



Jerez, October 26 2007

A picture perfect 2007 Tour of Spain Portugal

October 21/26 2007

For the first time in its nine-year history, the Tour of Spain went beyond the borders including neighboring Portugal on its itinerary. Thus the rally re-named the Tour of Spain and Portugal left no doubt on the route that crossed the two Iberian Peninsula countries. As the rally made its way through Portugal's Algarve region and western Andalusia in late October, the Tour of Spain and Portugal was doted with magnificent weather.

MONDAY 22/10

The Tour of Spain made its first visit to Portugal and lived up to all expectations. The verifications held between the Vilamoura Marina and the beach immediately immersed the 85 competitors in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere that didn't slow through the opening day of the rally, Monday, which included three special stages covering nearly nine kilometers, followed by a liaison section to the Penina Golf resort, the oldest in the Algarve. The participants had the chance to have a meal under brilliant sunshine and then take part in an informal golf competition. Once back at the Parc Ferme, the drivers spent the afternoon enjoying the beach and making final adjustments to their cars.

TUESDAY 23/10

To conclude this pleasure of driving on the Portuguese roads, our 85 competitors set off on two more special stages before heading towards Spain. The first circuit stage was run in the afternoon: the 9th Tour Spain was the occasion to inaugurate the all-new Montebianco circuit. There was still plenty of fine weather as well as good spirits and our teams had a terrific time on this track, which features 64 different configurations before heading towards Huelva.

WEDNESDAY 24/10

As the rally set off there was a fine mist falling over Huelva, yet the day's four stages were run in dry conditions. On the tight and twisty roads the competitors were able to demonstrate their driving skills, in a setting emblematic of the Andalusia region, in the middle of cork fields and herds of livestock. The Tour then made its way to Seville and the Parc Ferme before dining in the heart of the city's historic center.

THURSDAY 25/10

In leaving Seville in the early morning hours, the teams had to cope with fog during the first kilometers that didn't offer ideal driving conditions but did provide the countryside with an extraordinary light. Happily, the thick fog dissipated at the start of the day's first special stage. The second stage, the Palomas, was a unanimous choice as one of the best on the entire rally, with a breath taking view of the blue and green water at the Contrebas Dam. In the afternoon the competitors ran on the private Ascari circuit at Ronda and all were taken a back by the circuit's modernity and comfort that even surprised those accustomed to competing on road courses.

FRIDAY 26/10

It was an intense start of the day for the competitors who left the Parc Ferme to head straight to the Jerez track for the final circuit stage. Two road specials followed before lunch under blue skies in an incredible setting at Cortijo el Rosalejo. The rally came to an end and everyone took a well-deserved break before heading to the Parc Ferial at Jerez for the final time before getting ready for the awards giving ceremony, which featured a heavy flamenco accent!