

myevo.com at the 42th San Remo WRC Rally Rally of Italy 2000

dancer in the dark.

A line separates him from the spectators. Walking up and down, impatient, knowing that the enemy is there, HE tries to keep cool. The sky is dark, and some meters away from him the sea is playing, producing some little waves that reflect the moon. Someone or something is waiting for the smallest mistake. No, we are not in a war, and the enemy is invisible. His name is **TIME**. Forty-five minutes, only 45 little minutes. This is the time that the MRT by Nocentini World Rally Team has, to win this challenge. After 8 special stages and 15 hours of race, the technicians and engineers are there, to replace what has to be, brake disks, pads, tyres, checking for the car functions. During these forty-five minutes, HE walks up and down, with a very serious face, knowing that a little mistake could be fatal. His name: **Gustavo Trelles**.

4 times rally world champion with a Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution Group N, HE is on the way to his 5th championship. And this is not an easy way, just to be there, on the other side of the line, in the magnificent box of **MRT by Nocentini** (the Italian rally car preparator who follow him in the World Rally Championship), you need to be good, very very good, **at least**.

So we stay on this side of the line, and are happy to get the opportunity to follow the work of the crew, fighting against the time. Eight! Only eight little minutes to go and Gustavo will start the engine, turn his Evolution VI with the ENCAP colors, and drive to the time control. After this, to bed. Then tomorrow will be a new day, with the same enemy: The time. Another eight special stages in the mountains of the Italian Riviera, a few kilometers away from San Remo, this little city who give its name to the Rally of Italy.

Nevertheless, we try to speak with him, and thank Massimo of the MRT by Nocentini World Rally Team for giving us the unique opportunity to speak some seconds with Gustavo Trelles and to make some photos with him. After this, the time is gone, Gustavo starts his Lancer Evolution, and disappears into the night.

After the second day of racing, he will start on Sunday from the 3rd position in the Group N classification, and keep this position till the end of the rally. Second with 54 points in the 2000 WRC classification, looking at his eyes we know immediately, that he was there to win his 5th WR Championship. Bye Gustavo, see you in Australia and for the show down (RAC Rally) in UK.

Dancer in the day.

San Remo Rally means a lot of mountains, a lot of bends, a lot of dangerous situations, a lot of spectators and a few human beings, pushing their rally cars at the limit, meter after meter, from six o'clock in the morning till ten in the night. This year we will enjoy seeing about 25 Lancer Evolution, most of them Evo VI, taking part in this rally event. The works teams are using all their resources and their drivers know about it. Kankunnen, McRae, Sainz, Panizzi, Auriol, Tommi Mäkinen: They drive hard, using every centimeter of the road. The car components seems to speak, you hear the bang bang, the air going through the intake, you smell the brakes and after some second, after they are past, you see the black stripes of the tyres on the road and smell the exhaust gases in the air. This is rallying. A challenge against yourself as driver, a challenge against yourself as a rally team. The list of components you need to win has no end. Too much you have to know, to see, to keep in mind, to check....

Each rally stage means about 17 kilometers of this. Not easy. When you stay at the border of the road, you can see only 1% of this. Maybe if you could sit in the car as a co driver you would know more. Or maybe not. Then it is very possible that after the first two bends you would close your eyes, or maybe you would pray, yes pray to see the finish line or pray to slow down. Your choice.

You possibly think: no, this is not true. Ohh Yes. This is true. Rallying at this level is not a joke. It is a serious game, a play with the time, risking all what you have, meter after meter, in the tarmac, in the snow, in the fog. And these boys and girls are heroes, choosing to do it for us.

After the workteams our interest goes to the Kit Cars and to the Group N cars. A few Peugeot 306 Kit and Renault Megane Kit pass through the bends, and then the Group N armada comes. Yellow, black, white, red.... a lot of Lancer Evolution VI seems to transform this San Remo Rally in a sort of Mitsubishi Lancer Challenge. The best drivers come first. The WRC leader, Manfred Stohl, than Galli, and Trelles. When you look at the lines they choose to bring the car through the bend, you understand how important time can be. 1/100 here, 3/100 there, after 18 kilometers means a few second difference to the next driver. Win or lose, good or bad. For us at myevo.com they are all winners.

It's time to go, memo had been there, for you, in order to provide you with the truest rally information. It's time to get some sleep. Before this we thank all the drivers and teams for the spectacle offered and for the patience answering our questions.

Good night, San Remo.