



# Piolets d'Or 2024

An International Celebration of Grand Alpinism

Press release #5 - December 2024

**On Tuesday, December 10, the Piolets D'Or 2024, a prestigious international mountaineering award hosted for the very first time in Trentino and in the Dolomites in general, ended with the award ceremony in the Convention Centre of San Martino di Castrozza. The Piolets D'Or (in english, "The golden ice axes") is an award that was created in 1991 by the GHM (GHM-alpinisme.fr) and Montagnes magazine and this year it was conferred again by GHM itself. The prize, which is awarded by a jury of 7 world-renowned alpinists, celebrated the best mountaineering endeavours of 2023 and is internationally recognized as the highest and most important mountaineering award worldwide.**

The official ceremony took place in front of numerous world-renowned mountaineers, guests from more than 15 countries, journalists, authorities and representatives of the world of mountaineering on the Dolomites all-round. It truly has been the perfect wrap-up of this event organised by the local Tourist Board of the true protagonist of this event, i.e. the small town of San Martino di Castrozza, on which the international spotlight has been turned again from the 8th to the 10th December 2024.

During the evening, which was presented by the moderator Mr. Luca Calvi and the President of the Groupe de Haute Montagne and organiser of the Piolets D'Or, Mr. Christian Trommsdorff, three expeditions have been awarded with the prize: the first ascent of the so called "*The Secret Line*" on the northern face of the Tirich Mir (7.708 m) in the Hindu Kush (Pakistan) by Mr. Kazuya Hiraide and Mr. Kenro Nakajima, who sadly lost their lives in July 2024 while climbing the western face of K2; the first ascent of the so called "*Round Trip Ticket*" (2.700 m, M7 AI5+ A0), a new disrupted route on the northern face and the north-western crest of the Mount Jannu in the Kanchenjunga by the US-American mountaineers Matt Cornell, Jackson Marvell and Alan Rousseau; the first ascent of the so called "*Tomorrow Is Another Day*" (1.400 m, ED, 5c A2 WI4 M6) on the northern face of the Flat Top in Kishtwar (Himalaya) by the young Swiss mountaineers Hugo Béguin, Matthias Gribi and Nathan Monard. Another prize has been bestowed upon the Spanish mountaineer Mr. Jordi Corominas, who received the Walter Bonatti Career Award, and Mrs. Nives Meroi, who received the special mention for Female Alpinism and her alpine style ascents, such as the famous new alpine climbing route "*Diamonds on the Soles of the Shoes*" on the western face of the Kabru South (7,318m) in the Kanchenjunga.

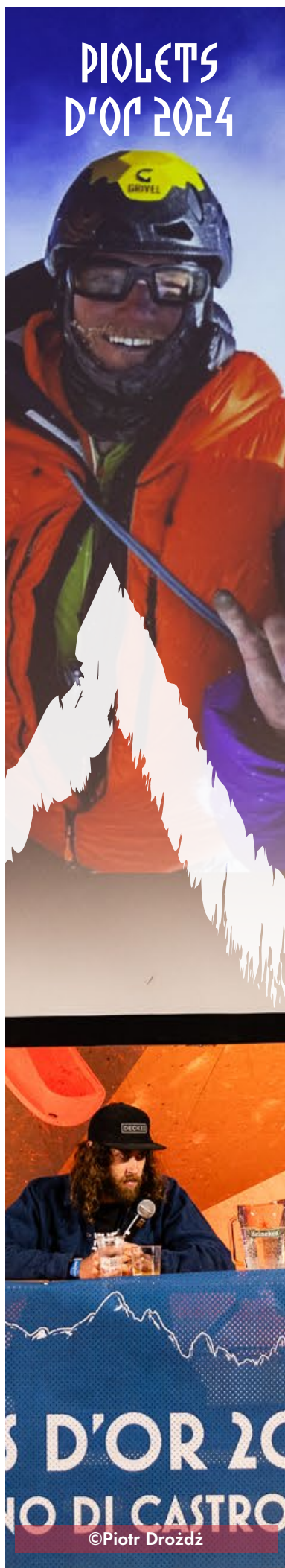
A part from the private, invitation-only official ceremony, mountain enthusiasts had the chance to take part in the live streaming of the ceremony on a maxi screen at the base camp of the event, the Sports Hall, where the presentation of the Piolets D'Or nominees and their climbing achievements, as well as the following press conference and Gala Evening, had already taken place in the afternoon. The whole world of mountaineering participated in the event, together with the local authorities, the Italian Alpine Club SAT, the Trentino Alpine Rescue and the Alpine Guides of San Martino di Castrozza, aka the "*Aquila di San Martino*" (in english The Eagles of San Martino), as well as other Alpine Guides Association from other parts of the Dolomites. The event ended in style with the after-party with DJ-Set: the perfect opportunity for a meet-and-greet with all the protagonists of the Piolets D'Or in a nice atmosphere, just at the foot of the majestic Pale di San Martino.



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The event organised by the local Tourist Board, the ApT San Martino di Castrozza Primiero e Vanoi, brought some of the world's best mountaineers in the heart of the Dolomites, where they had the chance in the past few days to experience first-hand the warm hospitality of the local communities in the snow-coated, fairy tale town of San Martino thanks to an abundant snowfall just on the day of the grand opening of the Piolets D'Or, the 8th December. A hospitality characterized by a number of convivial moments, through which the whole Piolets D'Or crew and even the most experienced mountaineers had the chance to explore and discover a magical, fascinating place such as the High Plateau of the Pale di San Martino, which they explored on Monday, 9 December.

It is worth mentioning the series of events about the spirit of mountain culture as well, such as the presentation "A Brief History of the alpine exploration in the Pale di San Martino" by the most experienced alpine guide from San Martino, Mr. Narci Simion, and the panel discussions "The Dolomites as UNESCO World Heritage Site and Alpinism as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage" with the Director of the UNESCO Dolomites Foundation, Mrs. Mara Nemela, and "The Esprit of Mountaineering in the Dolomites" with the two mountaineers Mr. Nicola Tondini and Mr. Alessandro Baù. Both events have been moderated by Mr. Luca Calvi.

Furthermore, in the past few days there have been two other important events: the presentation of the project "Ice Memory" by Mr. Jacopo Gabrielli from the National Research Council of Italy (CNR) and the film projection "Pionieri" (Pioneers in English) on the endeavour of the alpine guide Peter Moser on the Pale di San Martino.

The official recording of the whole ceremony is now available on the ApT and the Piolets D'Or official channels. This is particularly relevant for the enhancement of the territory through the media, in which the presence of a number of journalists from over 15 countries in the world, from the U.S. to Japan, played a key role. [Click here](#) to watch the video.

Antonio Stompanato, President of the Tourist Board of San Martino di Castrozza Passo Rolle Primiero & Vanoi: "We are extremely proud to have hosted the Piolets D'Or 2024 in San Martino for the very first time in Trentino and in the Dolomites, in general. The event has been organised with the collaboration of Trentino Marketing. The cherry on top is to see that it's not just the mountaineers, the audience and the tourists, but also the whole tourism sector and all those who collaborated with us, from the local authorities to private sponsor organisations, who share with us the enthusiasm and the satisfaction of having hosted this great event which is granting our vertical target, i.e., the mountain world, which is part of our DNA, a huge visibility worldwide".

Daniele Depaoli, Mayor of Primiero San Martino di Castrozza: "One could say that mountaineering in the Dolomites was born de facto here in San Martino, in the Dolomites, when in the second half of the 19th century the first alpine guides started taking mountain enthusiasts and alpinists up in our mountains, the beautiful Pale di San Martino. From the point of view of mountaineering and alpinism, hosting this huge event has been a source of great satisfaction for us. Therefore, I want to thank Mr. Christian Trommsdorff and the whole GHM Team for their trust, and our Tourist Board for the impeccable organization of the last three days".

Christian Trommsdorff, Organiser of the Piolet d'Or, French citizen: "With this incredible award ceremony, a fantastic edition of the Piolets D'Or here in San Martino di Castrozza comes to an end. From the organizational point of view, everything has gone smoothly and it surely has been a great event held in a truly warm and welcoming atmosphere. As for the location itself, we are extremely proud to have chosen a territory that shares the core values and the esprit of mountaineering that lie at the heart of the Piolets D'Or: the Alpine style, the concept of respect, maximal economy of means, the good practice to leave the mountains exactly as we found them, i.e. leaving no traces



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behind us. In this sense, San Martino and its territory clearly share our ethics. To be here and to promote the values of the intangible heritage of the alpine style mountaineering, and to do this in a place that is deeply rooted in the alpine tradition, truly is the perfect combination."

In 2023, arguably the most notable new route at altitude by a party involving a female alpinist was Diamonds on the Soles of the Shoes on the west face of Kabru South (7,318m) in the Kangchenjunga Himal. It was the second ascent of the most southerly 7,000m peak in the world, and the first successful ascent to any of the Kabru summits from Nepal. After an initial reconnaissance, followed by a failed attempt to 5,600m, Peter Hámor, Bojan Jan, and the husband-and-wife team of Romano Benet and Nives Meroi, climbed the face alpine style in four days. new route on the north face of 6,512m Bhagirathi II, and Xinjiang, where they attempted the then unclimbed Chinese side of Gasherbrum II. They were unsuccessful on the latter but were able to summit several previously unclimbed peaks up to 6,500m.



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LEARN MORE ABOUT THE 2024 PIOLETS D'OR

The event is supported by Trentino Marketing, the Municipality of Primiero San Martino di Castrozza, the Community of Primiero, FPB Cassa di Fassa Primiero and Belluno, ACSM group, the group of the mountain guides "the Eagles" of San Martino di Castrozza and the tourist operators of San Martino di Castrozza, Primiero and Vanoi and the Fondazione Dolomiti Unesco.



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