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**Press release – 22 January 2018**

**Marxa Beret 2018, the great Nordic skiing festival**

**The 39th Marxa Beret, the biggest popular cross-country skiing competition in Spain, is to be held over the weekend of 3-4 February at Baqueira Beret and will once again attract competitors from across Europe. The competitions will take place over three distances: 10 km, 21 km and 42 km.**

On the first weekend in February each season, Beret’s usual free cross-country circuit turns into a superb route stretching over up to 42 km in length. That’s because on 3-4 February the Val d’Aran and Valls d’Àneu resort is once again hosting the Marxa Beret, now in its 39th year and which is now on the popular long-distance skiing circuit (ML) calendar of the International Ski Federation (FIS). In addition, this season it is also on the calendar of the Spanish Lotteries Cross Country Cup run by the Royal Spanish Winter Sports Federation (RFEDI).

**Competitive, for families and international all at the same time**

The Marxa has become an event for high-level domestic and European athletes as it is on the FIS calendar in the popular cross-country skiing races (ML) category. However, at the same time it remains a popular event and one for families who want to enjoy this cross-country skiing festival since you can register without needing to have a skiing licence.

So far registrations for the event are going at a brisk pace and there are already 100 Norwegian and 25 Italian skiers among the international registrants, which means that once again the figure of one thousand registrations is likely to be reached.

In order to ensure the Marxa Beret remains a popular event and the great Nordic skiing festival, the organisers have arranged a number of side events including the Sprint Salomon.

**Sprint Salomon at Arties and complete circuit at Beret**

On Saturday the 3rd the spectacular Sprint Salomon begins in which both selected participants and fans will enjoy an intense and fun afternoon watching the “rivalry” between the long-distance skiers competing over a very short distance.

On Sunday 4 February the 39th Marxa Beret will be held at Pla de Beret. The Marxa will be divided into three trails covering 42, 21 and 10 kilometres. The 10 km circuit will cross Beret and Orri, the 21 km will be over Beret, Orri and Montgarri and finally the 42 km circuit will be at Beret, Orri, Montgarri and Marimanha.

The Marxa Beret is organised by the General Council of Aran, Baqueira Beret and Naut Arán Town Council. It is supported by: Asociación Volentaris Val d’Aran, Foment Torisme Val d’Aran, Lleida Provincial Council, Vielha e Mijaran Town Council, Pompièrs d’Aran, Aran Salut, Mossos d’Esquadra, INS d’Aran, and also the Royal Spanish Winter Sports Federation (RFEDI), the Catalan Federation of Winter Sports (FCEH) and its various sponsors.

**39th Marxa Beret Programme**

Saturday, 3 February

09:30 – Opening of the “Welcome House”

16:00 – “Sprint Salomon” exhibition

19:00 – Prize-giving

19:30 – “39th Marxa Beret” presentation

20:30 – Close of registration and Welcome House

Sunday, 4 February

10:00 – Start of 39th Marxa Beret

13:30 – Prize-giving

14:00 – Closing Ceremony

15:00 – Circuit closed

More information and registration at: [www.marxaberet.com](http://www.marxaberet.com/)

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

23/January “**Resort Guided Tour**” at 10.30 am starting from the Baqueira 1800 control tower accompanied by an Era Escòla guide.

27 and 28/January **Movistar Snowboardcross and Skicross Spanish Cup** organised by Baqueira,the RFEDI, the FCEH and the CAEI and COPOS clubs. Saturday 27 qualifiers and on Sunday finals on the Boardercross run at Blanhiblar in Beret. Registration through the clubs.

**More information**:

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