

2017/2018 FIA Formula E Championship
Round 8: E-Prix of Paris

***Home glory for Jean-Eric Vergne (Techeetah)
and Michelin at Paris E-Prix!***

The 2018 Paris E-Prix was won by Jean-Eric Vergne who was born and raised in the suburbs of the French capital. The Techeetah driver followed up his domination of qualifying with an assertive performance in the race itself, despite early challenges from Sam Bird (DS-Virgin Racing) and teammate André Lotterer (Techeetah).

The first half of the competition saw this charging trio pull clear of the rest of the field and they re-joined from the mid-race car swaps (after 25 of the afternoon's 49 laps) in the same order. While Jean-Eric Vergne subsequently focused on extending his lead, Lotterer succeeded in finding a way past Bird on Lap 36. There was contact between the two cars in the process and the latter's single-seater suffered rear damage.

Shortly afterwards, Lucas di Grassi (Audi Sport ABT Schaeffer) took advantage of a tiny gap between the DS-Virgin driver's car and the wall to sneak past as well.

The Brazilian continued his fightback by piling pressure on Lotterer who, with dwindling energy reserves in his battery, was unable to prevent the reigning champion from easing past with the chequered flag in sight. The late drama continued when Bird smacked into Lotterer's slow-moving car. Despite sustaining significant damage, the Briton managed to limp over the line to collect third place.

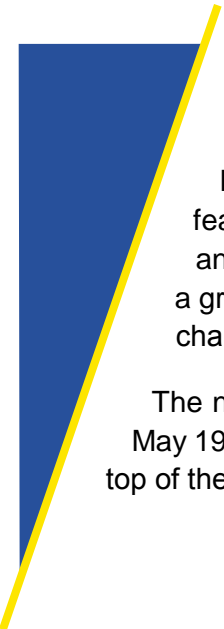
In contrast to the sunshine that bathed the city's Invalides district prior to race day, the Paris E-Prix took place in overcast but dry conditions and, with Saturday afternoon's track temperature standing at around 26°C, the drivers' MICHELIN Pilot Sport EV2 tyres benefitted from near-ideal conditions. "Before today's race, the MICHELIN Pilot Sport EV2 had to contend with either very hot or relatively cold weather," notes **Estelle Perrier**, the engineer in charge of tyre development for Michelin's Formula E programme. "Although this has provided us with several opportunities to showcase our tyre's exceptional versatility, we were keen to see how it performed in moderate conditions on good quality asphalt. The weather was quite kind to us in Rome two weeks ago, but the Paris E-Prix facilitated tyre management, which gave rise to some thrilling fights and spectators were treated to one of the finest shows of the 2017/2018 season to date."

France's round of the ABB FIA Formula E Championship – which takes place in the heart of the capital, around the Hotel des Invalides and close to the Eiffel Tower – is growing in popularity every year and an estimated crowd of 50,000 turned out to watch the action and visit the E-Village, up 4,000 from 2017.



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“Formula E is growing extremely quickly,” observes **Serge Grisin**, the manager of Michelin’s Formula E programme. “On the one hand, the technology and innovations it features are road-relevant, which favours their carry-over to road cars, while the media and general public are taking an increasingly close interest in the series. It is consequently a great place to be for Michelin and we are naturally delighted to have been a partner of the championship from the outset.”

The next round of the 2017/2018 FIA Formula E Championship will take teams to Berlin on May 19. Boosted by today’s victory, Jean-Eric Vergne (147 points) will travel to Germany at the top of the provisional Drivers’ standings, tailed by Sam Bird (136) and Felix Rosenqvist (86).



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