



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Boulogne-Billancourt – August 2nd, 2021

Red Bull Ring Double Header including MICHELIN® Grand Prix of Styria

Following the MotoGP™ summer break, the Michelin Motorsport team is heading to Spielberg in Austria for back-to-back races at the Red Bull Ring, initially for the MICHELIN Grand Prix of Styria, followed seven days later by the Motorrad Grand Prix von Österreich, which will include round five of the FIM Enel MotoE™ World Cup.

One big change, is that after so long without spectators due to Covid-19 restrictions, except for limited numbers at Doha, Catalunya and Assen, the crowds will be returning for both races in Austria to cheer on their racing heroes and add a buzz and inimitable ambiance around the track.

The 4,318m (2.684 miles) circuit, one of the most demanding on the calendar for tyres, is nestled in a picturesque bowl among the mountains and forests of the Styrian region. With only two distinct left turns, plus a very fast-left-hand curve, the remaining seven right-hand corners generate huge stresses and heat build-up that the MICHELIN Power Slick tyres will have to endure. The longest of three straights, which are separated by a pair of uphill right-hand corners, is 626m (2054ft) and there is 65m (213ft) of elevation change throughout a lap.

As was the case at the previous race here, Michelin will bring rear tyres with a special casing designed specifically to cope with these arduous track conditions. Subject to the 2021 calendar, tyres with this type of casing construction will also be used at Buriram in Thailand due to the similarly harsh track conditions found there.

The MICHELIN Power Slick allocation, available as always in Soft, Medium and Hard compounds, will all be asymmetric at the rear – with a harder right-hand-side ideally suited to manage the high temperatures which can build-up over a lap of this unique track. To complement the rear tyres, the front Soft, Medium and Hard MICHELIN Power Slicks will all be symmetric, designed to give the fast direction changes and braking grip needed by the riders at this, the fastest circuit on the MotoGP calendar.

With the possibility of wet weather in this region, even in August, the allocation will include MICHELIN Power Rain tyres in Soft and Medium compounds front and rear. The fronts being symmetric and the rears asymmetric, with a harder right-hand side like their slick counterparts. For both races, the tyre allocation will be the same for both the slick and rain versions.



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Looking ahead to the two Austria race weekends, **Piero Taramasso**, Michelin Motorsport Two-Wheel Manager, commented: "After the summer break, this will be a tough first race due to the very particular conditions at the Red Bull Ring. The three short straights in the first half of the lap mean the riders will maintain very high speeds, and these are followed by a series of fast corners running downhill to complete the lap."

"The construction of the rear tyre casings in our allocation for these two race weekends are designed to cope with this track layout, and to resist the heat and wear that will be generated during the race. Added to this construction, the tread rubber compounds have been selected to offer consistent grip and predictable handling in the various sessions, from Qualifying and Free Practice, through to the 28-lap race."

The riders will take to the track for what promises to be a two-part Spielberg thriller on Friday 6th August, for the first two Free Practice sessions, these will be followed on Saturday by two more practice sessions and then the all-important Qualifying. Sunday 8th August will see the 28-lap MICHELIN Grand Prix of Styria get underway at 14:00 local-time.

The following weekend's Motorrad Grand Prix von Österreich will follow the same MotoGP time schedule starting on Friday 13th August, although with the addition of MotoE Free Practice sessions on Friday and Saturday, followed by Saturday afternoon's EPole. The 7-lap MotoE race is scheduled to start at 15:30 on Sunday 15th August, after the MotoGP race.

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