



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Buriram (Thailand), October 29, 2023

OR Thailand Grand Prix **MICHELIN Power Slick MotoGP™ tyres: intense on-track fights and record braking performance in Buriram**

- Exceptional performance of Michelin tyres on the Chang International Circuit. Jorge Martin (Prima Pramac Racing) wins the Tissot Sprint, the Grand Prix, and sets a new all-time circuit lap record of 1'29"287. Marco Bezzecchi (Mooney VR46 Racing Team) sets the fastest lap ever during the race in 1'29.896.
- The MICHELIN Power Slick ranges allowed the riders to fight until the finish line, with less than three-tenths of a second separating the top three.
- This, the 17th round of the 2023 MotoGP World Championship was a great success, with almost 180,000 spectators attending during the three days.

The fourth MotoGP race held in Thailand kept all its promises in terms of attendance, spectacle, and sportsmanship. Located in a gigantic complex, which also includes a football stadium and a drag strip, this circuit with a capacity of 100,000 spectators was well attended throughout the weekend. There were more than 41,000 for practice on Friday, more than 62,000 for qualifying and the Tissot Sprint on Saturday, and nearly 76,000 on Sunday for the Grand Prix, and the riders, well known to MotoGP enthusiasts in Asia, had huge support from their fans. For its part, Michelin was once again able to gauge its popularity in the country, where it is not uncommon to see Bibendum figures on, and in, many vehicles.

What the MotoGP fans came to see above all, was a spectacle on the track - and they certainly got it! After a first practice session where the riders refined the settings of their motorcycles, qualifying saw the eight fastest riders improve on the pole position reference time from 2022. In addition, Jorge Martin (Prima Pramac Racing) set a new all-time circuit lap record of 1'29"287. This meant that the level of performance was incredibly high, and clearly demonstrated that the cohesion between tyres and motorcycles was perfect during this weekend in Thailand.

On Saturday, the Tissot Sprint had already shown the intensity of the fights on the track, but the high point of the weekend was the Grand Prix, during which an exceptional fight at the front and numerous overtakes took place. This resulted in a very high-level show for the fans, and great satisfaction for the Michelin Motorsport teams, who saw through an intense battle between Jorge Martin (Prima Pramac Racing), Brad Binder (Red Bull KTM Factory Racing), and Francesco Bagnaia (Ducati Lenovo Racing), the culmination of their work.



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The three riders set a very high pace, and were able to attack using 100% of the capabilities of their bikes without worrying about their tyres. The lap times were also consistent regardless of the period in the race, and in the end the three men crossed the finish line with less than three-tenths of a second separating them!

*"We thought that the Medium compound would be the star of the weekend, just as our Hard compound would be great for the Grand Prix on Sunday, and that's exactly what happened," says **Piero Taramasso**, manager of Michelin two-wheel competition. "What we witnessed this weekend was truly exceptional, because despite the track conditions and the heat, our tyres were there in every aspect of the game. Whether it was grip, traction, braking stability or wear, our compounds were perfect. During the Tissot Sprint, the MICHELIN Power Slick Medium was chosen by almost 100% of our partners for the front and rear, even though the track surface reached 45°C (compared to 30°C in the air with clouds, and a humidity level of 60%). This extraordinary versatility is our signature in races of this type, quite short but very intense. On Sunday however, common sense dictated the use of the Hard compound at the rear and that is what everyone did, with the exception of Alex Marquez who preferred the Medium. We then saw that everything worked perfectly, with a historic battle for victory and a large number of position changes. I am really delighted with the spectacle offered, both for the public and for our engineers and technicians, who go to so much trouble to provide reference tyres to our partners. I'm sure this race weekend will be remembered by everyone."*

Tyres adapted to the situation

The MotoGP World Championship has only been coming to Buriram since 2018, but the Michelin Motorsport teams had enough data to select the best tyres for the races. To suit the configuration of this circuit (4.554 km long, with five left turns, and seven right), Michelin brought rear tyres with stiffer rubber on the right part of their tread, as well as a reinforced structure in order to better control the thermal aspects. This technical choice, validated very early by the Michelin teams, demonstrated its relevance through the performances seen during the weekend.

On Saturday afternoon, the Tissot Sprint was won by weekend pole sitter Jorge Martin (Prima Pramac Racing) ahead of Brad Binder (Red Bull KTM Factory Racing) and Luca Marini (Mooney VR46 Racing Team).

The next day, the Grand Prix once again saw the victory of Jorge Martin (Prima Pramac Racing), but this time from Francesco Bagnaia (Ducati Lenovo Team), with Brad Binder (Red Bull KTM Factory Racing) taking the third step of the podium.



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The next, and 18th round of the MotoGP World Championship, will take place from 10 to 12 November at the Sepang Circuit (Malaysia). It will mark the end of the Asian tour of the 2023 season, before the paddock heads to the Middle East, and then finally to Europe.

About Michelin

Michelin's ambition is to sustainably improve its customers' mobility. The leader in the mobility sector, Michelin designs, manufactures, and distributes the tires best suited to their requirements and uses as well as services and solutions to improve transport efficacy. Michelin also puts forward offers that allow its customers to enjoy unique moments when traveling. Michelin also develops high-technology equipment intended for multiple fields. Based in Clermont-Ferrand, Michelin is present in 175 countries, employs 132,200 people and operates 67 tire factories that, together, produced approximately 167 million tires in 2022. (www.michelin.com).

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