



## 21st ŠKODA Velotour: 6,200 participants celebrate the biggest Everyman race of the spring

At 8:45 a.m., the first starting signal of the day sounded in Eschborn. Divided into six starting areas, the participants of the ŠKODA Velotour Classic took to the course first. They rode the long distance over 100 kilometers with the legendary climbs and Taunus icons. From the Feldberg to the Mammolshainer Stich, the amateur cyclists tested the classic bike route before the professionals.

The large majority of all starters had decided for the long round with 1700 meters of altitude. After the start in Eschborn, the course headed towards Frankfurt city center. From the finish area of the professionals at the Alte Oper, the route led towards the Feldberg. Here there were already the first attacks from the peloton, but they were stopped in Oberursel, at the foot of the eleven-kilometer climb. The fastest ascent to the 500 meters of altitude was completed by Martin Maertens (25:33 minutes) and Laura Tibitanzl (28:36 minutes). They secured the title of Tissot Mountain King and Tissot Mountain Queen, receiving the official mountain jersey and a high-quality Tissot watch.

Shortly before the summit of the highest mountain in the Taunus region, three other athletes launched attacks, but were caught up again by Niederreifenberg. Immediately afterwards, Sean Feldhaus of Team Strassacker broke away as a soloist on the climb to Kittelhütte. As the race progressed, he built up a lead of up to 1:30 minutes.

With the steep climb to Mammolshainer Berg, a cycling classic highlight awaited 12 kilometers before the finish. Some of the chasers tried to close the gap again. But the leader saved just under 30 seconds over the summit and shortly thereafter celebrated victory in Eschborn as a soloist - just under a minute ahead of his two teammates Moritz Palm and Timo Dahlheimer. In the women's race, as in the previous year, Tissot mountain queen Laura Tibitanzl prevailed with aplomb. The Frankfurt native crossed the finish line with a time of 02:43:21 hours - more than a minute ahead of runner-up Julia Schallau and Tina Büttner in third place.

In the ŠKODA Velotour Express, which leads over the Feldberg but not over the Mammolshainer Stich, Alexander Steffens (AS Cycling Team) celebrated victory in 2:16:22 hours. He won as a soloist just ahead of Fábio Abreu and Miquel Ribeiro (both City of Eschborn). In the women's race, Carolin Meyer triumphed in 2:31:21 hours. Four minutes behind, Caroline Wagner was second, ahead of Nadine Groß.

The participants of the ŠKODA Velotour Skyline also showed great performances. 40 almost completely flat kilometers offered ideal conditions for amateur cyclists who wanted to get a taste of cycling classics without any major obstacles or who wanted to bite their way through in time trial mode. The magic hour mark was also cracked this year sovereign. Florian Ehm needed 56:06 minutes - an hourly average of almost 42 km/h! Vanessa Wulf prevailed in the women's race in 56:12 minutes.