

Inaugural End of Trail 2008 , Brescia , Italy

Howdy pards.

Last december, U.S. Grant asked me and MasterRino to handle and organize an other match at the same level of the 2007 and our new adventure started immedately.

From the 12th to the 16th of August, the biggest SASS event ever seen in Europe took place in Mazzano, nearby Brescia. The event, organized by the Italian Wild Bunch, got extremely high results at national as well as international level too.

The authors of this success were the Master Sponsors: F.lli Pietta, Chiappa Firearms, Davide Pedersoli, Air Sea Service, Fronti srl and Diana Armi Magazine. The event was also patronized by: Provincia di Brescia, Camera di Commercio di Brescia and Regione Lombardia.

Big thanks also go to all the minor sponsors for their financial effort. All together, these sponsors gave the present cowboys the possibility to see something never done in Europe before.

I'm also really grateful to thank all the cowboys who helped us to set up all for 4 days. Thanks pards!!!!

The Match, called " Inaugural European End of Trail", has given a strong message to the Old World. Thanks to the effort of the Old West Shooting Society aka SASS Italy, SASS could adorn itself of another really important result in spite of several shooters harbouring doubts on the necessity to have a European SASS Sanctioned Match.

These are the numbers of the event:

- 123 shooters from Italy, France, Luxemburg, Germany, Austria, Finland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland, the USA.
- rounds shot : 24000 rounds with revolvers, 13000 rounds with rifles, 6000 shotguns cartridges. This was the amount of the ammunitions used for the Main Match, side match and shooting class, as well.
- There were 16 exhibitors and several public attractions in the boom town
- In the main tent, there was the Exhibition by Carlo Leva, the art director of Sergio Leone. The maestro stayed with us all the week long with his 53 plates: he led his audience into some of the Spaghetti Western movies produced by Sergio Leone with fantastic stories from a past time.

We also gave a special attention to unlucky people: on Wednesday, 08/13, we hosted 55 kids with psychomotor problems. All the proceeds from a lottery were turned to the Lichenos Association in charge of their care. The biggest sponsors of the lottery were again the F.lli Pietta and Armi Chiappa factories, that donated a jackpot of 5000 € in guns and miscellaneous prizes.

The opening ceremony started with the flags parade: I got the honour to carry the Italian flag; after me, it was the turn of the Stars and Stripes flag carried by Lassiter. Next to him, it was the turn of all the other nations present at the match. The Italian and the American flags stayed closed to one another until the end of the week to underline the strong friendship and esteem that link both nations. Outside the main tent, there were all the other European Nation flags lacking delegate shooters.

The U.S. delegation was made up of: U.S. Grant, The Elder Katie, Lassiter and others cowboys that decided to come to Italy and shoot with us. It was really exciting when the General took the Italian and the American Flags and stood in the middle of the stage holding them.

The Elder Katie was our Match Director and Lassiter our Range Master.

During these three shooting days, all the European shooters got the opportunity to see and touch with their hands the American End of Trail. We reproduced all the stages that other 600 cowboys shot last June at the Founder Ranch in New Mexico. The overall winner of the match was Lassiter: it was impossible for any of our European shooters to compete with his superb technique. A big thank you to him for all his kindness. He is a real example of what we call “ Cowboy Way”.

During the evenings, SASS Italy had planned several entertainments: it was amazing to have 6000 visitors during the 4 nights of the events. Miss Tabitha and Mad Mountain Mike was charmed immediately all the people attending their dancing classes. We got a really good mix of Country Line Dance and Victorian Dance thanks to the ability of our teachers, Miss Tabitha and Dj Mitch.

Another strong message came from the local and national tv channels. We got several operators around the range recording the event. All the journalists were really surprised to discover our game. All the huge interest that came from visitors and from national tv channels gave us a great help to promote Cowboy Action Shooting around Italy and Europe.

Thank you pards , thank you friends for all these fantastic days that we spent all together

See you all at the Convention in Vegas.

Alchimista
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