



Piolets d'Or 2025

An International Celebration of Outstanding Alpinism

Today, October 12th, during the Festival dello Sport in Trento, Manuel Corso, Director of the San Martino di Castrozza, Passo Rolle, Primiero and Vanoi Tourism Board, and Christian Trommsdorff, President of the Groupe de Haute Montagne, were called on stage by Alessandro Filippini and Luca Calvi to remind the Festival's public about the prestigious Piolets D'Or, which will take place in San Martino di Castrozza (Trentino-Dolomites) from December 9th to 12th.

They had the chance to announce the composition of the jury for the 2025 Piolets d'Or, the list of significant first ascents during 2024 on which the jury's selection is based - and the recipient of the 2025 Piolets D'Or Special Mention to promote female alpinism, this year recognizing a beautiful first ascent and traverse in the Indian Himalaya. The announcement was made during the Festival's event dedicated to Gerlinde Kaltenbrunner.

The Piolets d'Or will be held for the second time in San Martino di Castrozza, the first location in the Dolomites to host this prestigious event, thanks to the support of Trentino Marketing, the Municipality of Primiero San Martino di Castrozza, the Primiero Community, FPB Cassa di Fassa Primiero e Belluno, ACSM Group, "le Aquile" of San Martino di Castrozza, the local tourism stakeholders, the Trento Film Festival, and under the patronage of the Dolomites UNESCO Foundation.

The 2025 International Technical Jury

In 2025, the Piolets d'Or jury brings together seven accomplished alpinists from around the world: Ethan Berman, Aymeric Clouet, Young Hoon Oh, Ines Papert, Enrico Rosso, Jack Tackle, and Mikel Zabalza - whose diverse achievements embody the spirit, ethics, and future of alpine style.

[Read more about the 2025 Jury](#)

Significant first ascents during 2024 - the "big list"

This is a representative list of significant, innovative ascents from most mountain regions of the World. Whilst not every climb listed here would be considered eligible for a Piolet d'Or, all are regarded as noteworthy and adventurous within their particular regions, mostly involving new ground and technical climbing in lightweight style.

[Discover the 2024 significant first ascents](#)



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Special Mention for Female Alpinism

This Special Mention is intended specifically to promote female alpinism. It recognises a remarkable all-female ascent from the previous year, or a female alpinist for several achievements in the previous year(s), or a female alpinist's career. It is intended to be a first step: the format will evolve according to feedback gained over the next few years.



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Lalung I (6,243m), Indian Himalaya

First ascent of Lalung I (6,243m), Zaskar Region, via the east ridge - Here Comes the Sun (2,000m of climbing, M6+ AI5+) - September 9-14. Traversed the mountain and descended by the west ridge and north face.

The Lalung Valley rises southwest from the Suru River, a little to the southeast of the more famous peaks of Nun and Kun. At its head lie Chiling I and II, and Lalung I, II and III, which are located at the boundaries of the Zaskar and Kishtwar regions. The climbing history of the area is only roughly documented, and until recently a plethora of confusing names and altitudes have been granted erroneously to many of the peaks, features, and valleys. However, one thing is clear: before 2024 none of the Lalung peaks had received a documented ascent.

In September 2024, having established an advanced base camp in the valley at 4,800m, Slovenians Anja Petek and Patricija Verdev, part of a four-member female expedition, climbed the sharp and difficult east ridge of Lalung I over a period of five days, one and a half of these pinned inside their tent due to bad weather. On their final evening, a little below the summit, they lost tent poles to the wind and spent the night in bivouac sacs. The following morning's mist made it hard to navigate the remaining terrain, but they reached the summit at 9 a.m. on the 14th. The pair then made a long descent on the crest of the west ridge before making five rappels on the north face to reach the Lalung Glacier at 6:30 p.m. Here, they opted to continue down to advanced base, which took a further eight hours.

Descending to what they presumed was a tranquil base camp, Petek and Verdev discovered their time away had been far from a relaxed experience for their resident compatriots. The camp had been forced to deal with almost nightly visits from bears that ripped or demolished tents and stole much of the food.

The Piolets d'Or jury and technical committee chose Lalung I for this year's Special Mention for Female Alpinism, recognizing an exploratory first ascent of a 6,000m peak in a little visited area, a full traverse of the mountain, a pure alpine style ascent over technical ground, and a strong level of commitment, particularly when crossing the summit in poor weather. All these attributes fit wonderfully with the values of the Piolets d'Or, and the ascension of Lalung I will hopefully provide a fine inspiration for female alpinists.



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About our host - San Martino di Castrozza

"If you don't know San Martino di Castrozza, you don't know the Dolomites" claimed the well-travelled alpinist and author Gunther Langes. He was probably the best climber in the Pale di San Martino during the years between the two world wars. Among his many important climbs in the 'Pale' the two most famous are Spigolo del Velo on Cima della Madonna (the well-known Schleierkante in German), which means the ridge of the veil, and the Gran Pilastro (Great Pillar) on the Pala di San Martino.

San Martino di Castrozza is situated in the heart of what is perhaps the wildest part of the Dolomites, at 1,450m. The Pala Group (in Italian, Pale di San Martino), which is the broadest group of the Dolomites, fascinates visitors with its unique skyline. This is recognized all over the world as a symbol of the Dolomites. The most important peak is the Cimon della Pala (3,184m), also known as "the Matterhorn of the Dolomites" because of the similar shape when observed from the Passo Rolle. The Cimon della Pala, first climbed by English alpinists, Francis Fox Tuckett and Edward Robson Whitwell, is not the highest peak of the Pale, which is Vezzana (3,192m).

It was thanks to the travellers (at first, mainly English geologists and botanists, then later alpinists from Britain, the Netherlands and Germany), who came to the Dolomites in the second half of the 19th Century with the aim of discovering new peaks, that San Martino di Castrozza was born as a tourist destination, with shepherds and hunters working as alpine guides. At the time, these were the only people who could take visitors into the mountains, knowing them better than anyone else. The first alpine guide in this area was Michele Bettega, followed by Giuseppe Zecchini, Antonio Tavernaro, and Bortolo Zagonel. They became recognized as the 'Eagles of San Martino', almost celebrities for wealthy climbing tourists. Michele Bettega, for example, climbed the Cimon della Pala more than 250 times. San Martino di Castrozza also was appreciated by famous visitors, such as Sigmund Freud, Arthur Schnitzler, who wrote a novel 'Die Fraulein Else' located precisely in San Martino, the King of Belgium, and Dino Buzzati.

San Martino di Castrozza is an ideal basecamp in all seasons for mountain activities such as hiking, biking, climbing, running, orienteering and canyoning. Here, the spirit is authentic and the hospitality unique.

[Visit the website](https://www.sanmartino.com)

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