



2015

Italians

By Antonio Ammiragli / ApPhotoSport

By now everybody knows that the Italians are always to be found where the track is tough and tedious. Thus, with 16 participants the Tricolore was strongly represented in this Transanatolia, and with the exception of Stefano Fasani, all of them have been able to successfully finish the race. He was out after 150 kilometers already, due to irreparable engine failure.

The green-white-red field is led by Mirko Miotto, who this time however acted as the last man, limited by an accident not long ago. In any case, he has earned the sympathy prize, because independently of the lack of language skills, he has communicated most with the Turks and established real friendships.

Large was the comradeship among the participants, even though nobody got anything for nothing. When, at times, the stage results were announced late, the Italians were all on their mobile phones, exchanging information, partly commenting their own results even with rougher words. Particularly striking was the duel between Francesco Tarricone and Massimo Bubix Chinaglia, which from start to the finish occupied spectators and participants alike.

The riding styles of the two couldn't be more different. Tarrico stands for fast, impulsive riding, while Bubix stands for a rounded, continuous driving style. Apart from that, however, both of them were equally convinced of fairness, which was never lacking even in the most difficult situations.

Alessandro Madonna also impressed, since he was in the race on a legendary Yamaha 600 Teneré, as genuine as it had rolled off Yamaha's assembly line, without changing a single screw. Despite considerable problems with the stock brakes, he brought his baby safely to the finishing line.

Newly entered in a rally outside of Italy is Vanni Cominotto. His results were very mixed, because his perfect mastery of the bike and his excellent fitness were contrasted by inexperience in dealing with the roadbook and the GPS. In any case, he has managed to show everyone his incredible potential. One will have to reckon with the 26-year-old in the coming years.

Francesco Catanese, on the other hand, was not in his best shape and still managed to shine with his impressive AfricaTwin, which was created by the German-Italian Stephan Jaspers of AfricanQueens. Proud 240 kg of beauty, including 55 litres of fuel, are accelerated by a 890ccm displacement two-cylinder v-twin. Reigning over this power was not always easy, even for an experienced pilot like Francesco Nazionale, but he has demonstrated through his incredible ability that the Africa Twin, with appropriate preparation, continues to radiate an immortal and timeless fascination.

It's a machine of truly enormous dimensions, yet it has an agility, a mobility that is second to none. Of course, this also depends on modifications that distinguish the bike very much from the standard model. Even for me as a driver of an RD07, the African Twin Legend appeared easy to direct and I had no problems on the fast gravel tracks, where those horse powers really get into play. An eyecatcher she's in any case, because everywhere we stopped, a group of motorcycle fans quickly gathered, admiring the rare beauty.

