



AutoAction
SINCE 1971

AUTO ACTION'S 2023 PRE AUSTRIAN FORMULA 1 TEAM-BY-TEAM EVENT GUIDE

FRESH FROM ITS HISTORIC 100TH GRAND PRIX VICTORY, RED BULL APPEARS DESTINED FOR A GLITTERING HOMECOMING.

CANADA WAS all about breaking records, with Red Bull becoming the fifth team to score a century of Grand Prix wins, Adrian Newey getting a double ton, and Max Verstappen matching Ayrton Senna's win record.

Now the team's home track in Austria awaits and it could not be in a better position to enjoy a fifth home victory in eight races at the Red Bull Ring.

Whilst a sea of Dutch fans will paint the stands orange hoping to see Verstappen drive into the distance once again, there will also be a slightly sombre atmosphere around the circuit.

It will be the first Austrian Grand Prix since the man who brought the Red Bull Ring back into action - Red Bull co-founder Dietrich Mateschitz - passed away at the age of 78 last year.

Red Bull is expected to celebrate Mateschitz's life and it would love nothing more than to get its hands on another Austrian Grand Prix winners trophy.

If Verstappen does take a fifth straight win of the season, he will become the most successful driver ever at the Austrian Grand Prix.

He is currently tied with Alain Prost for most wins (3), Valtteri Bottas for most podiums (7), and five other drivers for most poles (2).

All up Verstappen already has four wins at the Red Bull Ring as he also won the Styrian Grand Prix in 2021.

His teammate Sergio Perez needs to lift, because hot on his heels in the championship are Fernando Alonso and Lewis Hamilton, who will resume their rivalry after fighting hard in Canada.

Twelve months ago Charles Leclerc and Ferrari had the pace to not only compete with Verstappen, but beat him on home turf.

After finishing second best in the Sprint, Leclerc picked up on a tyre wear weakness for Red Bull and exploited it to take a special triumph.

However, that is the last time the Monegasque driver stood on the top step and a repeat performance appears unlikely despite Ferrari's heavy upgrade showing improvement in Canada.

It is a big weekend for McLaren, which shows off the first step of an aero upgrade, which promises to completely revamp the inconsistent MCL60.

Both McLaren's of Oscar Piastri and Lando Norris reached Q3 in Canada but missed points, and both drivers hope to stop that from happening for a third time in succession.

The Sprint format returns for the second time this year, which could bring Verstappen into trouble like it did in Baku.

Another spicy factor to consider is the weather, as rain is forecast on all three days of the race weekend.

Rain has hardly had a say in Austrian Grands Prix since it returned in 2014... so will it rain on Red Bull's parade?



Subscribe to Auto Action magazine and get every copy delivered the same day the magazine goes on sale

STRAIGHT TO YOUR DOOR!

Anywhere in Australian including SOUTH AUSTRALIA,
WESTERN AUSTRALIA and TASMANIA

SUBSCRIBE TODAY



ROUND TEN AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX JUNE 30-JULY 2

AUSTRIA IS arguably the most naturally beautiful race of the Formula 1 season. The rolling Styrian mountains and dense forests provide the most delightful backdrop to the Grand Prix. The Red Bull Ring may be short, but it is a demanding track as drivers hold on through a series of quick corners.



TRACK STATS

QUALIFYING LAP RECORD:

- Valtteri Bottas 1:02.94
- Mercedes W11 EQ Performance (2020)

RACE LAP RECORD:

- Carlos Sainz Jr 1:05.619
- McLaren MCL35 (2020)

TRACK FACTS



TRACK LENGTH:
4.318KM



DIRECTION:
ANTI CLOCKWISE



AVERAGE SPEED:
246KPH



TOP SPEED:
327.4KPH



TRACK SCHEDULE (ALL TIMES AEST)

FRIDAY, JUNE 30

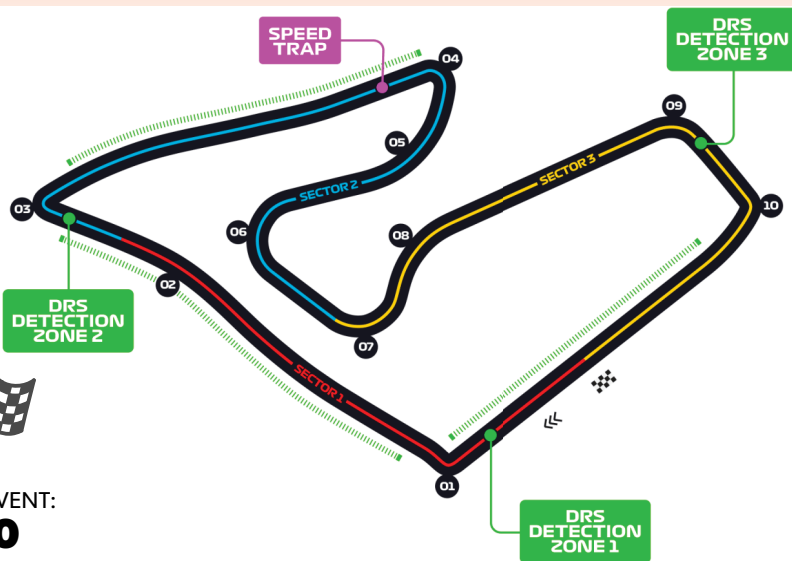
TIME	SESSION
21.30-22.30	Practice

SATURDAY, JULY 1

TIME	SESSION
01.00-02.00	Qualifying
20.00-20.44	Sprint Shootout

SUNDAY, JULY 2

TIME	SESSION
00.30-01.00	Sprint
23.00	Grand Prix



LIST OF RACE RESULTS

2022: Charles Leclerc	2018: Max Verstappen	2002: Michael Schumacher
2021 2: Max Verstappen	2017: Valtteri Bottas	2001: David Coulthard
2021 1: Max Verstappen	2016: Lewis Hamilton	2000: Mika Hakkinen
2020 2: Lewis Hamilton	2015: Nico Rosberg	1999: Eddie Irvine
2020 1: Valtteri Bottas	2014: Nico Rosberg	1998: Mika Hakkinen
2019: Max Verstappen	2003: Michael Schumacher	1997: Jacques Villeneuve



LIST OF POLE POSITIONS

2022: Max Verstappen	2018: Valtteri Bottas	2002: Rubens Barrichello
2021 2: Max Verstappen	2017: Valtteri Bottas	2001: Michael Schumacher
2021 1: Max Verstappen	2016: Lewis Hamilton	2000: Mika Hakkinen
2020 2: Lewis Hamilton	2015: Lewis Hamilton	1999: Mika Hakkinen
2020 1: Valtteri Bottas	2014: Felipe Massa	1998: Giancarlo Fisichella
2019: Charles Leclerc	2003: Michael Schumacher	1997: Jacques Villeneuve



MOST WINS

3 Alain Prost,
Max Verstappen
2 Ronnie Peterson,
Alan Jones,
Mika Hakkinen,
Michael Schumacher,
Nico Rosberg,
Valtteri Bottas



MOST POLES

7 Valtteri Bottas,
Max Verstappen
6 Lewis Hamilton



MOST PODIUMS

3 Niki Lauda, Rene Arnoux,
Nelson Piquet,
Lewis Hamilton,
Valtteri Bottas,
Max Verstappen



1ST
195
POINTS

RED BULL

MAX VERSTAPPEN



AGE: 25
DEBUT: Aus 2015
STARTS: 171
BEST QUAL: 1st (x25)
PODIUMS: 85
BEST RESULT: 1st (x41)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 1.25
BEST AUSTRIAN GP: 1st 21,19,18



TEAM PRINCIPAL CHRISTIAN HORNER

Max Verstappen matched Ayrton Senna's wins tally in Canada and is now on the verge of more records in Austria. If Verstappen does as expected and cruises to pole positions and Grand Prix victory, he will become the most successful driver ever at the Austrian Grand Prix. It is a place he has enjoyed, even winning during the peak Mercedes years.

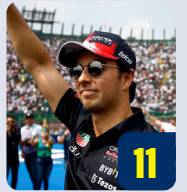
2ND
126
POINTS

RED BULL

SERGIO PEREZ



AGE: 33
DEBUT: Aus 2011
STARTS: 243
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 31
BEST RESULT: 1st (x5)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 4.62
BEST AUSTRIAN GP: 4th 2021



TEAM PRINCIPAL CHRISTIAN HORNER

Sergio Perez needs to pull his finger out otherwise he is in significant danger of inexplicably losing second place in the championship. Canada was the latest disappointment, missing Q3 in the rain and finishing sixth. Has never stood on the Red Bull Ring podium with a best result of fourth in the 2021 Styrian GP.

3RD
117
POINTS

ASTON MARTIN

FERNANDO ALONSO



AGE: 41
DEBUT: Aus 2001
STARTS: 363
BEST QUAL: 1st (x22)
PODIUMS: 104
BEST RESULT: 1st (x32)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 3.38
BEST AUSTRIAN GP: 5th 2014



TEAM PRINCIPAL MIKE KRACK

Fernando Alonso is hopeful the latest Aston Martin upgrade can help him gain further ground on Perez in the championship. After a disappointing home race, Alonso was back to his best in Canada. Only has one top five result in Austria and is the only driver on the grid to race at the track when it was called the A1 Ring.

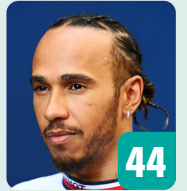
4TH
102
POINTS

MERCEDES

LEWIS HAMILTON



AGE: 38
DEBUT: Aus 2007
STARTS: 317
BEST QUAL: 1st (x103)
PODIUMS: 193
BEST RESULT: 1st (x103)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 4.12
BEST AUSTRIAN GP: 1st 2016



TEAM PRINCIPAL TOTO WOLFF

Fresh from his third podium of the season, Lewis Hamilton has been one of the most consistent drivers on the grid in 2023, finishing no lower than sixth. Lost out to Alonso in the battle for second at Canada, but it was a further step forward. Hamilton's most famous Austrian moment was his last-lap showdown with Rosberg in 2016.

5TH
68
POINTS

FERRARI

CARLOS SAINZ JR



AGE: 28
DEBUT: Aus 2015
STARTS: 170
BEST QUAL: 1st (x3)
PODIUMS: 15
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 6.25
BEST AUSTRIAN GP: 5th 20,21



TEAM PRINCIPAL FRED VASSEUR

Carlos Sainz continues to fight hard for Ferrari and will be determined to keep hold of fifth in the championship. Sainz snatched the spot from Russell after a promising Canada which was his third P5 of 2023. The Spaniard could have got his first Austrian podium last year if it wasn't for a scary fire.

6TH
65
POINTS

MERCEDES

GEORGE RUSSELL



AGE: 25
DEBUT: Aus 2019
STARTS: 90
BEST QUAL: 1st (x2)
PODIUMS: 10
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 5.17
BEST AUSTRIAN GP: 4th 2022



TEAM PRINCIPAL TOTO WOLFF

George Russell's season took a hit in Canada. Despite starting fourth Russell had a tough day in Montreal, hitting the wall on the exit of Turn 9 hard before brake issues eventually forced him into a second retirement of the season. Only points finish in Austria was a composed P4 last year.

7TH
54
POINTS

FERRARI

CHARLES LECLERC



AGE: 25
DEBUT: Aus 2018
STARTS: 110
BEST QUAL: 1st (x19)
PODIUMS: 25
BEST RESULT: 1st (x5)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 6.3
BEST AUSTRIAN GP: 1st 2022



TEAM PRINCIPAL FRED VASSEUR

Believe it or not, a year has now passed since Charles Leclerc last won a race. The occasion was the 2022 Austrian GP when Leclerc got revenge for 2019 and won a wheel-to-wheel battle against Verstappen to ignite his title hopes. However, a lot has changed since, and he would be ecstatic with just a podium.

8TH
37
POINTS

ASTON MARTIN

LANCE STROLL



AGE: 24
DEBUT: Aus 2017
STARTS: 130
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 3
BEST RESULT: 3rd (x3)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 7
BEST AUSTRIAN GP: 7th 2020



TEAM PRINCIPAL MIKE KRACK

Lance Stroll will be looking to make the most of an upgraded Aston Martin in Austria. The Canadian did well to rise from 16th to ninth on home turf, but knows the team requires more from him in the constructors title. Just three points finishes from eight Austrian starts.

9TH
29
POINTS

ALPINE

ESTEBAN OCON



AGE: 26
DEBUT: Bel 2016
STARTS: 119
BEST QUAL: 3rd (x2)
PODIUMS: 3
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 9.29
BEST AUSTRIAN GP: 5th 2022



TEAM PRINCIPAL OTMAR SZAFNAUER

Alpine and Esteban Ocon aim to keep their momentum going in the Styrian mountains. Ocon is on a four-race points scoring streak and also showed decent pace in the rain in qualifying at Canada. Aside from 2021 Ocon has been a regular accumulator of points in Austria.

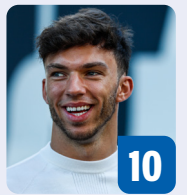
10TH
15
POINTS

ALPINE

PIERRE GASLY



AGE: 27
DEBUT: Mal 2017
STARTS: 116
BEST QUAL: 2nd (x1)
PODIUMS: 3
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 10.25
BEST AUSTRIAN GP: 7th 19,20



TEAM PRINCIPAL OTMAR SZAFNAUER

Frenchman Pierre Gasly is determined to get back in the points as his grip on 10th place starts to come under threat. After being impeded by Sainz in qualifying, Gasly blew up over the radio - starting 15th, he finished in 12th. Has never quite found his best in Austria with one of his best results in 2019 when he was lapped by his teammate!

11TH
12
POINTS

MCLAREN

LANDO NORRIS



AGE: 23
DEBUT: Aus 2019
STARTS: 90
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 6
BEST RESULT: 2nd (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 13.12
BEST AUSTRIAN GP: 3rd 2022



4

TEAM PRINCIPAL ZAC BROWN

A new upgrade package will give Lando Norris a source of optimism at one of his most favourite tracks. Austria was the scene of his first career podium in 2020 where he put in a scorching final lap to snatch third and repeated the feat a year later. His worst finish was 7th last year and hopes to score the points he lost in Canada.

12TH
7
POINTS

WILLIAMS

ALEX ALBON



AGE: 27
DEBUT: Aus 2019
STARTS: 67
BEST QUAL: 4th (x4)
PODIUMS: 3
BEST RESULT: 3rd (x2)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 12.17
BEST AUSTRIAN GP: 4th 2020



23

TEAM PRINCIPAL JAMES VOWLES

Alex Albon was the major mover at Canada. His impressive P7 saw him rise six spots in the championship from 18th to 12th. Albon will aim to once again utilise the Williams' straight line strengths at the fast Red Bull Ring where he just missed out on podiums in his Red Bull days.

13TH
6
POINTS

HAAS

NICO HULKENBERG



AGE: 35
DEBUT: Bah 2010
STARTS: 188
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 4th (x3)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 14.12
BEST AUSTRIAN GP: 6th 2015



27

TEAM PRINCIPAL GUENTHER STEINER

Despite missing out on points, Nico Hulkenberg was one of the stars of Canada. A brilliant lap in the wet was enough for Hulkenberg to score a surprise second in qualifying. But a red flag infraction saw him start fifth and drop to 15th in the race.

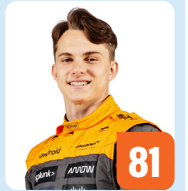
14TH
5
POINTS

MCLAREN

OSCAR PIASTRI



AGE: 21
DEBUT: Bah 2023
STARTS: 8
BEST QUAL: 8th (x1)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 8th (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 12.43
BEST AUSTRIAN GP: N/A



81

TEAM PRINCIPAL ZAC BROWN

The first phase of a major aero upgrade is waiting in the wings for Oscar Piastri, who is determined to get points after just falling short in Canada where he made Q3 for second straight race despite an uncharacteristic crash. Spent the break battling against the GOAT, Nathan Lyon at Lord's and met childhood hero Ricky Ponting.

15TH
5
POINTS

ALFA ROMEO SAUBER

VALTTERI BOTTAS



AGE: 33
DEBUT: Aus 2013
STARTS: 208
BEST QUAL: 1 (X20)
PODIUMS: 67
BEST RESULT: 1st (x10)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 13.5
BEST AUSTRIAN GP: 1st 1720



77

TEAM PRINCIPAL ALESSANDRO ALUNNI BRAVI

Valtteri Bottas managed to deny Oscar Piastri the final points place in Canada with a fighting drive. It arrived at a much needed time for Bottas, his first top 10 since Bahrain. The Finn loves Austria where he got his first podium in 2014 and scored two crushing wins. He also posed for his latest nude photo recently.

16TH
2
POINTS

ALFA ROMEO SAUBER

ZHOU GUANYU



AGE: 23
DEBUT: Bah 2022
STARTS: 30
BEST QUAL: 9th (x2)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 8th (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 13.14
BEST AUSTRIAN GP: 14TH 2022



24

TEAM PRINCIPAL ALESSANDRO ALUNNI BRAVI

After getting points in Spain, it was back down to Earth at Canada for Zhou Guanyu. Zhou started last due to power unit issues in qualifying and got his way up to 16th on Sunday. However, he believed points were still possible, but "we gave it away". Aiming for a new Austria PB.

17TH
2
POINTS

ALPHATAURI

YUKI TSUNODA



AGE: 23
DEBUT: Bah 2021
STARTS: 49
BEST QUAL: 7th (x2)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 4th (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 11.75
BEST AUSTRIAN GP: 10th 2021



22

TEAM PRINCIPAL FRANZ TOST

AlphaTauri leader Yuki Tsunoda took a step backwards in Canada where he had to settle for P14. Tsunoda put down the underwhelming result to a poor qualifying where he was knocked out in Q1 and started 19th. Has one points finish from three starts in Austria.

18TH
2
POINTS

HAAS

KEVIN MAGNUSSEN



AGE: 30
DEBUT: Aus 2014
STARTS: 150
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 1
BEST RESULT: 2nd (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 12.32
BEST AUSTRIAN GP: 5th 2018



20

TEAM PRINCIPAL GUENTHER STEINER

Now a veteran of 150 Grands Prix, Kevin Magnussen is searching for more race pace from his Haas. Could only manage 17th in Canada where he got tangled up with Nyck de Vries up an escape road. Has scored points three times from eight Austrian starts.

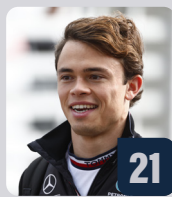
19TH
0
POINTS

ALPHATAURI

NYCK DE VRIES



AGE: 28
DEBUT: Ita 2022
STARTS: 9
BEST QUAL: 8th (x1)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 9th (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 15
BEST AUSTRIAN GP: N/A



21

TEAM PRINCIPAL FRANZ TOST

Nyck de Vries was enjoying a "decent race" in Canada until a collision with Magnussen sent him up an escape road and en route to another underwhelming finish. Started 18th and finished 18th as the last of the finishers in Montreal. Has three Austrian podiums across F2 and F3.

20TH
0
POINTS

WILLIAMS

LOGAN SARGEANT



AGE: 22
DEBUT: Bah 2023
STARTS: 6
BEST QUAL: 15th (x2)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 12th (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 16.86
BEST AUSTRIAN GP: N/A



2

TEAM PRINCIPAL JAMES VOWLES

Canada was another disappointing time for Williams rookie Logan Sargeant. His race only lasted six laps before an oil leak ended his weekend. The Red Bull Ring is home to some of Sargeant's best moments in his junior career such as his maiden F3 podium, and an F2 Feature win last year.