

D'Aquino and Hütthaler conquered the Monaco hills to win the TriStar111

Written by Daniel Quintero

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TriStar has brought to Monte Carlo the third edition of TriStar111 Monaco, with an impressive battle for the victory. After his 2010 victory, Olivier Marceau tried to pull away from the beginning of the bike segment, but Italian Andrea D'Aquino and Monegasque Hervé Banti decided to follow him, focusing on their own race, without anyone getting too close to them... Italian Alberto Casadei –first man out of the water– and other four athletes (Rodolphe Von Berg Jr, Christoph Leitner, François Chabaud and Domenico Passuello) were chasing the top-3 in the cycling segment, two minutes behind them. The hilly run course at the most glamorous place in Europe changed everything again and after 3km, D'Aquino took the lead and scored a solid victory in 3h43:18. Banti, who knows the course perfectly and just came back from the Olympics representing Monaco, measured his strength and finished second 1 minute behind the Italian. Domenico Passuello was third in 3h45:06 showing a spectacular run segment trying to catch Marceau, who was fourth in the end.

Among the women, Austrian Lisa Hütthaler got her third victory in a TriStar race this year, after Kufstein and Estonia! Hütthaler performed an impressive bike segment and was leading the whole race as she did in other TriStar races this season! She is definitely the queen of this format in 2012! The Austrian won in 4h21:09. The second woman passing the finish line was the Danish Tine Holst in 4h36:23, and third was Barbara Geilhof from Germany (4h40:55).

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It was an exciting race for all participants. Since the moment that His Serene Highness Prince Albert II, Prince of Monaco gave start of TriStar111 Monaco at the Larvotto Beach, action took over the streets of the Principality and almost 800 triathletes raced this awesome Formula 1 of Triathlon, with 1km swimming, a demanding 100km bike course and an unforgettable 10km run to the finish at the Casino. Marisol Casado, ITU president was also present at the start line of the fun format of the Triathlon.

Andrea D'Aquino, male winner: "I've been focusing on this race for a month, training for this bike course and it was tough! Since Friday I had some physical problems, finally I got well, but I started the race today so nervous. I was second after the swimming and then I realized that I was feeling good. I had a perfect day on the bike. I really like this format and I agree it's pretty fun, it's been my first TriStar ever and I took the victory. Marceau, Chabaud, Casadei, Passuello, Moldan, Banti... all of them are great experienced triathletes, for that my victory here makes me so happy!"

Lisa Hütthaler, female winner: "I'm very proud of this triumph in Monaco, it's a hard bike segment and a cool run in Monaco, in the same streets of the Formula 1, just amazing! I'm turning 29 years old today and this is a fantastic present! I was committed to win before the start, but I didn't know where my rivals were, so I did my best from the beginning. I won TriStar Kufstein, TriStar Estonia and to win a TriStar111 for the third time this year is simply fantastic."



Right after the first competitors came out of the water, the Relay Teams started their swimming part. The Team Stars&Bars, (Nicolas Becker, Baden Cooke and Nick Gates) was the winner, followed by l'Escarène (Mallauray Koplez, Alexandre Blain, Jérémy Payot), and third was Automobile Club de Monaco, with the olympic swimmer Angélique Trinquier, Romain Pugliese et Eddy Gallo.

CELEBRITIES

Some famous sportsmen from other disciplines and celebrities had a go today: drivers Lucas Di Grassi, Maro Engel or Gilles Panizzi, cyclists Christophe Agnolutto and Geoffroy Lequatre, former French rugby players Sébastien Viars and Stéphane Ougier and celebrities such Paul

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Belmondo or Marc Toesca.