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Amgen Tour of California - Livermore Route Details Revealed

Springtime Event Creates California Dream Vacation for Cycling & Wine Enthusiasts

LIVERMORE, CA - February 10, 2011 - The City of Livermore, an official “Host City” of the prestigious Amgen Tour of California professional cycling race, today reveals details behind the route professional cyclists will enjoy as they kick off Stage 4, presented by UnitedHealthcare, of the popular race on May 18, 2011 (livermoredowntown.com/amgen-tourofcalifornia).

Located in the San Francisco Bay Area and within 45 minutes from three major airports (SFO, OAK, SJC), Livermore is home to more than 50 wineries, a historic downtown lined with sidewalk cafes, and an endless supply of California sunshine – making it an irresistible springtime vacation destination for cycling and wine enthusiasts near and far.

Route particulars of the 2011 Amgen Tour of California are of special interest to spectators eager to plan their perfect viewing vantage point, as well as for cyclists who enjoy the time-honored tradition of riding the route themselves, before or after race day, earning the ultimate in cycling bragging rights.

“A magnet for cycling clubs throughout the golden state, Livermore is a destination that promises a variety of exciting viewing spots. These include rolling vineyard landscapes, farmlands, a festive downtown, even a chance to join some of the country’s brightest minds alongside Livermore National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories,” said Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena. “And of course, there will be no escaping the notorious Mines Road, complete with some of the Bay Area’s most dramatic geography and beautiful scenery: a 1,900 foot ascend, plunging roadside canyon, California oaks, ghost pines and mountain peaks for miles.”

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Livermore Route Details

Stage 4 is short, at just 81 miles, but what it lacks in distance it more than makes up for with difficulty. Two of Stage 4's five rated climbs are legendary in California cycling lore. While the Amgen Tour of California has gone through Livermore many times before, the city is hosting its first official stage start in 2011. Home of the renowned Lawrence Livermore Laboratories, the City of Livermore (established in 1869) played a prominent role in California's "Gold Rush" history and today is home to a thriving wine industry. After the cyclists get their legs loosened a bit around the Laboratories, the race will head out to Mines Rd. and to the first KOM of the day. Mines Rd. is 25 miles long, hilly and winding. It will be easy for a few riders to get off the front and create significant gaps from the peloton. In 2010, the riders enjoyed a long descent into a finish in Modesto off of Mines Rd. This year, there will be no such luxury. Mines Rd. becomes San Antonio Canyon Rd., and after shaking things up with two more KOMs, the riders will face the daunting challenge of Mt. Hamilton, the Tour's first Hors Category climb. The two-mile climb to the Mt. Hamilton Observatory (4,130') will offer a spectacular view of San Jose and Silicon Valley. Next will be the treacherous descent down the front side of Mt. Hamilton. Almost immediately after finishing the descent, the race will take a turn onto Sierra Rd., a 3.5-mile ascent with a 10 percent average grade and 1,700' feet of climbing. What is usually the home of herds of cattle will be replaced by thousands of screaming fans as they welcome home the winner, who will almost certainly wear the golden leaders jersey.

More information about the Stage 4 Start and ancillary activities is available at: livermoredowntown.com/amgen-tourofcalifornia/.

About the City of Livermore

The City of Livermore (pop. 83,604) is the easternmost city in the San Francisco Bay Area; the gateway to the Central Valley. Founded in 1869, Livermore is California's oldest wine region, framed by award-winning wineries, farmlands and ranches that mirror the valley's western heritage and provide a unique blend to this special community. Downtown Livermore is quickly earning accolades and enjoying a renaissance reestablishing the downtown as the city's preeminent shopping, dining, entertainment and cultural district with a 10-screen cinema and a 500-seat performing arts center. As home to renowned science and technology centers, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratory, Livermore is a technological hub and an academically engaged community, powered by its wealth of research, technology and innovation.

About the Amgen Tour of California

The largest cycling event in America, the **2011 Amgen Tour of California** is a Tour de France-style cycling road race, presented by AEG, that challenges the world's top professional cycling teams to compete along a demanding course through the state from May 15-22.

About Amgen

Amgen discovers, develops, manufactures, and delivers innovative human therapeutics. A biotechnology pioneer since 1980, Amgen was one of the first companies to realize the new science's promise by bringing safe, effective medicines from lab to manufacturing plant to patient. Amgen therapeutics have changed the practice of medicine, helping millions of people around the world in the fight against cancer, kidney disease, rheumatoid arthritis, bone disease, and other serious illnesses. With a deep and broad pipeline of potential new medicines, Amgen remains committed to advancing science to dramatically improve people's lives. To learn more about our pioneering science and vital medicines, visit www.amgen.com.

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