



CROSS COUNTRY RALLY  
**WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP**  
 419\_MAGGIO\_08 SAN TEODORO\_SARDEGNA\_ITALY

**Lopez e Despres, One-Two. But the reality is that Cyril Despres is now the leader.**

San Teodoro, 5 maggio 2008.

Sardegna Rally Race 2008. The first 2008 Cross Country World Championship rally starts to be a serious business for the champions, the super stars of the race.

This morning, they left San Teodoro at 8.00 AM North along the beautiful coast on the way to Olbia, where the start took place at 9.00 AM on time. 250 kilometers of very technical land, and the hard "law" of reading and drive on the notes of the road book make the class and ability come out, with 2 special tests of dry and slippery path.

On the sharp turns of the Limbara mountain we witness the battle with Francisco Lopez (Chile) and Matteo Graziani (Italy) with the same kind of motorbike, KTM, but different team flags. The Chilean runs an official one, instead the Italian got a private one but with the prestigious Alfa-Romeo colours. Lopez made some little mistakes at the beginning of the special test, but then the Chilean kept a steady high rhythm to his performance. Graziani, a true expert on this kind of races, made no mistakes but his strategy was limited not to right force at the first day. Finally there were no revenge on the second special test: both of them they made a few mistakes, together and again, and the sharpest riders were Cyril Despres and Gerard Farres: so they were first and second on the labyrinth of the second special test of the day.

Due to the sum of the special tests chrono results, Cyril Despres won the today race leg, and became the leader of the Sardinia Rally Race. Francisco "Chaleco" Lopez and Graziani are now in third and fourth position. But better than them is the Spaniard Jordi Viladoms (the first rider of the official KTM Spain team), now second overall.

Other racers that shine today were the French winner of the "rainy" Rally of Central Europe, David Casteu and the Italians Paolo Ceci and Massimo Chiesa, this one a real myth of the story of rallies in Sardinia.

Tomorrow on the menu some more "hot peppers" to flavourish the third day of this hard but nice race: a ring of 250 KM starting from and finish in San Teodoro, with two special tests: one of them over 90 kilometers long.

### Results of Day 1

Cl.	No.	Rider	Year	Motoclub	Bike	Cl.	Time	Pen.CO	Pen.Var.	Total	Gap
Cl.	No.	Rider	Year	Motoclub	Bike	Cl.	Time	Pen.CO	Pen.Var.	Total	Gap
Cl.	No.	Rider	Year	Motoclub	Bike	Cl.	Time	Pen.CO	Pen.Var.	Total	Gap
Cl.	No.	Rider	Year	Motoclub	Bike	Cl.	Time	Pen.CO	Pen.Var.	Total	Gap
1	1	5 DESPRES Cyril (FRA)	1974	Ktm Red Bull	Ktm	EX2	1:31'16.86			1:31'16.86	
		39'57.73 (PB1: 7)	51'19.13 (PB2: 1)								
2	2	4 VILADOMS Jordi (ESP)	1980	Repsol	Ktm	EX2	1:31'20.71			1:31'20.71	3.85
		38'34.09 (PB1: 3)	52'46.62 (PB2: 3)								
3	1	19 LOPEZ Francisco (CHI)	1975	Fasola	Ktm	PR2	1:31'34.48			1:31'34.48	17.62
		38'23.27 (PB1: 1)	53'11.21 (PB2: 4)								
4	2	2 GRAZIANI Matteo (ITA)	1968	Il Team	Ktm	PR2	1:32'20.49			1:32'20.49	1'03.63
		38'31.69 (PB1: 2)	53'48.80 (PB2: 7)								
5	3	1 CASTEU David (FRA)	1974	Off Road	Ktm	EX2	1:32'26.05			1:32'26.05	1'08.19
		38'50.54 (PB1: 4)	53'35.51 (PB2: 6)								