



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Boulogne-Billancourt – 3 April 2022

Gran Premio Michelin de la República Argentina

- Aleix Espargaro (Aprilia Racing) wins the Michelin Grand Prix of Argentina in his 200th Grand Prix appearance
- New circuit speed record of 344.6 km/h set by Johann Zarco (Pramac Racing)
- Teams worked through the night on Friday to ensure racing takes place

Despite delays caused by the air transportation of bikes and essential equipment between Mandalika and Termas de Rio Hondo, Aleix Espargaro overcame the difficulties this created and took his first ever MotoGP victory after a race-long battle with Jorge Martin (Pramac Racing), in the Gran Premio Michelin de la República Argentina. Crossing the finish-line in second and third places respectively, were Martin and Alex Rins (Team Suzuki Ecstar).

Higher track temperatures on Sunday meant that grip levels of the track surface were even lower than usual. With this in mind, all riders chose the Hard front and Soft rear MICHELIN Power Slick tyres for the race, based on the high levels of grip, stability and consistent lap times offered by this combination. The accessible performance of these tyres was highlighted by the close racing, and the fact that five different constructors finished in the top six places in the race.

The logistical issues meant that the weekend schedule was drastically changed from normal, with MotoGP™ Free Practice sessions 1 and 2 (each extended to one hour), and Qualifying sessions 1 and 2 all taking place on Saturday afternoon. This was followed by an extended 40 minute Warm Up and the race on Sunday.

With dry weather throughout the weekend, the Free Practice sessions gave the teams an opportunity to try the MICHELIN Power Slick tyres in the allocation, and to fine-tune bike set-up in the limited time available for the notoriously difficult Termas de Rio Hondo track.

In Qualifying 2, Espargaro took pole position with a lap time of 1'37.688 – just five thousandths of a second off the all-time circuit lap record – using Hard front and Soft rear MICHELIN Power Slick tyres. The Ducatis of Martin and Luca Marini (Mooney VR46 Racing Team) completed the front row of the grid for the race.



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Speaking after the race, Piero Taramasso, Michelin Two-Wheel Motorsport Manager, said: "This was an interesting weekend for a number of reasons, not least because of the challenge for our team of setting up our equipment overnight on Friday and fitting all of the tyres normally used over a two-day period, in just one day. I'm very pleased to say that our guys were up to the challenge and their commitment and professionalism was clearly demonstrated, and they were no doubt further motivated by the fact that this was the Michelin Grand Prix of Argentina.

"Despite having not raced here in Argentina since 2019, the performance of our tyre allocation was very good on this low-grip Termas track surface. In addition to the race result, in FP1 less than a second covered the top 19 riders, and in FP2 the top 17 riders were separated by the same time, with six different constructors in the top six places in FP1, and five in the top six places in FP2. This meant the fans were treated to a great two days of closely fought action on track, and I think they were certainly not disappointed. Finally, I would just like to say congratulations to Aprilia and Aleix for this emotional result at the Michelin Grand Prix."

About Michelin

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