

XXVI Rallye Elba Storico

Trofeo Locman Italy

It's Rally Time!

Words & Photos by James Nicholls





Historic rallying is certainly a burgeoning sport. Those great cars of the 1960s and from the heyday of rallying in the 1970s and '80s are once again taking to the steep climbs, forest roads, muddy lane-ways, and, of course, gravel and tarmac in almost as competitive a manner as when they were brand new and part of factory rally teams.

September in Italy on the island of Elba off the Tuscan coast, famous for the incarceration of Napoleon, saw the running of the 26th Elba Historic Rally, the XXVI Rallye Elba Storico - Trofeo Locman. The entry list of 95 vehicles was full of exciting cars: Porsche 911RS and SC; Lancia Rally 037, Fulvia Sport and Beta Montecarlo; Audi Quattro; Ford Escort RS; Renault 5 Turbo; Opel Manta, Kadet and Ascona; Golf GTI; Triumph TR7 and TR8; Lotus Elan; assorted Alfas and Fiats; and a whole host of Autobianchi A112 Abarths

running in their own class. With competitors from all over Europe including from rallying's heartland of Scandinavia as well as many Italians, competition was fierce whilst friendly, as the event was also the 12th leg of the FIA European Historic Sporting Rally Championships and the eighth leg of the Campionato Italiano Rally Auto Storico (Italian Historic rally Championship).

Held over the weekend of the 18/19/20 September, the rally literally covered the entire island in order not to over burden any one area, and to make sure that as many spectators as possible got a chance to see the cars roar by, and, as the organisers said, to allow the "competitors to live the island."

With early fog and rain providing conditions to keep the competitors 'honest', the early leader 'Lucky' Pons in the Lancia Rally 037 could not live up to his name and had to retire due

to a broken driveshaft. This allowed Salvatore Riolo and Alessandro Floris, from the hotbed of Italian rallying in Sicily, to move to the top of the leader board in their Audi Quattro A2 despite it suffering with problems to its hydroglide. Riolo and Floris hung on to their lead on the last day to become the overall winners over the 11 stages. There was a strong challenge from the Lancia Rally 037, with Brazzoli and Valmassoi on board, which took the lead briefly, only to finish second, and Corse Marc Valiccioni in the Renault Turbo 5 in third place. Lucio Da Zanche in a Porsche 911 RS was fourth ahead of the Ford Escort RS of the San Marino driver Giuliano Calzolari with local co-driver Simone Scalabrini, and in sixth was last year's winner, the youngster Nicholas Montini in the Porsche 911 RSR.

If you are in to Martini stripes, Heuer jackets, and stickers all over your car, then this was the place to be! ◀



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