

MITAS MOTO NEWSLETTER

November - December 2018

Interview

Simon Marčič – Dakar competitor and enduro enthusiast

It's only a few weeks until the Dakar Rally 2019 roars into life. We had a chance to talk to Simon Marčič during his final preparations for the race.

When did you participate in the Dakar Rally for the first time and what motivated you to join?

I joined in 2014 for the first time. I was overwhelmed when at the age of 12 I first saw Miran Stanovnik on TV racing across Mauretania.

How do you prepare the motorcycle for the race and what are its most important components?

The drive unit is either overhauled or replaced before the race. The entire electrical installation and wiring are replaced and so are the bearings, seals and sliding guides. I believe that the most important elements are the suspension system and navigation. The latter should be correctly and, above all, reliably wired, because if it fails... – I'd rather not think of what could happen!

How does a lack of sleep influence riding?

A lack of sleep mainly affects one's capability to focus. One or two nights without getting some decent sleep are not such a big issue, but the situation gets worse when a poor night's sleep follows day after day. So it happened that during a connecting section of the stage I even had to snatch 10 minutes' sleep under a palm tree by the road.

What is the most unpleasant event you can remember?

Undoubtedly the accident with Peterhansel as I was really very close to the finish.

What do you find most dangerous about Dakar?

The fact that you alone are one's greatest threat. The data on the track is available continuously, so only you alone can get yourself into trouble. The only threat from outside I can think of right now is wild animals. I was racing at 140 km/h in Bolivia in 2017 when a lama jumped in front of my motorcycle. I was just millimetres away from a fatal accident.

Do racers help each other during the rally?

Of course, the Dakar Rally stands for solidarity. We always help each other.

What was your first thought after crashing with Peterhansel?

My first thought was: "Phew, I hope that only my thin bone is broken, then I still might be able to race the last two stages."



Simon Marčič

What are your wishes and expectations for Dakar 2019?

Primarily to finish the race – but I have a new motorcycle now, so I hope to rank at least among the first five in my category.

Describe yourself in one word.

A coyote!

Motorsport

Wade Young wins the Roof of Africa for the third time while Travis Teasdale finished in the great second place



The unforgiving terrain of Lesotho has been the challenge for many riders to take. From the undiscovered mountain peaks to virgin valley flatlands, the 2018 Edition Motul Roof of Africa – Mother of Hard Enduro race has once again proven itself the ultimate adventure. The unpredictable wilderness of Lesotho demands 100 % focus on navigation. The Maloti Mountain with all the new passes and meandering valleys tested all aspects of riders' skills to the limit. The atmosphere at the finish line was crazy and riders gave their 100% to impress spectators on the final climb. We are pleased that Mitas-sponsored riders Wade Young and Travis Teasdale finished first and second, thereby further reinforcing Mitas' great reputation for superior grip and endurance.

Wade Young and Travis Teasdale, Roof of Africa 2018
photo: Sage Lee Voges

Exhibitions

EICMA (6–11 November 2018, Milan, Italy)



ESPOSIZIONE
INTERNAZIONALE
CICLO E MOTOCICLO



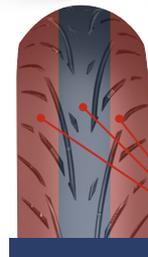
Product news

Mitas launched TOURING FORCE sport touring tyre at EICMA exhibition

“We are proud to extend our radial range with the new sport touring tyre TOURING FORCE. In recent years, we have gained valuable experience and knowledge from the in-house development of SPORT FORCE+ and TERRA FORCE-R radial tyres. These high-performing products laid the foundations for entering a very demanding sport touring segment,” says Ksenija Bitenc, Director of Motorcycle Tires and Tubes. With new Multi Compound Tread Technology (MCTT), the central part of the TOURING FORCE tyre tread provides increased mileage, and the shoulder parts ensure excellent grip at extreme lean angles. Mitas TOURING FORCE is designed to perform well on different types of sports touring motorcycles and is a good choice for riders who travel on longer trips with passengers and luggage, as well as for those who prefer more sporty and dynamic rides alone. The first range of sizes will be launched for sale in March 2019. Additional sizes will be progressively available throughout 2019.

To view the full press release, please click [here](#).

You can also watch the dedicated [video](#).



Multi Compound Tread Technology (MCTT)



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