

SPECIAL EDITION



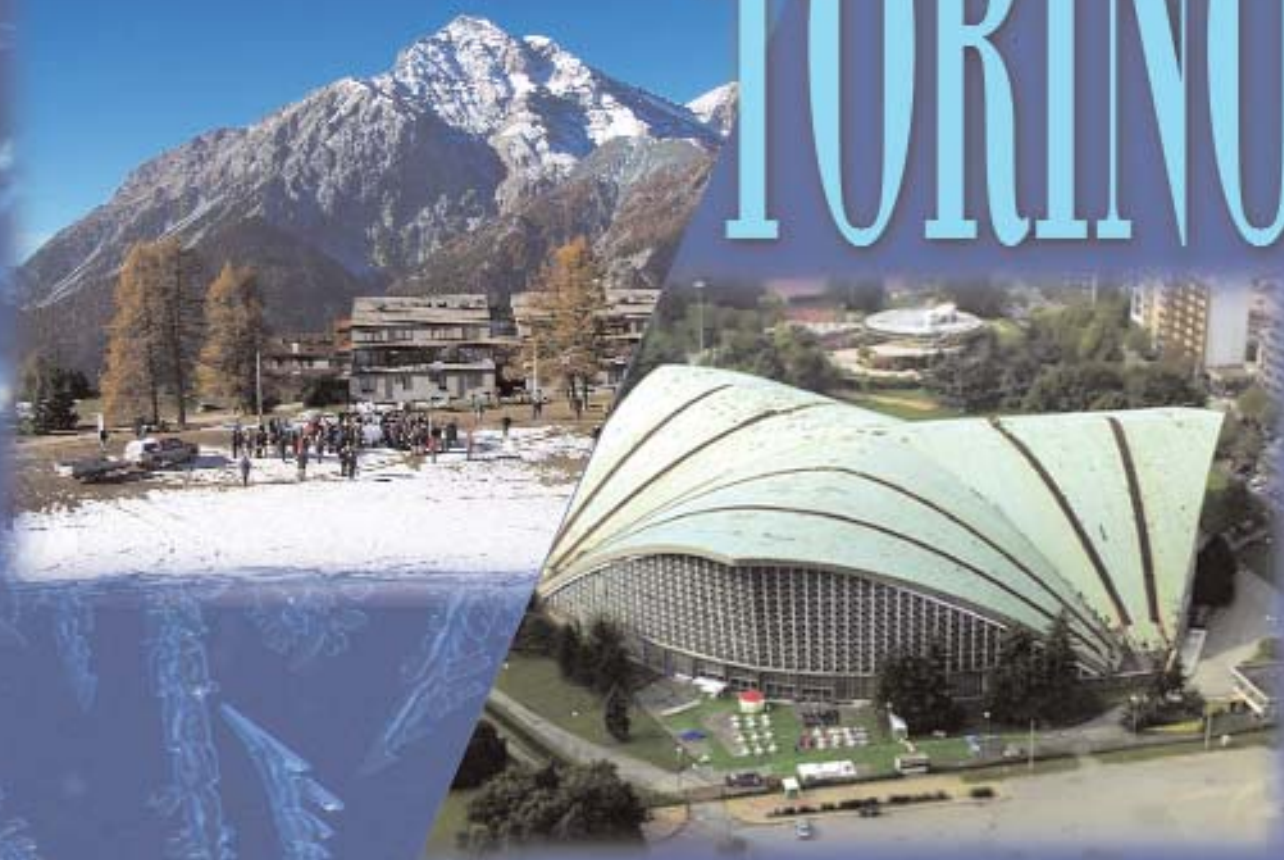
# AROUND THE RINGS

YOUR INDEPENDENT SOURCE OF WORLD SPORTS NEWS SINCE 1992




FEBRUARY 2005

*The Road To*

# TORINO



## INSIDE:

-  Torino Games Preparations Intensify
-  Fun, Food and Nightlife in the Olympic City
-  2006 Countdown Calendar

## A passion for sport

"Our passion for sport would, I know, deliver full venues and an atmosphere like no other."

Iony Ujai, Prime Minister



The Dome (Gymnastics and Basketball venue)

## World-famous existing venues

"Great Games are staged in memorable venues. Wimbledon, the new Wembley and other London landmarks such as Hyde Park will provide unforgettable settings for athletes, spectators and the Olympic Family."

Steve Hodgrave, five time Olympic gold medalist

## A warm welcome for everyone

"People of all faiths, cultures and languages have settled in London. Every nation's Olympic team will find a community to welcome and cheer them on."

Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London



Notting Hill Carnival



New Olympic Park and Stadium

## In the heart of the City

"Our vision is to enrich the Olympic Movement by reuniting the world's greatest sporting celebration with the world's most creative and diverse city, and create a lasting sporting legacy."

Keith Mills, CEO, London 2012

# Sport at heart



## Note from the Publisher

When the cauldron is finally lit next February 10, it will represent nearly 10 years of work by Torino: first as a bid city, and then as the host-in-waiting.



Sheila Scott Hula

Around the Rings has been there every step of the way, including that electric moment on June 19, 1999, in Seoul when Torino was chosen over Sion, Switzerland. Five other cities never really stood a chance — Helsinki, Finland; Klagenfurt, Austria; Poprad-Tatry, Slovakia; and Zakopane, Poland, were the also-rans in the contest for the 2006 Olympic Winter Games.

Over the years, it's been our pleasure to watch Torino's transformation from industrial city to exciting tourist destination. It's been equally exciting to see the changes in the mountains as they prepare for the onslaught of athletes and visitors.

Around the Rings will be here next year, as well. Once again, we will provide the on-the-scene coverage that our readers to expect: developments in the fight against doping, changes in administration, and security are just a few of the issues that will be examined in Around the Rings daily editions. Produced every Games since 1996, it is the only English-language publication targeting high-level visitors attending the Olympics.

We'll also publish the fourth edition of the Around the Rings Ultimate Media Guide. This pocket-sized business-to-business directory will be bigger and better than ever — a valuable resource for anyone who needs to know who's who in the Olympic Family ... and how to do business from Torino to Beijing, Vancouver and beyond.

We know you'll want your company to be included. Request some previous editions, or reserve your advertising space now. All it takes is a phone call or an email — ++ 1 404 874 1603, or Sheila@aroundtherings.com.

SHEILA SCOTT HULA  
Publisher

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## Olympic Winter Games Return to Europe Torino Confidently Confronting 'Mountainous' Challenges

By Ed Hula, Editor

After traveling to Japan and the U.S., the spectacle of the Winter Olympics returns to its European roots next year, but to a city known more for automobiles than skis and skates.

With a population of two million, Torino is a far cry from Cortina d'Ampezzo. Fifty years ago, this hamlet with 5,000 inhabitants and a classic mountainside setting was the last Italian host for the Winter Olympics.

With the Winter Games now three times bigger than they were in 1956, Torino 2006 President Valentino Castellani says he cannot imagine how they could be held without the facilities of a major city, such as Torino.

"Our city is in a very deep way of change," says Castellani about the extensive construction taking place.

Castellani mentions the rebuilding of squares in the city and the first leg of Torino's new underground among projects to be finished.

Olympic venues also remain unfinished. A new hockey rink, skating oval and the rebuilt Stadio Comunale, site of opening and closing ceremony, are all due for completion this summer.

"We are on schedule everywhere, but there is lots of work to be done," Castellani says about the task ahead. He says he is far more confident about preparations than he was one year ago.

He says he is "very satisfied" with the first test events, especially with near-capacity attendance at the European Short Track Speed Skating championships and sold-out crowds for the European Figure Skating championships in January at the refurbished Palavela arena.

### Avoiding a "Dangerous Moment"

But the big worry for Torino is not the city, but the mountains. An hour or so to the north, they will be home to all ski events as well as bob, luge and skeleton.

*A refurbished ex-Italsider building will be used during biathlon by journalists and members of the Olympic Family.*



*The Olympic Store, near Piazza Castello, is sure to attract visitors looking for that perfect Games' souvenir.*

Gian Franco Kasper, president of the International Ski Federation, says he is worried that transport and accommodations in mountain venues could lead to what he calls "a dangerous moment" on the eve of the Olympics next year.

Kasper says Torino organizers must be able to deliver three things: efficient means of getting about, good quality accommodations, and working conditions in the mountains on par with what will exist in the city — or risk negative press in the days before the Games.

"It can kill the Games if you don't have good working and living conditions for the media. It is a most dangerous moment right before the Games when they have nothing to write about except their problems," says Kasper.

Indeed, for media traveling to the mountains from the city, Torino 2006 estimates the trip will last upwards of two hours or more.

Castellani says the distance has always been recognized as a fact of life for Torino. Unlike Salt Lake City, which had multi-lane roads to some of the mountain venues, Italy does not have the same transport capacity.

He says spectator capacity at the venues has been tailored to fit the ability of the transport system — and not to overwhelm it. Compared to Salt Lake City, hundreds of thousands fewer tickets will be sold to events in the mountains.

### Sports in Torino

Reservations about transport aside, expectations are high for the quality of the venues and the competition.

"They have experience in all the alpine events," says Kasper about volunteers and officials who will comprise the venues' staff.

*Continued on following page*



# MOSCOW 2012

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MOSCOW 2012  
CANDIDATE CITY



Continued from preceding page

Sestriere's experience hosting the 2007 World Championships will be especially helpful.

The FIS chief says European spectators are much more knowledgeable about winter sports – especially skiing — than the American crowds of Salt Lake City. That, he says, will be good for the atmosphere of the Games.

In a Winter Olympics first, Torino organizers have scheduled a number of events for night, partly to bring live action to European TV viewers. Freestyle skiing, the slalom and bobsleigh are among the events to be held under the lights in the mountains.

Back in the city, capacity crowds are expected in the ovals and ice rinks to be used for the skating events and ice hockey.

One looming question is whether the stars of the National Hockey League will be in Torino. The answer depends on how the owner's lockout against the players is settled, says International Ice Hockey Federation President Rene Fasel.

Fasel says he wants to keep the option to include the NHL players open for as long as possible, perhaps until December.

Regardless, he does not see major fallout from the NHL labor situation for ticket sales or attendance at the Torino tournament.

"We are going to have a celebration of hockey in Torino," says Fasel.

The Atmosphere

Castellani, himself Torino's former mayor, hopes the whole city will put on a celebration next February.

"Our dream is to give visitors the flavor of Italy, our food, our wine, the leisure time away from the sports events," he says.


A city of piazzas, these gathering points are lined with a variety of arcades of shops, restaurants and other attractions – one even has a skating rink this winter and next.

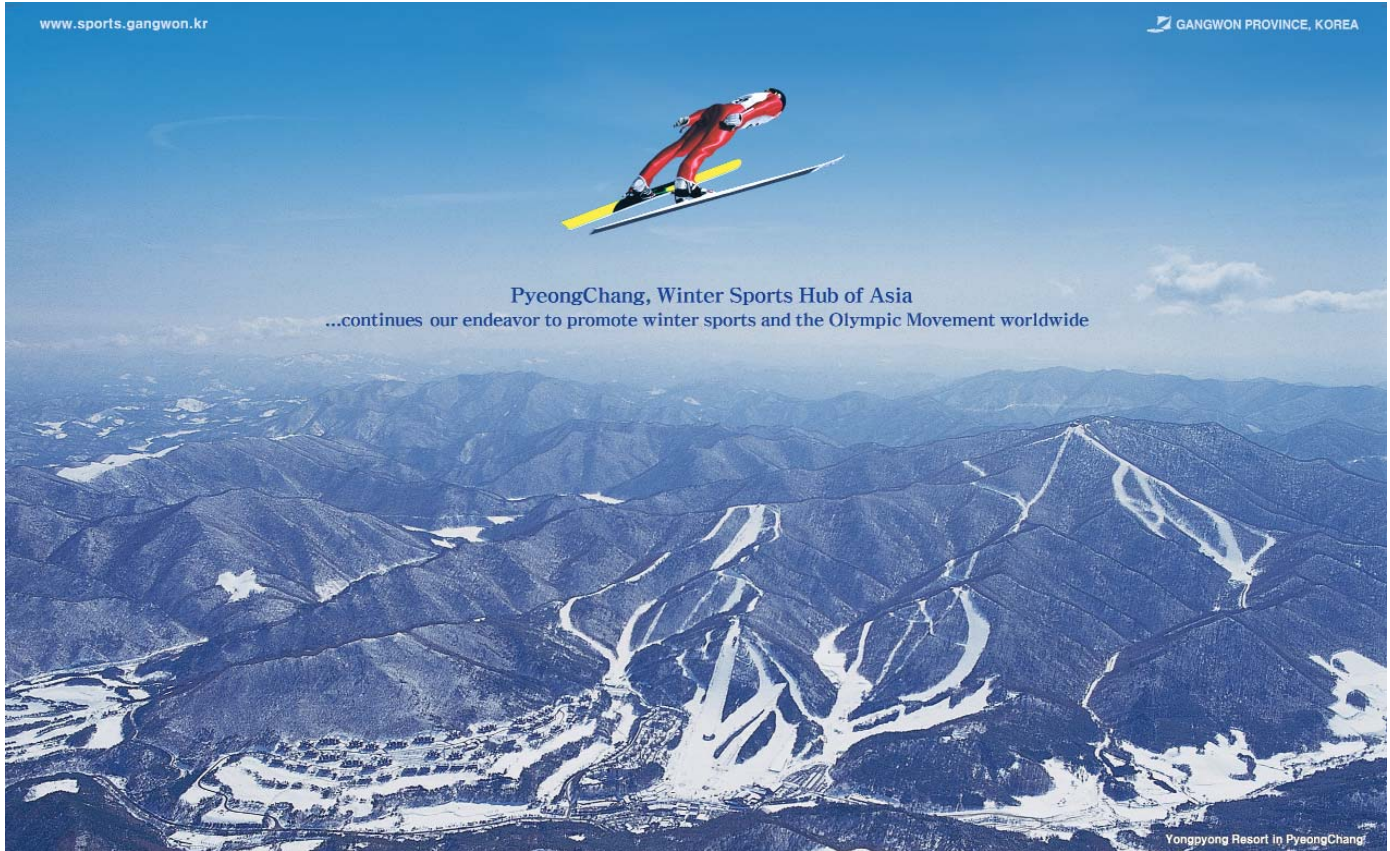
In the Piazza Castello, Torino organizers will build a Medals Plaza for nightly ceremonies during the Games with room for up to 7,000.

"It's another way to connect the mountains to the city, as we will bring some of the winners to Torino for these events," says Castellani.

He says a permanent connection with the mountains is a long-term objective for Torino from hosting the 2006 Olympic Winter Games.

"The Alps are not so far from Torino, but people think of Switzerland or Austria when the Alps are mentioned.

"I am sure that people will identify Torino as an Alpine city after the 2006 Olympics." 



2009 GANGWON SNOWBOARD WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS  
Period : February, 2009  
Location : Hyundai Sungwoo Resort, Hoengsoong / Jamsil Stadium, Seoul  
Participation : 1,500 Athletes and Staff from around 40 countries

2009 PYEONGCHANG BIATHLON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS  
Period : February, 2009  
Location : Peace Valley Biathlon Course, PyeongChang Korea  
Participation : 600 Athletes and Staff from around 40 countries

2005 PYEONGCHANG DREAM PROGRAM  
Period : Jan. 24 ~ Feb. 5 2005  
Location : Yongpyong (for ski), Gangneung (for staking)  
Participants : 110 people from 26 countries



M A D R I D

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## 2006 Games Host Offers Historic Sites, Cuisine Attractions, Dining and Entertainment = Vibrant Olympic Setting

By Alberto Riva, *Around the Rings* Correspondent

For decades Torino has been known as an industrial center. But since winning the Olympics, it has been re-inventing itself as a destination.

Like most Italian cities, much of what there is to see and do in Torino is concentrated in the city center. Walking is a good way to get around, but to venture beyond downtown you should get a transport pass. The Torino Card, available from tourist information desks (15 euros for 48 hours or 17 for 72 hours), will give you free access to all public transport and well over 100 museums and attractions.

### City Attractions

The Shroud of Torino, which Italians call Sacra Sindone, may be the only Torinese attraction known all over the world. The four-meter long linen cloth, imprinted with the image of a young bearded man, is believed to have been the funeral shroud of Jesus. Legend has it that the Shroud was brought to Europe in the 14th century after a crusade; later donated to Torino's ruling Savoia family, it has been in the city since 1578. Copies can be seen in the Duomo, Torino's cathedral, and the San Lorenzo church. The delicate original is rarely put on public display.

Most of Torino's remaining Roman vestiges are within short walking distance of the Duomo. The 15th century cathedral is the only major example of Renaissance art in Torino; much of the city was built many decades later, when the Savoia dukes moved their capital here.

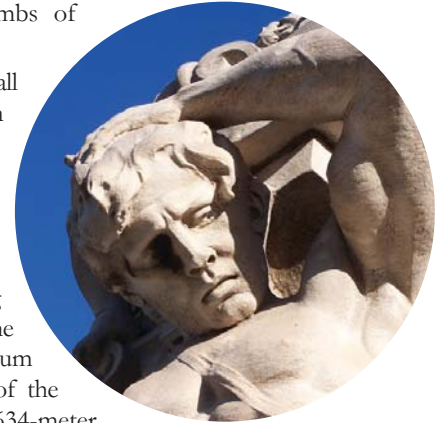
Other churches in the city may not be as dazzling as Saint Peter's or Milan's Gothic cathedral, but their Baroque elegance is worth seeing. The Basilica di Superga, built in the early 1700s on a hill outside

*Shoppers can find regional delicacies, such as Prosciutto, the air-dried ham, at the Porta Palazzo and other markets.*



the city, houses the tombs of many Savoia royals.

Winter sports aren't at all new to Torino. The Italian Alpine Club was founded here in 1863 and the National Museum of Mountains (Via Giardino 39, open daily) is a fitting tribute to the city's long mountaineering history. The top floor of the museum offers a spectacular view of the Alps including the 4,634-meter Monte Rosa, the second highest summit in Western Europe. (The highest, 4,807-meter Mont Blanc, is also a short drive away.)



For a view of the summits, however, nothing beats the 167-meter high needle atop the Mole Antonelliana, a curious building commissioned 140 years ago as a synagogue. Today it houses the National Museum of Cinema; the first movie theater in Italy opened in Torino in 1904. A transparent-wall elevator, not for vertigo sufferers, takes visitors to the top of the highest building of its kind in Italy. (Via Montebello 20, closed Mondays.)

Torino also boasts the most important Egyptian museum outside of Cairo, a legacy of the Savoias, who began collecting Egyptian antiques in the 17th century. The slightly musty Museo Egizio is open every day and displays 30,000 artifacts from mummies to statues.

### Dining

Spending any time in Torino necessarily involves a lot of eating. Piedmont is one of the most food-obsessed regions in a country that loves sitting down at the table, and the local delicacies are ample proof. Besides Fiat cars, Piedmont's most famous exports to the world may well be the white and black truffles and powerful red wines that make Torino one of the Italian food capitals.

Winter is the best season to indulge in regional dishes such as bagna cauda, a warm dipping sauce for vegetables, and fonduta, a cheese fondue that is absolutely the farthest thing from low fat, but a classy support for truffles.

Connoisseurs such as Morra (truffle merchants with a store in the city of Alba, worth a 70 km trip to the heart of truffle country) will tell you that the best truffles to bring home are the black ones. Whites should be eaten on the spot, for instance, grated on your risotto, pasta or raw albese meat. Neither kind, however, is anywhere near cheap.

*Continued on following page*



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Wines to look for with such hearty fare are Barolo and Barbaresco, full-bodied reds that rival Tuscany's famed Brunello. Barbera is a more accessible red, and will often be what you will drink if you ask for the house wine. Dolcetto is a slightly lighter relative of the region's more powerful reds, and the velvety Nebbiolo is another Piedmontese gem that's not always easy to find abroad.

Lighter local reds like Brachetto and whites like Roero Arneis and Gavi that you're unlikely to find anywhere else are a good choice for the classic Italian ritual of aperitivo, a drink before dinner. Wine bars have sprung up all over the city center, especially in the old Roman area – and if you stop by after dinner you may overhear somebody order a Moscato d'Asti, the perfect dessert wine, with a slice of cake.

True chocolate lovers will want a bicerin – a little glass, literally – a concoction beloved by the older Torinese. It's a hot chocolate drink with coffee and milk, invented here two centuries ago, and best savored at Al Bicerin, an elegant café founded in 1763 and still operating on Piazza della Consolata. Handier to take home and just as sweet, the gianduiotti are Torino's favorite chocolates, found in all the many pastry shops that line the old downtown streets.

Even in cold weather, many Italians will not give up their gelato. Visitors can get their ice cream fix at Fiorio, on Via Po, or Pepino

on Piazza Carignano, right in front of the building that housed Italy's first parliament.

For classic Piedmontese cuisine, a good choice is Osteria Antiche Sere on Via Cenischia, an unassuming restaurant favored by Torinese food enthusiasts. Football legend Giovanni Trapattoni was a regular, and word-of-mouth fame means that a reservation is mandatory.

### **Entertainment**

For a typical Torinese nightlife experience, nothing beats the Murazzi, the banks of the Po River right in the middle of the city. A stroll along the crowded riverfront, packed with ethnic food stalls and trendy bars, can keep a visitor busy all night. In summer the Murazzi double as a makeshift beach; and in winter, the banks of Italy's longest river can be the best place to see the integration of old Torino and new immigrants that is increasingly shaping the city.

The sleepless should head towards Pino Torinese, a fashionable suburb on the hills east of the city. Besides some of the most expensive private residences in Torino, you'll find Hennessy, a dance club catering to the city's flashier twentysomethings. Other options for late night fun include Theatrò, downtown on Via Santa Teresa, and the retro-styled Pick Up which, despite a somewhat ambiguous name, is really just a nostalgic Eighties club.



# **The International Ice Hockey Federation**

*Building the game one memory at a time.*



## Who's Who with Torino 2006

Some of the Team Driving the 2006 Olympic Winter Games



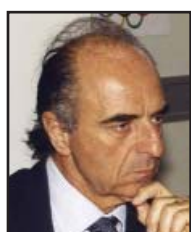
### Valentino Castellani

The former Mayor of Torino keeps a high profile as TOROC president.

TOROC

### Sergio Chiamparino

Castellani's successor at the city of Torino; also a centre-left politician, he has a seat on TOROC board and its executive committee.



### Mario Pescante

Named Olympic supervisor by the government in November. The powerful deputy sports minister and member of Parliament for governing centre-right coalition brokered a 150 million euro deal to save TOROC's finances.



### Luciano Barra

Mario Pescante's chief aide at TOROC, Barra is well-known in European sports. He was director of sports at the Italian NOC from 1993 - 2003.



### Enzo Ghigo

The president of the Piemonte region is an active campaigner for the Olympics. As a centre-right politician, he is also closer to the government in Rome than other TOROC board members.



### Evelina Christillin

The former bid leader has remained as TOROC vice president and still has great influence. Family ties with Fiat ensure her place in Torino's corporate and Olympic world.



TOROC



### Giuseppe Gattino

As head of media relations at TOROC, he will be in charge of keeping thousands of journalists from around the world happy.



### Paolo Rota

As director general, he is ultimately responsible for the entire operation, even before 2006. Whatever problems might arise would end up at, or pass through, his office.



### Paolo Balistreri

The head of transport, an area many consider to be the most critical for the Games. He will need all his training as an architect to navigate the Piemonte's twisting mountain roads.



### Ferruccio Raspino

He oversees logistics and most important, security for TOROC, a key role at the heavily patrolled games.



### Cristiano Carlutti

As director of press operations, Carlutti is responsible for making sure the centers function smoothly. With the Main Press Center going to 24-hour operations Jan. 26, Carlutti has even less time to complete preparations.



### Lucia Montanarella

The Olympic News Service comes under this veteran journalist. She and her team must work "at the speed of light with absolute precision" to deliver results, biographies, venue information and syntheses of press conferences - or face the wrath of thousands of journalists.





I nostri migliori auguri al TOROC per un anno di grandi successi  
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Tous nos vœux de réussite au TOROC pour cette année qui aboutira au  
succès des XX Jeux Olympiques d'hiver de **Turin en 2006**

Wishing TOROC all the best in the one-year countdown to the  
XX Olympic Winter Games, **Turin 2006**

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DES  
JEUX**

**PARIS 2012**  
VILLE CANDIDATE  


## Torino Milestones

### 2006 Opening Ceremony Countdown



#### 2005

- Feb. 10 One Year to XX Olympic Winter Games  
Invitations Sent to National Olympic Committees, Torino and Lausanne
- Feb. 10-11 IOC Executive Board Meeting, Torino
- March 1-5 Chefs de Mission Seminar  
Team Leaders Meet in Torino
- June 7-9 Coordination Commission for Torino 2006
- Aug. 10 Six Months to Torino 2006
- Nov. 30 -Dec. 1 Coordination Commission for Torino 2006
- Nov. 30 Flame Lighting in Olympia  
(subject to change)
- Dec. 7 Torch Arrives in Rome

#### 2006

- Jan. 26 Main Press Center begins  
24-hour operations
- Jan. 31 Olympic Village Opens
- Feb. 10 Opening Ceremony
- Feb. 26 Closing Ceremony
- Feb. 27 Main Press Center Closes
- March 1 Olympic Village Closes
- March 10 IX Paralympic Games  
Opening Ceremony
- March 19 IX Paralympic Games  
Closing Ceremony

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## World Karate Federation

### Upcoming Events

- Feb 11-13** 32nd EKF Junior & Cadet Championships, Thessaloniki, Greece
- May 6-8** EKF Senior Championships, Tenerife, Spain
- May 22-29** Panamerican Senior Championships, Argentina
- June 4-5** 3rd EKF Championships for Regions, Leipzig, Germany
- June 25-26** Mediterranean Games, Almeria, Spain
- July 14-24** World Games, Duisburg, Germany

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To learn more about the race to bring the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games to New York City visit [NYC2012.COM](http://NYC2012.COM).



## Torino: Making A Difference From Antiquity to Today

By Alberto Riva, *Around the Rings* Correspondent

Sitting at the foot of the Alps at the edge of the North Italian plain, just a short hop from the French border, Torino is the most distant and aloof of the larger Italian cities. But it is also changing its face faster and more deeply than the other two cities it always compares itself to: its close neighbor Milan, and Rome in the south. The Torinese have never really forgiven Rome for becoming the nation's capital after holding that distinction themselves for four short years.

The Olympics will be the first large-scale international sporting event hosted by the capital of Piedmont. City officials hope the success of the games will prove that the former "Detroit of Italy" — a gritty industrial town dominated by car giant Fiat — has fully transformed into a lively European city with a world-class flair for food and wine and a love for its surprising, and often overlooked, artistic past.

Augusta Taurinorum was founded in the 1st century BC by Romans on their way to conquer Gaul. Its name derives from the Latin "taurus," and a bull indeed appears on the city's coat of arms. The proverbially reserved torinesi may be very different from their noisier compatriots to the South but their city maintains a strong Roman character, with a street grid still perfectly modeled on the right-angle intersections of the legionnaires' military camps.

Torino was nevertheless responsible for unifying the Italians in 1861 and went on to become the nation's industrial leader, fueling a drive that brought the country to sixth place among the world's economies.

In a country dominated by the family as a social and economic entity, two Torinese families shaped its history more than any others. The Savoia dynasty ruled until the country voted to become a republic in 1946, sending all male Savoias into an exile from which they were allowed to return only in 2003. The Agnellis, founders and owners of Fiat, promptly took their place as Italy's unofficial royals, often compared — also, sadly, in tragedy — to their close friends the Kennedys.

With Fiat struggling and the number of automotive jobs declining steadily, Torino emerged from a bleak period in 1999 with an Olympic schedule to keep and a far-ranging project for urban renewal.

Torino has a remarkable history in the arts. Historically a hotbed for intellectuals, it has produced some of Italy's greatest contemporary writers, all published by the Einaudi house (another influential local family, which also produced an Italian president.) And a simple stroll through the city center will convince a casual visitor that the sooty, steely image of Torino hides a core of exquisite Baroque architecture and stately Neoclassical buildings.

Conservative in habits but progressive in politics, the city used to be a stronghold of Europe's largest Communist party. But every Sunday its masses of industrial workers would head to the stadium to support Juventus FC, Italy's most popular soccer team — and an Agnelli family property.

Many hope that an industrial renaissance, perhaps fueled by graduates of the renowned Politecnico di Torino, is just around the corner. Passengers landing at Torino's Caselle airport may catch a glimpse of the Eurofighter Typhoon, one of the world's most advanced combat jets, produced here by Alenia Aerospazio.

It's an image that summarizes well the character of a city in transition: caught between a comfortable past that has vanished, and an uncertain but exciting future. The 2006 Olympics may prove to be the event that completes that process. 🔥

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