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Alfa Revival Cup 2023

The first round of the season has all the ingredients to succeed, spectacular cars, competition on the track, a circuit full of strong emotions and a perfect organisation.



Special guest of the race is **Giorgio Francia**, test driver and driver of the **Alfa Romeo company** for thirty years, between the 70s and the end of the 90s. Francia joined the fray in transparency for the classification, alongside his friend and driver **Gianni Bellandi**, in the cockpit of the last **Alfa Romeo** rear-wheel drive from the 80s, the **75 TC 3.000** (Team ARS Motorsport).

The expectations of the eve were not disappointed by the 25 crews at the start, coming from Germany, Switzerland, Holland and Italy. Since the free practice sessions, the family duo, **Luigi** and **Niccolò Mercatali**, stood out on the Clemente Biondetti team's **Alfa GTAm 2.000**. Father and son proved to be in shape and in the qualifying they took the pole position with 2'13"237, in front of **Davide Bertinelli** (AB Motorsport Team) and the team **Restelli - Bachofen** (OKP Alfa Delta Racing Team). The race starts with uncertain weather conditions due to a light rain that makes the bends of the Tuscan track even more dangerous.

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The wet blacktop made the difference, some riders immediately find a good feeling with the lack of grip and score some good overtakings. The German **Albert Weinzierl** (Team Formula GT) stood out in these conditions, starting very well from the third row and during the first lap passed, in sequence, **Sabatini** (team mate Caponi – Team GT AM), **Bachofen** (Restelli - Team GT AM) and **Bertinelli** (Alfa Romeo GTAm - AB Motorsport), launching himself on the hunt for the leader **Luigi Mercatali**.

Precisely during the pit, the gearbox of **Liberatore** (Zadotti - Scudera del Grifone) and **Zadotti's Alfetta** got stuck and forced the two good drivers to lose any chances of taking a place on the podium. After the pit closed for the changes, **Weinzierl** deservedly returned to the lead until the chequered flag, winning the first round of 2023. **Niccolò Mercatali**, the poleman, took the second position decisively, passing **Bachofen** and **Körber** in one go. The third step of the podium went to Bachofen and Restelli, preceding **Ondrak** and **Bortolami** (OKP Alfa Delta Racing Team), which got the better of **Fabian Körber** in the sprint with their **Giulia Sprint GR5**. However, the latter can be pleased with the result after the problem he had in the qualifying. **Weinzierl** also added the additional point due to the author of the best lap in the race (2'15.550).

At the end of the race, **Albert Weinzierl** summarized his winning:

"I had a lucky start because I passed the cars in front of me without any accident. Once I took the lead of the race, I pushed, pushed, pushed... because I wanted to take distance from the others and make them difficult to close the gap in the second part of the race. I really like driving on wet tracks, because in Germany I find these conditions very often, more than in Italy, for this reason I have a good training and I make the most of this skill."

The second **Niccolò Mercatali** is satisfied with the second place:

"When I got the car I tried to recover on Weinzierl, but I only reduced the gap from the first. In the final phase of the race I found some lapped drivers, we weren't very happy with the setup and it started to rain again. So we were more careful not to make mistakes and we took a good second place."

Canossa has matched iconic motorsport brands with racing cars capable of making the hearts of all motor enthusiasts skip a beat and is ready to make them go wild on thrilling circuits. The racing series organized by Canossa has in fact attracted an important partner, The German **OKP**, a staple in supplying spare parts and components for historic cars. OKP will be a partner of the Alfa Revival Cup during all 2023 season.

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Timetable

28-29 April – Mugello Circuit

10-11 June – Red Bull Ring

7-8 July – Monza National Autodrome

9-10 September – Vallelunga Racetrack

21-22 October – Misano World Circuit

Format

1 free practice session of 25'

1 qualifying session of 30'

1 60' race

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