



Piolets d'Or 2025

An International Celebration of Grand Alpinism

We are very delighted to announce that the 2025 edition of the Piolets d'Or will be held for the second time in San Martino di Castrozza, in Trentino, on December 9th to 12th.



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The official announcement of the 2025 edition took place yesterday evening (1 May), during one of the most prestigious events of the Trento Film Festival 2025, also known as the "Mountain Festival" and founded in 1952, which represents the first and oldest international film festival dedicated to the themes of the mountains, adventure and exploration.

The news was given during the evening dedicated to mountaineering presented by Luca Calvi and Tatiana Bertera, which was dedicated in particular to the south face of the Marmolada, the great routes and their protagonists. Christian Trommsdorff, President of GHM, and Antonio Stompanato, President of the San Martino di Castrozza Tourist Board, were invited on stage to formalize the event that all mountain lovers welcomed with great enthusiasm, while an emotional video showed the most beautiful moments of the previous edition.

This will be the second consecutive edition of the Piolets d'Or organized in the Dolomites, one of the main mountain ranges of the Alps and the world, noted for its special role in the development of classic mountaineering over the last 150 years as well as for its infinite rock climbing possibilities.

Trentino was confirmed by the organization after the great success of the 2024 edition, which brought San Martino di Castrozza into the spotlight at international level thanks to a three-day event that conquered the hearts of all participants, from the mountaineers to the many journalists who reached this wonderful area of Trentino at the bottom of the largest group of the Dolomites.

The spotlight of international mountaineering returns to San Martino di Castrozza, after [the official ceremony of the Piolet's d'Or 2024](#), presented by Luca Calvi and Christian Trommsdorff, saw the presence of numerous internationally renowned mountaineers, with over 15 nations represented from America to Japan, to celebrate the best achievements of 2023, as well as the tradition and charm of this prestigious location.



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Antonio Stompanato, President of the Tourist Board ApT San Martino di Castrozza:

« We are very proud to host the second consecutive edition of such a prestigious event as the Piolets d'Or in San Martino di Castrozza. For us, it represents an important investment in terms of the strategic positioning of our area.

We chose to make the announcement on this prestigious occasion, for which I thank President Levegghi, to also enhance the strong bond with the Trento Film Festival, which with our area and the Piolets d'Or shares an extremely significant tradition made of respectful spirit of true Alpine style and a loyal audience of mountain enthusiasts. We will certainly start again from the important experience of the previous edition, greatly appreciated not only for the professionalism in the organization of the hospitality and the official ceremony, but also for the many convivial moments that saw the involvement of the entire Trentino mountain world and beyond, with recognition of the role and importance of the "Aquila" alpine guides in the enhancement of our territory.»

Christian Trommsdorff GHM President :

« In these tense times where division, dogma and distrust are prominent in our social and traditional media, the Piolets d'Or are committed to a public event celebrating the spirit of cooperation and openness to new ideas. Alpinism promotes this spirit with cultural exchange and new perspectives. For mountain people and mountaineers, common cultures are more important than borders and nationalities which are artificial barriers crossed by mountains! After a very successful edition last year, we are delighted to be hosted again in the heart of the Dolomites, by San Martino di Castrozza, with its great hospitality and strong commitment to mountain culture.

The GHM would also like to take the opportunity of this first press release to [pay tribute to François Labande](#) who left us recently; eminent member of GHM who contributed immensely to the culture of Alpinism and co-founder of Mountain Wilderness International with Reinhold Messner.»

Maurizio Rossini CEO Trentino Marketing:

« In Trentino, on the walls of the Pale di San Martino, recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, important pages of mountaineering history have been written since the mid-1800s, making it an ideal location to host such an important event also into the 2025 edition. Scrolling through the list of recipients of the 33 editions of the prestigious Piolets d'Or and the Piolet d'Or Lifetime Achievement Award.

"Walter Bonatti" means retracing some of the most extraordinary pages of international mountaineering, celebrating passion, spirit, and values. Among our Dolomites, in a place recognized as an excellent destination for all mountain lovers, we share the values that this recognition aims to reward: prioritizing style over performance, passion, authenticity, creativity in seeking innovative routes, team spirit, and respect for people and nature. These values are part of the heritage that characterizes the DNA of our mountain people, and being able to share them with the protagonists of this "Oscar" of the mountains is a great source of pride for Trentino ».



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ABOUT SAN MARTINO DI CASTROZZA

« *If you don't know San Martino di Castrozza, you don't know the Dolomites* » claimed the well-travelled Alpinist and author Gunther Langes. He probably was the best climber in the Pale di San Martino during the years between the two world wars. Among his many important climbs in the 'Pale' the two most famous ones are "*The Spigolo del Velo (the well-known Schleierkante in german)*" which means the ridge of the veil on cima della Madonna and the Gran Pilastro (great Pillar) at the Pala di San Martino.

San Martino di Castrozza is situated in the heart of what is perhaps the wildest part of the Dolomites, at 1.450m. The Palagroup (in Italian Pale di San Martino), which is the widest group of the Dolomites, fascinates visitors with its unique skyline, which is recognized as a symbol of the Dolomites mountains all over the world. Its most important peak is the Cimon della Pala (3.184m), also known as "*the Matterhorn of the Dolomites*" because of the shape when observed from the Passo Rolle. The Cimon della Pala, conquered by the English alpinists Francis Fox Tuckett and Edward Robson Whitwell, is not the highest peak of the "*Pale*", which is the Vezzana peak (3.192m).

It was thanks to the visitors (geologists and botanists mainly from England and later alpinists also from the Netherlands and Germany) who came to the Dolomites in the second half of the 19th Century with the aim to discover new peaks, that San Martino di Castrozza was born as a tourist destination, with shepherds and hunters working as alpine guides. At the time, they were the only ones who could take visitors up to the mountains, knowing them better than anyone else. The first alpine guide of the area was Michele Bettega, followed by Giuseppe Zecchini, Antonio Tavernaro and Bortolo Zagonel. They started to be recognized as the 'Eagles of San Martino', a sort of legend for the wealthy climbing tourists. Michele Bettega, for example, climbed the Cimon della Pala more than 250 times. At the time, San Martino di Castrozza was appreciated also by famous visitors, such as Sigmund Freud, the King of Belgium, Dino Buzzati and Arthur Schnitzler, who wrote a novel *Die Fraulein Else* set in San Martino,

San Martino di Castrozza, with its authentic spirit and unique hospitality, is an ideal all-season basecamp for mountain activities such as hiking, bike, climbing, running, orienteering and canyoning.

[See the website](#)

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A TRIBUTE TO FRANÇOIS LABANDE 1941 - 2025

« *Mountaineering is a way of life, a philosophy of life, even if I've always refused to consider that in the mountains I was on an island away from society.* »



The mountaineer.

Born in Toulon in May 1941, François Labande discovered the Oisans mountains at a very early age, as he recounts in *Traces écrites* (Éditions Guérin, 2011), probably his most autobiographical work. His parents had a family home in the Guisane valley, and it was there, in the Dauphiné mountains that he would never take his eyes off the land, that he fell in love with this adventurous terrain where the approach are long and the routes always complicated and on a not always perfect rock. He really learned the techniques of mountaineering with the U.N.C.M. (Union nationale des centres de montagne) at the age of 16, and soon began to tackle the major routes in the Écrins and further afield in the Alps: South Face of the Meije, Écrins Southern Pillar, North-East Face of the Piz Badile, to name but a few. Gifted in scientific subjects, he enrolled at the prestigious École supérieure d'électricité (better known as Supélec). With his engineering degree in hand, he nevertheless chose to become a mathematics teacher, as he wanted to preserve enough free time to devote to his greatest passion: mountaineering! He would also discover ski touring much later, soon totalling over a thousand outings. The next logical step was to take up steep slopes and couloirs, what was known at the time as "extreme skiing".

Shared passions.

It was this dual scientific and alpine culture that quickly led him to take an interest in topoguides, particularly those relating to his beloved Écrins. As he explains in the introduction to his famous *Guide du Haut-Dauphiné*, it was in 1946 that the first edition of what became the Écrins counterpart to the famous *Guide Vallot* devoted to the Mont-Blanc massif was published by Arthaud under the auspices of the G.H.M. Lucien Devies and Maurice Laloue updated it five years later. In 1969, they enlisted the services of the young Labande, introduced by the president of the Marseille Alpine Club, to produce a new edition and then to recast it and divide it into four volumes between 1976 and 1978. Labande recalls: "I went to meet Devies in Paris, we talked at length and he immediately gave me carte blanche with all his confidence".

After the death of Lucien Devies in 1980, the G.H.M. logically entrusted him with total responsibility for three volumes (North, East and South) from 1995 onwards. It was also he who, in 1987, presented a shorter version (in which photographs replaced the historical sketches of the previous editions) in two volumes of *Vallot: La Chaîne du Mont-Blanc: Guide Vallot. Sélection de voies*. Other topoguides devoted to ski-mountaineering and hiking were published independently between 1983 and 2007.

Since 1956, the G.H.M. has published an annual edition of *Les Annales*, with a print run of 1,000 copies, the historic continuation of *L'Annuaire* (1926-1935) and *Alpinisme* (1926 to 1955, when it merged with *La Montagne*). François Labande took over at the end of the 1980s. Still following the same rhythm, they were replaced in 2002 by a new magazine called *Cimes* (the name *Annales* will still appear on the cover for the first two editions). [...]

[Read the full tribute](#)



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