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Qatar Airways Grand Prix of Qatar
Michelin Power Slick tires deliver thrilling racing and break records at Lusail

- Fast-paced qualifying sessions, a spectacular Tissot Sprint and an intense Grand Prix made for an action-packed MotoGP™ weekend in Qatar. Throughout the event, Michelin tires delivered consistently outstanding performance.
- The versatility of the Michelin Power Slick range and the various tire combinations allowed all Michelin partners to ride with confidence and fully demonstrate their potential on the track.
- The records set in 2025 began to fall as early as Friday, when Fabio Di Giannantonio (Pertamina Enduro VR46 Racing Team) posted a lap time of 1'50.406, improving on the benchmark set by Marc Márquez (Ducati Lenovo Team) in 2025 by 0.093 seconds. However, it is now Marco Bezzecchi (Aprilia Racing) who holds the outright lap record at Lusail, with a time of 1'50.028. Both the fastest race lap record and the overall Grand Prix race time were also improved.

Held in November following its postponement from the spring, the 20th round of the season put Michelin tires to the test on the demanding Lusail circuit. Abrasive asphalt, the potential presence of sand and changing grip conditions as temperatures dropped after sunset were all factors Michelin's partners had to consider when setting up their motorcycles.

To ride with confidence and fully showcase their talent, they were able to rely on Michelin's experienced teams, who had prepared a tire package particularly well suited to these conditions. This was one of the reasons why the pace maintained by the MotoGP machines throughout the weekend was so impressive.

Modernized and completely resurfaced in 2023, the Lusail circuit remains one of the longest (5.380 km) and most demanding tracks on the calendar in terms of tire performance. Its high-speed layout, featuring the longest straight of the season (1,068 meters), 10 right-hand corners and six left-hand corners, places considerable demands on the tires. The experience Michelin's teams have gained at this circuit, which is regularly used for private testing, once again proved decisive.

Piero Taramasso, Michelin Motorsport Two-Wheel Competition Manager:

"At Lusail, we witnessed racing of the highest caliber, with an exceptionally fast pace throughout the weekend. From Friday onward, our partners quickly found their rhythm and demonstrated outstanding competitiveness.

The lower track temperatures compared with April worked in our favor. However, the abrasive asphalt and the presence of sand, which we could see swirling around the motorcycles, particularly on the straights, remained challenging factors to manage.

"Once again, the Medium compound emerged as the preferred choice for the front tire, while rear tire selections for the Tissot Sprint were split between Soft and Medium, with the latter being the more popular option. For the Grand Prix, every rider opted for the Medium/Medium combination to benefit from high and consistent performance over the entire race distance.

"On such a distinctive circuit, and with the event taking place at a different time of year, our experience and the extensive data we have accumulated played an essential role in advising our partners. This allowed them to fully exploit the potential of their motorcycles and enjoy riding at the limit.

"The improvement in the outright circuit lap record, as well as the overall Grand Prix race time and fastest race lap, highlights the effectiveness of the rider-motorcycle-tire package, both in terms of outright performance and consistency. Maintaining such a pace over 22 laps, covering more than 118 kilometers, requires tires that inspire confidence and enable riders to push beyond their limits. We are delighted to have helped give them everything they needed to perform at their very best, with complete confidence, throughout this Qatar Grand Prix weekend."

For the 2026 Qatar Airways Grand Prix of Qatar, Michelin provided its partners with a Michelin Power Slick range comprising two symmetrical front tire specifications (Soft and Medium), along with two rear tire options: Soft (asymmetrical, with additional reinforcement on the right side) and Medium.

On Saturday afternoon, Marc Márquez (Ducati Lenovo Team) won the Tissot Sprint ahead of Fabio Di Giannantonio (Pertamina Enduro VR46 Racing Team) and Jorge Martín (Aprilia Racing). Marc Márquez opted for a Medium/Soft combination, while Fabio Di Giannantonio took advantage of a red flag on the opening lap to switch from his original Medium/Soft choice to Medium/Medium. Jorge Martín, meanwhile, ran the Medium/Medium combination throughout the weekend.

On Sunday, Marco Bezzecchi (Aprilia Racing) claimed victory in the Grand Prix ahead of Marc Márquez (Ducati Lenovo Team) and Raúl Fernández (SuperFile Trackhouse MotoGP Team).

The overall Grand Prix race time was also marginally improved, with a time of 41'29.173 compared with 41'29.186 in 2025. That previous benchmark had already represented an improvement of 14.468 seconds over the earlier record. Marc Márquez also set a new fastest race lap of 1'52.558 on lap 13 of the Grand Prix, improving on his own previous record of 1'52.561, established in 2025.

The next round of the MotoGP World Championship will take place at the Autódromo Internacional do Algarve in Portimão, Portugal, with the Repsol Grand Prix of Portugal scheduled for November 20–22.

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 122,600 people.

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