



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

**HISTORY BECKONS AS THE "TEMPLE OF SPEED" CALLS THE FORMULA 1 PADDOCK FOR THE FINAL EUROPEAN ROUND OF THE 2023 SEASON.**

IF THE status quo remains Monza will be the scene of Max Verstappen becoming the first driver in Formula 1 history to score 10 successive Grand Prix wins.

The flying Dutchman matched the record of nine straight wins in fitting circumstances after a crazy race on home turf at Zandvoort.

If the #1 Red Bull remains in P1 once again Verstappen will go clear of another Red Bull star Sebastian Vettel and Ferrari's Alberto Ascari.

Vettel achieved the feat a decade ago in 2013 when he won the final nine races of his fourth straight championship success.

Ascari was the first in 1952 and 1953, but he did not participate in the championship paying Indianapolis 500 of 1953.

Whilst he still won nine straight races he started in, the absence at the Indy 500 was sandwiched between his seventh win at Argentina and eighth at Holland.

If Verstappen does venture into uncharted territory as expected, Monza will be an appropriate venue given both Vettel (2013) and Ascari (1952) had Italian Grand Prix wins as part of their respective streaks.

The reason why Red Bull and particularly Verstappen is expected to enter victory lane once again is the impact of its special DRS and mainly because Sergio Perez cannot come close to his teammate.

Perez was gifted a race-winning position when he made the right call to jump to inters straight away, but could only finish third on track behind Fernando Alonso.

This soon became fourth as a penalty for speeding in the pit lane dropped him to fourth, promoting an elated Pierre Gasly for Alpine.

In the tense battle for best of the rest, Alonso gained some much needed breathing space on Lewis Hamilton.

The Spaniard now enjoys a 12-point gap over Hamilton, but Mercedes believed it had a "fast race car" and even matched Verstappen's pace on the intermediates. However, "catastrophic" strategy calls meant Hamilton and George Russell had to settle for sixth and 17th respectively.

All eyes will be on Ferrari with the Tifosi to stack the stands around the famous Monza circuit like usual.

The yo-yo like season for Ferrari continued in the Netherlands backing up a strong Spa podium with a fifth place for Carlos Sainz and a frustrating retirement for Charles Leclerc.

Last year the Tifosi spirits were up with Leclerc on pole and finishing second only to Verstappen but 2023 could be a different story.

There will only be one Australian on the grid with Daniel Ricciardo staying on the sidelines to recover from his broken hand.

This means Kiwi Liam Lawson will get another chance to shine for AlphaTauri, while Aussie Oscar Piastri will be looking to continue his good form for McLaren.

The alternate tyre qualifying system will return with Hards in Q1, Mediums in Q2 and Softs in Q3.

Just like last weekend rain could be a big factor with showers forecast for race day Sunday, which might be required to give Verstappen a challenge at least.



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# ROUND FIFTEEN GRAN PREMIO D'ITALIA - SEPTEMBER 1-3

The "Temple of Speed" awaits drivers in the middle of Ferrari heartland. Built in 1922 Autodromo Nazionale Monza was the world's third purpose built race track and originally featured a series of shockingly steep banked curves. Whilst the current layout is mainly made up of the "outfield" section, its speed is still sensational being a blast between chances and trees.



## TRACK STATS

### QUALIFYING LAP RECORD:

- Lewis Hamilton 1:18.887  
Mercedes W11 EQ  
Performance (2020)

### RACE LAP RECORD:

- Rubens Barrichello 1:21.046  
Ferrari F2004 (2004)

## TRACK FACTS



TRACK LENGTH:  
**5.793KM**



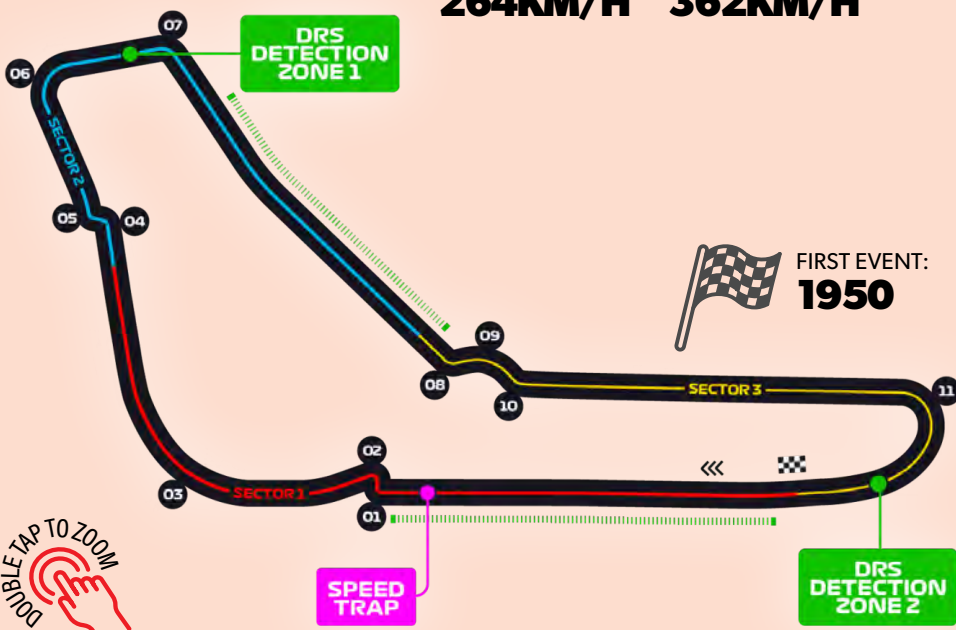
DIRECTION:  
**CLOCKWISE**



AVERAGE SPEED:  
**264KM/H**



TOP SPEED:  
**362KM/H**



## TRACK SCHEDULE (ALL TIMES AEST)

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

TIME	SESSION
21.30-22.30	Practice 1

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

TIME	SESSION
01.00-02.00	Practice 2
20.30-21.30	Practice 3

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

TIME	SESSION
00.00-01.00	Qualifying
23.00	Grand Prix



## LIST OF RACE RESULTS

2022: Max Verstappen  
2021: Daniel Ricciardo  
2020: Pierre Gasly  
2019: Charles Leclerc  
2018: Lewis Hamilton  
2017: Lewis Hamilton  
2016: Nico Rosberg

2015: Lewis Hamilton  
2014: Lewis Hamilton  
2013: Sebastian Vettel  
2012: Lewis Hamilton  
2011: Sebastian Vettel  
2010: Fernando Alonso  
2009: Rubens Barrichello

2008: Sebastian Vettel  
2007: Fernando Alonso  
2006: Michael Schumacher  
2005: Juan Pablo Montoya  
2004: Rubens Barrichello  
2003: Michael Schumacher  
2002: Rubens Barrichello



## MOST WINS

5 Michael Schumacher,  
Lewis Hamilton  
4 Nelson Piquet  
3 Juan Manuel Fangio, Stirling  
Moss, Ronnie Peterson,  
Alain Prost, Rubens  
Barrichello, Sebastian Vettel



## LIST OF POLE POSITIONS

2022: Charles Leclerc  
2021: Max Verstappen  
2020: Lewis Hamilton  
2019: Charles Leclerc  
2018: Kimi Räikkönen  
2017: Lewis Hamilton  
2016: Lewis Hamilton

2015: Lewis Hamilton  
2014: Lewis Hamilton  
2013: Sebastian Vettel  
2012: Lewis Hamilton  
2011: Sebastian Vettel  
2010: Fernando Alonso  
2009: Lewis Hamilton

2008: Sebastian Vettel  
2007: Fernando Alonso  
2006: Kimi Räikkönen  
2005: Juan Pablo Montoya  
2004: Rubens Barrichello  
2003: Michael Schumacher  
2002: Juan Pablo Montoya



## MOST POLES

7 Lewis Hamilton  
5 Juan Manuel Fangio,  
Ayrton Senna  
3 Jim Clark, Juan Pablo  
Montoya, Michael  
Schumacher,  
Sebastian Vettel



**1ST**  
339  
POINTS

**RED BULL**

**MAX VERSTAPPEN**

AGE: 25  
DEBUT: AUS 2015  
STARTS: 176  
BEST QUAL: 1st (x28)  
PODIUMS: 90  
BEST RESULT: 1st (x46)  
AVG 2023 FINISH: 1.15  
BEST ITALIAN GP: 1st 2022



**TEAM PRINCIPAL CHRISTIAN HORNER**

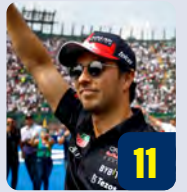
Max Verstappen is on the verge of history, needing just one more win in Monza to become the first driver to score 10 straight Grand Prix victories. The current form guide suggests little can stop Verstappen in his current mood after overcoming a crazy home race. Even won last year's race from seventh on the grid in a less dominant car.

**2ND**  
201  
POINTS

**RED BULL**

**SERGIO PEREZ**

AGE: 33  
DEBUT: AUS 2011  
STARTS: 248  
BEST QUAL: 1st (x3)  
PODIUMS: 33  
BEST RESULT: 1st (x6)  
AVG 2023 FINISH: 4.23  
BEST ITALIAN GP: 2nd 2012



**TEAM PRINCIPAL CHRISTIAN HORNER**

A pit lane speeding penalty meant Sergio Perez was knocked off the podium in Zandvoort. Perez led early after an early stop for Inters but could not match Verstappen as the race went on and lost to Alonso. Only has one Monza podium for Sauber in 2012 and his best Red Bull result there is fifth.

**3RD**  
168  
POINTS

**ASTON MARTIN**

**FERNANDO ALONSO**

AGE: 41  
DEBUT: AUS 2001  
STARTS: 368  
BEST QUAL: 1st (x22)  
PODIUMS: 105  
BEST RESULT: 1st (x32)  
AVG 2023 FINISH: 4.23  
BEST ITALIAN GP: 1st 0710



**TEAM PRINCIPAL MIKE KRACK**

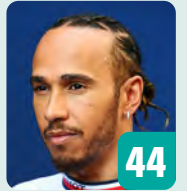
It was a popular return to the podium for Fernando Alonso after four races away in Netherlands. Having finished no higher than fifth since Canada, Alonso was back to his best in tricky conditions at Zandvoort, pulling off some special overtakes at the banked hairpin. Set his first fastest lap since Hungary 2017. Scored Ferrari a special home win at Monza in 2010 after breaking the Tifosi's heart in 2007 for McLaren.

**4TH**  
156  
POINTS

**MERCEDES**

**LEWIS HAMILTON**

AGE: 38  
DEBUT: AUS 2007  
STARTS: 323  
BEST QUAL: 1st (x104)  
PODIUMS: 195  
BEST RESULT: 1st (x103)  
AVG 2023 FINISH: 4.33  
BEST ITALIAN GP: 1st 12,14,15,17,18



**TEAM PRINCIPAL TOTO WOLFF**

Lewis Hamilton and Mercedes believe Netherlands was one that got away. Hamilton "struggled with balance" before dropping out in Q2 but still salvaged points with a solid comeback to sixth place. Is one of the best ever at Monza with a record equalling five wins, but has not stood on the podium there since 2019.

**5TH**  
102  
POINTS

**FERRARI**

**CARLOS SAINZ JR**

AGE: 28  
DEBUT: AUS 2015  
STARTS: 175  
BEST QUAL: 1st (x3)  
PODIUMS: 15  
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)  
AVG 2023 FINISH: 6.58  
BEST ITALIAN GP: 2nd 2020



**TEAM PRINCIPAL FRED VASSEUR**

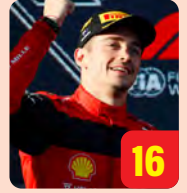
Although Ferrari continues to struggle Carlos Sainz continues to fight hard. Sainz jumped from seventh to fifth in the standings by getting his first top five in six races at Zandvoort, which he described as a "strong result". Has been a solid performer at Monza since his close second in 2020 and charged from 18th to fourth last year.

**6TH**  
99  
POINTS

**FERRARI**

**CHARLES LECLERC**

AGE: 25  
DEBUT: AUS 2018  
STARTS: 115  
BEST QUAL: 1st (x19)  
PODIUMS: 27  
BEST RESULT: 1st (x5)  
AVG 2023 FINISH: 5.9  
BEST ITALIAN GP: 1st 2019



**TEAM PRINCIPAL FRED VASSEUR**

Heading to Monza the relationship between Charles Leclerc and Ferrari is strained. Leclerc was a frustrated figure after his Dutch retirement due to floor issues, but the most memorable moment was easily when he arrived in the pits only to discover there were no tyres waiting for him. Started on pole and finished a close second to Verstappen last year, and famously won in 2019.

**7TH**  
99  
POINTS

**MERCEDES**

**GEORGE RUSSELL**

AGE: 25  
DEBUT: AUS 2019  
STARTS: 95  
BEST QUAL: 1st (x2)  
PODIUMS: 10  
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)  
AVG 2023 FINISH: 6.5  
BEST ITALIAN GP: 3rd 2022



**TEAM PRINCIPAL TOTO WOLFF**

The Dutch Grand Prix was one full of promise for George Russell. After qualifying third Russell had his sights set on a podium, but they soon faded as he stayed on sticks on an ever increasingly soaked track. The Brit looked set for points at the red flag but dropped to 17th after a puncture from contact with Norris.

**8TH**  
75  
POINTS

**MCLAREN**

**LANDO NORRIS**

AGE: 23  
DEBUT: AUS 2019  
STARTS: 95  
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)  
PODIUMS: 8  
BEST RESULT: 2nd (x3)  
AVG 2023 FINISH: 9.7  
BEST ITALIAN GP: 2nd 2021



**TEAM PRINCIPAL ZAC BROWN**

Lando Norris started the Dutch Grand Prix second but believed a "a bad decision cost us a lot of places" as car #4 crossed the line in seventh. Was one of the cars who tried to brave it through the initial downpour and the race got away. Also finished seventh after starting high up the grid at Monza last year.

**9TH**  
47  
POINTS

**ASTON MARTIN**

**LANCE STROLL**

AGE: 24  
DEBUT: AUS 2017  
STARTS: 135  
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)  
PODIUMS: 3  
BEST RESULT: 3rd (x3)  
AVG 2023 FINISH: 8.82  
BEST ITALIAN GP: 3rd 2020



**TEAM PRINCIPAL MIKE KRACK**

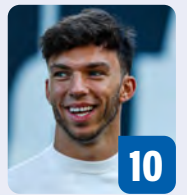
Lance Stroll has been in the headlines with rumours circulating he could ditch F1 for tennis, but has since laughed them off. But these have also arrived as the gap between he and Alonso widens. Monza has some happy memories for the Canadian, who qualified fourth and started on the front row in rookie year and got podium in crazy 2020 race.

**12TH**  
37  
POINTS

**ALPINE**

**PIERRE GASLY**

AGE: 27  
DEBUT: Mal 2017  
STARTS: 121  
BEST QUAL: 2nd (x1)  
PODIUMS: 4  
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)  
AVG 2023 FINISH: 10.3  
BEST ITALIAN GP: 1st 2020



**TEAM PRINCIPAL OTMAR SZAFNAUER**

Pierre Gasly is skipping to the scene of his most magical F1 career moment on a high after scoring his first podium in Alpine colours. The thrilling third proved Alpine is in the "right direction" as the unexpected podium arrived amid recent management changes. Now the challenge is to back it up being his first points in four races.

**10TH**  
36  
POINTS

**ALPINE**

**ESTEBAN OCON**



AGE: 26  
DEBUT: Bel 2016  
STARTS: 124  
BEST QUAL: 3rd (x2)  
PODIUMS: 3  
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)  
AVG 2023 FINISH: 9.7  
BEST ITALIAN GP: 6th 1718



**TEAM PRINCIPAL OTMAR SZAFNAUER**

Despite scraping into the 10, Esteban Ocon believed "we let eight points slip through our hands" at Zandvoort. Ocon was as high as sixth but had to settle for 10th after the crazy finish. Now behind his teammate in the championship and will need to respond.

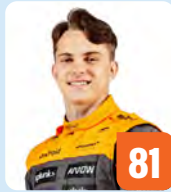
**11TH**  
36  
POINTS

**MCLAREN**

**OSCAR PIASTRI**



AGE: 21  
DEBUT: Bah 2023  
STARTS: 13  
BEST QUAL: 3rd (x1)  
PODIUMS: 0  
BEST RESULT: 4th (x1)  
AVG 2023 FINISH: 11  
BEST ITALIAN GP: N/A



**TEAM PRINCIPAL ZAC BROWN**

Oscar Piastri walked away from Zandvoort pondering what could have been having finished ninth. Conditions appeared to conspire to the contrary of Piastri's strategy calls, which halted him from moving up the order, but still collected more points. Monza has happy memories for the Aussie, who scored one of his six wins there in his victorious F2 season.

**13TH**  
15  
POINTS

**WILLIAMS**

**ALEX ALBON**



AGE: 27  
DEBUT: Aus 2019  
STARTS: 72  
BEST QUAL: 4th (x5)  
PODIUMS: 3  
BEST RESULT: 3rd (x2)  
AVG 2023 FINISH: 11.36  
BEST ITALIAN GP: 6th 2019



**TEAM PRINCIPAL JAMES VOWLES**

Williams and Alex Albon head to Monza fresh from their "strongest weekend" together at Zandvoort. Although Albon believed more than P8 was possible he was one of the most impressive drivers putting the Williams in an equal career best grid position for P4. Watch out for the Williams' straight line speed down Monza's straights having been sick last year.

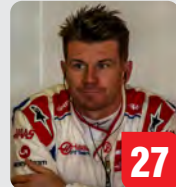
**14TH**  
9  
POINTS

**HAAS**

**NICO HULKENBERG**



AGE: 35  
DEBUT: Bah 2010  
STARTS: 194  
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)  
PODIUMS: 0  
BEST RESULT: 4th (x3)  
AVG 2023 FINISH: 14.17  
BEST ITALIAN GP: 5th 1319



**TEAM PRINCIPAL GUENTHER STEINER**

After his Dutch GP started with the bright news of being retained for 2024, Nico Hulkenberg had to dust himself off after crashing out of FP1. Bounced back to beat his teammate and come closer to points than he ever has across the last 10 races. Last Italy start was 2019 when he equalled his career best Monza result.

**15TH**  
5  
POINTS

**ALFA ROMEO SAUBER**

**VALTTERI BOTTAS**



AGE: 33  
DEBUT: Aus 2013  
STARTS: 213  
BEST QUAL: 1 (x20)  
PODIUMS: 67  
BEST RESULT: 1st (x10)  
AVG 2023 FINISH: 13.31  
BEST ITALIAN GP: 2nd 1719



**TEAM PRINCIPAL ALESSANDRO ALUNNI BRAVI**

Valtteri Bottas will be driving a special Monza focused livery for Alfa Romeo this weekend. Bottas felt he "lost a big opportunity" in Holland, finishing 14th after his hopes of a first-lap tyre change were denied by the team. Went on a run of four from five podium visits at Monza in his Mercedes days.

**16TH**  
4  
POINTS

**ALFA ROMEO SAUBER**

**ZHOU GUANYU**



AGE: 23  
DEBUT: Bah 2022  
STARTS: 35  
BEST QUAL: 9th (x2)  
PODIUMS: 0  
BEST RESULT: 8th (x1)  
AVG 2023 FINISH: 13.45  
BEST ITALIAN GP: 10th 2022



**TEAM PRINCIPAL ALESSANDRO ALUNNI BRAVI**

Zhou Guanyu's Dutch Grand Prix ended with a 19G crash after his Alfa Romeo aquaplaned into the Tarzan tyres. Zhou said he was a "passenger" with the car losing control as early as the main straight. Outdrove Bottas at Italy last year getting his third and final points finish of the year.

**17TH**  
3  
POINTS

**ALPHATAURI**

**YUKI TSUNODA**



AGE: 23  
DEBUT: Bah 2021  
STARTS: 54  
BEST QUAL: 7th (x2)  
PODIUMS: 0  
BEST RESULT: 4th (x1)  
AVG 2023 FINISH: 12.53  
BEST ITALIAN GP: 14th 2022



**TEAM PRINCIPAL FRANZ TOST**

Yuki Tsunoda would have been disappointed with his Dutch GP performance and would like to reestablish his standing within the team after being beaten by Kiwi rookie Liam Lawson at short notice. Tsunoda was not happy to receive a 5s penalty for a clash with Russell. Finished 14th last year after not starting 2021 due to brake issues.

**18TH**  
2  
POINTS

**HAAS**

**KEVIN MAGNUSSEN**



AGE: 30  
DEBUT: Aus 2014  
STARTS: 153  
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)  
PODIUMS: 1  
BEST RESULT: 2nd (x1)  
AVG 2023 FINISH: 15.25  
BEST ITALIAN GP: 10th 2014



**TEAM PRINCIPAL GUENTHER STEINER**

Although his future is clear, people are wanting Kevin Magnussen to lift at Haas. Magnussen battled to a distant 16th after starting from pit lane due to fitting a new gearbox. Has not scored points at Monza since his debut race there for McLaren in 2014.

**19TH**  
0  
POINTS

**WILLIAMS**

**LOGAN SARGEANT**



AGE: 22  
DEBUT: Bah 2023  
STARTS: 13  
BEST QUAL: 14th (x1)  
PODIUMS: 0  
BEST RESULT: 11th (x1)  
AVG 2023 FINISH: 16.09  
BEST ITALIAN GP: N/A



**TEAM PRINCIPAL JAMES VOWLES**

Logan Sargeant is determined to pick himself up from a "super painful" weekend in the Netherlands. It started with plenty of promise, including his first Q3 appearance. However, crashes in both qualifying and the Grand Prix meant it was a tough one. Williams has revealed a hydraulic failure was behind the race smash, but this won't stop the pressure mounting.

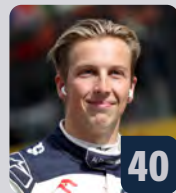
**20TH**  
0  
POINTS

**ALPHATAURI**

**LIAM LAWSON**



AGE: 21  
DEBUT: Dutch 2023  
STARTS: 1  
BEST QUAL: 20th (x1)  
PODIUMS: 0  
BEST RESULT: 13 (x1)  
AVG 2023 FINISH: 13  
BEST ITALIAN GP: N/A



**TEAM PRINCIPAL FRANZ TOST**

Despite being thrown into the AlphaTauri seat at zero notice on the Saturday following Ricciardo's injury, Liam Lawson turned heads in his unexpected debut. After a practice spin and qualifying last, Lawson showed what he is capable of on Sunday, overcoming challenging conditions to score a strong 13th, two spots ahead of Tsunoda. Now gets an extended crack at a track he knows well.