molini-Buggio leg (11.02 am, 19.11 km) and the Semoigo-Bajardo leg (12.35 pm, 7.39 km), before finishing with the San Romolo-Ghimbegna (at 16.33, covering 10.28 km), before heading to the podium at Pian di Nave to raise a toast at 18.05 to all the crews who have completed the entire 397.45 km route, divided into eight special stages totalling 113.09 km of timed sections

The City of Sanremo will also be at the heart of the ADAC Opel GSE Rally Cup, thanks to the collaboration with the Department for Tourism, Events and Sport: the Santa Tecla complex will host the race control centre and the press room; Via Adolfo Rava will be the service park; Piazza Colombo will be the regrouping point; and, finally, Pian di Nave will be the venue where all the winners will be celebrated..

Full details can be found on the events' official websites:

www.rallyesanremo.it and www.rallydellepalme.it

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