



PRESS RELEASE 2/2011 for Swim Star Web Portal



## FINA OPEN WATER SWIMMING GRAND PRIX 2011

### First race of GP series in Rosario (ARG)

For the fourth consecutive year, the Grand Prix attracts world-class open water swimmers to race some of the world's most incredible waterways in distances ranging from 15km to 88km.

The first leg of the annual circuit takes place in Rosario (ARG) on Sunday January 23.

22 men and 16 women will enter the 15km race, counting among men the Bulgarian giant **Petar Stoychev**, uncontested dominator of the four Grand Prix seasons, local hero **Damian Blaum**, runner-up of the 2010 series and **Rodolfo Valenti** (ITA), bronze medallist last year.

They will race alongside serious opponents such as **Alexander Studzinski** (GER), **Andrea Volpini** (ITA), **Evgenij Pop Acev** (MKD), **Mattia Alberico** (ITA) and **Guillermo Bertola** (ARG).

In the women's field, **Pilar Geijo** (ARG), overall winner of the 2010 Grand Prix, even though a favourite, will probably battle it out with Spain's **Esther Nunez**, **Nicoletta Simonazzi** from Italy and compatriots **Antonella Bogarin**, **Marianella Mendoza**, **Noelia Petti** and **Vanessa Garcia**.

### FINA Open Water Swimming Grand Prix 2011 calendar:

***Race 1: January 23, 2011 in Rosario (ARG, 15km)***

Race 2: January 30, 2011 in Santa Fe-Coronda (ARG, 57km)

Race 3: February 5, 2011 in Viedma (ARG, 12km)

Race 4: February 13, 2011 in Hernandarias-Parana (ARG, 88km)

Race 5: April 23, 2011 in Sumidero Canyon (MEX, 15km)

Race 6: June 19, 2011 in Capri-Napoli (ITA, 36km)

Race 7: July 30, 2011 in Lac St. Jean (CAN, 32km)

Race 8: August 6, 2011 in Lake Memphremagog (CAN, 34km)

Race 9: August 7, 2011 in Sabac (SRB, 19km)

Race 10: August 14, 2011 in Ohrid Lake (MKD, 30km)

Race 11: TBC (UAE)