



SANREMO, 16-17-18/10/2026



François Delecour finishes the first day of the 41st Sanremo Historic Rally in the lead

SANREMO, 16 October– The first day of competition at the 41st Sanremo Historic Rally continues to feature a battle between the French duo of François Delecour and Fabrice Gordon, in a Peugeot 306 Maxi, and the Polish pair of Maciej Lubiak and Grzegorz Dachowski, who are sharing a Porsche 911, with a gap of 29.6 seconds between them. After eight special stages, the French crew lead the standings with a total time of 1:21'28".0 and four stage wins; the Polish pair have also claimed four stages victories. Third place goes to Jari-Matti Latvala, in a Toyota Celica ST 185, with Tomiya Maekawa as his co-driver, 1'03"4 behind the leading pair. The Finnish champion takes the lowest step on the podium following the retirement of Belgian driver Ghislain De Mevius – who followed in his father's footsteps – alongside Johan Jalet in the Subaru Impreza, which failed to leave the service park after the sixth special stage. Fourth place went to the Belgian duo Freddy Loix and Pieter Tsjoen in a Toyota Corolla WRC. "Zippo" and Nicola Arena, in their Subaru Impreza GT, finished fifth overall, upholding the honour of the Italians following the retirement of Lucio Da Zanche and Daniel De Luis, who rolled their Porsche 911 RS on the sixth special stage, the Ghimbegna-Badalucco, though the crew escaped unharmed. Also out of the running was Alessandro Gino from Cuneo, with Corrado Bonato as his co-driver, who came to a halt at Ghimbegna due to gearbox problems with his BMW.

Following the withdrawal of Da Zanche and Gino, "Il Valli" and Stefano Cirillo in a BMW M3 lead the Italian championship standings, ahead of Elio Cortese and Ciro Lamura in a Subaru Legacy 4WD Turbo, who trail by 14.1 seconds. In third place after eight special stages are Enrico Volpato and Samuele Sordelli, who started the rally in a Ford Escort RS.

The 41st Sanremo Historic Rally will draw to a close tomorrow, Saturday 17 October, following the final two special stages: Colle d'Oggia and Rezzo, which, almost 25 timed kilometres, is the longest stage of the race.

QUOTES AT THE REGROUPING:

7 "ZIPPO" – "We had a bit of fun in a couple of stages. Then in others we ran into fog, which I really struggle with, and on the second lap we weren't able to do what we wanted. Tomorrow morning we hope to get back to having fun."

32. PALMIERI Giuliano – "We're tired, but that's fine. I took it easy this morning, but then we picked up the pace"

31. PARISI Nello – "We were doing well at the start, but then we slowed down"

38. "Il Valli" – "Things are going well, and we didn't expect to finish top on the first day of our first Sanremo. It's a tough competition, but we're very happy"

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41. CORTESE Elio – “We’ve lost a bit of ground in the last two stages. I got off to a bad start this morning because I couldn’t find the right set-up. We’ll try to improve tomorrow.”.

OVERALL CLASSIFICATION '8 - SEMOIGO - BAJARDO (BAJARDO) (7,39 KM)'

OVERALL 1. DELECOUR-GORDON (Peugeot 306 Maxi) in 1:21'28.0; 2. LUBIAK-DACHOWSKI (Porsche 911) gap 29.6; 3. LATVALA-MAEKAWA (Toyota Celica ST185) gap 1'03.4; 4. LOIX-TSJOEN (Toyota Corolla WRC) gap 2'53.0; 5. ZIPPO-ARENA (Subaru Impreza GT) gap 3'13.0; 6. TISCHNER-CARL (BMW M3 E30) gap 3'18.2; 7. SCHIPPER-KRIEGER (Subaru Impreza GT) gap 3'35.3; 8. PRYCE-FURNISS (Ford Escort RS1800) gap 4'21.1; 9. RING-DEASY (Subaru Impreza GT) gap 7'45.9; 10. GRAHAM-GRAHAM (BMW M3 E30) gap 8'09.3

Full details can be found on the events' official websites:
www.rallyesanmarco.it and www.rallydellepalme.it

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