

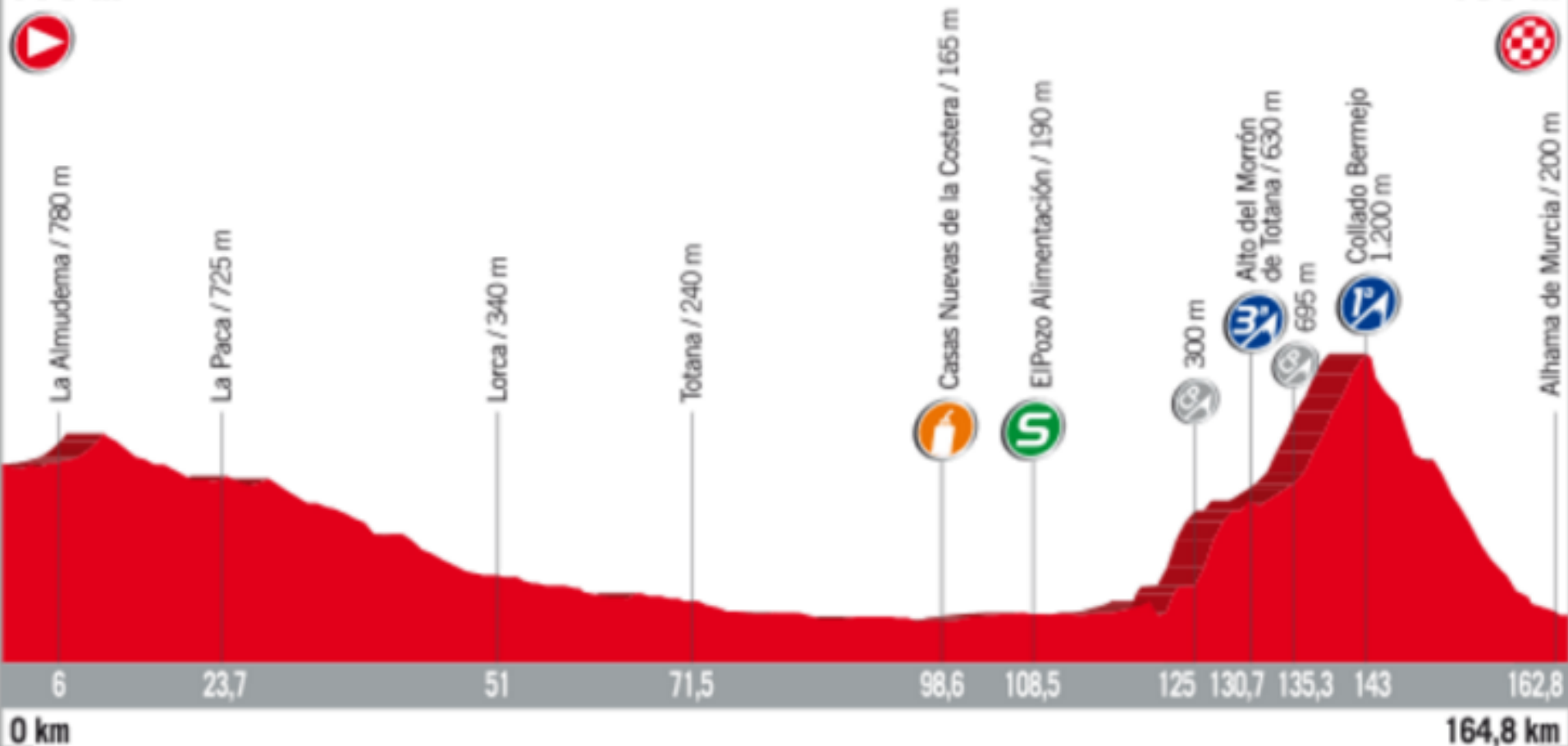
**Caravaca
Año Jubilar 2017**



CARAVACA AÑO JUBILAR 2017



ELPOZO ALIMENTACIÓN



Today's stage winds in and around the southern Spanish province of Murcia, part of the ancient province of Andalusia, now autonomous with at capital at the city for which the province is named. The stage never enters the city of Murcia, it never enters anywhere of note, really, with the possible exception of the starting city, Caravaca de la Cruz, considered by many to be a holy city and carrying the name "of the Cross" because of a major relic found there.

The concept of Jubilee years is part of the common heritage of the world. In the Judeo Christian tradition, we read about Jubilee years first in the Old Testament. During periodic Jubilee years (every 50 years if memory serves), fields were allowed to lie fallow, to "rest," debts were forgiven, prisoners were freed. In the Catholic tradition, jubilee years are generally called every 25 years for the Church worldwide, and then for extraordinary events. In 1983, the 1950th anniversary of the Resurrection, Pope John Paul II called an extraordinary Jubilee year, as did Pope Francis recently with the Jubilee Year of Mercy. One of the ways in which graces are extended during the jubilee years is through the promulgation of special graces and blessings which can be gained by carrying out certain pious or charitable acts. In 1983 I came as a college student, on an overnight train from Brussels, to Holy Week in Rome, and made the visits to the 4 Major Papal Basilicas, passing through the special holy doors, opened only during the jubilee years, and with prayers, I gained the indulgences and certainly felt refreshed. The Jubilee of Mercy saw hundreds of thousands of extra religious pilgrims coming to Rome, carrying out pious works, being showered with graces.

But this is the Vuelta, you say, why this excursus into a religious topic? Well.... In addition to the City of Rome (and by extension the world), four other sites in the world have a right to celebrate Jubilee years, Jerusalem, and, curiously, three cities in Spain, the starting city for today's stage, Caravaca de la Cruz, among them. Although another city, Santiago de Compostela, can call a Jubilee year whenever the feast of St. James the Greater, buried there in the Basilica, falls on a Sunday, Caravaca de la Cruz has a recurring cycle of

celebrations, every seven years. Pope John Paul II extended this privilege to this village in 1998, and this year, 2017, is its Jubilee Year.

The town of Caravaca de la Cruz is dominated by the medieval castle, of Mozarabic origins, and has many convents and a churches. It also contains a relic of the true Cross, brought back from the Holy Land by Constantine's mother, St. Helen. Indeed, the town festival is held in early May, centered around the Feast of the Invention of the True Cross, May 3 (invention coming from "invenio" finding). The festival has been declared to be of touristic interest, and has the normal processions of moors and Christians in medieval garb, games, food, and a special race, the Running of the Wine Horses (Los caballos de vino). The day of the running begins with wake up bells at 7 a.m. rung from all the Churches in town, then an Mass in the open air, but nonetheless indoor Templete with all of the participants, even the horses present, and at noon the Blessing of the Wine takes place.

At 2 p.m. the 60 horses, dressed in finery, race to the top of the town, the Royal Basílica-Santuario de la Vera Cruz, time trial fashion, one by one. During the centuries of war, the invading Moorish army had poisoned the town's water supply, and many people were dying of thirst. The only liquid that could be found to drink was wine. So the brave Templar Knights tied flagons of wine to their horses and ran with them up the hill before the Moorish armies realized what was happening, bringing the precious liquid to the townspeople. The relic of the Vera Cruz was bathed in the wine and miraculously the sick and wounded were healed. The running of the Wine Horses commemorates that event. Prizes are awarded for both the fastest horses and those with the most exceptional embroidery. Recently, an archeological site was discovered in the town, 1300 graves from 2500-1950 B.C.

So, the situation has become grave and I must race away. Enjoy the Vuelta. Enjoy the day!



10ª etapa : Caravaca Año Jubilar 2017 EIPo
Clasificación etapa provisional

1	M. Trentin		QST	3:3
2	J.J. Rojas		MOV	
3	J. Rosón		CJR	
4	J. Janse van Rensburg		DDD	
5	A. Geniez		ALM	

10ª etapa : Caravaca Año Jubilar 2017 • El Pozo Alimentación
Clasificación general provisional

1	C. Froome		SKY	40:12:44	
2	E. Chaves		ORS	+36	
3	N. Roche		BMC	+36	
4	V. Nibali		TBM	+1:17	
5	T. van Garderen		BMC	+1:27	