



## SANTA BARBARA COUNTY WELCOMES RACE FOR THIRD YEAR

Stage 5 - Solvang Individual Time Trial (Friday, Feb. 22, 2008)

Stage 6 - Santa Barbara Start (Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008)

---

## **NEWS**

For Immediate Release: December 19, 2007

### **MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Tracy Farhad, Solvang Conference & Visitors Bureau, 805-688-6144 or [tracy@solvangusa.com](mailto:tracy@solvangusa.com).

Laura Kath, SB County Media Liaison, 805-344-1717 or [laura@mariahmarketing.com](mailto:laura@mariahmarketing.com)

INFO: [www.amgentourofcalifornia.com](http://www.amgentourofcalifornia.com); [www.tourofcalifornia-solvang.com](http://www.tourofcalifornia-solvang.com)

### **ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME RIDE—"RACE OF TRUTH" FUNDRAISER ANNOUNCED**

**20 Amateur Cyclists Have Chance on *Amgen Tour of California* Solvang Time Trial Closed Course (11:15 AM on Friday, February 22, 2008, the hour before pro race)**

*Solvang, Santa Barbara County, California, USA*—For the first time in *Amgen Tour of California* (ATOC) race history, 20 qualified amateur cyclists can have the opportunity to ride the Stage 5 Solvang Individual Time Trial closed course one hour prior to the pros, announced Max Hanberg and Carol Petersen, co-chairs of the Solvang Local Organizing Committee, coordinators of this unique fundraiser titled the "Race of Truth." The event is scheduled for Friday, February 22, 2008 at 11:15 AM.

An avid cyclist, Petersen revealed, "Cyclists will come out of the official Time Trial chute on the starting line of the 2008 Stage 5 Race at Solvang Park, wearing an authorized ATOC bib number, racing against the actual Stage 5 time trial clock, on the official route around the Valley and back to the finish line on Copenhagen Drive. It will be the ride of a lifetime!"

Riders will have up to 45 minutes to ride the official 15-mile time trial course. Riders should be capable of completing the course at a 20 mph average speed. Those who cannot complete the course in the allotted time may be removed to avoid interference with the professional race. (Note: 2007 ATOC Stage 5 Time Trial winner Levi Leipheimer completed a similar course in 29 minutes, 40 seconds.)

The first, second and third place finishers in the "Race of Truth" will receive special recognition on the official ATOC Awards Stage at the conclusion of the Stage 5 Pro race later that afternoon. All "Race of Truth" riders will also receive a certificate of participation.

"Race of Truth" participation is limited to the first 20 qualified and paid cyclists. Donation cost for the Ride of a Lifetime package is \$1,500 and includes race participation, a VIP Starting Gate Tent pass, VIP Hospitality Tent pass, official ATOC hat & pin. (Donation for race participation alone is \$1,000.) "Race of Truth" application forms are available online only at [www.tourofcalifornia-solvang.com](http://www.tourofcalifornia-solvang.com). The offer is limited, subject to availability and certain restrictions apply. A USA Cycling License is required for this one time event and a One-Day license can be purchased race day for \$5. Net proceeds will help the City of Solvang defray costs for hosting the Stage 5 race. For details: [info@tourofcalifornia-solvang.com](mailto:info@tourofcalifornia-solvang.com) or call Local Organizing Committee Co-chair Carol Petersen at (805) 688-8617.

###

*On February 22 & 23, 2008, Santa Barbara County proudly welcomes back for its third year the **Amgen Tour of California**—the 650-mile, eight-day bicycle stage race modeled after the Tour de France—featuring the world's top professional cycling teams starting in Palo Alto-Stanford University on February 17 and concluding in Pasadena on February 24. For complete details on all aspects of the race, visit [www.amgentourofcalifornia.com](http://www.amgentourofcalifornia.com)*