

AFTER RAIN CAUSED SOME MAYHEM IN MONACO, THE FORMULA 1 WORLD WILL SETTLE DOWN AT THE SPANISH GRAND PRIX.

THE ANNUAL trip to the familiar Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya usually marks the start of the European leg of the championship, but it arrives slightly later than usual.

Being round 8 of the season, the 2023 race will be just the second Spanish Grand Prix at the Catalan circuit held in the month of June.

The later start could bring weather into the mix with the forecast predicting a first wet Spanish Grand Prix since Michael Schumacher's famous first Ferrari win in 1996.

Not only has the date changed, but also the track with the unpopular chicane created back in 2007 finally ditched.

This means the famously fast double right-handed bends to end the lap return, which should make setting up overtakes down the long main straight easier in addition to rapidly reducing lap times and simply enhancing the spectacle.

The driver who last won a Spanish Grand Prix without the chicane was fittingly Fernando Alonso, and the huge crowd expected to pack stands and banks would love nothing more than seeing their home hero break his victory drought.

Whilst that win arrived during his Renault days, Alonso's last Grand Prix victory also occurred a decade ago for Ferrari.

Having collected five podiums in six races this year, he has never had a better chance to break the drought than now at Aston Martin.

But challenging the Red Bull at the flowing Spanish circuit will be much tougher than the twisty Monte Carlo.

The track's style should suit the RB19 down to a tee and the reigning champions also cruised to a 1-2 last year.

But Max Verstappen's victory over Sergio Perez was much harder in

reality than on paper, with the eventual winner flying into the gravel at Turn 4 and only gaining the lead after an engine blow up for Charles Leclerc.

Verstappen's 2022 success ended a streak of Mercedes domination at the circuit with the Silver Arrows recording five straight wins and nine consecutive pole positions.

In 2023 Mercedes has not possessed the outright speed to challenge for wins and have started from scratch after bringing a revised aero package to Monaco.

With the "zero-pod" design gone, Mercedes' new design received the tick of approval from both Lewis Hamilton and George Russell and will be put to the ultimate test in Spain.

If things click, Mercedes could steal second from Aston Martin in the teams championship, while it is also a big weekend for Ferrari.

Last year Spain was the scene for the Scuderia's title hopes going up in smoke, but 12 months on it is optimistic a potentially season-defining upgrade can find some speed and consistency after collecting just one podium from the first six races.

Alpine could be a dark horse after Esteban Ocon's podium gave the building team the perfect breakthrough.

Like Monaco, qualifying is critical at Catalunya, with 29 of the 32 winners starting from the front row.

But for the second week in a row, rain could spice things up, which is something highly unusual for Spain.



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ROUND EIGHT SPANISH GRAND PRIX JUNE 2-4

THE FAMILIAR Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya awaits for the eighth round of the 2023 Formula 1 season. The well-known test track has received a slight, but long awaited change with the awkward chicane at the end of the lap vanishing in favour of the original and faster layout. Drivers enjoy the challenge of the flowing circuit, which boasts a nice mix of flowing corners despite 2023 making its sixth change.



TRACK STATS

QUALIFYING LAP RECORD (OLD LAYOUT):

- Lewis Hamilton 1:16.741
Mercedes
Mercedes W12 (2021)

RACE LAP RECORD (OLD LAYOUT):

- Max Verstappen 1:18.149
Red Bull Racing
RB16 (2021)



FIRST EVENT:
1991

TRACK FACTS



TRACK LENGTH:
4.657KM



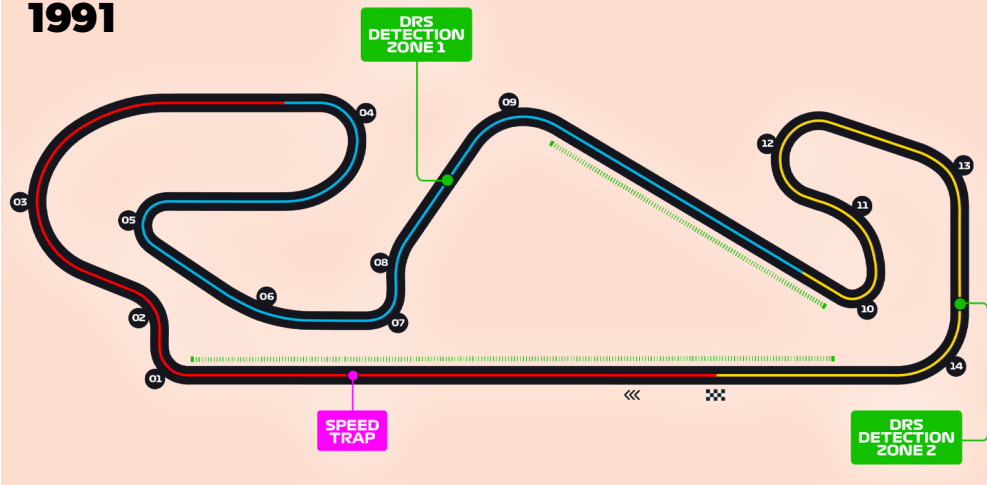
DIRECTION:
CLOCKWISE



AVERAGE SPEED:
N/A



TOP SPEED:
N/A



TRACK SCHEDULE (ALL TIMES AEST)

FRIDAY, JUNE 2

TIME	SESSION
21.30-22.30	Practice 1
01.00-02.00	Practice 2

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

TIME	SESSION
20.30-21.30	Practice 3
00.00-01.00	Qualifying

SUNDAY, JUNE 4

TIME	SESSION
23.00	Grand Prix



LIST OF RACE RESULTS

2022: Max Verstappen
2021: Lewis Hamilton
2020: Lewis Hamilton
2019: Lewis Hamilton
2018: Lewis Hamilton
2017: Lewis Hamilton
2016: Max Verstappen

2015: Nico Rosberg
2014: Lewis Hamilton
2013: Fernando Alonso
2012: Pastor Maldonado
2011: Sebastian Vettel
2010: Mark Webber

2009: Jenson Button
2008: Kimi Raikkonen
2007: Felipe Massa
2006: Fernando Alonso
2005: Kimi Raikkonen
2004: Michael Schumacher



LIST OF POLE POSITIONS

2022: Charles Leclerc
2021: Lewis Hamilton
2020: Lewis Hamilton
2019: Valtteri Bottas
2018: Lewis Hamilton
2017: Lewis Hamilton
2016: Lewis Hamilton

2015: Nico Rosberg
2014: Lewis Hamilton
2013: Nico Rosberg
2012: Pastor Maldonado
2011: Mark Webber
2010: Mark Webber

2009: Jenson Button
2008: Kimi Raikkonen
2007: Felipe Massa
2006: Fernando Alonso
2005: Kimi Raikkonen
2004: Michael Schumacher



MOST WINS

6 Michael Schumacher,
Lewis Hamilton
3 Jackie Stewart,
Nigel Mansell,
Alain Prost, Mika Hakkinen



MOST POLES

7 Michael Schumacher
6 Lewis Hamilton



MOST PODIUMS

12 Michael Schumacher
10 Lewis Hamilton



1ST
144
POINTS

RED BULL

MAX VERSTAPPEN



AGE: 25
DEBUT: Aus 2015
STARTS: 169
BEST QUAL: 1st (x23)
PODIUMS: 83
BEST RESULT: 1st (x39)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 1.33
BEST SPAIN GP: 1st 2016, 22



TEAM PRINCIPAL CHRISTIAN HORNER

Max Verstappen strengthened his grip on the 2023 title in emphatic style at Monaco. Somehow stole pole with a scintillating final sector before converting it into a gritty second win at the Principality. Now heads to one of his favourite tracks where he went off and still won last year. Has only missed the Spanish podium once since his maiden win in 2016.

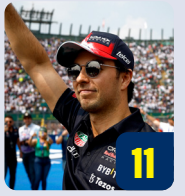
2ND
105
POINTS

RED BULL

SERGIO PEREZ



AGE: 33
DEBUT: Aus 2011
STARTS: 241
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 30
BEST RESULT: 1st (x5)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 4.5
BEST SPAIN GP: 2nd 2022



TEAM PRINCIPAL CHRISTIAN HORNER

Sergio Perez believes he must be "perfect" after his Monaco GP defence could not have gone any worse. A heavy crash in qualifying restricted him to start last and could only make up four spots to 16th in the rain. Catalunya is not his favourite track either, with last year his only podium.

3RD
93
POINTS

ASTON MARTIN

FERNANDO ALONSO



AGE: 41
DEBUT: Aus 2001
STARTS: 361
BEST QUAL: 1st (x22)
PODIUMS: 103
BEST RESULT: 1st (x32)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 3
BEST SPAIN GP: 1st 06/13



TEAM PRINCIPAL MIKE KRACK

Fernando Alonso returns to home soil with his greatest chance of victory since his last also at Spain a decade ago. Now at Aston Martin, Alonso is in peak form after scoring his first P2 in 3227 days at Monaco, which could have been even better if it was not for an extra stop, but challenging for victory could be a tougher task at Catalunya.

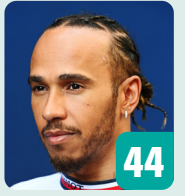
4TH
69
POINTS

MERCEDES

LEWIS HAMILTON



AGE: 38
DEBUT: Aus 2007
STARTS: 316
BEST QUAL: 1st (x103)
PODIUMS: 192
BEST RESULT: 1st (x103)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 4.67
BEST SPAIN GP: 1st 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21



TEAM PRINCIPAL TOTO WOLFF

Spain is one of Lewis Hamilton's favourite tracks and he hopes to continue his consistency. Came within 2s of a Monaco podium after a strong Sunday despite a crash at FP3 and starting sixth. The result is a further boost ahead of a track he has won the equal amount of races at. A second podium of '23 is not out of the question.

5TH
50
POINTS

MERCEDES

GEORGE RUSSELL



AGE: 25
DEBUT: Aus 2019
STARTS: 88
BEST QUAL: 1st (x2)
PODIUMS: 9
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 5.6
BEST SPAIN GP: 3rd 2022



TEAM PRINCIPAL TOTO WOLFF

Now armed with sidepods, George Russell showed strong signs on Sunday at the Monaco GP. Despite moving up three spots from eighth to fifth, Russell was "kicking himself" after a mistake at Mirabeau cost him a sensational maiden 2023 podium. Enjoyed a memorable battle with Verstappen on his way to third at Spain last year.

6TH
48
POINTS

FERRARI

CARLOS SAINZ JR



AGE: 28
DEBUT: Aus 2015
STARTS: 168
BEST QUAL: 1st (x3)
PODIUMS: 15
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 6.67
BEST SPAIN GP: 4th 2022



TEAM PRINCIPAL FRED VASSEUR

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz arrives on home territory on the back foot. Lost four positions on his way to finishing eighth at Monaco highlighted by a clumsy move on Ocon which resulted in front wing damage and an off at Mirabeau. Sainz's only top five finish in Spain arrived last year despite a spin.

7TH
42
POINTS

FERRARI

CHARLES LECLERC



AGE: 25
DEBUT: Aus 2018
STARTS: 108
BEST QUAL: 1st (x19)
PODIUMS: 25
BEST RESULT: 1st (x5)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 5.75
BEST SPAIN GP: 4th 2021



TEAM PRINCIPAL FRED VASSEUR

The 2023 Monaco Grand Prix was the latest of a string of disappointing races for Charles Leclerc. This time a three-place grid penalty for impeding Norris meant he could do little but settle for sixth. Spain was where his title hopes literally blew up in smoke and will be aiming for a maiden podium at the track.

8TH
27
POINTS

ASTON MARTIN

LANCE STROLL



AGE: 24
DEBUT: Aus 2017
STARTS: 128
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 3
BEST RESULT: 3rd (x3)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 7.25
BEST SPAIN GP: 4th 2020



TEAM PRINCIPAL MIKE KRACK

Lance Stroll is searching for confidence after two poor races in a row and he hopes to reverse the trend in Spain. After a pointless Miami, Stroll failed to finish in Monaco where he was eliminated in Q2 and had a string of race incidents. Only has one points finish at Catalunya, but it was a solid P4 in 2020.

9TH
21
POINTS

ALPINE

ESTEBAN OCON



AGE: 26
DEBUT: Bel 2016
STARTS: 117
BEST QUAL: 3rd (x2)
PODIUMS: 3
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 9.8
BEST SPAIN GP: 5th 2017



TEAM PRINCIPAL OTMAR SZAFNAUER

Esteban Ocon flies into Spain on a high after scoring his first podium in 39 races at Monaco. "Estie bestie" soared to third off the back of a strong qualifying effort which helped him rise from 12th to ninth in the championship. Scored fifth in his first ever trip to Spain and has the confidence to better it.

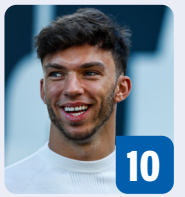
10TH
14
POINTS

ALPINE

PIERRE GASLY



AGE: 27
DEBUT: Mal 2017
STARTS: 113
BEST QUAL: 2nd (x1)
PODIUMS: 3
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 10
BEST SPAIN GP: 6th 2019



TEAM PRINCIPAL OTMAR SZAFNAUER

As his teammate stole the headlines with a sensational podium, Pierre Gasly also scored his best result for Alpine of seventh. However, it could have been better having sat third when rain arrived, only to get a new set of dries, forcing another stop to drop further back. Has the chance to better his Spain best if he can maximise his Alpine package.

11TH
12
POINTS

MCLAREN

LANDO NORRIS



AGE: 23
DEBUT: AUS 2019
STARTS: 88
BEST QUAL: 1st (X1)
PODIUMS: 6
BEST RESULT: 2ND (X1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 12.5
BEST SPAIN GP: 8th 2021, 22



4

TEAM PRINCIPAL ZAC BROWN

Despite returning to the points, Lando Norris has slipped out of the top 10 in the championship. Norris bounced back from a disappointing Miami to collect handy points for McLaren. After failing to finish on Spanish debut due to a clash with Stroll, Norris has not missed the points there since.

12TH
6
POINTS

HAAS

NICO HULKENBERG



AGE: 35
DEBUT: Bah 2010
STARTS: 186
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 4th (x3)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 13.8
BEST SPAIN GP: 6th 2017



27

TEAM PRINCIPAL GUENTHER STEINER

Nico Hulkenberg hopes to put a tough Monaco behind him and rebound well in Spain. In a forgetful race for Haas, Hulkenberg was the penultimate finisher in 17th, two laps down after collecting two costly time penalties. Despite the battles, the German is more optimistic Spain will suit the Haas better.

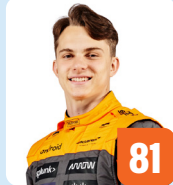
13TH
5
POINTS

MCLAREN

OSCAR PIASTRI



AGE: 21
DEBUT: Bah 2023
STARTS: 6
BEST QUAL: 8th (x1)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 8th (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 12.6
BEST SPAIN GP: N/A



81

TEAM PRINCIPAL ZAC BROWN

Even with the toughest of conditions thrown at him, Oscar Piastri showed great grit and composure on Monaco Grand Prix debut. Piastri stayed out of trouble to follow his teammate and collect a second career points finish. Has previously won at Catalunya at Formula 3 level.

14TH
4
POINTS

ALFA ROMEO SAUBER

VALTTERI BOTTAS



AGE: 33
DEBUT: Aus 2013
STARTS: 206
BEST QUAL: 1 (X20)
PODIUMS: 67
BEST RESULT: 1st (x10)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 13.17
BEST SPAIN GP: 2nd 2018, 19



77

TEAM PRINCIPAL ALESSANDRO ALUNNI BRAVI

Valtteri Bottas was one of the big movers in Monaco, climbing four spots to be on the cusp of a second points finish of the year. Although he is yet to win at Spain, it has always been one of his most consistent tracks with the Finn being sixth or better in all bar one of the races staged there since his debut season.

15TH
2
POINTS

ALFA ROMEO SAUBER

ZHOU GUANYU



AGE: 23
DEBUT: Bah 2022
STARTS: 28
BEST QUAL: 9th (x2)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 8th (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 13.4
BEST SPAIN GP: DNF 2022



24

TEAM PRINCIPAL ALESSANDRO ALUNNI BRAVI

Despite collecting four speeding penalties across the Monaco weekend, Zhou Guanyu would like to continue taking steps forward. After a tough Miami, Zhou recorded his second best finish of the season at Monaco with 13th. But both he wants more as the Chinese racer aims for his first finish in Spain after mechanical dramas cut his race short last year.

16TH
2
POINTS

ALPHATAURI

YUKI TSUNODA



AGE: 23
DEBUT: Bah 2021
STARTS: 47
BEST QUAL: 7th (x2)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 4th (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 11.3
BEST SPAIN GP: 10th 2022



22

TEAM PRINCIPAL FRANZ TOST

Monaco was a tale of what could have been for Yuki Tsunoda. The Japanese driver showed decent pace throughout the weekend and looked set for a third points finish of the year until brake dramas saw him limp to 15th. Would love to repeat his P10 from last year.

17TH
2
POINTS

HAAS

KEVIN MAGNUSSEN



AGE: 30
DEBUT: Aus 2014
STARTS: 147
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 1
BEST RESULT: 2nd (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 13.7
BEST SPAIN GP: 6th 2018



20

TEAM PRINCIPAL GUENTHER STEINER

Despite "trying everything" Haas and Kevin Magnussen struggled to make an impression in Monaco. The strong outing in Miami was quickly forgotten as Magnussen failed to finish following a race littered with off-track excursions after electing to stay on the dries as the rain fell. Only has two points finishes from seven Spanish Grands Prix.

18TH
1
POINT

WILLIAMS

ALEX ALBON



AGE: 27
DEBUT: Aus 2019
STARTS: 65
BEST QUAL: 4th (x4)
PODIUMS: 3
BEST RESULT: 3rd (x2)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 12.67
BEST SPAIN GP: 8th 2020



23

TEAM PRINCIPAL JAMES VOWLES

After recovering from a heavy FP1 crash to score his second straight P14, Alexander Albon is hoping the track changes to Spain could "help us be a bit more competitive". Despite qualifying a solid 13th, Albon endured a "boring" race in Monaco. Only has one points finish at Catalunya.

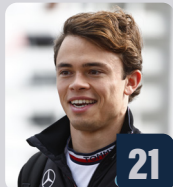
19TH
0
POINTS

ALPHATAURI

NYCK DE VRIES



AGE: 28
DEBUT: Ita 2022
STARTS: 7
BEST QUAL: 8th (x1)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 9TH (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 14.6
BEST SPAIN GP: N/A



21

TEAM PRINCIPAL FRANZ TOST

Monaco was a much needed step in the right direction for Nyck de Vries. He recorded his best qualifying result and best finish for AlphaTauri of 12th at the Principality and even finished ahead of his teammate for the first time. Hopes to continue his form at track where he scored the first victory of his triumphant F2 season at.

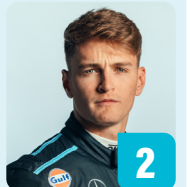
20TH
0
POINTS

WILLIAMS

LOGAN SARGEANT



AGE: 22
DEBUT: Bah 2023
STARTS: 6
BEST QUAL: 15th (x2)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 12th (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 16.33
BEST SPAIN GP: N/A



2

TEAM PRINCIPAL JAMES VOWLES

After racing on predominately street circuits so far, Logan Sargeant is looking forward to the opportunity of racing on a familiar race track. Sargeant has raced at Catalunya on 14 separate occasions across the junior formulas and hopes this experience can help him start on the front foot for Williams after battling in the rain.