

# Mediterranean Open Championships (MOC) Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Over the years, quite a few Brits have 'Followed the Sun' to Italy in search of warmer weather, good food and company, interesting maps and unique orienteering challenges: to experience what MOC has to offer. MOC has helped develop UK elite sprint athletes, as many of the races are Sprints.

Orienteers to access and race on/round/in/on/through and even under, a huge variety of awesome areas, some of great cultural and historical significance.

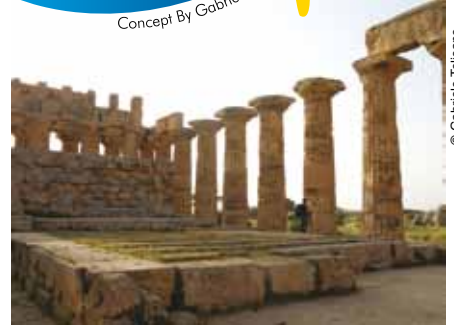
Born out of the international experience of Park World Tour, the main circuit of international orienteering races in historical centres and city-parks, the MOC (Mediterranean Open Championships) in Orienteering answered the need of a strong yearly international orienteering event in the Mediterranean area. The concept of MOC was developed by Gabriele Viale.

The first edition of Mediterranean Open Championship took place in 2005 in Salento, with races in Carovigno, Gallipoli, Otranto and Brindisi. In March 2006 MOC was taken to Sicily and Basilicata, with stages in Palermo and Lagonegro. In March 2007 MOC was back in Puglia, hugging Bari district (In the historical centres of Bari, Altamura, Bosco della Difesa Grande of Gravina di Puglia), Salento (Torcito di Cannole Park, Carovigno) and Taranto district. In 2008 MOC was staged in Policoro (Basilicata)

**MOC**  
MEDITERRANEAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP  
ORIENTEERING



Concept By Gabriele Viale



Selinunte Temple.

and in Oria. In 2009 again in Taranto district. Gargano Park and the historical centres of Vico, Ischitella, Rodi and Peschici hosted the edition in 2010. In 2011 MOC was all in Sicily, between Selinunte, Sciacca and Belice Valley. There was an extraordinary edition in Rome in 2012, and in 2013 it was back in Puglia with the final stage in Matera.

MOC

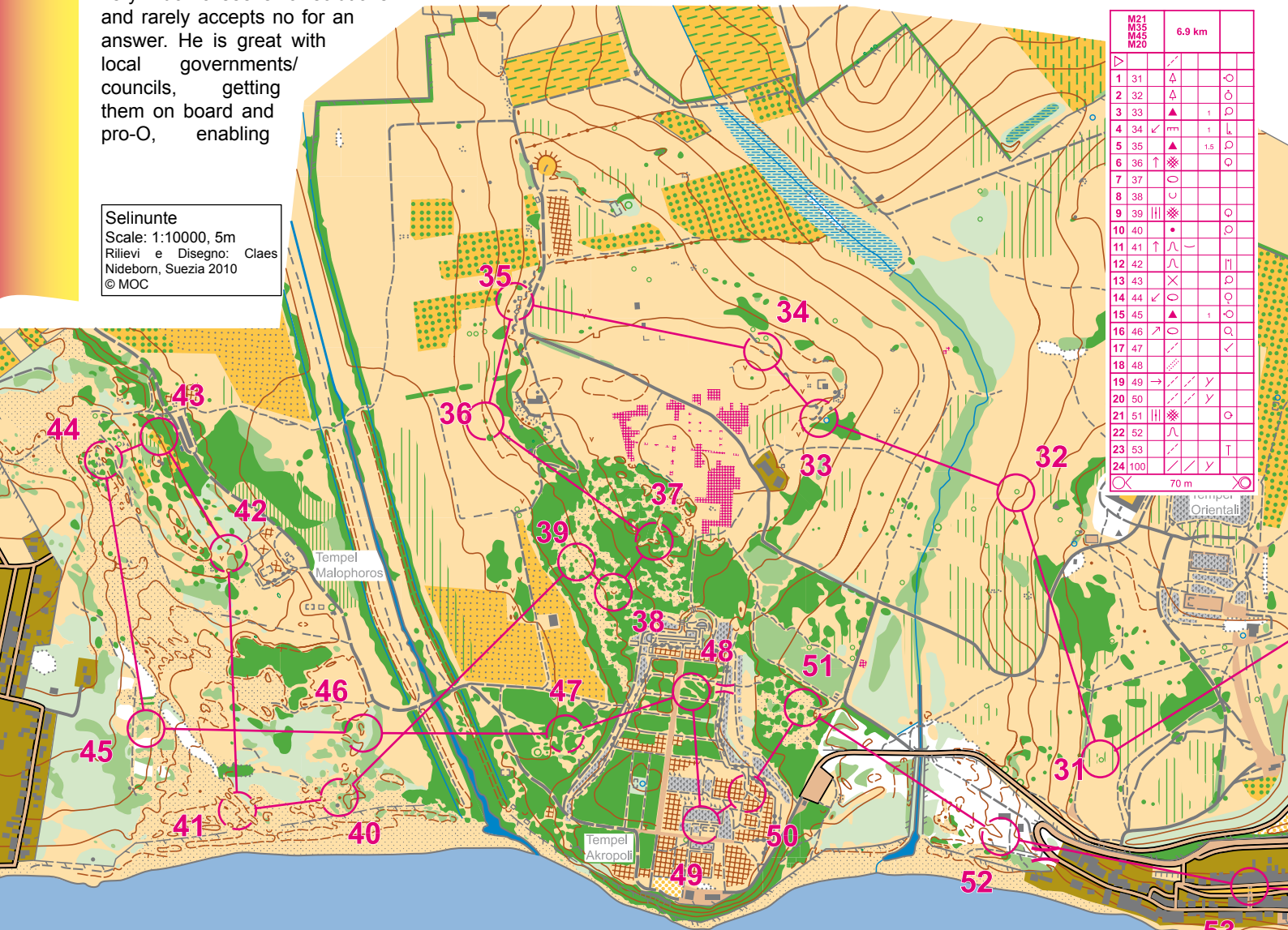


© Gabriele Tolisano

Gabriele Viale created the concept of MOC.

The key 'mover and shaker' and 'concept creator' is Gabriele Viale, a gregarious and effervescent character whose relaxed approach puts everyone at ease. He is very much a seeker of solutions and rarely accepts no for an answer. He is great with local governments/councils, getting them on board and pro-O, enabling

Selinunte  
Scale: 1:10000, 5m  
Rilievi e Disegno: Claes Nideborn, Suezia 2010  
© MOC



**Previous MOC winners:**

2005: M21: David Brickhill-Jones (AUS)	W21: Ieva Sargautyte (LTU)
2006: M21: Michal Smola (CZE)	W21: Dana Brožková (CZE)
2007: M21: Alexei Bortnik (RUS)	W21: Simone Niggli-Luder (SUI)
2008: M21: Thierry Gueorgiou (FRA)	W21: Marianne Riddervold (NOR)
2009: M21: Mats Haldin (FIN)	W21: Vendula Klechova (CZE)
2010: M21: Matthias Kyburz (SUI)	W21: Helena Jansson (SWE)
2011: M21: Audun Hultgreen Weltzien, (NOR)	W21: Annika Billstam, (SWE)
2012: M21: Jerker Lysell, (SWE)	W21: Ines Brodman, (SUI)
2013: M21: Matthias Kyburz (SUI)	W21: Simone Niggli-Luder (SUI)

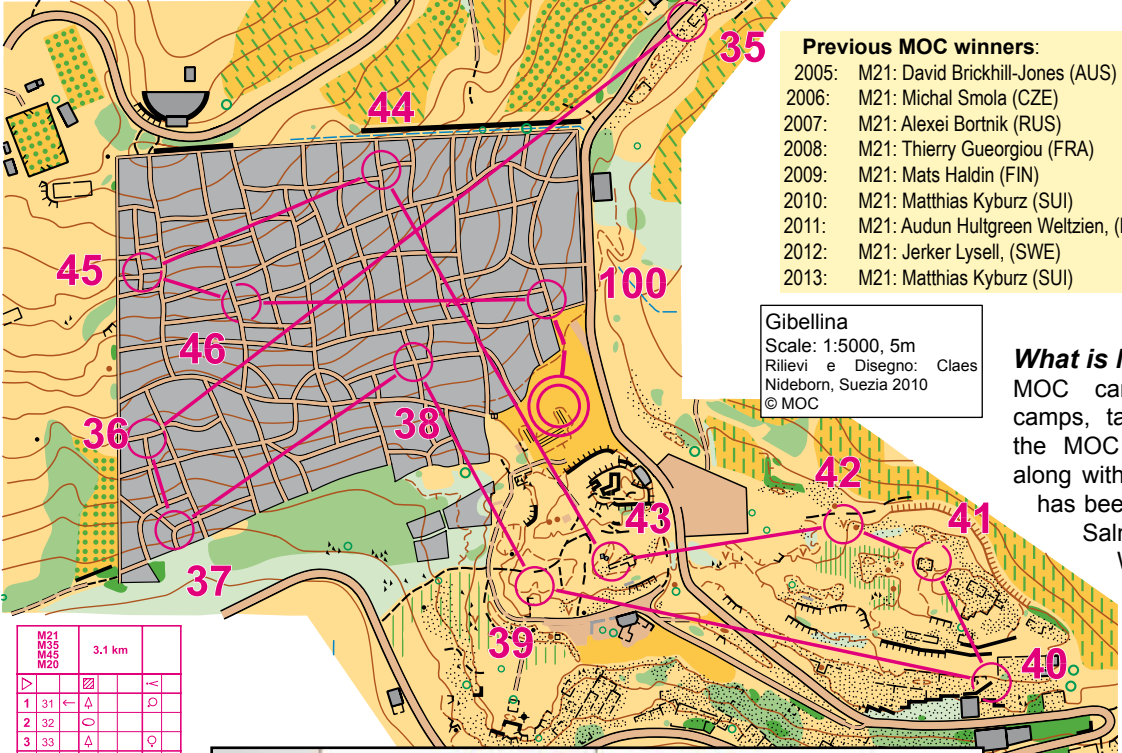
Gibellina  
Scale: 1:5000, 5m  
Rilievi e Disegno: Claes Nideborn, Svezia 2010  
© MOC

**What is MOC camp?:**

MOC camp is high-quality training camps, taking place the week before the MOC Championship. Since 2011, along with MOC, a sprint training camp has been held with head coach Janne Salmi FIN, a former orienteering World Champion. MOC Camp has been gathering athletes together from different countries and with different backgrounds. It is really satisfying and the atmosphere on the MOC Camps has been truly fantastic over the years.

**MOC 2014 – Preliminary Program:**

- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March – Sprint distance in Montecatini Park, first start at 14:30.
  - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March – Middle distance in Livorno sea-pine forest, first start at 10:00 (trip to Pisa/Lucca in the afternoon).
  - Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Sprint distance in Florence city centre, first start at 10:30.
- Event Centre:  
The event centre of MOC 2014 will be in Montecatini Terme. The hotels for accommodation chosen by the organisers is 300 metres from the train station “Montecatini centro”.



M21	M35	M45	M55	M70	3.1 km
1	31	←	△		▷
2	32	○			
3	33	△	△		▷
4	34	△	△		▷
5	35	▷	□		▷
6	36	□	□	✓	
7	37	□	□	✓	
8	38	□	□	✓	
9	39	△	△	✓	
10	40	△	△	✓	
11	41	□	□	✓	
12	42	△	△	✓	
13	43	△	△	✓	
14	44	△	△	✓	
15	45	△	△	✓	
16	46	△	△	✓	
17	100	△	△	✓	

© Viale Consulting



The Overall 2012 Podium with l-to-r. Matthias Muller, Tessa Hill, Jerker Lysell, Ines Brodman, Scott Fraser and Rahel Fredrich.

The 2014 at the time of writing has 300 entries representing 16 countries. On the start list is Estonian Jüri Tarmak, Olympic World Champion in High Jump in 1972 in Munich - Mediterranean Open Championship in M65 category. He is currently a great expert and passionate trainer of orienteering.

So where will the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of MOC be? In Tuscany, the land of Dante and Leonardo Da Vinci, from 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> March 2014. Again the Great Britain team, specialised in the sprint distance will be fighting for good results in this year's MOC, over three stages, two sprint and one middle. The opening race will be in the Park of the SPA-town of Montecatini, the second in the sea-pine forest of Cecina and the final stage will take place in Firenze in the Cascine Park.

As usual, the best world sprint runners, guided by the current sprint World Champion Märten Boström (FIN), and Matthias Kyburz (SUI), Jerker Lysell (SWE), Daniel Hubmann (SUI), Scott Fraser (GBR), Heidi Mårtensson (NOR) and Maja Alm (DEN) will be in attendance.

