



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

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Qatar Airways Grand Prix of Qatar **New MICHELIN Power Slick tyres: lap times up to a second faster than in 2023**

- The 2024 MICHELIN Power Slick tyres, made from innovative rubber compounds, made their racing debut in Qatar.
- Jorge Martin (Prima Pramac Racing) sets the new all-time lap record for the Lusail track in qualifying at 1'50.789, one second faster than in 2023. In addition, 14 riders lapped faster than the 2023 record.
- The 11 laps of the Sprint race were completed by Jorge Martin... 11 seconds faster than last year.
- Francesco Bagnaia (Ducati Lenovo Team) wins a Qatar Airways Grand Prix of Qatar 2024, shortened by one lap, and rookie Pedro Acosta (Red Bull GASGAS Tech3) sets the new race lap record with a time of 1'52.657.

Positioned last year at the end of the season due to renovation work on the circuit (penultimate race on the calendar), the Qatar Airways Grand Prix of Qatar returned to its regular position this year to open the MotoGP™ season. Following the two Official Test sessions in February (the first taking place in Sepang, Malaysia, and the second in Lusail, Qatar), the Qatar Airways Grand Prix of Qatar represented the debut of the 2024 MICHELIN Power Slick tyres in racing. These new tyres feature technologically advanced rubber compounds in terms of materials, and are produced using a new manufacturing process.

If all the lights were green after the riders had already welcomed the developments introduced by Michelin in February, this opening event in Qatar was nevertheless fundamental to draw the first real conclusions in a race. With the previous Qatar Grand Prix having taken place just three months ago, the comparison between the 2024 and 2023 data is direct and representative.

The Emirate of Qatar has hosted MotoGP on the Lusail International Circuit for 20 years, but the venue received a makeover in 2023 and since last year has had new and very abrasive asphalt. Indeed, the stones which constitute the upper layer of the surface (what we call macro-roughness) are particularly large and spaced apart.

To enable the riders to cover the 5,380 metres and 16 turns of each lap of the Lusail International Circuit, including 10 right-handers and reaching top speeds above 350 km/h, Michelin provided them with an allocation consisting of three symmetrical rubber compounds for the front (SOFT, MEDIUM and HARD) and two for the rear (SOFT and MEDIUM), with the SOFT being asymmetrical with a reinforced right side.



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Regarding the MICHELIN Power Rain range, Michelin brought SOFT and MEDIUM options to Qatar for both the front (symmetrical) and rear (asymmetrical, with a reinforced right side). These latter tyres were used for the FP2 session, which was moved to Friday evening in place of the Practice session due to the wet weather.

From the different options, the majority of riders chose the MEDIUM tyres for the Sprint race on Saturday evening, which was won by Jorge Martin. The Spanish rider improved his previous records, taking pole position in Q2 with a time of 1'50.789, the new all-time lap record for the Lusail International Circuit - one second faster than the 2023 record. By completing the 11 laps of the Sprint race 11 seconds faster than last year, it confirms that the 2024 motorcycle and tyre combination is on average around one second per lap faster than the previous season.

The Sprint podium was completed by Brad Binder (Red Bull KTM Factory Racing) and Aleix Espargaro (Aprilia Racing). Note that this trio on the Sprint race podium rode motorcycles from three different brands (Ducati, KTM and Aprilia), which highlights the versatility of the new 2024 Michelin tyre range.

The start of the Qatar Airways Grand Prix of Qatar was slightly delayed due to a technical problem with a competitor, and as a result the race was shortened from 22 to 21 laps. The race was run on MEDIUM MICHELIN Power Slick tyres, confirming that these were the optimum choice for the riders.

*"The riders selected the MEDIUM tyres for both the Sprint and the Grand Prix," says **Piero Taramasso**, Michelin two-wheel competition manager. "The new 2024 MICHELIN Power Slick range demonstrated performance and consistency beyond our expectations throughout the weekend. With times improved by one second per lap during qualifying and during the Sprint race compared to last November, we can return to France satisfied with the development work we have done. The Grand Prix was cut by one lap, but for the 22-lap duration, we can estimate an overall time around 17 seconds less than in 2023. While managing their tyres, the riders improved the average lap time in the race by eight-tenths of a second! This progress resulted in very consistent times, as was the case for Pecco Bagnaia who maintained a regular lap pace during the race in the high 1'52s, as well as by Jorge Martin, who achieved his best lap in the race of 1 '52.742, two-tenths faster than the 2023 record, on the 20th lap! "*

The Qatar Airways Grand Prix of Qatar 2024 was won by Francesco Bagnaia, leading from the first lap, ahead of Brad Binder and Jorge Martin.

The next round of the FIM MotoGP World Championship will take place in Portugal, where the Grande Prémio Tissot de Portugal will run from 22 to 24 March, 2024. At the same time, Portugal will also host the first race of the Enel MotoE™ World Championship.



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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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