





## **Resources, resources, resources for your 2015 Tour de France cycling program!**

### **Compiled by Jennifer Sage**

In this handout are dozens of resources to use for your 2015 Tour de France program. Learn more about the riders, the teams, the history of the Tour, the towns, and the racing strategy. I've also provided several excellent resources for where to purchase Tour de France products to use as prizes and incentives. You could simply Google "Tour de France Teams" or something similar and come up with literally thousands of websites to peruse, but we've done the filtering for you and present to you in this document the most interesting and the most relevant. This will literally save you many, many hours of research! [Note: if you have other favorite resources, please email them to me to be included in future versions.]

### **A fabulous mapping resource for Tour de France stages**

An amazing web application on all the paved ascents in the Alps. [www.cyclingthealps.com](http://www.cyclingthealps.com). He provides the Google 3D map of each stage, the profile and even a 3D game you can play to "cycle" the route. See the bonus document *The Tour is Won in the Mountains* for links to each of the major climbing stages.

### **The Official Tour de France Guide**

Every year an official Tour de France guide is released in magazine form. (Velonews releases it in the US, Cyclingnews in the UK). It has all the stage information, teams and riders, profiles and maps of the stages, predictions and tons of photos. Make sure to pick one up at your LBS (local bike shop). Use some of the photos to decorate your cycle studio.

### **Online Resources for Tour de France and professional cycling information**

- [Official TDF website](#). French and English version. Go here for actual profiles and route maps, listing of the categorized climbs (with distances and average grades), map and video of the Tour, description of departure and arrival villages/cities, team information, historical notes from this year's Tour, and other official Tour info. Live coverage gives stage winners and photos soon after each stage (although some of the links below have better coverage).
- [Steephill](#). This is an amazing resource for all cycling races, including the Tour de France, the Giro d'Italia, the Tour of California and more. The results of the stage are posted immediately so this should be one of your first websites to check daily. This site has incredible photos – every stage has a link to BIG PHOTOS, and there is also a link to Graham Watson's photos (one of the worlds best known cycling photographers). He also posts links to numerous articles from cycling resources around the world (some are listed below) and is the best resource for short videos of each stage, and for online viewing options worldwide. Steve, the owner of this



## Tour de France Program

site, has also ridden his bike all over France and has amazing photos of his cycling trips in the big mountains of Europe.

- [The Official TDF Teaser Video](#)
- Velonews: [Tour de France 101 For Beginners Guide](#)
- Stage 4 [Recon over the cobbles with Team BMC](#) (Note: use the 2013 Stage 5 profile over cobblestones for this year's Stage 4; simply change the names!)
- [Pez Cycling News](#) - They set a photographer free to follow the Tour stage by stage and mingle with the locals, and the result is some very unique photos of not just the racers, but the crazy fans and the towns that get "dressed-up" for the Tour as well. In fact, I was photographed at the 2007 TDF with a bike tour client (a Spin instructor from Florida) on the top of the Col de Galibier! Scroll down to the [4<sup>th</sup> photo](#):
- [www.Roadcycling.com](#) They have a good list of what to watch out for at this year's Tour.
- [The Inner Ring](#) Excellent Tour de France Guide
- [Cycling News](#) Great for photos - scroll down left side of home page, look for photo archives/TDF.
- [Velo News](#) Team, rider information, profiles, daily analysis, etc.
- [Bicycling Magazine](#) Excellent source Tour de France information.
- [CyclingFans.com](#) photos, video and profiles
- [Bike Radar](#)
- [Cycling Weekly](#)
- [Cycle Sport Magazine](#)

### Need to learn more about the Tour? Here's a great FAQ.

[FAQ on the Tour de France rules](#)

### Professional and amateur Cycling Blogs

These days you can find the best reviews and no-holds-barred commentaries about the riders, their teams, the race organizers and basically anything having to do with cycling, from blogs devoted to professional cycling. Here are a few of the better-known and more fun-to-read blogs:

- [Cyclocosm.com](#)
- [Podium Cafe](#)
- [The Inner Ring](#)
- [Tour de France Lanterne Rouge](#) Although it hasn't been updated in a few years, the author devotes herself to writing about the *Lanterne Rouge* – the last place finisher of every stage. Yay! Someone for the underdog! There is some really interesting information in here if you want to talk about the last place rider in your profiles.

### Articles that can help your understanding of stage racing



- [The Golden Rules of Road Racing](#)
- [Anatomy of the leadout train](#)
- [Attack on the Lull](#)
- [Common Sprinting Mistakes](#)
- [Politics of the Peloton: Reading the Race](#)
- [The Art of The Counterattack](#)

## Excellent commentaries following the stages

[Bicycling Magazine's](#) excellent source of information.

## From the horse's mouth: Professional cyclists who blog and tell you all about their experiences

Blogs posted by the rider's themselves (or managers) are some of the most interesting and educational ones to read. There are a few riders that actually have some excellent writing skills, and describe the race in such detail you feel like you were actually there on that hairy descent, or just avoided that crash, or felt the pain of attack after attack. Reading these diaries can also teach you a lot about the strategy of some teams, as they often explain what their role for the day was, and usually comment on whether they performed that role well or not. There aren't that many blogging cyclists these days, but often the team websites might include individual rider's comments (see the list of team websites on the next page). Here are some blogs you may want to follow:

- **Jens Voigt:** Jens is retired from racing now, so he is no longer contributing a daily blog for Bicycling Magazine. The good news is he will be part of NBC Sports and their television coverage of the 2015 Tour. It's hard to get too much of Jens!
- **Taylor Phinney:** Taylor is the son of a famous cycling father (Davis Phinney) and will not be racing at the Tour de France. I do not know if he will be blogging, but if he does, I'm sure it will be interesting, though not from the firsthand point of view of the race. Even if he doesn't, his emotional firsthand descriptions from the past are worth reading. I've used his emotion in some of my rides. During the 2011 Vuelta d'España, I came across Taylor's blog, and I enjoyed it so much I found myself reading every single post. You will gain so much insight into the pain a rider feels as he struggles in the race. [www.taylorphinney.com](http://www.taylorphinney.com)

I even wrote my own blog post about him [here](#).



- Here are some older diaries by Frankie Andreu but which still give some great information and some good gossip if you feel like digging in deeply. Frankie wrote [TDF diaries from 1998 – 2003](#)

## Cycling Podcasts and YouTube Channels

If you're not into reading, then listen to these podcasts or watch these Youtube channels, which will undoubtedly talk a lot about the stages and drama of this year's Tour.

- [The Cyclingnews](#) Tour de France Podcast
- *How The Race Was Won*. Video reviews on YouTube. Cosmo Catalano reviews each stage with humor, Cosmo once again reviewed the stages of the 2014 Tour, so you'll want to follow him on Twitter or on his [YouTube](#) channel.
- [Pelotonitis Podcast](#)
- [Cyclocosm.com](#)

**Books:** [The Tour de France for Dummies](#), an excellent guide for the lay-person and non-cyclist which explains the characteristics of the Tour. Written by James Raia.

## Professional Teams' websites: learn more about your favorite rider or team!

- [AG2r](#)
- [Astana](#)
- [BMC Racing](#)
- [Bora Argon 18](#)
- [Bretagne-Seche Environnement](#)
- [Cofidis, Solutions Credit](#)
- [Cannondale – Garmin](#)
- [Etixx Quickstep](#)
- [Europcar](#)
- [FDJ](#)
- [Giant-Alpecin](#)
- [IAM Cycling](#)
- [Katusha](#)
- [Lampre-Merida](#)
- [Lotto NL - Jumbo](#)
- [Lotto Soudal](#)
- [Movistar](#)
- [MTN -QHUBEKA](#)
- [Orica-Greenedge](#)



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- [SKY](#)
- [Tinkoff-Saxo](#)
- [Trek Factory Racing](#)



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### Resources for prizes/gear for your TDF program

I recommend that you first search your LBS (Local Bike Shop) to see what they might have in stock. Do this when you approach them to be a “Sponsor” of your event – they might even give you a discount or gift certificates or maybe even some free schwag.

#### [Cycling jewelry](#)

#### [An indoor cycling instructor who makes bicycle chain link bracelets](#)

#### [Bicycle Gifts and posters](#)

Online sources for basic discounted cycling gear.

#### [Performance Bike](#)

#### [Nashbar](#)

[World Cycling Productions](#) for TDF gear, gifts, cycling products (pins, caps, keychains, t-shirts, water bottles, etc.)

#### [Road Bike Pro Gear](#)

Here’s a [Google link](#) for various Tour de France socks and hats (various merchants):

A [Google link](#) for TDF water bottles:

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Please do not disseminate this material. Instead, please refer them to the ICA website to purchase the Tour de France program.

Contact Jennifer Sage for Master Classes (including several Tour de France stages such as Alpe d’Huez, The Suitcase of Courage, and the Team Time Trial) or any other indoor cycling information at [Jennifer@indoorcyclingassociation.com](mailto:Jennifer@indoorcyclingassociation.com)

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