

2019 FIA World Rally Championship
Round 4: CORSICA Linea Tour de Corse

The hard-compound MICHELIN Pilot Sport H5 proves the perfect match for Corsican challenges

The 2019 Tour de Corse ended in sunny Calvi on Sunday afternoon after three days of exciting action in bright weather that rapidly erased memories of the snow that had been spotted on parts of the route earlier in the week during recce.

Although the tyre allocation for the WRC's first 'clear' asphalt round of the year provided a choice between soft- and hard-compound tyres, the WRC drivers ran the hard Pilot Sport H5 from start to finish. Their WRC2 colleagues chose the similarly-hard MICHELIN Pilot Sport RH3 practically exclusively, too, but some of the class's Michelin runners opted to carry one or two softer MICHELIN Pilot Sport RSs as possible alternatives on Friday.

This year's Tour de Corse featured a new-look itinerary, with only two stages carried over from 2018. The service park was based next to Bastia Airport again, but competitive action also took crews into the mountains near Porto Vecchio to the south, as well as to the western coast near Calvi where the rally concluded on Sunday afternoon. The total distance of 1,194.06 kilometres included 347.51km divided into 14 stages, the longest of which was Castagniccia (47.18km). This marathon test was visited twice on Saturday and was always going to be one of the week's toughest challenges for tyres, but the MICHELIN Pilot Sport rose to the occasion impeccably to deliver a winning combination of high performance and longevity.

"This year's Tour de Corse was a successful event for the MICHELIN Pilot Sport H5," reports **Arnaud Rémy**, the manager of Michelin's rallying programmes. "The versatility of our hard-compound asphalt tyre was praised after both the cooler, early morning stages and the longer tests where its inherent qualities and reliability enabled the drivers to push hard. We were spared rain, so there was no need for the teams to come up with complex tyres strategies and this meant competitors were able to focus completely on their driving. The next outing for our asphalt tyres will be August's Rallye Deutschland where the challenge they face will be very different."

The 2019 Tour de Corse was won by Thierry Neuville/Nicolas Gilsoul (Hyundai i20 Coupé WRC), ahead of Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia (Citroën C3 WRC). After figuring at the top of the leaderboard on several occasions in the course of the event's three days, Elfyn Evans/Scott Martin (Ford Fiesta WRC) took third place to it an all-Michelin podium.

The next round of the FIA WRC 2019 season will take place on the Argentinian gravel roads from April 25th to 28th.



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