

Jacquie's thoughts about the Supertravessia Portugal

"I think it is probably the finest race I've ever attended (I have done the Ore-Ida, a 12 stage race for the best women road racers in the world, been to four world mtn bike championships (90-93) eight national championships (begining in 83)...and I have never seen such meticulous planning, enthusiastic empathetic (Antonio is both a poet and an athlete and a very fine manager-organizer) staff and creator.

I know I've been spoiled, but I think I/m gonna try a couple more long-dist things, just to see.

Coming in 8th out of the starting 20 didn't hurt either..., obviously a person who does well in a race is going to love it more. But you could also talk to the eight dudes that dropped out and they would all concur, I know it.

What was so great? Food, hotels, support, schlepping, mechanical assistance, printed out daily results and daily course profiles given during dinner and then a nightly briefing.

I tell you, I was spoiled.

I will see you there next year. Unless I do the mellow (17 day) version, just for a change.

You asked about rider level. They were almost all very strong, but not pro level.. All quite serious, half of them were family men, most were younger than I (I'm 48) and all were so incredibly supportive of a former world-level fathead returning just for laughs.

I never was serious about racing, but I can actually race hard without too much difficulty, and still be very light hearted about it.

Oh yeah, the navigation part was the star of the race (well, Antonio, his wife Berta, and their staff, and WE RACERS were co-stars, not to mention the outrageously stunning countryside of a nearly forgotten country...where navigation was cutting edge, back when the world was thought to have a real edge.)

The Garmin GPS systems (you rent one, unless you pre-purchase one, I think the hot model was a CS) worked really welll and I'm not techy at all.

This is a five star event, a once-in-a-lifetime cool thing.

Please let me know if/when you decide to go....

J"