

Issy-les-Moulineaux, 14 December 2007

THE 2009 TOUR - GRAND DÉPART FROM MONACO

This afternoon the organisers of the Tour de France unveiled the programme for the first few days of the 2009 race, which will kick off on 4 July. For the first time in its history, the *Grande Boucle* will set out from Monaco. The Principality has already been the finishing point for race stages on five occasions, including the famous finish between Jacques Anquetil and Raymond Poulidor when the Tour last visited Monaco, in 1964.

With this prestigious *Grand Départ*, those racing in and following the Tour will have the opportunity to enjoy spending some time in the South-East - a region the convoy rarely passes through. In the last thirty years, only Nice has hosted the *Grand Départ*. The city had the privilege of serving as a springboard for Bernard Hinault to achieve his third victory in the challenge.

The first pedal strokes from Monaco will perhaps give contenders a chance to stand out - the uneven path that the initial stage will follow favours the more accomplished cyclist. For this individual 15 kilometre time trial race, cyclists will tackle in particular a section of the famous Monaco Grand Prix circuit. The next day, 5th July, the starting signal for the second stage of the 2009 Tour will also be given from Monaco.

Winners on previous occasions when the Tour has come to Monaco:

1939

Stage 12. Saint-Raphaël – Monaco - Maurice Archambaud (France)

Stage 13. Monaco – Monaco - Pierre Gallien (France)

1952

Stage 12. Sestrières – Monaco - Jan Nolten (Holland)

1953

Stage 16. Marseilles – Monaco - Wim Van Est (Holland)

1955

Stage 9. Briançon – Monaco - Raphaël Géminiani (France)

1964

Stage 9. Briançon – Monaco - Jacques Anquetil (France)

For information regarding the *Grand Départ* from Monaco, visit www.letour.fr

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