



Piolets d'Or 2018

An International Celebration of Grand Alpinism

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Almost ten years ago the GHM decided to launch the "Piolets d'Or" - plural - initiative, in order to better highlight the multiple dimensions and intangible values of modern alpinism, putting style and respect over achievement at any cost. It also introduced a historical aspect through the Lifetime Achievement / Walter Bonatti Career Award, which has been handed successively to Bonatti, Messner, Scott, Paragot, Diemberger, Roskelley, Bonington, Kurtyka and Lowe.

For its tenth edition, the "Piolets d'Or" will open another new route by taking the event out of France for the first time. We are extremely pleased to seize the opportunity to hold the 2018 Piolets d'Or in Poland at the occasion the 23rd Ladek Mountain Festival, which we know is becoming the biggest mountain festival in the country. It has a big attendance and a great spirit of sharing and inspiring... And also a reputation for partying that has spread internationally!

Poland is a country that has developed a long and strong culture of alpinism. Through the decades of the communist regime an impressive generation line of hardcore alpinists emerged, and some of the

greatest Himalayan climbers are, or were, Poles: Kukuczka, Kurtyka, Wielicki, Rutkiewicz and many others. In the field of exploratory alpinism, Poles have established 23 new routes on 8000-metre peaks, while for example the very active Japanese and Austrians established respectively 15 and 13. Polish mountaineers also initiated the winter era of Himalayan climbing, making the first eight winter ascents on 8,000ers. Most new alpine-style ascents on those high peaks were theirs: nine out of fourteen - pointed Kurtyka in his famous article "The Polish Syndrome", published in 1993. These numbers say a lot about the role of Polish alpinism in the 80's. And although not many big accomplishments have been added to this impressive list in the last 25 years, alpinism is still "in vogue" in Poland and mountain festivals are growing like mushrooms.

In recent years Ladek Mountain Festival has become a real feast of mountaineering, and the traditional meeting place of the entire Polish mountain community. The large number of international climbing "stars" who have come to Ladek, also confirm that the ambience and enthusiasm they experienced was unique.



23RD
LADEK
MOUNTAIN
FESTIVAL
LADEK-ZDRÓJ POLAND



**PIOLETS D'OR 2018 AWARDS CEREMONY
WILL TAKE PLACE IN LADEK-ZDRÓJ, POLAND
20-23/09/2018**

The 10th edition of the "Piolets d'Or" will be hosted by the Ladek Festival from 20th to 23rd of Sept 2018. You will find all information relating to the festival on www.festiwalgorski.pl/en/ and all information relating to the Piolets d'Or 2018 on www.pioletsdor.net