



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Sepang (Malaysia), November 12, 2023

Petronas Grand Prix of Malaysia **The Medium compound MICHELIN Power Slick: a record-breaking tyre at the Sepang circuit**

- Enea Bastianini (Ducati Lenovo Team) wins the 19th round of the 2023 MotoGP™ World Championship, after making perfect use of his MICHELIN Power Slick tyres.
- Francesco Bagnaia (Ducati Lenovo Team) sets a new all-time circuit lap record of 1'57"491 during the second qualifying session (Q2); Alex Marquez (Gresini Racing) sets a new race lap record of 1'58"979.
- The Medium compound MICHELIN Power Slick is at the centre of all the records this weekend, with the race time dropping below 40 minutes for the first time (39'59"137).

The Malaysian Grand Prix at the Sepang circuit, near Kuala Lumpur, the country's capital, kept the more than 90,000 attending fans in suspense. During the three days of the event, intense heat (regularly more than 50°C on the track, and up to 35°C in the air) and humidity levels put the riders and teams through a tough test. But the Grand Prix riders, who are high-level athletes in their own right, ignored this harsh equatorial climate as they tamed this complex 5.543 km circuit, with its 15 turns, 10 of which are right-handers.

At Sepang, the Michelin Motorsport Sport team brought three front options (Soft, Medium and Hard), and two for the rear (Medium and Hard). These were symmetrical at the front and asymmetrical at the rear, with a reinforced right shoulder to respond to the disparity in the number of turns. After the first day of testing the teams had already determined their tyre strategy for the weekend, and thankfully the expected rain fell on the circuit before the start of testing, then again just after the Tissot Sprint. This meant that Michelin's partners were able to stick to their plans with complete peace of mind, with the support of the Clermont-based manufacturer's technical teams.

"Like last year, our MICHELIN Power Slick in Medium compound was the number one choice," said **Piero Taramasso**, Michelin two-wheel competition manager. *"Despite a track made difficult by the various bumps, and the partial replacement of the asphalt between turns 7 and 12, the riders were immediately on the pace and were close to the circuit record from the first tests. This fast pace was maintained, with five riders beating the previous all-time circuit lap record during qualifying, which confirmed that the developments of the Grand Prix motorcycles and our tyres complement each other perfectly."*



MOTORSPORT

"During the Sprint race all riders opted for the same tyre strategy, and we saw a very high pace throughout the ten laps. For the Grand Prix, the tyre choice was the same but the management of wear required a different race rhythm. We nevertheless noted, due to the consistent performance of our tyres, that the average speed was high throughout the race. Despite difficult conditions, we demonstrated once again that our tyres offered versatility which allowed the riders to express themselves and put on a show without a change of pace throughout the whole event."

On Saturday afternoon, the Tissot Sprint was won by Alex Marquez (Gresini Racing) ahead of Jorge Martin (Prima Pramac Racing), and Francesco Bagnaia (Ducati Lenovo Team).

The following day, the Grand Prix saw victory for Enea Bastianini (Ducati Lenovo Team), who is the seventh different rider to win a Grand Prix this season. He finished ahead of Alex Marquez, with Francesco Bagnaia taking the third step of the podium.

The 19th and penultimate round of the MotoGP World Championship will take place from 17 to 19 November at the Losail circuit (Qatar). There are now just two race weekends left before the end of the season and the naming of the 2023 world champion.

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).

MICHELIN GROUP MEDIA RELATIONS

+33 1 45 66 22 22

7 days a week

www.michelin.com

 [@MichelinNews](https://twitter.com/MichelinNews)