

# Interreg



Cofinanziato  
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## SUSTAINEVENTS

### SUSTAINEVENTS summer arrives in Alto Piemonte: culture, sport and inclusivity

**From the international competition of the Monte Rosa SkyMarathon (13 June) to local festivals: Viotti Festival Estate (6 June-29 August), Cross Festival (12-21 June) and Sphera (26-28 June)**

**Baveno, 25 May 2026** – From racing pulses brought on by athletic feats on the high peaks of Monte Rosa to the immersive rhythms of music, performance and dance, sustainability has become the common thread running through the summer in Alto Piemonte. The Interreg **SUSTAINEVENTS** project is launching a season where environmental respect and social inclusivity blend with the promotion of the local area, creating an innovative and conscious model of tourism hospitality.

Europe's highest race, reaching up to 4,554m on Monte Rosa, makes its return. Competing across varying lengths and elevations, athletes will take on the [Monte Rosa SkyMarathon](#) on **Saturday 13 June**: a unique event in pure skyrunning style, traversing moraines, snowfields and glaciers over 35 kilometres with a 7,000-metre vertical climb and descent.

In the spirit of inclusivity, the **AMAbilmente** initiative returns for athletes with disabilities and limb amputations using prostheses, who will compete along a route starting from Alagna and reaching the Bocchetta delle Pisse. Among them, athlete Loris Miloni will once again take part in this international event. Each participant will be supported by two volunteers: a guide and a rope team partner.

After achieving ISO 20121 certification for its 2023 edition, the Monte Rosa SkyMarathon project continues its commitment to excellence, with the recertification process for 2026 currently underway alongside SUSTAINEVENTS. The purpose of AMA ASD's Sustainability Management System for Events is the design, organisation, delivery and improvement of skyrunning sports events, in compliance with the requirements of UNI ISO 20121:2024.

*"The organisation's commitment is reflected in promoting sports events of high technical, cultural and territorial value, integrating the environmental, social and economic considerations specific to the Alpine context of Monte Rosa,"* explains **Manuel Gambarini, Race Director of the Monte Rosa SkyMarathon**. He adds: *"Together with the Municipality of Alagna Valsesia, we are trying to make the mountains more accessible, even where they are most difficult to reach. A race for the few, a spectacle for everyone: with this intention, we want to bring the public closer. Indeed, the sustainability of the project is not just environmental, but above all, inclusive."*

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On the cultural front, dedicated to "*Tutto il bello della bella stagione*" (All the beauty of the beautiful season), the sixth edition of the [Viotti Festival Estate](#) returns, scheduled to take place in Vercelli and Alagna from **6 June to 29 August**. At the Museo Leone in **Vercelli**, as part of the Sunrise Premio Maria Cerruti Vercellotti, **Ginevra Costantini Negri**—a young pianist named *Alfiere della Repubblica* by President Sergio Mattarella—will perform on **Saturday 20 June**. Also in Vercelli, the festival will host **Martina Consonni** on **Saturday 4 July**, one of the most brilliant and highly regarded pianists of her generation on the European stage, known for her expressive intensity. On **Saturday 11 July**, audiences can enjoy a concert by **Hawijch Elders**, the Dutch violinist and winner of the 2025 Antonio Mormone International Prize. Meanwhile, world-renowned pianist **Nikolay Khozyainov** will take to the stage on **Saturday 25 July**. At the Teatro Unione Alagnese in Alagna on **Wednesday 26 August**, **Guido Rimonda**, founder and musical director of the Festival, will lead the soloists of the **Camerata Ducale**, one of the most acclaimed ensembles on the Italian chamber music circuit.

From **12 to 21 June**, the [Cross Festival](#) will transform Verbania and the municipalities surrounding Lake Maggiore into a widespread, open-air stage for contemporary dance and performance. A new feature this year is the *Notturmo* section, an after-hours festival designed as a moment for sharing and decompression through musical immersion, opening with electronic music DJ sets by **Bienoise** and **Mombao**.

Driven precisely by sustainability and sharing, the Associazione Camerata Ducale (Viotti Festival) and Cross Festival have launched their own journey in 2026 to obtain ISO 20121 certification for sustainable event management.

From **26 to 28 June**, curated by the **Fondazione [Tones on the Stones](#)** - an ISO 20121-certified partner of the SUSTAINEVENTS project - the [SPHERA](#) project returns. Titled "*Circular visions for our future*" and conceived around the principles of the "New European Bauhaus Project", it will feature various forms of entertainment in a spectacular stone theatre. Born at the foot of the Alps, the venue was carved out of the former industrial site of the Roncino Quarry in Oira di Crevoladossola (VB), in the Verbano Cusio Ossola province. Aiming to give an ever-greater voice to younger generations, the 2026 edition boasts collaborations with several youth collectives. The event will give space to new visionary and innovative practices, uniting art and culture with the worlds of science and nature.

Among the musical guests, [Fabrizio Rat](#) stands out (known for his solo project *La Machina*), who explores techno music by blending it with the piano. He will perform on **26 June**, having previously played at some of Europe's and the world's largest clubs and festivals. The evening of **Saturday 27 June** will open with **Fill Pill**, starring alongside "*Divulgazione Coatta Ambientale*", a format that combines comedy with information on the environmental crisis. Following them, **I Patagarri** will take the stage - one of the most explosive acts on the new Italian scene, blending gypsy jazz, irony and a nomadic spirit. **SPHERA** will continue on **Sunday 28 June** with new yoga sessions led by **Alice Possetti** and **Ecstatic Dance** by

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**Eureka**, alongside activities curated by **Giulia Allegri** dedicated to foraging and identifying wild edible plants, as well as preparing an *oxymel*, an ancient remedy made of honey and vinegar. Among the central events of the day is "*Sentieri del Mistero*" by **EgriBiancoDanza**, a travelling, immersive performance that invites the audience to chart their own choreographic path through landscapes, shadows and fragments of humanity in constant motion. Closing the three-day event will be the [Closing Party By Eureka](#), a long DJ set to close the loop on SPHERA and seal memories of music, nature and community. To fully experience the event and build an active community around these themes, a temporary campsite immersed in nature will also be set up at SPHERA.

*"The SPHERA festival perfectly embodies the values of Tones Teatro Natura because it fully encapsulates our cultural, environmental and social vision: dialogue between art and nature, interdisciplinarity, tangible sustainability far removed from any greenwashing, the centrality of younger generations and the community, and new ways of inhabiting the future. For this reason, SPHERA is not just an event in the 2026 seasonal programme: it is the practical translation of the identity of Tones Teatro Natura, where culture, landscape and innovation become a single experience,"* comments **Maddalena Calderoni, Artistic Director of Tones on the Stones**.

The Tones on the Stones season continues with a packed and varied calendar that weaves together live shows, festivals and immersive experiences in nature. Following Sphera, the programme continues on **Saturday 4 July** with the **CM Orchestra** and **Malika Ayane**, followed from **16 to 19 July** by **Nextones**, a leading international festival for electronic music. On **24 and 25 July**, the Theatre transforms into an extraordinary scenic space for an immersive staging of **Giuseppe Verdi's Aida**. Finally, the season closes with two other major musical events: the **Mountain Sound Festival** on **1 and 2 August**, and **Ossola in Jazz** on **5 and 6 September**.

Spanning **Italy** and **Switzerland**, **Alto Piemonte**, **Varese** and **Canton Ticino** present themselves as a single destination, where landscape, culture and slow mobility integrate into an experience to be enjoyed with respect for places and people. Guiding this vision is **SUSTAINEVENTS**.

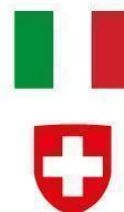
The region confirms its status as a laboratory of excellence for sustainable tourism, capable of combining tradition and innovation to offer pathways balancing sport, relaxation and discovery.

**SUSTAINEVENTS** is a project funded under the Interreg VI-A Italy–Switzerland 2021–2027 Cross-Border Cooperation Programme. The project aims to build a replicable model for designing and implementing events with a focus on environmental sustainability (building on previous projects for the certification of cultural/sports events), inclusion and governance, in order to activate innovative processes and enhance the competitive socio-economic fabric of the project's cross-border area. CCIAA Monte Rosa Laghi Alto Piemonte is the lead partner for the Italian side. The Swiss lead partner is IAS Register AG. The project

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partners include: Istud srl, CCIAA Varese, Distretto Turistico dei Laghi, ATL Terre dell'Alto Piemonte, Fondazione Tones on the Stones and Aiep - Avventure in Elicottero Prodotti.

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