

C.O.N.I. – F.I.C.K. – F.I.D.B. – U.I.S.P.  
Associazione Sportiva Dilettantistica  
**CANOTTIERI COMUNALI FIRENZE**

Anno di fondazione 1934  
Stella d'argento al merito sportivo



**INTERNATIONAL FLORENCE REGATTA**  
**International Canoe Marathon race**  
**May 10th, 2009**

**Presentation**

Our Club, with the support of the local boards and in cooperation with F.I.C.K (Italian Canoe and Kayak Federation) and the I.C.F (International Canoe Federation), organizes an international Canoe Marathon race.

Canoe marathon in Italy has been an official event within kayaking since 1994. About five Canoe marathon competitions take place on an annual basis at a national level. These races not only count towards the overall club championships, but also represent the launch pad for athletes aspiring to take part at international races held all over the world.

**Canottieri Comunali Firenze** canoe club regularly takes part in all of the national Canoe marathon events and in many international ones obtaining prestigious results. Amongst the most recent results there are the **Juniors World Title 2008**, won in the Czech Republic by **Susanna Cicali**, following the World Titles 2005 and 2007 won by her sister **Stefania**, who also made the **k4 Olympic final in Beijing**.

Canoe Marathon is a long-distance discipline carried out on a minimum length of 20km which includes a number of mandatory portages. At these portages, the athlete must exit the river and run for a set distance while carrying their boat and paddles. In the early days of canoeing, obstacles on the river such as waterfalls and dams would have to be negotiated by walking around. This tradition has been maintained in modern Canoe Marathons, and now the portage has become the site of much action where athletes fight for position and try to break away from the group.

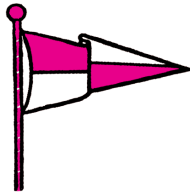
Florence **hosted the Italian Championship of Canoe Marathon in 2008**. The event registered a much higher number of participants than expected with almost 150 participants from all over Italy, giving life to an **exciting performance set on the river of one of the most beautiful cities in the world**.

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One of the most thrilling moments of the event was at the start where at least 30 athletes aligned with their boats (for every heat) and gave start to the battle to gain a position in the leading group.

Another exciting and even more entertaining point during the race was the portage, situated directly opposite the kayak club, where the most exciting moments of the whole event took place.

The **International Canoe Federation** recognized the success of the 2008 event and decided to assign to Canottieri Comunali Firenze canoe club the organization of the **2009 International Florence Regatta**.

About **250 athletes** coming from different Italian and European regions will take part to the event and the race will take place on the river Arno. The race course will be situated in the centre of Florence between San Niccoló Bridge and Varlungo Bridge. **For about 7 hours the river will be invaded with canoes**, both single and two-seated, enlivened by spectators, team members and passers by.

A particularly delicate aspect of the organization will be the one concerning the accommodation. **Canottieri Comunali Firenze will provide all the possible help to athletes coming from abroad making available the use of boats and providing financial support.**

The event will be recorded by local televisions and it will stand out in sports and regular newspapers. Furthermore, there will also be the support of video cameras with IP access and the races will be broadcast in direct streaming on the internet.

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