

Gap,  
Sunday July 9<sup>th</sup> 2006

**THE 2006 ETAPE DU TOUR VELO MAGAZINE – 14<sup>th</sup> EDITION  
GAP – L'ALPE D'HUEZ**

Tomorrow, on Monday July 10<sup>th</sup>, **8,500 leisure cyclists** will joyfully take the start of the Etape du Tour Vélo Magazine: GAP – L'ALPE D'HUEZ. This 14<sup>th</sup> edition will lead them to the breathtaking landscapes of the Hautes Alpes and Isère French districts, on the same course that will be taken by the Tour de France pro riders during the 15<sup>th</sup> stage, scheduled on Tuesday July 18<sup>th</sup>.

**No fewer than 190 women** will be participating in the event, as **46 countries** will be represented: 5,098 French riders (including the four-time Formula 1 World Champion Alain Prost), 1,660 British cyclists, 231 Americans, 103 from Switzerland, 84 from Ireland, not to mention competitors from Belgium, Japan, China, Bermuda or Poland...

**The village**, settled on the La Luye Stadium in Gap, will be closed tonight at 8 pm. During two days, more than 25,000 visitors, riders and relatives will have met the sponsors, the exhibitors and the local animations. The riders collected their bibs in a festive atmosphere, as the day will end, as usual, with the Pasta Party.

The **start of the event will be given at 7am**, on the Embrun Avenue in Gap, by the City Mayor Pierre Bernard-Reymond and the the event Director Jean-François Alcan. The race will lead every participant on a course designed for the World Cycling stars on the dreadful slopes of the renowned Alps passes, such as **Izoard Pass** (2,360 m), the **Lautaret Pass** (2,058 m) and the 21 famous bends of the **Alpe d'Huez** (1,860 m).

After **191.1 kilometers** of pain and joy, the race will end in L'Alpe d'Huez, where the first rider is expected at 12:45pm on the Rif Neil Avenue; as for the last one, let's predict an optimistic 6pm finish timing...

**Find out the Etape du Tour - Vélo Magazine details on our Website:**

[www.letapedutour.com](http://www.letapedutour.com)

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