

Rally Italia Sardegna: Škoda crew Robert Virves and Jakko Viilo compete as WRC2 Champions*

- › Estonians Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) have secured the title already before the final round of the FIA World Rally Championship*
- › Their team Toksport WRT has entered a second Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 for former WRC2 Champion Emil Lindholm from Finland and Brazilian co-driver Gabriel Morales
- › Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew Roberto Daprá/Luca Guglielmetti from Delta Rally Team start their home event as the defending WRC2 winners
- › 18 Škoda crews make up the majority of the WRC2 entries for the gravel event on the Mediterranean island of Sardinia.

Mladá Boleslav, 30 September 2026 – Rally Italia Sardegna (1-4 October 2026) marks the final round of the 2026 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC). Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo travel to Alghero as the newly crowned WRC2 Champions*. The Estonians are aiming to finish the season on a high.

As Rally Saudi Arabia is no longer part of the 2026 calendar, the WRC season will end with the upcoming Rally Italia Sardegna. This has fundamentally changed the situation in the race for the WRC2 title. Toksport WRT's Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo hold the overall lead with 117 points. Regardless of the outcome of the Mediterranean gravel event, the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew now cannot be overtaken by any of their competitors. Already before the start of the Italian WRC round, the Estonians can celebrate as new WRC2 Champions*. Together, they have also won the drivers' and co-drivers' titles in the WRC2 Challenger classification*. That's two more international trophies for Robert Virves, who became FIA Junior WRC Champion in 2022.

Toksport WRT has also entered former WRC2 Champion Emil Lindholm. The 2022 title winner shares the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 with Brazilian co-driver Gabriel Morales. Both chase their first WRC2 win on Rally Italia Sardegna. In contrast, Roberto Daprá/Luca Guglielmetti already know the feeling of celebrating from the top of the Italian WRC2 podium. They drove a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew from Delta Rally Team to category win on their home event last year. Other Škoda crews with hopes for top positions are team MZR Paraguay's Fabrizio "Fau" Zaldívar/Marcelo Der Ohannesian, Jan Solans/Rodrigo Sanjuán from team PH.Ph. and MT Racing's Giovanni Trentin/Pietro Elia Ometto. In total, 18 Škoda crews are entered into WRC2.

Rally Italia Sardegna will see the decision in the WRC Masters Cup, which is reserved for drivers over the age of 50. Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 driver Miguel Granados from Mexico and Spanish co-driver Marc Martí aim to reduce the gap to leaders Johannes Keferböck/Ilka Minor.

Rally Italia Sardegna is based in the city of Alghero. The 17 stages totalling 307.02 kilometres run mostly on sandy and stony gravel roads. On Thursday (1 October), the event kicks off with a spectacular show stage inside the Ittiri Crossodromo. Friday offers six stages covering 119.66 kilometres. 123.66 competitive kilometres across six stages follow on Saturday. The final leg on Sunday (4 October) consists of another four stages with a total of 61.62 kilometres. The podium beneath Alghero's ancient bastion is scheduled for 5 p.m. CEST.

Did you know that...

...for its 23rd edition, the rally has moved its headquarters and service park from Olbia on the east coast back to Alghero on the island's west coast?

...for only the fourth time in its history, the event will run in autumn? In contrast to the usual summer slot, the October date brings the potential for cooler temperatures and variable conditions, adding even greater challenges for the teams. Also, for the first time, Rally Italia Sardegna marks the final event of a WRC season.

...the 24.14-kilometre stage "Lerno – Sa Conchedda – Monti Di Ala" features the iconic "Micky's jump", where the rally cars fly for up to 40 metres?

Standings WRC2/Drivers + Co-Drivers (after 12 of 13 events)

- 1 Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo (EST/EST), Škoda, 117 points**
- 2 Yohan Rossel/Arnaud Dunand (FRA/FRA), Lancia 85 points
- 3 Roope Korhonen/Anssi Viinikka (FIN/FIN), Toyota, 79 points

** Subject to confirmation of the results by the FIA*

2026 FIA World Rally Championship

Rallye Monte-Carlo	22-25 January
Rally Sweden	12-15 February
Safari Rally Kenya	12-15 March
Croatia Rally	9-12 April
Rally Islas Canarias (ESP)	23-26 April
Rally de Portugal	7-10 May
Rally Japan	28-31 May
Acropolis Rally Greece	25-28 June
Rally Estonia	16-19 July
Rally Finland	30 July-2 August
Rally del Paraguay	27-30 August
Rally Chile Bio Bío	10-13 September
Rally Italia Sardegna	1-4 October

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Škoda crews on Rally Italia Sardegna

This season, Toksport WRT's Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) already won WRC2 on four gravel rallies.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews on Rally Italia Sardegna

Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) compete in the season's final event as new WRC2 Champions*.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews on Rally Italia Sardegna

Italian duo Roberto Daprà/Luca Guglielmetti feels very much at home on rough gravel. Last year, they drove Delta Rally Team's Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 to WRC2 victory.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally Italia Sardegna

Finland's Emil Lindholm, the WRC2 Champion from 2022, and Brazilian co-driver Gabriel Morales are back with the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team Toksport WRT.

Source: Škoda Auto

Škoda Motorsport

- › Škoda celebrates 125 years of Motorsport since the first efforts in 1901, garnering success in rallies as well as in circuit racing.
- › Highlights include winning the 1981 European Touring Car Championship (ETCC) with the Škoda 130 RS.
- › Since 2009, the Škoda Fabia has celebrated numerous successes for the Czech manufacturer on rally stages worldwide.
- › Until 2014, the Škoda Fabia S2000 (2.0 naturally aspirated engine, four-wheel drive) secured 50 international titles and national rally championships. The Škoda Fabia S2000 also helped to win the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC) and the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC) three times each.
- › The successor model Škoda Fabia R5 (1.6 turbo engine, four-wheel drive) entered the scene in 2015. Later renamed to Škoda Fabia Rally2 and followed by the further developed Škoda Fabia Rally2 evo, the model collected nearly 2,000 victories in 68 countries until the end of the 2022 season.
- › During this period, Škoda Motorsport factory drivers Jan Kopecký (CZE), Esapekka Lappi (FIN), Pontus Tidemand (SWE) and Kalle Rovanperä (FIN) won the FIA World Rally Championship's support category WRC2/WRC2 Pro. Škoda Motorsport also took the WRC2/WRC2 Pro Manufacturers' title five times in a row from 2015 to 2019.
- › Beginning with the 2020 season, Škoda Motorsport changed its strategy to supporting private teams. The success story continued: The Škoda Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT also won the WRC2 Teams' title five times in 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. In 2026 Robert Virves and Jakko Viilo became WRC2 Champions while Teemu Suninen and Antti Haapala won the FIA European Rally Championship. They are joined by numerous national champions in Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 cars.

Škoda Auto

- › is successfully steering through the new decade with the Next Level Škoda Strategy;
- › aims to become one of the top three best-selling brands in Europe by the end of the decade by offering its customers the best of both worlds through a range of attractive BEV, hybrid & ICE products;
- › effectively exploits the potential in important growth markets such as India, Vietnam and the ASEAN region;
- › currently offers customers 14 passenger car model ranges: Fabia, Scala, Octavia, Superb, Kamiq, Karoq, Kodiaq, Epiq, Elroq, Enyaq, Peaq, Slavia, Kylaq and Kushaq;
- › delivered more than 1,040,000 vehicles to customers worldwide in 2025;
- › has been part of the Volkswagen Group, one of the world's most successful car manufacturers, for more than 30 years;
- › is part of Brand Group CORE, an organisational merger of the Volkswagen Group's volume brands, with the aim of achieving joint growth and significantly increasing the overall efficiency of all five volume brands;
- › independently develops and produces components such as MEB battery systems, engines and transmissions for other Volkswagen Group brands;
- › operates three production plants in the Czech Republic; has production capacities in Spain, Slovakia, Kazakhstan and India, mostly through group partnerships, as well as in Vietnam and Ukraine in cooperation with a local partner;
- › employs around 40,000 people worldwide and is active in almost 100 markets.