Focus on the markets, innovation in retail, sustainability and traceability are the central themes of the January 2023 edition

**EXPO RIVA SCHUH & GARDABAGS, THE INGREDIENTS FOR A TRADE SHOW THAT’S MORE THAN JUST A TRADE SHOW**

**From 14 to January 2023, Expo Riva Schuh & Gardabags will open its doors to leading international players in the footwear and leather goods sectors, offering them an experience that will go far beyond established international business relations. Exhibitors, buyers and institutions will be able to benefit from a wide range of in-depth events that will cover crucial topics for the market: innovative projects from emerging start-ups dedicated to the renewal of the retail sector, offering new perspectives to capture today’s and tomorrow’s consumers; sustainability at the forefront thanks to a targeted focus on traceability and new European regulations; a survey of some interesting markets including established giants and lesser-known ones; and, finally, a little relaxation, with wine tasting combined with seasonal styles and trends.**

*Riva del Garda, 11 January 2023*

Producers, buyers, international trade associations, industry experts: all the ingredients are there to make Expo Riva Schuh & Gardabags an internationally-renowned event that is not just about establishing profitable business relations between footwear and leather goods buyers and manufacturers offering the most interesting new products for next autumn/winter 2023/24 or reassortments for the summer season.

The show, which will be held from 14 to 17 January 2023 in Riva del Garda, is also an **unmissable event for all those who want to explore key issues** in order to better understand and face industry challenges in the present and future.

The topics selected by the show’s organisers and Scientific Committee are highly focused. They have identified the **state of the markets, sustainability** and **innovation** in the **retail** sector as the key issues to explore.

**THE MARKETS**

Expo Riva Schuh & Gardabags has always been strongly international in nature. Both the range of products on offer and the origin of the buyers draw industry operators from all around the world.

Against this backdrop, it is therefore natural that the show should look in-depth at some important markets as well as a number of lesser-known ones.

The **Market Focuses** of January 2023 will be on the **DACH** area, the main European German-speaking countries, on **Latin America** (Guatemala, Peru, Uruguay), **India**, **South-East Asia** (Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore) and the **USA**.

**SUSTAINABILITY**

One of Expo Riva Schuh & Gardabags’s stated missions is to act as an aggregator and facilitator of a pathway for the international footwear and leather goods industry to become increasingly attentive to and proactive in sustainability issues. The show’s Scientific Committee has identified the theme of **traceability** as the fundamental hub around which every sustainability issue should revolve.

There are two events scheduled:

**- Transparency in the fashion and footwear value chain: what’s next?**

While assuming an ever greater importance for governments, companies and consumers, sustainability issues in fashion and footwear are increasingly focused on transparency between producers and consumers on the raw materials and processes used. This necessarily requires a value chain approach. But what does the near future hold for us? What strategies are companies planning for the coming years? With contributions from industry experts and companies, the workshop will be an opportunity to take stock of what has been done so far and what challenges lie ahead for the next three years.

**- The future is now: the challenge of new European legislation on sustainability and traceability**

For a long time, we talked about sustainability in the future tense. Today, with new regulations in a number of important European countries (Germany in particular), we need to talk about it in the present tense. What is changing for fashion and footwear companies with the application of the new regulations? What are the requirements for companies wishing to maintain a presence in these markets? While describing how rules governing competition are changing in some major European markets, the workshop will take stock of the costs and tools available to companies to adapt to the new requirements.

**INNOVATION FOR RETAIL**

The third edition of **Innovation Village Retail** will see eight new start-ups offering solutions and services that will revamp or even revolutionize the retail sector. A unique opportunity for buyers to invest not only in new collections, but also to explore new ideas for their business.

They will have the opportunity to get to know the proposals of innovative start-ups both during the **Start-up Competition**, the competition that will decide the most innovative start-up, and during the three workshops dedicated to them, the **Innovation Village Inputs**:

**- Reinventing the Customer Experience**

**- Reinventing Operations and Reducing Impact**

**- Disruptive Business Models in Footwear**

**LEISURE**

We cannot live by work alone. Expo Riva Schuh & Gardabags has thus decided to offer a special experience that can provide its guests with a pleasant diversion, albeit within a professional environment. At **Wine & Shoes**, guests will have the opportunity to **taste local wines,** guided by a renowned sommelier, while exploring the **trendiest** styles of **shoes and bags.**

To stay updated in real time on the days, times and venues of the various events, please refer to the Expo Riva Schuh & Gardabags app ([iOS](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/expo-riva-schuh-gardabags/id1545634083) - [Android](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.swapcard.apps.android.exposchuh&gl=IT)) or the [website](https://exporivaschuh.it/en/eventi-expo-riva-show).

**About Expo Riva Schuh & Gardabags**   
With visitors from all over the world and more than 40 countries represented among exhibiting companies, Expo Riva Schuh & Gardabags – organized by Riva del Garda Fierecongressi SpA – is the leading international trade show dedicated to volume footwear and accessories.

The next edition will be held from 14 to 17 January 2023, at the Riva del Garda Exhibition Centre.  
Opening hours: Saturday 14, Sunday 15, Monday 16 January 2023: from 9 am to 6 pm. Tuesday 17 January from 9 am to 4 pm.

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