

THE SAVOIE MONT BLANC 4th GRANDE ODYSSÉE

IN AVORIAZ FROM 6th TO 8th JANUARY

A new chapter in this extraordinary adventure has been in preparation over the last few months in Savoie Mont Blanc and particularly in Avoriaz which, flushed with the success of previous years, will once again host the first leg of the 2008 race.

Beyond the competitive element lies the magic of these races that come straight from Jack London novels, with their incredible athletes – both human and canine. The Grande Odyssée aims to make you dream, to open your eyes to what is most precious: our earth, the richness of our surroundings and the beauty of the landscape.

Under the driving force of Nicolas Vanier, a committed musher (sleigh-driver), adventurer, writer and producer, Henry Kam, an experienced entrepreneur and great motivator, and Dominique Grandjean, a vet famous for his knowledge of sleigh dogs and this unusual sport - dozens of villages and hundreds of people have joined forces to make this dream become a reality.

The Grande Odyssée is the media's most covered dog-sleigh race, the most popular, the most technically challenging and the most international.

The Grande Odyssée is today recognised as a race on a par with famous dog-sleigh races such as the West Yukon and the Iditarod in Canada and Alaska. It is now part of the 2007-2008 IFSS (International Federation of Sleddog Sports) World Cup Circuit

The Grande Odyssée takes place **over 2 weeks with 13 different stages.**

- Nearly **1000 km** of effort with a total vertical climb of **25000 m.**
- An original format that mixes endurance with shorter stages.
- In 2008, **14 nations** will be represented: Alaska, Germany, England, Canada, Croatia, Spain, France, Italy, Norway, Quebec, Czech Republic, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA. Prize money of over **100,000\$** will reward the prowess of these XX1st century adventurers.

HIGHLIGHTS :

- **Opening ceremony** on Saturday 5th January at 19h30 in Avoriaz.
- **Race start** on Sunday 6th January at 16h30 in Avoriaz Lots of suspense and emotionally charged moments !
- **1st stage** : Avoriaz – Avoriaz.
Start Sunday 6th January at 16h30, 59 km long with 2 500 m of total vertical climb.
- **4th stage** : Châtel – Morgins – Avoriaz.
Start Tuesday 8th January at 16h30, 82 km long with 2 800 m of total vertical climb.