



## ***On your marks, get set, go! The weekend's first winner and a record-breaking Short Race***

*Annecy, May 24, 2019*

In and around the iconic temporary village, among the 55 exhibitors (15 more than last year), 9000 runners from 65 countries and 30,000 visitors are expected for the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the Salomon GORE-TEX® MaXi-Race! With 11 race formats over three days, this is the big weekend that kicks off the trail running season for thousands of amateurs, as well as for those elites who come to run in the mountains around Lake Annecy to compare themselves to their rivals as a prequel to the summer season's other major competitions.

A popular international event, the Salomon GORE-TEX® MaXi-Race is also eco-friendly. One of the major contributors to Annecy's popularity and development, it is only natural that the MaXi-Race employs a sustainable approach that is environmentally and socially responsible. As one of the pioneering races for the "Steps to Nature" program created in 2018, this year organizers have decided to implement several initiatives, including a used-shoe recycling program, a train/free photo package, aid stations with local and organic food, and a "drastic reduction" in the use of non-recyclable plastic bottles.

### **Battling it out for a podium spot**

Among the runners in the **Ultra-Race**, the elites plan to keep the competition exciting from start to finish: the men's field includes **François D'HAENE** (France, 916 ITRA), **Jason SCHLARB** (USA, 887 ITRA), **Donald CAMPBELL**, (UK 824 ITRA), and for the women **Andrea MACCHI** and **Sandrine BERANGER** (France, 649 ITRA), American **Jamie AARONS** (614 ITRA), and Brit **Carrie CRAIG** will set the pace.

For the **MaXi-Race**, **Michel LANNE** (860 ITRA), **Vincent VIET** (843 ITRA), **Hugo ALTMAYER** (835 ITRA), **Baptiste CHASSAGNE** (831 ITRA), **Canhua LUO** (843 ITRA), along with Italians **Stefano RINALDI** (846 ITRA) and **Riccardo BORGIALLI** (839 ITRA) have all the right moves to win. For the women, **Audrey BASSAC** (673 ITRA) from France, and Italians **Lisa BORZANI** (695 ITRA) and **Virginia OLIVERI** (672 ITRA) will make for an unforgettable French/Italian duel.

On Sunday, the **Marathon Race**, part of the Golden Trail National Series, is the race format that draws France's best male and female athletes.

**19:00: Kicking off the weekend's festivities with the Short-Race!**

The first race of the 2019 Salomon GORE-TEX® MaXi-Race, the Short-Race is also the first and the only stage in France for the 2019 Mountain Running World Cup. Organized alongside the World Mountain Running Association (WMRA) in partnership with the IAAF, the World Cup circuit includes seven stages in seven countries.

At the start, at 19:08 on the dot for live coverage on France 3, and in spite of the menacing black clouds, 628 runners, including 187 women, sprinted out of Menthon-Saint-Bernard to run the 16km and 950m vertical gain as fast as possible. In front of hundreds of amateur runners, the serious faces on the elites revealed more than enough about their motivation. Winning the first stage of the Mountain Running World Cup means starting off the season with a majestic bang.

The race was short but intense. Andrew Douglas (GBR) crossed the finish line in 1 hour 15 minutes, breaking the Short-Race course record by 3 minutes. *“A difficult race in an amazing setting. I’m pretty happy since at one point I made a wrong turn and had to backtrack. This was my first time in Annecy, and I’ll definitely be back.”*

Less than one minute later, Andy Wacker (USA) finished second, with Kenyan Robert Panin another few seconds behind to round out a truly international podium.

Simon Paccard, the first youth runner to finish, placed 13<sup>th</sup> overall.

For the women, Kenyan Lucy Wambui Muigi finished 2 minutes in front of Ireland’s Sarah McCormack, with France’s Iris Pessey another 5 minutes behind.

### Official results:

Men:

Andrew Douglas (GBR): 01:15:10

Andy Wacker (USA): 01:16:00

Robert Panin Surum (KEN): 01:16:11

Women:

Lucy Wambui Murigi (KEN): 01:30:27

Sarah McCormack (IRL): 01:32:33

Iris Pessey, (FRA): 01:37:07

### Follow the races live

For a list of favorites, runner info, stats, results... Don’t miss a thing during the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the MaXi-Race, go to LiveTrail (you can also download the LiveTrail app): <http://maxirace.livetrail.net/>

### To follow the race through photos and video:

The Ultra-Race and the MaXi-Race will be broadcast in story format on Facebook (@maxiracefrance) from midnight to 13:00 on Saturday, May 25.

For live coverage of the first runners to finish and interviews with other quality guests, tune in to Trek TV on Saturday, May 25, from 13:00 to 14:00, and TV8 Mont-Blanc on Sunday, May 26, from 08:00 to 12:00.

### **Salomon GORE TEX® MaXi-Race: 11 races**

- Ultra-Race: 115km, 7000m vertical gain – The Ultra is limited to 1000 runners, 5 ITRA pts
- MaXi-Race: 82km, 5200m vertical gain – The flagship race is limited to 2000 runners, 4 ITRA pts
- XL-Race: 81km, 5200m vertical gain – Around the lake in 2 days
- XXL-Race: 117km in two days
- R-Race: 80km, 5200m vertical gain as a 2 or 4-person relay team – A challenge to share with others
- Marathon-Race: 40km, 2500m vertical gain – A half loop around Lake Annecy, limited to 2200 runners, 2 ITRA pts
- Femina-Race: 16km, 950m vertical gain - 100% for women only, limited to 600 runners

- Short-Race: 16km, 950m vertical gain – The gateway to trail running, [Stage on Mountain Running World Cup](#)
- Mini-Race: from 100m to 1km for 300 young runners
- MaXi-Orientation and Semi-Orientation

### **Saturday, May 25, 2019**

**Midnight (00:00): Start for the Ultra-Race and XXL-Race, Day 1 – Albigny Beach, Annecy-le-Vieux**

**03:30: Start for the MaXi-Race – Albigny Beach, Annecy-le-Vieux**

**03:45: Start for the XL-Race Day 1, and the R-Race (relay) – Albigny Beach, Annecy-le-Vieux**

**06:00: First runners finish day 1 of the XL-Race and XXL RACE – Doussard**

**08:00: Start for the Femina-Race – Menthon-St-Bernard**

**08:30: MaXi-Village opens – Albigny Beach, Annecy-le-Vieux**

**Starting at 09:30: First runners finish (staggered finishes through Sunday morning) – Albigny Beach, Annecy-le-Vieux**

**12:30 to 18:30: Bib pickup (Marathon-Race) – Albigny Beach, Annecy-le-Vieux**

**11:30 to 12:00: Lead men finish the MaXi-Race – Albigny Beach, Annecy-le-Vieux**

**12:30: Lead women finish the MaXi-Race – Albigny Beach, Annecy-le-Vieux**

**12:30-12:45: Lead men finish the Ultra-Race – Albigny Beach, Annecy-le-Vieux**

**13:30: Lead women finish the Ultra-Race – Albigny Beach, Annecy-le-Vieux**

### **Sunday, May 26, 2019**

**05:30: Start for the Marathon Race**

**06:30: Start for the XL-Race and XXL-Race, Day 2 – Doussard**

**08:50: Lead runners finish – Albigny Beach, Annecy-le-Vieux**

**9:30 – 10:30: Registration for the Mini-Race for kids – Albigny Beach, Annecy-le-Vieux**

**11:00 – 11:50: Mini-Race for kids (see details on the Mini-Race page) – Albigny Beach, Annecy-le-Vieux**

**17:00: Last runner crosses the finish line, all races close – Albigny Beach, Annecy-le-Vieux**

*For all race information,  
the press kit, press releases, and press passes:*

[www.maxi-race.org](http://www.maxi-race.org)

*High-definition photos* → <http://vu.fr/photos-presse-maxirace>  
password: presse2018

Results, favorites, and info posted on: <https://maxirace.livetrail.net/>

### **CONTACTS**

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