

PRESS INFORMATION

Ironman for the first time in Turkey

Belek turned out to a sports paradise with Gloria Ironman 70.3 Turkey



2. Place for the German Paul Schuster

Winner Frederik Van Lierde

Awarding ceremony

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25. October 2015 The Ironman, which is hosted worldwide in 92 cities yearly, was organized in Turkey's favored holiday region Antalya-Belek for the first time this year, under the patronage of Özaltin Holdings Gloria Hotels & Resorts. With the final in the Gloria Sports Arena the mega-event ended successfully. Further information: www.ironman.com and <http://www.gloriasportsarena.com.tr>

1.224 triathletes from over 60 countries - ageing from 18 to 80 - competed against each other at the disciplines swimming (1,9 km), cycling (90,2 km) and running (21,1 km). The ratio of the female athletes amounted to 25 per cent.

More than 1.000 volunteers supported the event on 25th October in all areas. With Gloria Ironman 70.3 Turkey the image of the region Belek as the sports paradise was further valorized. A great deal of interest was also seen from Belek's residents. Together with the Gloria-Team more than 10.000 spectators shared the excitement onsite, while whole Turkey could follow the event on CNNTürk live.

The winner of the challenging Gloria Ironman 70.3 Turkey at the pro men was Belgian Frederik Van Lierde with the best time of 03:53:48. The second and third rank were pocketed by two Germans: Paul Schuster with 03:57:53 and Patrick Lange with 03:59:50.

At the pro women Belgian Alexandra Tondeur could win the day with the best time of 04:26:39. Second rank went to the Spanish professional athlete Gurutze Frades with 04:28:41, while Caroline Livesey from Great Britain was at third place with 04:34:34.

Gloria Sports Arena-Triathlete Barlas Kazanci fastest Turkish participant

Next to the Turkish female triathlete İpek Onaran, who ended the challenge with 4:52:46, Barlas Kazanci was the fastest Turkish triathlete with 4:28:12. Both athletes took part under the patronage of Gloria Sports Arena.



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Thomas Dieckhoff, Ironman-CEO for Europe, Middle East and South Africa, could end Gloria Ironman 70.3 with 06:06:46 as the last challenge of the year in the competition calendar.

In the team categories the CNNTürk crew, under the leadership of sports director Cem Yilmaz, could terminate the triathlon as third-best team.

Özaltın Holding is one of the first-movers of Turkey's tourism. Beginning of January the owners of Gloria Hotels & Resorts opened the Gloria Sports Arena as most comprehensive and largest sports facility of Turkey. With more than 50 sports and a sports performance and health center, all certified after international standards, the wishes and needs of all sporty guests are taken very seriously.

Chairman of Özaltın Holding Nuri Özaltın commented on the first Gloria Ironman 70.3 of Turkey: "Sports is one of the favourite topics in our Özaltın-family. With investing in our youngest project Gloria Sports Arena we wanted to underpin our passion. As main sponsor of Gloria Ironman 70.3 Turkey we strengthen our innovation spirit, as with all former initiatives, for our country and region. Gloria Ironman 70.3 Turkey as one of the largest events of Turkey has turned into a sports magnet. Antalya as the most favored Turkish holiday destination will be also widespread as a sports paradise."

The large acceptance, huge participation number and the perfect infrastructure for the triathletes makes the first Ironman of Turkey to a huge success. Enough reasons to continue this worldwide popular event in 2016. This time around, 2.500 athletes are expected.

Further links:

<http://www.gloriasportsarena.com.tr> and www.gloria.com.tr.

About Gloria Hotels & Resorts

Where the Mediterranean and the Taurus meet, the Gloria Hotels & Resorts, a part of the renowned Turkish company Özaltın Holding from Ankara, inspire with their five-star resorts in the whole year destination Belek, just 30 kilometers away from Antalya airport. Those are, on a total area of 212 hectares, the three hotels Gloria Golf Resort (since 1997), Gloria Verde Resort (since 2001) and Gloria Serenity Resort (since 2007) as well as the Gloria Villas and the Gloria Golf Club, which is the largest golf course in Turkey with 45-holes (two 18-hole championship courses and a 9-hole academic course), designed by the French golf course architect Michel Gayon. The Gloria Convention Centre offers with the latest technological facilities the right platform for meetings, congresses and events of all kinds. Furthermore Özaltın Holding opened the Gloria Sports Arena in January 2015 – the biggest sports arena in Turkey for professionals and amateurs with more than 50 sports possibilities. Whether holidays with golfing equipment, for the soul with plenty of oriental spa highlights and gourmet experiences or with numerous leisure activities for the family – the Gloria Hotels & Resorts with their master plan offer a multitude of services for many different target groups. www.gloria.com.tr.