



SARDEGNA

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MIKKELESEN READY FOR SARDINIA

Press release n.8

Volkswagen Motorsport's testing week in Sardinia ahead of the World Rally Championship round scheduled in six days time ended today. After Gronholm, Latvala and Ogier, the runner up in the title hunt Andreas Mikkelsen has been testing the current Wrc and the new cars in San Giacomo today. "After the good second place obtained in Portugal, our objective for Sardinia – declared the Norwegian driver – is to race Ogier and end ahead of him this time too. We will start right after him and we want to post times close to his, if we can manage that it would be great. I have never run strong races on this gravel, last year I made some mistakes. I like a lot these stages as they are quite technical and tricky, but this time around I have to complete a clean run". Taking the victory is definitely not going to be easy for the VW driver though, as the three Hyundais of Paddon, Sordo and Neuville will start from the back, together with Latvala's Polo. "This is a race where starting as second is going to be very penalizing... – he continued – we will see. We will have to be very precise with the notes and very clean with driving, as Sardinia gravel does not forgive mistakes. I noticed that the new itinerary is more compact, this will allow us to race at best and will make it easier for fans to follow us. I like this racing format, I would actually reduce racing days from three to two to be honest. I will now unwind a bit Sardinia until Monday and then we will start preparing the rally".

THE RACE. Edition 2016 of the Rally Italia Sardegna is scheduled for 9–12 June and will unfold in an itinerary embracing 324,60 km timed split in 19 stages. Alghero will host the headquarters again, as service park and the press room of the event. The shakedown will kick off the programme on Thursday June 9th in Olmedo at 8.00. In the evening, the 2 km long super stage "Ittiri Arena Show" will open the race at 18.00. On 10,11,12 June the gravel roads of Mount Acuto, Sassari and Nurra will stage the three legs of the race, that will reach its conclusion on Sunday June 12th in the Alghero city harbour, with the prize ceremony scheduled in the early afternoon.

