

**2018/2019 FIA Formula E Championship
Round 7: Geox Rome E-Prix**

***New MICHELIN Pilot Sport: more energy efficiency for the
Eternal City***

The Rome E-Prix was organised for the first time in 2018 when teams contested the Italian round of the 2017/2018 ABB FIA Formula E Championship in the competition's former-generation cars equipped with MICHELIN Pilot Sport EV2 tyres. Their career, like that of the previous all-electric single-seaters themselves, concluded at the end of Season 4 in New York, USA, last July.

Today's futuristic 'Gen2' cars are not only more powerful but they also race on new-generation MICHELIN Pilot Sport tyres which made their competitive debut at last December's Ad Diriyah E-Prix in Saudi Arabia.

This Saturday (April 13) will see Formula E return to the Italian capital's historic EUR district which was originally slated to host the 1942 Esposizione Universale di Roma. That event was ultimately cancelled due to World War 2, but it went on to be visited by the Olympic Games in 1960 and it stands out today as a popular tourist attraction, a busy business hub... and the setting for the Rome E-Prix.

The 2.85-kilometre, 21-turn, anticlockwise circuit is one of the longest of the championship. Via Cristoforo Colombo serves as the start/finish straight, while the cars pass close to the Obelisco di Marconi and the famous Colosseo Quadrato (a.k.a. the Palace of Italian Civilisation) which was inaugurated in 1940.

"The circuit in Rome was a big hit with the drivers last year," says **Serge Grisin**, the manager of Michelin's Formula E programme. "Its hilly layout is quite impressive and it features an interesting mix of fast and slow corners. The surface gives good grip and much of the asphalt has been re-laid, but opportunities for overtaking were few and far between in 2018. That could change with this season's more powerful cars and our third-generation bespoke Formula E tyres, although the track will be just as narrow in places, of course. Our new MICHELIN Pilot Sport has never raced in Rome, but the data we have collected so far this season, and from what we saw last year in Italy, suggest that wear rates will be quite low and in keeping with those seen at the majority of the circuits visited by Formula E."

The Rome E-Prix (45 minutes, plus one lap) is the first of the 2018/2019 FIA Formula E Championship's five European rounds and is scheduled to start at 4:00pm local time on Saturday, April 13.



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The new MICHELIN Pilot Sport for Formula E in brief

The MICHELIN Pilot Sport is the third-generation of the tyre that the French firm developed especially for the FIA Formula E Championship and is the only 18-inch tyre to be used by a world class single-seater racing series (sizes: 24/64-18 in the front and 27/68-18 in the rear).

Because of its treaded pattern, it resembles a road tyre and, at the same time, it is the only racing tyre that is designed to perform safely in both wet and dry conditions. Meanwhile, it is engineered to deliver consistent performance from the start to the finish of every E-prix, a factor that is even more critical this season now that mid-race car-swaps have been dropped, and that the total tyre allocation per race has been cut from 10 covers last season to just eight.

Not only do these features fit perfectly with Michelin's stance on the environment inasmuch as fewer tyres need to be made, shipped and recycled than is the case for any other FIA championship, but they also illustrate Michelin's policy to carry over technology from the track to the street, since data harvested at races is channelled into the development of the brand's upcoming road tyres.

Since the launch of Formula E in 2014, Michelin has shaved some 20 percent off the weight of its tyres for the series, which equates to a saving of nine kilograms per car! Along with the tyre's considerably reduced rolling resistance, this makes a real contribution to extending the range of the championship's single-seater race cars.



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