

Press Release | Lignano Sabbiadoro (Udine, Italy) | september 18, 2026

Actor Giampaolo Morelli kicks off Italian Bike Week: «I love this lifestyle»

The popular Italian actor, writer, director and TV personality is the guest of honor at the fifth edition. Morelli spoke about his passion for his Harley-Davidson 883 and announced the start of filming for his next movie in Trieste.

Actor, writer and director **Giampaolo Morelli**, best known internationally for his role as ***Inspector Coliandro*** in the hit Italian TV series of the same name, is the **special guest of Italian Bike Week 2026**, taking place in Lignano Sabbiadoro through Sunday, September 20. Morelli brought his genuine passion for Harley-Davidson motorcycles to the Village Main Stage - a passion that has little to do with movie sets and everything to do with everyday life. "**I love this world. It's part of who I am.** I have a beautiful Sportster 883 Black Iron that I ride every day through the traffic of Rome. I'm in love with it. When I first saw it in a showroom, with that satin-black finish, I thought: *it has to be mine*." And Lignano is becoming more than just a stop on the calendar. "**I'm getting attached to this region, too,**" Morelli added. "I'm about to start shooting my next film in Trieste, where I'll be directing and starring."

The official ribbon-cutting ceremony officially opened the fifth edition of Italian Bike Week, in the presence of event organizers and publishers **Moreno and Micke Persello**, together with local and regional authorities. Lignano Sabbiadoro Deputy Mayor **Manuel Massimiliano La Placa**, alongside City Councilor for Tourism **Massimo Brini**, described the event as "a cornerstone of the Lignano season," highlighting the combination of tourism, organization and a strong sense of community. Regional Council members **Maddalena Spagnolo** and **Igor Treleani** brought the official greetings of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Regional Council. **Walter Rizzetto**, Member of Parliament and President of the Chamber of Deputies' Labor Committee, highlighted the international reach of the event, as well as recent legislative developments affecting the custom motorcycle industry and motorcycle taxation. "**We want the economic ecosystem built around motorcycles and custom culture to receive institutional recognition.** The proposed legislation establishing a national register of Italian custom builders recognizes the value of these outstanding craftsmen and women across our country. And the abolition of the vehicle ownership tax in 2027 will become permanent starting in December 2027, through the next budget law."

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Meanwhile, Italian Bike Week was already in full swing at the **Off Road Arena**, where **MotoClub Sabbiadoro** gave young people with disabilities the opportunity to get on two wheels through the **Enduro Moto Therapy** program. At the **Demo Ride Area**, motorcycle enthusiasts could test the latest 2026 models from **Aprilia, Can-Am, Cyclone, Honda, Kove, Morbidelli, Moto Guzzi** and other manufacturers, free of charge.

The Village also had plenty on four wheels. **Old School Garage** brought a selection of American cars, custom builds and vintage hot rods to Lignano ahead of the spectacular **US Car on the Beach** parade. Before the evening concerts by **Mr Crowley, Dingo Brothers** and **Guns Illusion**, the Main Stage delivered another kind of heavy metal altogether. **Verner Ortis**, better known as **VM Cycles**, unveiled "Uwe," his latest creation: a muscular full custom built around a Harley-Davidson Twin Cam 1450 V-twin, stripped down to the essentials with minimalist aluminum bodywork. The bike is a showcase for the talent of the **internationally acclaimed custom builder, whose workshop is based in Friuli Venezia Giulia region**. Ortis recently represented Italian custom craftsmanship on the international stage at the legendary Sturgis Bike Week in South Dakota.

The days when people from Friuli traveled to America only to emigrate are clearly long gone.

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