

Press release

Auronzo di Cadore (BL), 20 June 2026 GT3 Lavaredo - UCI Gravel World Series:

Memorable debut among the Dolomites, summer heat and big names of MTB Marathon

A truly unforgettable day for the debut of **GT3 Lavaredo – UCI Gravel World Series**, which brought around **700 athletes** to the Dolomites, with 28 nations represented.

Two routes on the program:

- **Long route: 133 km with 3,170 m of elevation gain** (open to all elite and amateur men's and women's categories)
- **Medium route: 105 km with 2,460 m of elevation gain** (reserved for women's categories and men Over 60)

A **sunny** and **very hot day** accompanied the athletes along a technical, fast and spectacular course, with continuous changes of pace and unique panoramas.

The men's race – Rabensteiner, Paez and Evensen-Lie take center stage

From the first ramps toward the Passo Monte Croce Comelico, the pace is very high. At the high-altitude crossing point, a lead trio forms, made up of:

- **Leonardo Paez (Colombia)**
- **Dario Cherchi (Italy)**
- **Eskil Evensen-Lie (Norway)**

A little further back, slightly detached, Fabian **Rabensteiner** (Italy) maintains a steady and controlled pace.

The first major shift happens at the **Carbonin** crossing point:

- Cherchi loses contact
- Rabensteiner rejoins decisively and takes the lead
- Paez (COL) remains in second position
- Evensen-Lie (NOR) holds third place

After crossing **Cortina d'Ampezzo**, on the climb of the **Passo Tre Croci**, Rabensteiner continues to set the pace, followed by an always combative Paez. Evensen-Lie remains slightly further behind but solid in third position.

Men's finish

- **1st – Fabian Rabensteiner (Italy) – 4:36:21**
- **2nd – Leonardo Paez (Colombia) – +26 seconds**
- **3rd – Eskil Evensen-Lie (Norway) – about +2 minutes**

An intense, tactical race, fought right down to the last kilometer.

The women's race – Karolina Migon's dominance

The women competed on the **Medium course**, with a good technical level and a sustained pace from the very first moments.

Karolina Migon (Poland) took the lead already in the early stages, holding the front of the race for almost the entire event. Behind her, **Erica Magnaldi** (Italy) tried to contain the gap, while **Debora Piana** (Italy) consolidated third position.

Women's finish

- **1st – Karolina Migon (Poland)** – 4:12:57
- **2nd – Erica Magnaldi (Italy)** – over 4 minutes behind
- **3rd – Debora Piana (Italy)** – about 12 minutes

An authoritative performance that confirms Migon as one of the most complete and competitive athletes on the international gravel scene.

Finish line interviews

Men's race – Long route

1st – Fabian Rabensteiner (Italy) *"Today I felt very good and my skills as a climbing biker helped me a lot on this type of course. When I ride in my Dolomites I'm always happy. I didn't think I would win, because it was a very competitive race."*

2nd – Leonardo Paez (Colombia) *"I'm a specialist in MTB marathons, as shown by my past and recent successes, but for some time now I've also gained confidence with the gravel bike. I fought the race down to the end with Rabensteiner: I never let go. It was tough because the course was very demanding and Fabian would pull away from me on the straights."*

3rd – Eskin Evensen-Lie (Norway) *"The course was really demanding. I come from MTB and I'm now getting closer to the gravel world. I couldn't compete with two true giants of long distances like Rabensteiner and Paez, but I'm happy with my performance."*

Women's race – Medium route

1st – Karolina Migon (Poland) *"I managed the race from the front from start to finish. It was a demanding course, true gravel. Today it was important to know how to manage your energy well. I'm very satisfied with my performance."*

2nd – Erica Magnaldi (Italy) *"Today I was very tired: I'm coming off a very demanding road season and this second place is more than fine. I really liked the course: true gravel, very varied, with asphalt, bike path, dirt road and trails."*

3rd – Debora Piana (Italy) *"I'm overjoyed! After rupturing my Achilles tendon at the start of the season, the recovery was long and this third place gives me a lot of confidence for the rest of the season. The surroundings were beautiful, stunning panoramas. As for the course, I would have preferred more technical sections."*

Much satisfaction was expressed by the **Mayor of Auronzo, Dario Vecellio Galeno**: "It was a great team effort and also a victory for the local area. I thank the whole community and the volunteers who made a great contribution."

And naturally, the entire **Pedali di Marca** team and **Massimo Panighel** were happy and enthusiastic, having worked hard to bring, for the first time, a UCI Gravel World Series event to the Dolomites.