



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **ROUTE DETAILS ANNOUNCED FOR EXPANDED 2009 AMGEN TOUR OF CALIFORNIA PROFESSIONAL CYCLING ROAD RACE**

*Professional Women's Cycling Race to Return to Santa Rosa  
During Stage One of the Men's Race*

**LOS ANGELES**, December 4, 2008 – Specific route details for the **2009 Amgen Tour of California** professional cycling race were revealed today by AEG, presenter of the fourth-annual event, which will once again have a world-class field of competitors, including two-time defending champion Levi Leipheimer and seven-time Tour de France Champion Lance Armstrong. Already considered cycling's most important and successful stage race in the United States, the **2009 Amgen Tour of California** will be expanded to cover more than 750 miles over nine days. In its fourth running, the race will travel almost the entire length of California on a demanding course from the state's capitol, Sacramento, to Escondido, in San Diego County.

Scheduled over nine consecutive days from February 14-22, 2009, the race will visit 16 host cities for official stage starts and finishes, with communities along the route getting the chance to see, firsthand, a lineup of some of the most elite, recognizable teams and athletes in the world. Host cities for the Prologue and eight stages include: Sacramento, Davis (new city for 2009), Santa Rosa (site of the Women's Criterium), Sausalito, Santa Cruz (new city for 2009), San Jose, Modesto, Merced (new city for 2009), Clovis (new city for 2009), Visalia (new city for 2009), Paso Robles (new city for 2009), Solvang, Santa Clarita, Pasadena, Rancho Bernardo (new city for 2009) and Escondido (new city for 2009).

"Each year, we continue our commitment to upgrading and enhancing every element of the **Amgen Tour of California**, not only for the cyclists, but also for the spectators along the route, by creating an even more challenging and exciting race," said Andrew Messick, president of AEG Sports, presenter of the race. "The added element of the **Amgen Tour of California** Women's Criterium in Santa Rosa allows us to bring professional women's cycling to the fans as well, even further enhancing the race experience."

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One of the most anticipated professional cycling races in the world, the **2009 Amgen Tour of California** will be staged over a more challenging route, and will, once again, include a women's criterium. Highlights of the **2009 Amgen Tour of California** race route include:

**Prologue: Sacramento (Saturday, February 14, 2009)**

Start time: 1:30 p.m.

Start Location: Intersection of Capitol Mall and 9<sup>th</sup> St.

Finish Location: Intersection of L St. and 11<sup>th</sup> St.

The first day of racing in the **2009 Amgen Tour of California** will be a short, but intense, individual time trial of just less than three miles, known as a Prologue. The flat and fast route will likely take each individual cyclist less than five minutes to finish. Although it is short, the Prologue will be packed with excitement and high speed. With the start and finish lines separated by only two blocks, spectators will have the opportunity to easily see the racers at both the start and finish lines. Showcasing the State Capitol, the Capitol Mall area and the well-known Tower Bridge, the Prologue will provide a crowd-pleasing day of racing excitement.

**Stage 1: Davis to Santa Rosa (Sunday, February 15, 2009)**

Start Time: Noon

Start Location: Intersection of C St. and 3<sup>rd</sup> St. in Davis

Finish Location: Intersection of 3<sup>rd</sup> St. and Santa Rosa Ave. in Santa Rosa

A new stage for the **Amgen Tour of California**, the route from Davis to Santa Rosa will provide plenty of scenic settings for both the cyclists and the spectators. Beginning in the city of Davis, which recently was named the best cycling town in the United States by *Bicycling Magazine*, the route includes evenly spaced climbs throughout the stage and spectacular views. After 20 miles of flat roads, the riders will meet their first climb up a short, but steep section leading up to the Monticello Dam. Another long, flat section along Lake Berryessa will take the riders to their second climb up Howell Mountain Rd., followed by a fast descent into Napa Valley. After one final climb and a steep descent from Calistoga Road, the cyclists will finish the race with circuit laps in downtown Santa Rosa. In previous years, Santa Rosa fans have set the mark for one of the largest and most enthusiastic crowds of the entire race.

Additionally, fans in Santa Rosa will have the opportunity to watch the second-annual **Amgen Tour of California Women's Criterium**. Held in conjunction with Stage 1 of the **Amgen Tour of California**, the Women's Criterium will begin at 1 p.m. and will showcase some of the world's top professional women cyclists competing for \$15,000 in prizes. Set as a category Pro 1/2 race, the **Amgen Tour of California Women's Criterium** will have a limit of eight riders per team. Once again using portions of the Stage 1 men's finishing circuit in Santa Rosa, the Women's Criterium will bring the thrill of professional women's cycling to fans in the hours just before the men's finish in downtown Santa Rosa.

**Stage 2: Sausalito to Santa Cruz (Monday, February 16, 2009)**

Start Time: 8:30 a.m.

Start Location: Spinnaker Restaurant at 100 Spinnaker Dr. in Sausalito

Finish Location: Intersection of Front St. and Cooper St. in Santa Cruz

Starting on the northern side of the San Francisco Bay, Stage 2 will cover more than 100 miles from Sausalito to Santa Cruz. The stage will begin with a scenic start in Sausalito on the water and will head south over one of the most iconic structures in the country, the Golden Gate Bridge, and then through the streets of San Francisco. The route will then take the riders west down the California coastline on Highway 1, flanked by the picturesque backdrops of the Pacific Ocean on one side and Redwood forests on the other. This coastal stage will include two long, but moderate climbs on Tunitas Creek Road and Bonny Doon Road, which will be followed by lengthy and fast descents. The sprint to the finish in Santa Cruz will provide an exciting conclusion to Stage 2 of the race.

**Stage 3: San Jose to Modesto (Tuesday, February 17, 2009)**

Start Time: Noon

Start Location: Intersection of San Fernando St. and Almaden Blvd. in San Jose

Finish Location: Intersection of I St. and 12<sup>th</sup> St. in Modesto

Fans of the ***Amgen Tour of California*** may recognize part of Stage 3 from the 2008 race when the cyclists traveled from Modesto to San Jose; however, in 2009, the racers will be traveling the route in reverse with several changes. Beginning with a climb that is synonymous with cycling and the ***Amgen Tour of California***, the cyclists will head up Sierra Road (1,930 ft.) within the first five miles of the stage. This epic climb will be a defining moment in the race and will create an action-packed day of racing for the cyclists and the fans alike. After completing the Sierra Road climb, the riders will face fast and flat roads full of twists and turns (Calaveras Road alone has more than 40 switchbacks) before climbing Patterson Pass. The stage will finish with two circuits in downtown Modesto.

**Stage 4: Merced to Clovis (Wednesday, February 18, 2009)**

Start Time: 11 a.m.

Start Location: City Hall at the intersection of N St. and 18<sup>th</sup> St. in Merced

Finish Location: Intersection of Bullard Ave. and Pollasky Ave. in Clovis

Stage 4 will introduce two new host cities and the Sierra Mountains to the ***Amgen Tour of California***. With four KOMs ("King of the Mountain" competitions) and several sprints, Stage 4 will be a test for the riders with consistently hilly and technical terrain. From the start in Merced to the finish in Clovis, this stage will be characterized by consistent climbing surrounded by the beautiful mountain scenery. Fans can watch the climbs, always a spectator favorite, at any of the four locations - Hwy 140, twice on Hwy 49 and Crane Valley Road. Coming to a finish in Old Town Clovis, this stage will introduce the beauty of Central California to the ***Amgen Tour of California***.

**Stage 5: Visalia to Paso Robles (Thursday, February 19, 2009)**

Start Time: 10 a.m.

Start Location: Intersection of Acequia Ave. and Church St. in Visalia

Finish Location: Intersection of Spring St. and 11<sup>th</sup> St. in Paso Robles

At more than 130 miles, Stage 5, sponsored by Rabobank, is the longest stage of the race. A new course for the ***2009 Amgen Tour of California***, Stage 5 will begin with a neutral start of parade laps through Visalia's downtown area. Once the race wends its way through the start in Visalia, the riders will experience an amazing contrast between the previous day of racing in the Sierra Mountains, as they head through the vast stretch of flat roads on the San Joaquin Valley floor. For the first 100 miles of the stage, the riders will have virtually no protection from the wind, creating a challenging ride. Winding its way back to the coast, the route, which will include two sprints, will pass by vast cattle ranches and farms. Packed full of rolling hills and large horse farms, the final 30-mile run into Paso Robles will be a fast sprint to the finish.

**Stage 6: Solvang Individual Time Trial (Friday, February 20, 2009)**

Start Time: Noon

Start Location: Intersection of Mission Drive and 1<sup>st</sup> St.

Finish Location: Copenhagen Dr.

The quaint Danish village of Solvang hosts some of the ProTour teams annually for training camps, as well as some of the largest cycling events in the United States. With the start and finish lines located only one block apart, Stage 6 is an ideal location for spectators to view the race. The route will highlight the beautiful Santa Ynez Valley, winding through quaint towns, vineyards, farms, and one short, but steep climb up Ballard Canyon. This year's short, flat and fast time trial will create a challenging test for the riders and is expected to be a decisive day of the race.

**Stage 7: Santa Clarita to Pasadena (Saturday, February 21, 2009)**

Start Time: Noon

Start Location: Town Center Drive in Santa Clarita

Finish Location: West Drive, alongside the Rose Bowl in Pasadena

The race from Santa Clarita to Pasadena proved to be a difficult one during the final stage of the **2008 Amgen Tour of California**, and this year will be no different. The first 25 miles of Stage 7, sponsored by Herbalife, include a gradual climb from Santa Clarita, through Acton, to the intersection of Angeles Forest Road. The route continues uphill, showcasing the beauty of the San Gabriel Mountains, to the second highest elevation ever reached by the **Amgen Tour of California** on the towering Millcreek Summit (4,906 ft.). Descending with a 15-mile run to Angeles Crest Highway, the route begins a fast plunge to the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. After more than 65 miles from Santa Clarita to Pasadena, with the mountains and the Rose Bowl serving as the backdrop, the peloton will complete the stage with five, five-mile laps on a very demanding circuit through the area surrounding the Rose Bowl. This course will provide a challenging, action-packed day leading up to the finale on Sunday.

**Stage 8: Rancho Bernardo to Escondido (Sunday, February 22, 2009)**

Start Time: Noon

Start Location: Bernardo Center Dr. in Rancho Bernardo

Finish Location: Intersection of Grand Ave. and Broadway in Escondido

With the final stage of the **2009 Amgen Tour of California** as a difficult point-to-point road race, there is a chance to see an overall lead change, as well as a change in the KOM jersey leader on the last day. With four climbs, including the highest point ever reached in the **Amgen Tour of California**, and two sprints, Stage 8, sponsored by Amgen, can easily be characterized as the most difficult final stage that the **Amgen Tour of California** has ever seen. The cyclists will have to fight through the very end of the race, due to the addition of Palomar Mountain (5,123 ft.). At 11.7 miles, a seven percent average grade, 4,200 feet of climbing and 21 switchbacks, Palomar Mountain will provide a challenging conclusion to the **2009 Amgen Tour of California**. Organizers expect a hard sprint to the finish; as with all the Grand Tours of Europe, winning the final stage of the **2009 Amgen Tour of California** is a prize coveted by the riders.

**For complete downloadable course maps, route logs and elevation profiles, please visit [www.amgentourofcalifornia.com](http://www.amgentourofcalifornia.com). Additional resources such as recommended viewing locations will be added to the Web site in the coming weeks.**

**About the Amgen Tour of California**

The largest cycling event in America, the **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. Building on last year's third-annual stage race, which attracted 1.6 million spectators, the **2009 Amgen Tour of California** will be expanded to cover more than 750 miles over nine days from February 14-22, 2009.

**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 and 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, and other serious illnesses. With a broad and deep pipeline of potential new medicines, Amgen remains committed to advancing science to dramatically improve people's lives. To learn more about Amgen's pioneering science and vital medicines, visit [www.amgen.com](http://www.amgen.com). To learn more about Amgen's Breakaway from Cancer initiative, visit [www.breakawayfromcancer.com](http://www.breakawayfromcancer.com).

**About AEG**

AEG is one of the leading sports and entertainment presenters in the world. AEG, a wholly owned subsidiary of The Anschutz Company, owns or controls a collection of companies including facilities such as STAPLES Center, The Home Depot Center, Sprint Center, The O2, NOKIA Theatre L.A. LIVE and NOKIA Theatre Times Square; sports franchises including the Los Angeles Kings (NHL), two Major League Soccer franchises, a Major League Lacrosse team, two hockey franchises operated in Europe, management of privately held shares of the Los Angeles Lakers, the ING Bay to Breakers foot race and the **Amgen Tour of California** cycling road race; AEG LIVE, the organization's live-entertainment division, is a collection of companies dedicated to all aspects of live contemporary music performance, touring and a variety of programming and multi-media production. For more information, visit AEG today at [www.aegworldwide.com](http://www.aegworldwide.com).

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