

**Day 8 Rimini to Il Borro (184.8 km)**

10 October 2021

After last night's boisterous wedding party breakfast was a little subdued. There were a few crews who were, perhaps, hoping for something of a relaxed honeymoon period this morning.

Sadly they were to be disappointed and, from the warm shores of the Adriatic, we shot straight up to the chilly heights of the Appenine Mountains and a Passage Control in the Republic of San Marino. Also known as the 'Most Serene Republic of San Marino' this tiny 'state' covers an area of just over 61km<sup>2</sup> and, thanks to Fred Gallagher's little black book of contacts, we'd been given the privilege of taking our cars right through the old town. Once we'd made it up the hill and through the narrow streets, the most serene pairing of Sarah Ormerod and Jim Smith were on hand to stamp the time cards. After which there was just time for a quick coffee, before heading back down the hill to get on with the rest of the day.

Yet again the weather wasn't kind to us, so the sights from the viewpoint over the Marches were not as impressive as

they could have been. As the Santa Maria Regularity rolled around, so did the nebbia, covering the low hills on the way to the Time Control in Il Sottobosco and lunch.

The weather might not have been up to scratch today, but the food certainly was, and the rally enjoyed yet another amazing buffet of delicious local produce. Consequently, some of the power to weight ratios might have shifted slightly as we crossed the spine of Italy into Tuscany and tackled the last two Regularities of the day in the woods around Chitignano and Vallea.

The day ended just a stones throw from the final timing point, at the Il Borro estate, where the crews enjoyed a restful evening with some local wines to settle them for the night.

*Gerardus Mercator*

Gerardus Mercator, *Dispatch* reporter



Bertie and Charlotte van Houtte, Frazer Nash-BMW 328 in San Marino



Phillip and Patricia Monks, Jaguar Mk 2

Photos: Gerardus Mercator





*Jeremy Clayton and Edward Belcher, Ford Mustang Convertible*



*Mike and Lorna Harrison, Triumph TR3A*



*Adrian and Christine Hodgson, Austin A90 Westminster*



*Hans Middelberg and Jürgen Grolman, Ford Mustang Convertible*



*Tomasz Dzitko and Beata Siwek, MGB GT*



*Mark and Sally Bramall, Volvo Amazon 123GT*