



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

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Michelin's perfect tire strategy at the 6 Hours of Imola 2025

- Michelin's decision to select Soft and Medium tire compounds (as opposed to Medium and Hard in 2024) proved to be the right one. Drivers were able to engage in high-intensity battles according to their various race strategies, never doubting the reliability of their tires.
- The MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance tires, supplied exclusively to the 18 Hypercar class prototypes where eight manufacturers battled for victory delivered their full potential.
- This year, rain spared the Italian track, allowing Michelin's partners to stay on slicks, focus on tire temperature management, and extend their stints.

It was a beautiful Sunday of motorsport at the Dino and Enzo Ferrari Circuit in Imola (Italy), hosting the European opener of the FIA World Endurance Championship (FIA WEC) and the second round of the 2025 season. Unlike the 2024 edition—when rain had disrupted the race—this time, Michelin's partners were able to execute their race strategies brilliantly on a dry track, despite an occasionally threatening sky.

Imola's 4.9-km layout, made up of 21 corners, has only recently joined the FIA WEC calendar (since 2024). It is now proving to be a venue capable of delivering top-level racing. On Italian soil, just an hour from Maranello—Ferrari's stronghold—it was no surprise to see most fans supporting the three Ferrari 499P entries. But as Michelin supplies all 18 Hypercar contenders, it was also clear that the other manufacturers were eager to shine in front of the tifosi.

This year's tire package differed from the 2024 selection. The Medium/Hard combo was replaced with Soft and Medium compounds, based on Michelin's data analysis from the previous year's event.

The race dynamics were also different, with higher ambient and track temperatures (27°C at the start and over 30°C mid-race), while the battle for the lead remained relentless over the entire six hours.

Long-distance racing tires at their finest

In 2024, the #50 Ferrari 499P completed 129 laps at the front using the same Medium tires—over 630 km—highlighting the durability of Michelin's Endurance range. This year, the same car driven by Antonio Fuoco, Miguel Molina, and Nicklas Nielsen completed 121 laps on the left-side tires (and 103 on the right), despite



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hotter conditions and a faster race pace—once again proving the outstanding and versatile performance of Michelin tires.

Notably, the sister factory Ferrari (#51) led for 111 laps on the same tires (over 540 km), and benefited from a swift warm-up phase on new Michelin rubber, allowing it to maintain a strong pace.

It's also worth mentioning that some Michelin partners opted for Soft compound tires, even starting the race with them on the left side, and reaped the benefits of this bold strategy. As the temperature dropped in the closing hours, several drivers again turned to the Softs, taking advantage of their superior grip in cooler conditions. The #7 Toyota GR010-Hybrid, for example, completed 101 laps on the left side with this "cold-weather" compound in the second half of the race.

*"At Imola, no two years are the same, and we saw that many different strategies could pay off," said **Pierre Alves**, Manager of Michelin's Endurance Racing Programs. "Thanks to our 2025 tire package, our partners were comfortable in all conditions, able to double or even triple stints at will, all made possible by the versatility of our tires—which is widely acknowledged. The two Ferraris leading early on, along with the #15 BMW right behind, ran half the race on a single set of tires, while the #83 Ferrari even started on scrubbed tires! That speaks volumes about the technical quality of our solutions, especially since lap times remained consistently fast throughout long runs. Tire consistency once again played a key role in the success of this round. The best race is one where drivers can push without worrying about their tires—and that's exactly what happened today at Imola."*

Race results

The 2025 6 Hours of Imola was won by the #51 Ferrari 499P (Ferrari AF Corse), driven by Alessandro Pier Guidi, James Calado, and Antonio Giovinazzi. They were followed by the BMW M Hybrid V8 #15 (BMW M Team WRT) of Sheldon Van Der Linde, René Rast, and Robin Frijns, with third place going to the Alpine A424 (Alpine Endurance Team) of Charles Milesi, Mick Schumacher, and Jules Gounon. All these Hypercar entries, like the rest of the class, ran on Michelin tires.

For this race, each Hypercar team was allocated 12 tires for free practice and 18 for qualifying and the race. All teams used MICHELIN Pilot Sport tires in sizes 29/71-18 (front) and 34/71-18 (rear) meaning a wider contact patch at the rear—whether slick or wet weather tires.

The next round of the FIA World Endurance Championship (FIA WEC) will take place from May 8 to 10, 2025. It will be the TotalEnergies 6 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps (Belgium).



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About Michelin

Michelin is building a world-leading manufacturer of life-changing composites and experiences.

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.

Headquartered in Clermont-Ferrand, France, Michelin is present in 175 countries and employs 129,800 people.

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