



## **New date confirmed**

# **MTB Open Gran Canaria on 8 March 2008 Marathon and Training Camp at once**

**Las Palmas (sgh) – The date for the fourth edition of the Marathon MTB Open Gran Canaria has been confirmed: on Saturday, 8 March 2008, one week prior to the first UCI Mountain Bike World Cup, MTB tourism expert and marathon organiser Petra Wonisch and her team will once again send mountain bikers from all corners of the world onto one of Europe’s most beautiful endurance race courses.**

“The 38 kilometer long semi marathon covers the same route as in 2006, from Parque del Sur in Maspalomas to Ayagaures and back through the valley. The long route with 92 kilometres distance contains parts of the 2005 marathon course which boasts stunning landscapes, great downhill and challenging climbs, however next year we ride it the other way around”, says Petra Wonisch. “It also includes the unique single trail from Chira Dam down to the valley. Our route partly leads through nature reserves. After crossing Tablero the riders head back to our fiesta at Parque del Sur in Maspalomas.”

Just like in previous years, MTB Open Gran Canaria will be the first fitness level test of the season and the highlight of a one week training camp for pros and amateurs. If one had to describe the hospitality, professionalism and care of Gran Canaria’s committed MTB tourism expert and marathon organiser Petra Wonisch in just one word, the expression ‘all-around-carefree-package’ would probably apply best. Here, every mountain biker is in good hands. “People realise from the very first minute when we pick them up at the airport that we do care about them and that we cater for their needs”, says the owner Canary-Bike.com. „That’s why they all come back and bring their families and friends along next time. That is also the reason why our marathon has grown so rapidly. Our motto for 2008 is ‘The Best of

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Everything'. We want to offer the most beautiful course, the best food, and and an amazing party. I still hear people rave about the 'six-hand-massage', the paella after the race and our Brazilian Bongo Chillout."

In 2008, MTB Open Gran Canaria will again award the Fabian Wonisch Trophy which is of special concern to the organiser and the 'Amigos del Ciclismo'. It is also an encouragement to engage in youth development and road safety education. The trophy was created in memory of Petra Wonisch's mountain bike enthusiastic son who was killed 2005 in a tragic road accident. After her son's death, Petra established a trust which aims to get children into mountain biking and educate them about road safety at the same time. For her trust the organisers of Marathon MTB Open Gran Canaria is happy to receive any sort of MTB souvenir like used jerseys, helmets or gloves. With the donations to date Petra was able to procure the complete equipment for a MTB school.

### **For further information go to:**

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