



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

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FINAL TEAMS ANNOUNCED FOR 2008 AMGEN TOUR OF CALIFORNIA PROFESSIONAL ROAD CYCLING RACE

Two Teams Holding Pre-Race Training in Solvang/Santa Ynez Valley in Santa Barbara County

Solvang, California--A world-class field of 17 domestic and international cycling teams set to compete in the **2008 Amgen Tour of California** was announced by AEG, owners and presenters of the upcoming cycling road race. The 650-mile, eight-day stage race, modeled after the Tour de France and considered the most important and popular race held on U.S. soil, will take the world's top professional cycling teams from Palo Alto-Stanford University to Pasadena from February 17-24.

The **2008 Amgen Tour of California** roster includes the following 17 professional cycling teams totalling 136 riders: **Astana (LUX)**; **Bissell Pro Cycling Team (USA)**; **BMC Racing Team (USA)**; **Bouygues Telecom (FRA)**; **Crédit Agricole (FRA)**; **Gerolsteiner (GER)**; **Health Net Presented by Maxxis (USA)**; **High Road Sports (GER)**; **Jelly Belly Cycling Team (USA)**; **Kelly Benefit Strategies/Medifast (USA)**; **Quick Step (BEL)**; **Rabobank Cycling Team (Netherlands)**; **Rock Racing (USA)**; **Saunier Duval-Scott (ESP)**; **Team CSC (DEN)**; **Team Slipstream Powered by Chipotle (USA)**; and **Toyota-United Pro Cycling Team (USA)**.

Two of these cycling teams will hold their pre-season training camps in Santa Barbara County—Toyota-United Pro Cycling Team and Health Net Presented by Maxxis Pro Cycling Team. Santa Barbara County has 2 stages of the race; Solvang—host city for the Stage 5 Individual Time Trial on Friday, February 22, 2008, and Santa Barbara—host city for the Stage 6 Start on Saturday, February 23, 2008.

According to Tracy Farhad, Executive Director of the Solvang Conference & Visitors Bureau, "We are thrilled to have **Toyota-United Pro Cycling Team** and **Health Net Presented by Maxxis Pro Cycling Team** headquartered here this season. 7-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong who trained here for many years has said this is an ideal cycling area. From rolling country lanes through vineyards to strenuous mountain climbs, there is something for every level of cycling ability. Velkommen to Solvang and Santa Barbara County, cyclists!"

In addition to hosting the **Amgen Tour of California for the past two years**, Solvang hosts some of the largest amateur cycling events in the USA such as the Solvang Century (5,000+ riders every March) and the Solvang Prelude (3,000+ every November). *Los Angeles Times* noted, "It is something of a cycling mecca,"

For complete details of all ***Amgen Tour of California*** race-related activities, viewing packages and sponsorship options in Santa Barbara County, visit www.tourofcalifornia-solvang.com and www.TourSB.com

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