



SANREMO, 16-17-18/10/2026



Rallye Sanremo turns on the engines

SANREMO, 16 October – With the start of the first car entered in the 41st Sanremo Historic Rally – a round of the FIA European Historic Rally Championship (EHRC) and the Italian Historic Rally Championship (CIRAS) – the 2026 Sanremo Rally has officially begun. Kicking off the sporting event that, once a year, transforms Sanremo into the European and Italian capital of rallying is Finnish champion Jari-Matti Latvala – who has 18 World Rally Championship victories to his name – in a Toyota Celica ST 185, the first to leave the starting platform set up at Pian di Nave. He is followed, in order of start number, by the Belgian Ghislain De Mevius at the wheel of a Subaru Impreza GT and the Frenchman François Delecour – with four overall victories in the World Rally Championship and second place in the 1993 world championship – starting in a Peugeot 306 Maxi. Behind the leading trio, Belgian driver Freddy Loix in a Toyota Corolla WRC and Lucio Da Zanche from Valtellina, the leading Italian in the race, in a Porsche 911 SC RS. After the first four special stages of the day – the first run on the San Romolo-Ghimbegna (Bignone, 10.28 km), Bivio Ceppo-Badalucco (Vignai, 19.14 km), Molini-Buggio (Langan, 19.11 km) and Semoigo-Bajardo (Bajardo, 7.39 km), the French duo François Delecour and Fabrice Gordon – winners of two special stages (Bignone and Langan) – lead the standings for the European Historic and Classic Car Championship with a total time of 40'29"6. They are followed by the Polish crew of Maciej Lubiak and Grzegorz Dachowski, who finished first in the other two special stages, trailing the leading duo by 20.2 seconds in a Porsche 911. Third place went to the Belgians Ghislain De Mevius and Johan Jalet, 32.4 seconds behind

In the Italian Championship, first is Lucio Da Zanche, co driven by Daniele De Luis in a Porsche 911.

Among the Classic cars, after four SS, the best time for "Zippo" – Arena, in a Subaru Impreza GT.

Quotes at Regrouping:

3. DELECOUR Francois – "I'm really happy, the car is excellent and that's a good thing. The stages are really very nice."

1. LATVALA Jari-Matti – "Very well, but I have to improve my driving. All the stages are very nice, so far my favorite is Langan. I actually expected Delecour to be fast, also because he has an excellent car".

2. DE MEVIUS Ghislain – "I like the stages, very technical and difficult. We had a problem with the brakes in the second SS, but anyway Delecour is faster. This weekend looks like to be really interesting and I hope to improve".

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5. DA ZANCHE Lucio – “It’s going well, partly because I’m not quite at my best due to a mild bout of flu. It’s the first time I’ve driven this car, so for me it’s a test race. If I manage to finish on the podium, so much the better”.

7. “ZIPPO” – “After nearly a year off, we’re starting to get back into the swing of things with a car I haven’t driven for four years. The aim is to finish the race, gather as much data as possible to develop the car, and have a lot of fun.”

6. LUBIAK Maciej - “The stages are brilliant but very demanding. So far I’m happy to be second. Everything’s brilliant: the weather, the car... Let’s see what happens at the end of the day.”

4. LOIX Freddy - “It’s going very well. I need to work on my speed, but I’m happy for now. I first took part in Sanremo in 1993”.

OVERALL CLASSIFICATION '4 - SEMOIGO - BAJARDO (BAJARDO) (7,39 KM)'

Overall: 1. DELECOUR-GORDON (Peugeot 306 Maxi) in 40'29.6; 2. LUBIAK-DACHOWSKI (Porsche 911) gap 20.2; 3. DE MEVIUS-JALET (Subaru Impreza GT) gap 32.4; 4. DA ZANCHE-DE LUIS (Porsche 911) gap 56.6; 5. LATVALA-MAEKAWA (Toyota Celica ST185) gap 57.0; 6. TISCHNER-CARL (BMW M3 E30) gap 1'30.7; 7. ZIPPO-ARENA (Subaru Impreza GT) gap 1'44.5; 8. SCHIPPER-KRIEGER (Subaru Impreza GT) gap 1'46.0; 9. LOIX-TSJOEN (Toyota Corolla WRC) gap 1'49.2; 10. GINO-BONATO (BMW M3 E30) gap 2'04.1

This same morning, the drivers entered in the 40th edition of the 40th edition of Coppa dei Fiori regularity rally will also set off from Pian di Nave, followed by the competitors in the Sanremo Electric Rally, which, for the first time in Italy, will feature fully electric cars, the Opel Mokka GSE Rally Cup cars, capable of delivering 207 kW and 345 Nm of torque, offering performance on a similar level to a state-of-the-art Rally4-class car.

All the information on the events' official websites:

www.rallyesanremo.it and www.rallydellepalme.it

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