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Review

The New Eco Targa Florio

The engines are off now and the crews headed home: the first staging of the new Eco Targa Florio has come to a close, and the winners of the three competitions that, together with the 6th Eco Mobility International Forum, comprise the event have been declared. The Liverani-Strada crew triumphed in the Eco Targa Florio Green Prix, the Massara-Schira couple claimed first place in the Eco Targa Florio Classic, while the Ferrari Tribute to Targa Florio was won by Verghini-Fuso.

The new Eco Targa Florio has ended after three days of competition, curves through Sicily's striking scenery, and trials that put even the most skilled drivers to the test. With this event, Sicily became the stage for a debate on sustainable mobility.

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The opening encounter and discussion of the 6th Eco Mobility International Forum was followed by three days of intense competition: over one hundred crews (aboard alternative fuel vehicles, and classic and modern cars) left Floriopoli to dive into the Circuito delle Madonie (the circuit of the Madonie), then onward into an intense lap of Sicily, passing through Enna, Piazza Armerina, Ragusa, and Modica, followed by Noto, Siracusa, Catania, Taormina, and Cefalù. Along an endlessly demanding course, the cars climbed the curves of the Madonie, Mount Etna, and the Nebrodi.

Three competitions crowned three overall winners. The Eco Targa Florio Green Prix ended with the victory of Massimo Liverani and Valeria Strada, the couple on board a 2005 FIAT Croma JTD powered by Biodiesel.

In the Eco Targa Florio Classic, first place went to the crew comprising Giulio Massara and Simona Schira driving a 1966 Lancia Fulvia HF 1.2.

"It's always a pleasure to come back here to Sicily: I was just a boy when I came with my motorbike to admire champions like Merzario or Vaccarella race on the Circuito delle Madonie," said Giulio Massara. "There were difficulties along the way and many trials were technical and complex, but for being the first time, I think it went quite well."

The team composed of Gino Verghini and Lamberto Fuso in a 1992 Ferrari 512 TR placed first overall at the Ferrari Tribute to Targa Florio, the Maranello company's homage to the historic race. "At the start, especially in the first leg, we met with some difficulty due to the roads," explained Gino Verghini, "then further along, the road eased up and we were able to admire Sicily's beauty: a unique experience." The awards were presented during the closing lunch in the spectacular setting of Castello Utveggio, in Palermo: Saturday evening, the city gave a very warm welcome to the crews who paraded through the centrally-located Piazza Ruggero VII.

"I'm pleased with the success the event achieved in its first commemorative staging this year. Looking forward, the Targa Florio represents a history that must be remembered, as we've done with this event," explained Sandro Binelli, President of MAC Group. "I'm proud to have had Porsche and Alfa Romeo as joint presenting sponsors already this year, and I hope to strengthen increasingly significant partnerships with them, to continue to build this event and give it the international visibility it deserves," Binelli concluded.

"I'd like to thank MAC Group for having believed in this project," stated Antonio Marasco, President of the Automobile Club of Palermo. "Seeing such a gathering of enthusiasts is a source of great pride, and it is my hope that the number of participating crews will increase even further next year."

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A special award was presented to Nino Vaccarella, Antoine Hezemans, and Arturo Merzario, three drivers who wrote the history of the Targa Florio and who participated in the competition this year. The Coppa delle Dame (Women's Cup) went to the team made up of Claudia Tagliaferri and Elisa Panzeri aboard a 1955 Jaguar Xk 140 OTS. Eco Targa Florio is an initiative of the Fondazione Targa Florio in collaboration with the Automobile Club of Palermo. This first commemorative staging of the Eco Targa Florio boasts two important car companies as joint presenting sponsors: Alfa Romeo and Porsche, two brands that stand out among the rest, in the history of the Targa Florio.

Source: [Eco Targa Florio](#)

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