

Fireball Europeans 2021

An introduction to the event from Andrea Minoni – Secretary of Fireball Italia



The Fireball European Championships 2021 will take place from 11-17 September in Piombino, Tuscany. It's one of Italy's most diverting and appealing regions to sail and stay for holidays at the centre of the Thyrrhenian Sea.

It's the place where the Italian Fireball Class have held national regattas for many years now and in 2019 the Italian Championships took place here. The races were held in front of the tourist port Marina di Salivoli, a recently built infrastructure which offers anything needed in one place, such as boatpark, club, beach, apartments for the participants, as well as restaurants and places to sojourn in campervans, parking for cars, trailers and containers.

It is planned to hold the races off the Porto di Salivoli and within sight of the Piazza di Piombino. This is a part of the sea characterised by regular breezes channelling in between the Italian coast and the Island of Elba, which is only a few miles in front of the coast. Thus there may be some current enhancing the excitement of racing tactics. The wind conditions will be sufficiently complex for the most experienced crews.

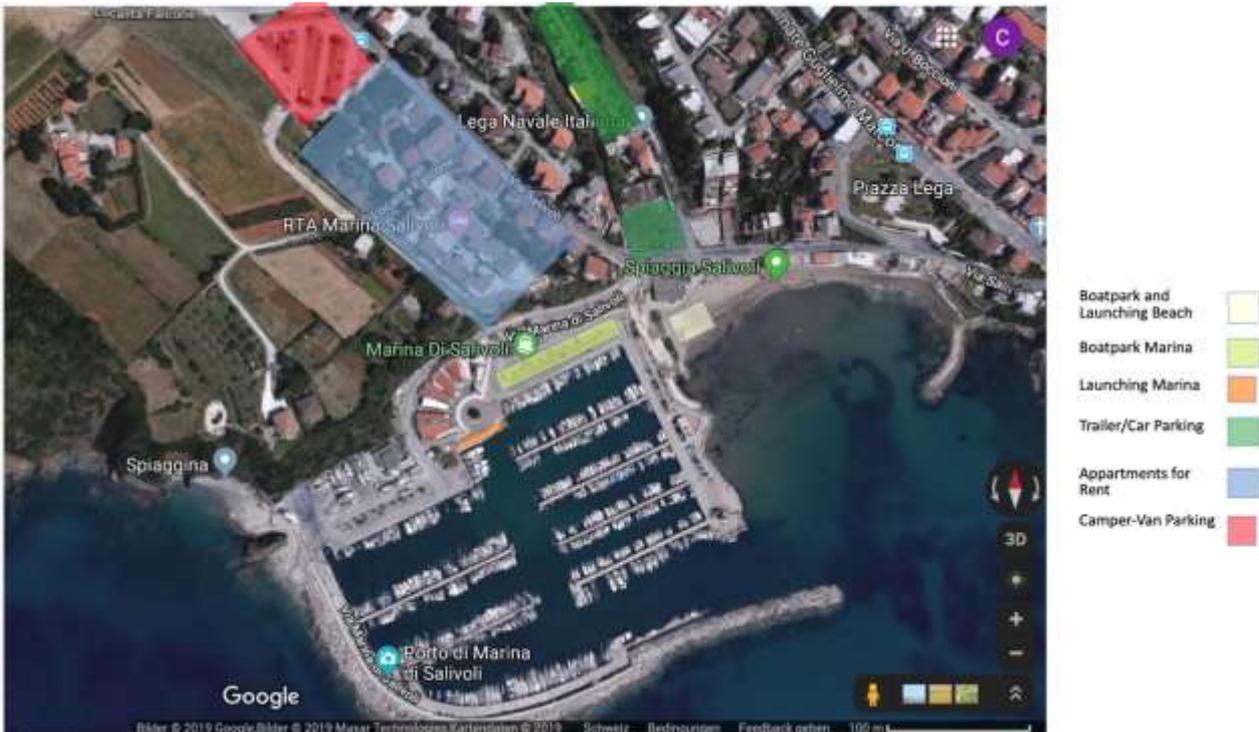
However, they mainly stay within the limits not to exceed the challenges for the average Fireballers and those less experienced in sailing.



The championships will be organized as usual: one and a half days for registration and measurement checks (Sat/Sun), three days of racing (Sun/Mon/Tue), followed by a layday (Wed) and two more days racing (Thu/Fri). The final prize-giving on Friday evening will allow for a convenient return home over the weekend for those coming from farther away.

As usual we expect to accommodate our Fireball friends coming from the UK and Ireland, from France and Switzerland as well as from Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovenia and, hopefully a few

others. They will join our numerous Italian Fireballers coming from Val d'Aosta, Piemonte, Lombardia, Liguria and Lazio.



The above picture gives an overview of the areas at the disposal of the participants and their companions.

At the rear of the port a broad space for trailers of any size including possible containers will be reserved, while the boats will be placed on the waterfront of the marina or on the adjacent beach. The Club is situated in the round building of the port and directly in front of it a broad slipway to allow for easy launching of boats.

From the port the apartments of RTA Salivoli (<https://www.marinasalivoli.it>) are accessible conveniently by an elevator. 220 persons may be accommodated there. (It is possible to book directly by email reception@marinasalivoli.it or by calling +39 056545288)

At the rear of the apartments it will be possible to place campervans and motorhomes. In close vicinity of course there are further possibilities of accommodation such as hostels, B&Bs, private houses

Thus, the whole logistic is ready to reduce organisational effort enabling participants to focus all their energy on the sea, the wind and the races.



For the layday, however, there are many highly recommended attractions within reach of this splendid part of the Tuscan coast.

Those preferring to stay close by may choose to go on a trip to the adjacent bay, the golfo di Baratti, (<https://www.golfobaratti.com>). They will immerse themselves in a comforting mix of intriguing history and relaxation. The gulf, surmounted by the pre-Roman town of Populonia, was the place where the historic population of Tuscany gained access to the sea and where they processed minerals from mines on the Island of Elba.

Keeping on the topic of mining, it is possible to visit the mine of Temperino in the Parco Archeominerario della Val Cornia (<http://www.parchivaldicornia.it/it/cosa-vedere-parco-archeominerario-san-silvestro.html#miniera>). It is possible to enjoy a comfortable trip in the little train along the trail used originally to transport the minerals out of the mine.

The day may be completed with an aperitif in the little bay called Buca delle Fate, north of Salivoli, It will allow time to admire the spectacular sunset and at the same time prepare for another nice Italian dinner which may take place there or at the historic center of Piombino. It is worth trying the local specialties (tasty dishes of land and sea accompanied by one of the delicious wines) and finally enjoy a walk to the Piazza Bovio - a huge terrace 30 metres above the sea.

For those preferring nature, it may be worth visiting Oasi WWF Padule Orti-Bottagone, a coastal plain, where the rich biodiversity of the original marsh formed by the river Cornia has been saved from being drained thus preserving adequate habitats for many animal and plant species, specifically more than 200 bird species.

(https://www.wwf.it/oasi/toscana/padule_orti_bottagone/visita_l_oasi/)

However, Tuscany is obviously more than sea and nature! Only a few kilometres away it is possible to get to Pisa and immerse oneself in the extraordinary beauty of its famous Piazza dei Miracoli with the leaning tower, the baptistery and its perfect acoustic effects, the majestic Duomo and the solemn Campo Santo.

Slightly farther away is Florence a destination that attracts countless visitors from around the world. It is rich in history, architecture, and gastronomy such that it might be worth extending holidays for at least a week before or after the championships.

Tuscany is famous all over the world for its superb quality of food and wine. It could also be a good idea to use the layday for a visit of wine cellars and estates where it is possible to sample the specialties and indulge in a deserved rest from the strains of the regatta.

To supplement this superficial summary it may be beneficial to consult the usual tourist services, (e.g. Tripadvisor). In the next months you will find more detailed proposals for tourist opportunities for the competitors and their companions on our championship site (www.fireballeuropeans2021.eu)

Buon vento!

Andrea Minoni - Segretario Fireball Italia