



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Lusail (Qatar), April 13, 2025

## ***Qatar Airways Grand Prix of Qatar*** **MICHELIN Power Slick Medium tires rise to every challenge at Lusail International Circuit**

- As expected, the Qatar Airways Grand Prix of Qatar 2025 took place under particularly demanding conditions for riders, machines, and tires.
- The MICHELIN Power Slick Medium tires stood out throughout the weekend, emerging as the clear choice for both night races.
- Marc Márquez (Ducati Lenovo Team) set four new records: all-time fastest lap (1'50.499), fastest race lap (1'52.561), shortest Tissot Sprint time (20'38.304), and shortest Grand Prix race time (41'29.186).

The Qatar Airways Grand Prix of Qatar 2025 was contested in extreme conditions, putting riders, bikes... and tires to the test. During FP1, FP2, and the Warm-Up sessions held in the early afternoon, track temperatures soared to 54–56°C, a record caused directly by the rescheduled race date. By contrast, the races held at 8:00 p.m. — the Tissot Sprint and the Grand Prix — were run on cooler asphalt, around 35–36°C. This large temperature differential between day and night significantly complicated tire strategy planning.

### **Friday, April 11: record heat, but strong grip**

The first free practice session (FP1) took place on a scorching track at 54°C. Despite the extreme heat and rising humidity into the evening, grip levels remained excellent throughout the day, allowing riders to make meaningful progress in their tire choices.

The MICHELIN Power Slick Medium quickly emerged as the reference tire for the upcoming Tissot Sprint. At the rear, the Medium — already proven in 2024 — confirmed its reliability and performance. Several riders also tested the new rear Soft compound, though further analysis was planned for FP2.

Franco Morbidelli (Pertamina Enduro VR46 Racing) made his mark early by setting the fastest lap of the day during the Practice session, coming within just 41 thousandths of a second of Jorge Martin's 2024 lap record (1'50.789).

### **Saturday, April 12: Q2 record and Márquez victory**

The second free practice session (FP2) helped teams fine-tune their tire strategies ahead of the Tissot Sprint.



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As on the previous day, track temperatures exceeded 55°C at 3:00 p.m., around 20°C higher than during the Sprint race held that evening at 8:00 p.m.

In Q2, Marc Márquez delivered a stunning performance by taking pole position with a new all-time lap record of 1'50.499, shaving nearly three-tenths off the previous best. Three riders dipped under the 2024 benchmark: Marc Márquez, Álex Márquez (BK8 Gresini Racing MotoGP), and Fabio Quartararo (Monster Energy Yamaha MotoGP).

Later that evening, in the Tissot Sprint, Marc Márquez confirmed his dominance with a clear victory. The total race time was three seconds faster than in 2024.

All riders used the Medium front tire, while the majority also chose the Medium rear, praised for its balance of grip, consistency, and race pace over the 11-lap Sprint.

### **Sunday, April 13: epic battle and double record for Márquez**

The Warm-Up took place at 3:40 p.m. on a sun-drenched track at 56°C. As the sun set, the temperature dropped again for the Grand Prix, held at 8:00 p.m. on 36°C asphalt.

Marc Márquez once again shone, winning the Grand Prix after a thrilling duel with Maverick Viñales (Red Bull KTM Tech3). Francesco Bagnaia (Ducati Lenovo Team) completed the podium.

The Spanish rider also set a new fastest race lap on lap 19, with a time of 1'52.561, and broke the race duration record with a total time of 41'29.186 — more than 14 seconds faster than the previous benchmark!

The entire grid ran MICHELIN Power Slick Medium tires on both the front and rear, once again confirming the consistency and versatility of this specification in extreme racing conditions.

*"We knew this weekend would present an extreme challenge for the tires, between the heat, sand, humidity, and the track's abrasive nature," said **Piero Taramasso**, Two-Wheel Motorsport Manager at Michelin. "Our technical choices were validated across the board, with remarkable consistency and multiple records falling during the races. Just as in 2024, the MICHELIN Power Slick Medium tires fully lived up to expectations at Lusail, proving to be the optimal choice for both the Tissot Sprint and the Grand Prix."*



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Pioneering engineered materials for more than 130 years, Michelin is uniquely positioned to make decisive contributions to human progress and to a more sustainable world.

Drawing on its deep know-how in polymer composites, Michelin is constantly innovating to manufacture high-quality tires and components for critical applications in demanding fields as varied as mobility, construction, aeronautics, low-carbon energies, and healthcare.

The care placed in its products and deep customer knowledge inspire Michelin to offer the finest experiences. This spans from providing data- and AI-based connected solutions for professional fleets to recommending outstanding restaurants and hotels curated by the MICHELIN Guide.

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**+33 1 45 66 22 22**

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