

Pressemitteilung (09.12.2021)



Exactly 40 years after his grandparents' and parents' Moselle bike tour

Erwin Sikkens drives Gravel Tribute Tour on the Moselle River

When Erwin Sikkens* got hold of a 40-year-old document in his grandmother's house, it was immediately clear to him: he had to get on his bike. He had found the original postmark map of the 5th International Moselle Bike Tour of September 20, 1981, organized by RV Schwalbe Trier 1932 e.V. The tour - starting from the village of Ehrang and covering 115 kilometers through the Moselle valley - had been completed by his entire family on road bikes at the time: Grandma, Grandpa, his parents. And they are the reason why the Dutchman himself has become a passionate cyclist and gravel adventurer. So he used the historical find as a template to ride the route himself as a Gravel Tribute Tour - in other words, not exactly the original route from back then, but his very own version of the Moselle bike tour, which of course would not have been possible with the racing bikes of the time. But Erwin Sikkens has integrated some crucial waypoints of the original route, so that the spirit of the route of that time is maintained.

“What started as a find in a closet at my grandmother's house, quickly became the inspiration for a beautiful gravel ride and a tribute to my sporty family who already pedaled their miles here in the 80s on steel bicycles and in woolen jerseys”, Sikkens says. “For me it underlines the timeless spirit of cycling and shows that you can find inspiration everywhere for a nice bike ride on new paths.”

So together with two friends, Sikkens actually set off on the Gravel Tribute Tour on September 20, 2021. After starting near Trier, the Moselle River was the signpost - but very quickly they headed up into the vineyards along the river onto gravel roads. With the best weather conditions, the three were rewarded with unique views of the river valley on every climb. Halfway along the route, Sikkens and his companions then left the river behind them and turned left in a northwesterly direction - just like the original 1981 route. On the way back, a new world of fields and, above all, forests awaited - and a

well-deserved break at the Minheim refuge. The tour finally returned to Trier to the starting point, in the end 113 kilometers with around 2,000 meters of altitude had been completed.

Schwalbe not only accompanied the entire tour, but also visited Erwin and his grandmother at home.

The Video: <https://youtu.be/Q7A-aWdJgAs>

The Tour: <https://www.komoot.com/tour/494351575>



* Erwin Sikkens is a Dutch cyclist who has been taking cycling fans on his adventures for many years. In addition to an Instagram account, he maintains a very successful Dutch cycling adventure blog.

Under the following link you will find the press release and the pictures for download:
<https://my.hidrive.com/share/ixy56mpyi6>