



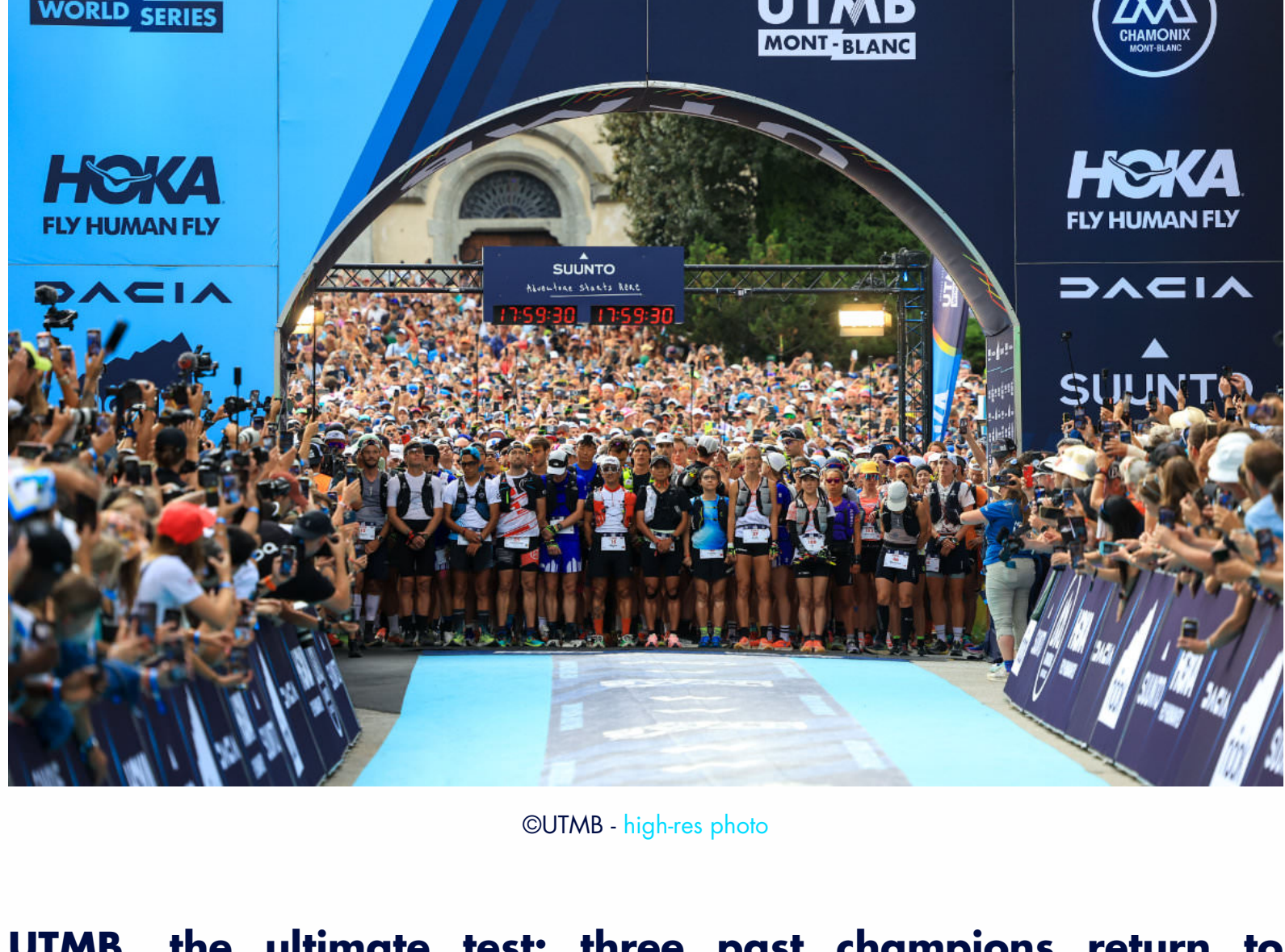
Press release - Chamonix (France), Friday 22 August 2025

HOKA UTMB Mont-Blanc 2025: Who will emerge among the legends and favourites?

From 25 to 31 August, the Mont-Blanc Valley will welcome the **22nd edition of the HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc**. More than just a race, the event has become an annual summit for the global trail running community, drawing the sport's greatest athletes each summer. This year the elite field is stronger than ever with **561 athletes** from across the world – including a record **45% women**, marking a new milestone in representation.

UTMB World Series Finals: three races to crown three champions

For the third consecutive year, the HOKA UTMB Mont-Blanc will stage the UTMB® World Series Finals, bringing together athletes who qualified throughout the season at races across the circuit. Three iconic formats will decide the champions: the **OCC** (50K), **CCC®** (100K), and **UTMB®** (100M). Each offers its own challenges, its own heroes, and the promise of world-class racing at its very best.



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UTMB, the ultimate test: three past champions return to challenge a world-class field

The flagship **174km race with 10,000m of elevation gain** is set to be one of the highlights of the trail running season. With the return of three **UTMB® Legends**, fierce international competition, and rising talents ready to make their mark, the 2025 race promises intensity and suspense from start to finish. Key contenders include:

François D'Haene (FRA, [UTMB Index 865](#)) – the big comeback

A four-time winner (2012, 2014, 2017, 2021), the Frenchman returns four years after his last appearance. Having first discovered the event as a volunteer in 2005, D'Haene has built a lasting relationship with Mont Blanc. Now 38, he is back with the same excitement as in his early days: *"In 2005, 20 years ago, I was amazed and intrigued to discover the UTMB as a volunteer. A few months later, too young for the UTMB, I entered the CCC. Since then, I've witnessed the growth of the race and the sport year after year, and the fascination and wonder that ultra-trail brings to runners. I've also experienced unforgettable moments and victories in 2012, 2014, 2017, 2021. This year, I return with the same excitement and enthusiasm for an adventure and story that I can't wait to relive."*

Courtney Dauwalter (USA, [UTMB Index 843](#)) – the queen of trail running

With three UTMB titles (2019, 2021, 2023), the American has become a global icon of ultra-trail. Always smiling and instantly recognisable in her trademark sunglasses, she continues to push the boundaries as she pursues a fourth crown in Chamonix: *"I am so excited to come back to the UTMB this year! I love the challenges of this course and I can't wait to enjoy the stunning scenery and the electric atmosphere!"*

Ludovic Pommeret (FRA, [UTMB Index 896](#)) – an enduring force

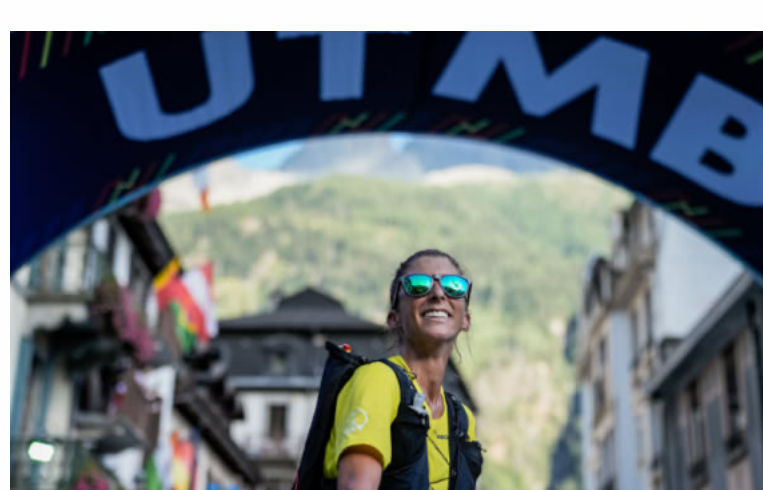
At 50, the Savoyard is a living legend. Winner of the UTMB in 2016, he underlined his class again this summer with victory at the iconic Hardrock 100 in the USA. Enduring and tactical, Pommeret could once again spring a surprise.

Challengers ready to shake up the established order

The women's race promises to be fierce. **Ruth Croft (NZL, [UTMB Index 797](#))**, CCC® champion in 2015 and double OCC winner (2018, 2019), is chasing her first UTMB victory – a win that would make her the first woman to triumph in all three Finals. **Abby Hall (USA, [UTMB Index 789](#))**, one of the most consistent athletes on the circuit, arrives with high ambitions after a standout victory at the 2025 Western States Endurance Run. **Emily Hawgood (ZIM, [UTMB Index 769](#))** continues her rise following a strong start to the season, while **Camille Bruyas (FRA, [UTMB Index 753](#))** could also make her mark. Close behind, **Heather Jackson (USA, [UTMB Index 767](#))**, a former triathlete, will be a serious contender, while **Katharina Hartmuth (GER, [UTMB Index 762](#))** – runner-up in 2023 – represents the new wave determined to dethrone Dauwalter.

High-profile international men prepare to challenge the French legends

Alongside the French champions, some of the biggest international names in global trail running will line up to write their own stories on the Mont-Blanc trails. **Jonathan Albon (GBR, [UTMB Index 926](#))**, a complete athlete and master tactician, stands out as one of the main favourites. He will be joined by **Daniel Jones (NZL, [UTMB Index 921](#))**, **Hayden Hawks (USA, [UTMB Index 913](#))**, **Tom Evans (GBR, [UTMB Index 910](#))**, and **Ji Duo (CHN, [UTMB Index 906](#))**. Also in exceptional form is **Ben Dhimani (USA, [UTMB Index 904](#))**, winner and course record holder at the 2025 Lavaredo 120K and champion of the 2025 Grand Raid Ventoux by UTMB 100K.



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The OCC and CCC: intermediate formats on the rise

The 50K and 100K distances are increasingly popular, striking a balance between intensity and technicality that attracts more elites every year. The **CCC (100K)** has seen a **10% increase in elite participation** compared to 2024, while the **OCC (50K)** has surged by **29%**.

CCC (101km, 6,050m D±)

The men's field

Francesco Puppi (ITA, [UTMB Index 932](#)), long recognised on shorter formats such as the 50K, lines up as the favourite and will be one to watch as he tests himself over 100K. He will look to confirm the impressive form he showed recently at The Canyons Endurance Runs by UTMB®. His main rivals include **Eli Hemming (USA, [UTMB Index 920](#))**, the 2024 OCC champion and former triathlete who has made a successful transition to trail running, and fellow American **Chris Myers (UTMB Index 917)**, a regular at major events. Close behind are **Daniel Sinclair (USA, [UTMB Index 916](#))**, experienced on Alpine terrain, and leading Italian **Andreas Reiterer (UTMB Index 913)**. China will also be well represented with powerful climber **Guangfu Meng (UTMB Index 902)** and long-distance specialist **Canhua Luo (UTMB Index 889)**. French hopes rest with **Huge Deck (UTMB Index 895)**, while **Andreu Simon Aymerich (ESP, [UTMB Index 894](#))**, a strong mountain marathonrunner, and **Jeshurun Small (USA, [UTMB Index 892](#))**, steadily rising through the ranks, will also target the top 10.

The women's field

The 2025 women's CCC promises to make history – rarely has the depth of the field been so strong. The start line will feature the race's last three champions: **Toni McCann (RSA, [UTMB Index 803](#))**, explosive and formidable over fast formats; **Yngvild Kaspersen (NOR, [UTMB Index 800](#))**, a specialist on technical terrain; and **Blandine L'Hirondel (FRA, [UTMB Index 790](#))**, double trail world champion. Three champions, three styles, three strategies... but only one can reign again in Chamonix.

Their challengers include **Fuzhao Xiang (CHN, [UTMB Index 807](#))**, a leading name in Asian trail running; **Anna Tarasova (ESP, [UTMB Index 786](#))**, versatile and capable of springing a surprise; **Hau Ha Thi (VNM, [UTMB Index 769](#))**, ultra-resilient and recently 6th at the 2025 Western States Endurance Run; and **Dani Moreno (USA, [UTMB Index 785](#))**, whose speed makes her a real threat. Behind them, **Sylvia Nordskar (NOR, [UTMB Index 777](#))**, **Sunmaya Budha (NEP, [UTMB Index 779](#))**, and **Martyna Mlynarczyk (POL, [UTMB Index 770](#))** round out a dream line-up.

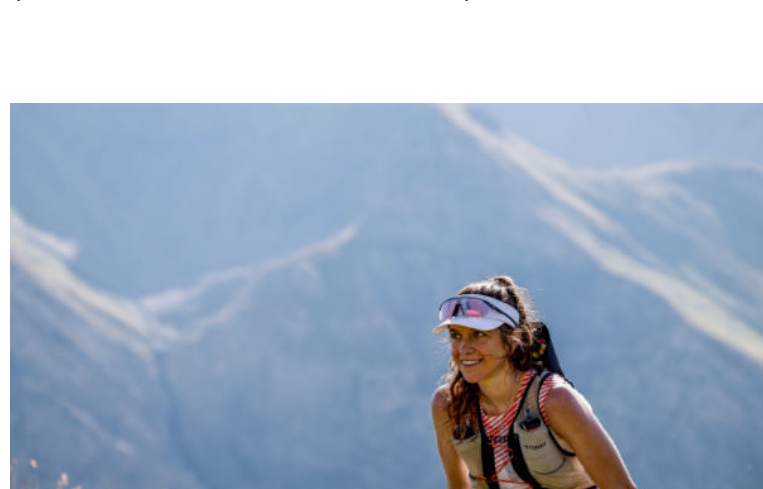
OCC (57km, 3,500m D±)

The men's field

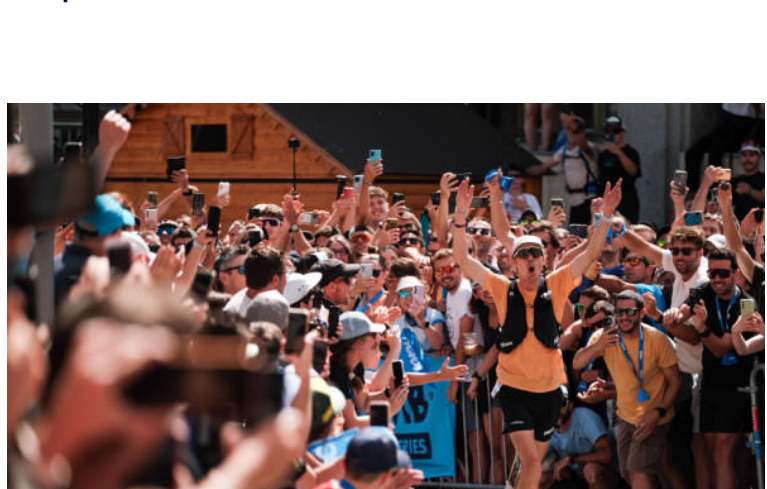
Jim Walmsley (USA, [UTMB Index 945](#)), 2023 UTMB champion, will test himself over this shorter, explosive format where his speed could be devastating. His main rivals include skyrunning specialist **Roberto Delorenzi (SUI, [UTMB Index 924](#))**, Italian star **Nadir Maguet (UTMB Index 923)**, **Cristian Minoggio (ITA, [UTMB Index 920](#))**, a powerful and consistent contender, and Sweden's **Petter Engdahl (UTMB Index 919)**, a formidable climber. Italy also fields **Luca Del Pero (UTMB Index 918)** and **Davide Magnini (UTMB Index 913)**, both proven over short, high-intensity formats. **Antonio Martinez Perez (ESP, [UTMB Index 913](#))** adds speed and technical flair, while **Andrzej Witek (POL, [UTMB Index 905](#))** and **Ezekiel Rutto (KEN, [UTMB Index 901](#))** complete an international top 10 of outstanding quality.

The women's field

Swiss athlete **Judith Wyder (UTMB Index 804)**, a former orienteering star turned trail runner, starts as the favourite. She will face defending champion **Miao Yao (CHN, [UTMB Index 800](#))**, renowned for her strength on fast courses, and **Joyline Chepngeno (KEN, [UTMB Index 797](#))**, who burst onto the scene in 2024 with victory at the iconic Sierre-Zinal and now lines up as one of the favourites. Spain will be represented by **Rosa Lara Feliu (UTMB Index 791)** and **Sara Alonso (UTMB Index 781)**, both capable of excelling on this terrain. **Sophia Laukli (USA, [UTMB Index 780](#))**, bringing power from her cross-country skiing background, and **Hannah Allgood (USA, [UTMB Index 772](#))**, known for her consistency, also join the battle. Completing the top contenders are **Theres Leboeuf (SUI, [UTMB Index 770](#))**, **Jasmine Lowther (CAN, [UTMB Index 769](#))**, and **Rosanna Buchauer (GER, [UTMB Index 768](#))**, all well-suited to this profile.



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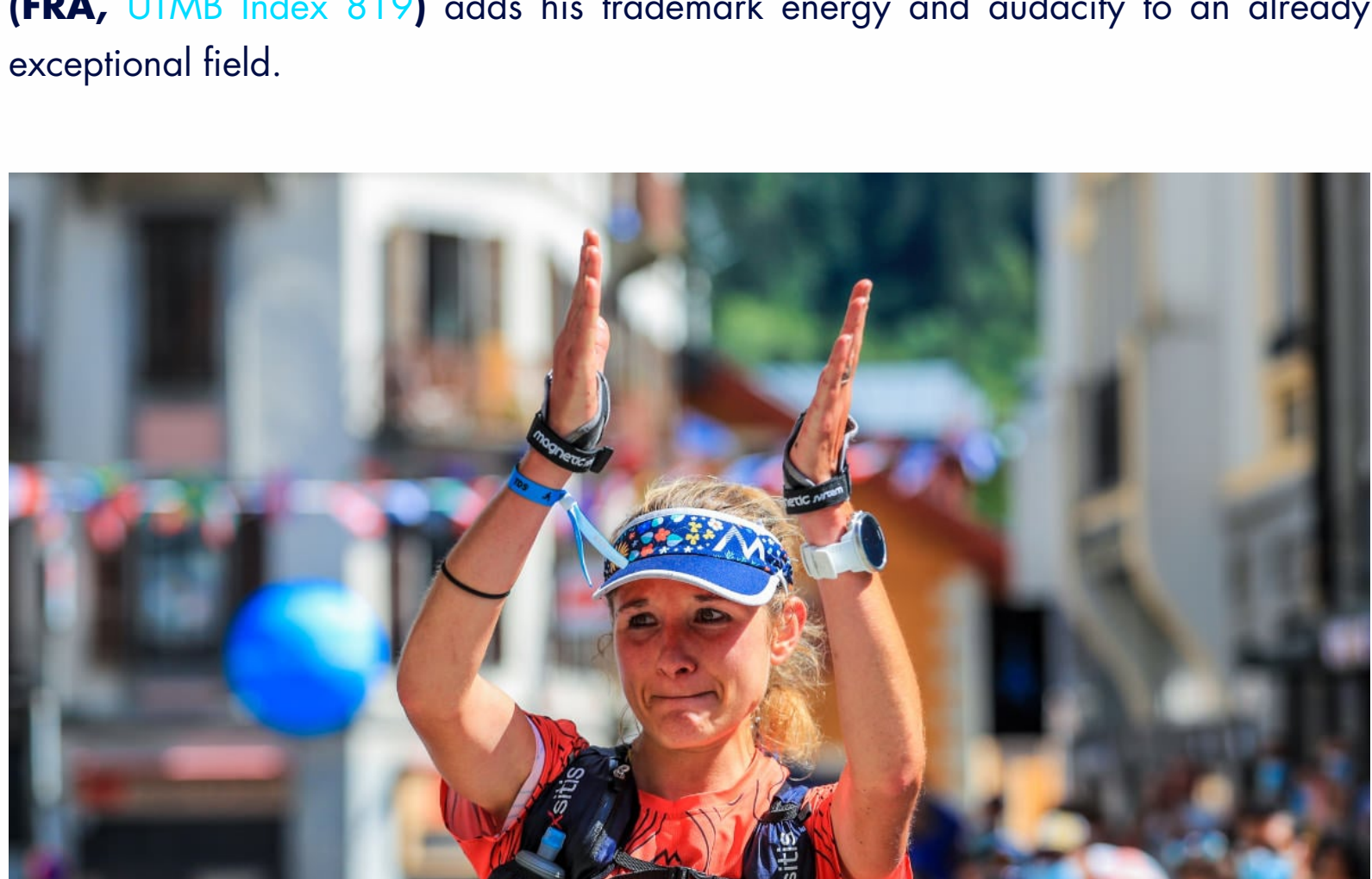
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Dukes and Duchesses on parade: a stellar field and growing prestige for the Traces des Ducs de Savoie(TDS)

Known as the 'wild' alternative to the UTMB, the **TDS® (148km, 9,300m D±)** continues to grow in stature. Since its redesign in 2019, the course has gained a fearsome reputation for technicality and legendary sections such as the Passeur de Pralognan. This year sees record interest, with a **37% rise in elite participation**, cementing its place among the premier races on the ultra-trail world stage.

The women's field promises high-level competition, led by **Manon Bohard Cailler (FRA, [UTMB Index 746](#))**. Runner-up at the 2025 Hardrock 100 and winner of the 100K at Trail 100 Andorra by UTMB® the same year, she returns to the TDS after her 2021 victory, following participation in the UTMB last year. She will be joined by **Coreth Arnold (USA, [UTMB Index 727](#))**, making her debut at the HOKA UTMB Mont-Blanc, and **Ida-Sophie Hedemann (GER, [UTMB Index 725](#))**, brilliant winner of the 100M at the 2025 Grand Raid Ventoux by UTMB®.

The men's race will also feature a strong line-up, with several leading figures in international trail running. **Benat Marmissolle (FRA, [UTMB Index 878](#))** arrives in top form after victories in 2025 at both the X-Alpine of the Trail Verbier St-Bernard by UTMB® and the 100M of Valhäll Fin del Mundo by UTMB®. Alongside him is **Antoine Charvalin (FRA, [UTMB Index 880](#))**, a familiar presence across the CCC, OCC and YCC formats, and one to watch. **Pau Capell (ESP, [UTMB Index 864](#))**, 2019 UTMB champion and 2016 TDS winner, is back to confirm his credentials on this challenging course. Rounding out the competition, **Alexandre Boucheix (FRA, [UTMB Index 819](#))** adds his trademark energy and audacity to an already exceptional field.



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Key figures

- **561 elites entered** (+7% vs 2024)
- **45% women** (+2% vs 2024): continued rise in female participation
- **51 nationalities represented**

• Top 5:

- **30% Local (FRA/SUI/ITA)**
- **61% European**
- **13% USA**
- **8% China**

- **Average age:** 34.5 years (**Youngest:** 21 / **Oldest:** 60)

Top 10 UTMB Index athletes on the start line at HOKA UTMB Mont-Blanc 2025

HOKA UTMB MONT-BLANC TOP 10				
RANKING	COUNTRY	RUNNER	UTMB INDEX	RACE
WOMEN				
1.	USA	Courtney Dauwalter	843	UTMB
2.	SUI	Judith Wyder	804	OCC
3.	ZAF	Toni McCann	803	CCC
4.	CHN	Fuzhao Xiang	802	CCC
5.	CHN	Miao Yao	800	OCC
6.	KEN	Joyline Chepngeno	800	CCC
7.	NOR	Yngvild Kaspersen	800	CCC
8.	NZL	Ruth Croft	796	UTMB
9.	ESP	Rosa Lara Feliu	791	OCC
10.	FRA	Blandine L'Hirondel	790	CCC
MEN				
1.	MAR	Ethouaine Elazzouli	947	ETC
2.	USA	Jim Walmsley	945	OCC
3.	ITA	Francesco Puppi	932	CCC
4.	UK	Jonathan Albon	926	UTMB
5.	SUI	Roberto Delorenzi	924	OCC
6.	ITA	Nadir Maguet	923	OCC
7.	NZL	Daniel Jones	920	UTMB
8.	USA	Eli Hemming	920	CCC
9.	ITA	Cristian Minoggio	920	OCC
10.	SWE	Petter Engdahl	919	OCC

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To view the full elite start list for the HOKA UTMB Mont-Blanc, [click here](#).

For all media accreditation requests for the HOKA UTMB Mont-Blanc, please complete the form available [here](#).

Note to editors

About UTMB® World Series

The UTMB® World Series is the trail running circuit that brings together the best athletes in the sport and amateur runners in top international events held in some of the most beautiful places on the planet. The UTMB® World Series is rooted in a passion for the mountains and respect for the environment and offers trail running enthusiasts the chance to experience the UTMB® adventure across the globe, with events taking place in Asia, Oceania, Europe, Africa and the Americas. This is the way for everyone to start their quest towards the HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc, where the UTMB® World Series finals take place, launched in May 2021 with the collaboration of UTMB Group and The IRONMAN Group to launch the UTMB® World Series circuit brings together 50 events in 28 countries. For more information, visit <https://utmb.world>.

About UTMB Group

Since the creation of HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc in 2003 by a group of passionate friends, UTMB Group has been the driving force behind the development of trail running. The HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc is the sports pinnacle event, and every year, 10,000 runners earn their place on the start line. UTMB Group also pioneered the 'LiveTrail' technology, an innovative digital service that supports the management of endurance races. Renowned by hundreds of thousands of athletes, UTMB® has become a global premium and leading brand. In May 2021, UTMB Group partnered with The IRONMAN Group to launch the UTMB® World Series, which brings together many of the best international events on the planet to provide exclusive access to the sport's pinnacle event, HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc. The UTMB® World Series is built on the founding principles of HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc: respecting oneself, fair-play, respect for people and the environment, and solidarity. Find out more at <https://utmb.world>.

UTMB Group media enquiries

presse@utmb.world

French enquiries:

Keziah Pierrey - UTMB World Series PR Manager

T. +33 6 08 84 58 25

International enquiries:

Sabina Mallari Rogerson - International Press Officer

T. +44 7922 140148

