AUTO ACTION'S 2023 PRE
SINGAPORE FORMULA ONE
TEAM-BY-TEAM EVENT GUIDE

RED BULL AND MAX VERSTAPPEN MADE HISTORY IN ITALY AND NOW THE CHALLENGE IS TO SEE HOW FAR THEY CAN TAKE THEIR DOMINATION.

WITH THE European season now in the rear-vision mirror, the popular Singapore night race awaits as a glitzy way to start the run home.

Whilst Verstappen appears impregnable at the moment, the Marina Bay Street Circuit has not been a Red Bull backyard in recent times and could offer the best chance of ending the unbeaten streak.

Since Sebastian Vettel completed a three-peat in 2013, Red Bull has only won under the Singapore stars once.

That occasion was last year when Sergio Perez put in an inspired drive to win a tense weather affected race.

But Ferrari probably possessed the outright pace on that occasion with Charles Leclerc taking pole and crucially Verstappen only managing seventh.

Not only have the cars changed for 2023 but so has the track itself with the third sector receiving a significant revamp.

Gone is the tight, technical and awkward set of 90-degree corners that run underneath the Bay grandstand.

Instead the cars will continue blazing down Raffles Avenue to the final right-left before the final corner.

It has been forced because of works being done to turn the existing floating platform which sat directly alongside the track into a NS Square "permanent space".

The change should present more passing opportunities and it could also help McLaren, which has a weakness through low-speed corners.

Australia's Oscar Piastri will take on the Marina Bay Street Circuit for the first time and has a big chance to move up the order, currently sitting in 12th, but tied with Alpine's Esteban Ocon.

Other battles to look out for in the championship is for third with Fernando Alonso once again under pressure from Lewis Hamilton.

However, expect Aston Martin to be a much stronger force than in Italy, having pushed Red Bull at Monaco.

Behind them the fight for fifth is also intriguing with just eight points separating Carlos Sainz, Charles Leclerc and George Russell.

Sainz is the man with the upper hand however, following his sterling effort to salvage pole and third at Monza.

As incredible as its home race was, this will be a bigger test for Ferrari to see if its resurgence was for real or just a track specific flash in the pan.

Kiwi Liam Lawson will enjoy another crack for AlphaTauri with Daniel Ricciardo still nursing his broken hand.

Rain has been a major factor in recent Singapore Grands Prix, but this year the night sky should stay clear.

But no matter the weather, it will remain one of the toughest torture tests for the drivers with up to two hours of pushing the limits in a 30-plus degree sauna.

The stunning setting of night racing under the Singapore nights returns. Since being introduced to F1 in 2008, the event has become a fan favourite. The Marina Bay Street Circuit will look slightly different to previous years following the reduction of four 90-degree corners around and under the bay grandstand, which should promote higher speeds and greater racing.

TRACK STATS

OLD QUAL LAP RECORD:
- Lewis Hamilton 1:36.015 Mercedes W09 (2018)

OLD RACE LAP RECORD:
- Kevin Magnussen 1:41.905 Haas VF-18 (2018)

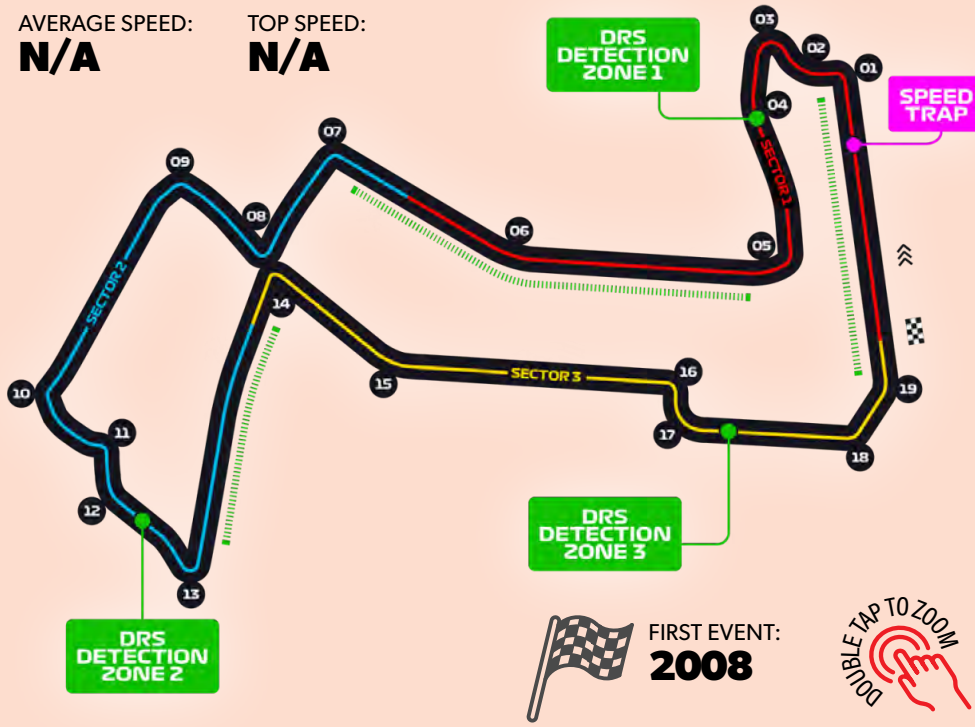AVERAGE SPEED:
N/A

TOP SPEED:
N/A

TRACK FACTS

TRACK LENGTH:
4.94KM

DIRECTION:
CLOCKWISE

DRS DETECTION ZONE 1

SPEED TRAP

DRS DETECTION ZONE 2

DRS DETECTION ZONE 3

SECTOR 1
SECTOR 2
SECTOR 3

FIRST EVENT:
2008

DOUBLE TAP TO ZOOM

TRACK SCHEDULE (ALL TIMES AEST)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

TIME	SESSION
19.30-20.30	Practice 1
23.00-00.00	Practice 2

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

TIME	SESSION
19.30-20.30	Practice 3
23.00-00.00	Qualifying

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

TIME	SESSION
23.00	Grand Prix

LIST OF RACE RESULTS

2022: Sergio Perez	2015: Sebastian Vettel	2010: Fernando Alonso
2019: Sebastian Vettel	2014: Lewis Hamilton	2009: Lewis Hamilton
2018: Lewis Hamilton	2013: Sebastian Vettel	2008: Fernando Alonso
2017: Lewis Hamilton	2012: Sebastian Vettel	
2016: Nico Rosberg	2011: Sebastian Vettel	

MOST WINS
5 Sebastian Vettel
4 Lewis Hamilton
2 Fernando Alonso

LIST OF POLE POSITIONS

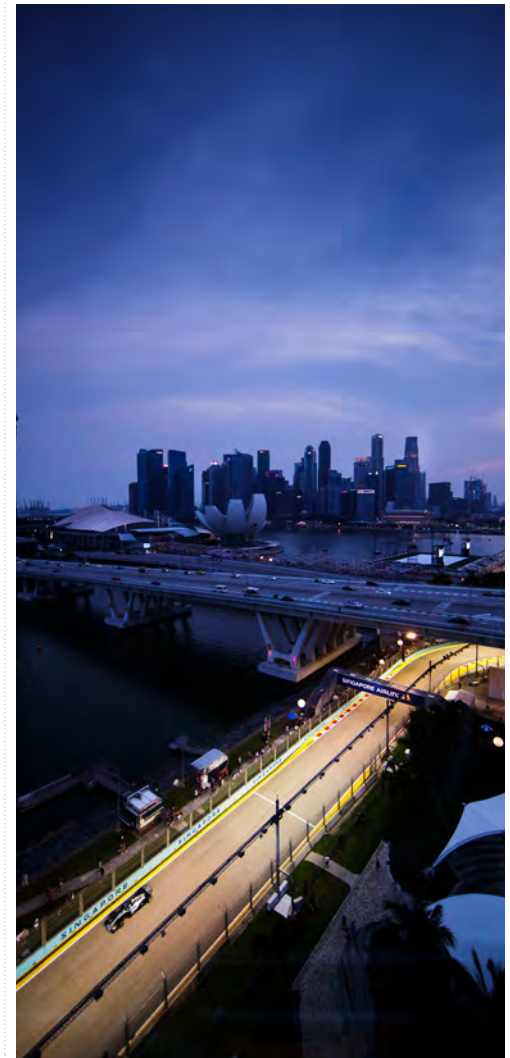|		
2022: Charles Leclerc	2015: Sebastian Vettel	2010: Fernando Alonso
2019: Lewis Hamilton	2014: Lewis Hamilton	2009: Lewis Hamilton
2018: Lewis Hamilton	2013: Sebastian Vettel	2008: Felipe Massa
2017: Sebastian Vettel	2012: Lewis Hamilton	
2016: Nico Rosberg	2011: Sebastian Vettel	

MOST POLES
4 Sebastian Vettel, Lewis Hamilton
1 Charles Leclerc, Nico Rosberg, Fernando Alonso, Felipe Massa

1ST — 364 POINTS — RED BULL — MAX VERSTAPPEN

AGE: 25
DEBUT: Aus 2015
STARTS: 177
BEST QUAL: 1st (x28)
PODIUMS: 91
BEST RESULT: 1st (x47)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 1.15
BEST SING GP: 2nd 2018

1

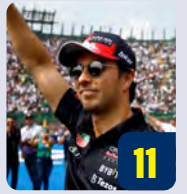**TEAM PRINCIPAL CHRISTIAN HORNER**

Max Verstappen became the first driver to score 10 straight Grand Prix wins in Monza and has more unwritten records in his sights. Strangely he has never won in Singapore and has just two podiums from six starts. Struggled to seventh last year, almost a minute behind winner Perez, but 2023 should be a different story.

2ND — 219 POINTS — RED BULL — SERGIO PEREZ

AGE: 33
DEBUT: Aus 2011
STARTS: 249
BEST QUAL: 1st (x3)
PODIUMS: 34
BEST RESULT: 1st (x6)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 4.23
BEST SING GP: 1st 2022

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TEAM PRINCIPAL CHRISTIAN HORNER

Sergio Perez is hoping a happy hunting ground could be the difference in finally beating teammate Max Verstappen. The Mexican put in one of his best drives to control a tricky Singapore GP. Has only missed the points at Singapore twice in his career and can draw confidence from his drive to second at Monza.

3RD — 170 POINTS — ASTON MARTIN — FERNANDO ALONSO

AGE: 41
DEBUT: Aus 2001
STARTS: 369
BEST QUAL: 1st (x22)
PODIUMS: 105
BEST RESULT: 1st (x32)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 4.23
BEST SING GP: 1st 08,10
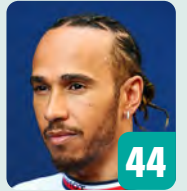
14

TEAM PRINCIPAL MIKE KRACK

Singapore is a big weekend for Fernando Alonso and Aston Martin with the pair targeting the race as a chance to topple Red Bull. They need to bounce back from a tough Italy where they were off the front-running pace. Alonso has two wins at Marina Bay and qualified a solid fifth on return last year only for the Renault engine to die.

4TH — 164 POINTS — MERCEDES — LEWIS HAMILTON

AGE: 38
DEBUT: Aus 2007
STARTS: 324
BEST QUAL: 1st (x104)
PODIUMS: 195
BEST RESULT: 1st (x103)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 4.33
BEST SING GP: 1st 09,14,17,18

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TEAM PRINCIPAL TOTO WOLFF

Lewis Hamilton was lucky to get away with sixth at an eventful Italian GP where he chopped off Piastri's nose. It keeps Alonso in check and Hamilton knows how to get the most out of the car at Singapore with four wins and poles, highlighted by a mighty lap in 2017.

5TH — 117 POINTS — FERRARI — CARLOS SAINZ JR

AGE: 28
DEBUT: Aus 2015
STARTS: 175
BEST QUAL: 1st (x4)
PODIUMS: 16
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 6.58
BEST SING GP: 3rd 2022

55
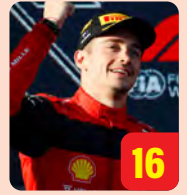
TEAM PRINCIPAL FRED VASSEUR

Carlos Sainz is on fire at Ferrari with his Italian Grand Prix one of the most complete of his career. A sensational lap at the death was enough to snare pole and send the Tifosi wild, while he fought like hell throughout the Grand Prix to secure a first podium of 2023 at the most special place. Also finished third at Singapore last year.

6TH — 111 POINTS — FERRARI — CHARLES LECLERC

AGE: 25
DEBUT: Aus 2018
STARTS: 116
BEST QUAL: 1st (x19)
PODIUMS: 27
BEST RESULT: 1st (x5)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 5.9
BEST SING GP: 2nd 2022

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TEAM PRINCIPAL FRED VASSEUR

Despite just falling short of the Monza podium to teammate Sainz, Charles Leclerc didn't mind. He and Ferrari were trading blows with Red Bull all weekend despite the Monegasque not quite being at his very best. Last year Leclerc took pole but could not stop Perez from getting by.

7TH — 109 POINTS — MERCEDES — GEORGE RUSSELL

AGE: 25
DEBUT: Aus 2019
STARTS: 96
BEST QUAL: 1st (x2)
PODIUMS: 10
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 6.5
BEST SING GP: 14th 2022

63
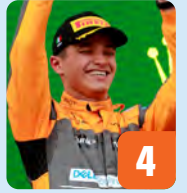
TEAM PRINCIPAL TOTO WOLFF

P5 was the "maximum" George Russell could have hoped for at Monza, but he still walked away "not satisfied". After a disappointing result at Zandvoort, it was a strong bounce back for Russell. Battled at Singapore last year finishing two laps down having started from the pits due to an engine penalty and clashed with Mick Schumacher.

8TH — 79 POINTS — MCLAREN — LANDO NORRIS

AGE: 23
DEBUT: Aus 2019
STARTS: 96
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 8
BEST RESULT: 2nd (x3)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 9.7
BEST SING GP: 4th 2022

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TEAM PRINCIPAL ZAC BROWN

Lando Norris made the most of a team supported undercut to jump Piastri and get points in Italy to extend his scoring streak to six races. Has only two starts at Singapore but made the most of them on both occasions, including a strong fourth place last year which was one of two top fives in 2022.

9TH — 47 POINTS — ASTON MARTIN — LANCE STROLL

AGE: 24
DEBUT: Aus 2017
STARTS: 136
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 3
BEST RESULT: 3rd (x3)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 8.82
BEST SING GP: 6th 2022

18
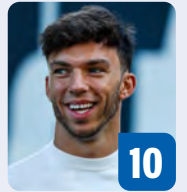
TEAM PRINCIPAL MIKE KRACK

Lance Stroll had another tough time in Italy, finishing down in 16th having been "just slow all weekend" as the disparity between Canadian and his teammate continues to grow at an alarming rate. Stroll at least can turn to Singapore last year for some confidence where he finished sixth, easily his nest result of the year.

12TH — 37 POINTS — ALPINE — PIERRE GASLY

AGE: 27
DEBUT: Mal 2017
STARTS: 122
BEST QUAL: 2nd (x1)
PODIUMS: 4
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 10.3
BEST SING GP: 8th 2019

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TEAM PRINCIPAL BRUNO FAMIN

The up and down nature of Pierre Gasly's season continues after he followed up his Dutch podium with a tough 15th place. The Frenchman described Monza as "a very painful afternoon" after a Q1 knockout. Scored his final points for AlphaTauri at Singapore last year.

10TH
36 POINTS

ALPINE

ESTEBAN OCON — 31

AGE: 26
DEBUT: Bel 2016
STARTS: 125
BEST QUAL: 3rd (x2)
PODIUMS: 3
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 9.7
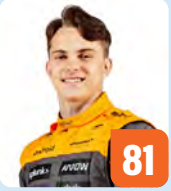BEST SING GP: 10th 2017

TEAM PRINCIPAL BRUNO FAMIN

Frenchman Esteban Ocon and Alpine are looking to bounce back from a tough Italian GP. Ocon failed to finish after encountering steering dramas and joining his teammate in a Q1 knockout. Also retired at Marina Bay last year after an engine drama on lap 17.

11TH
36 POINTS

MCLAREN

OSCAR PIASTRI — 81

AGE: 21
DEBUT: Bah 2023
STARTS: 14
BEST QUAL: 3rd (x1)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 4th (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 11
BEST SING GP: N/A

TEAM PRINCIPAL ZAC BROWN

Fortune was not on Oscar Piastri's side at Monza as points slipped away. He out-qualified Norris and held track position for the first part of the race only for McLaren to give the undercut to his teammate which put the Australian behind and later on Hamilton's chopping block. In the end he had to settle for 12th and is preparing for a new challenge racing at Marina Bay for the first time.

13TH
21 POINTS

WILLIAMS

ALEX ALBON — 23

AGE: 27
DEBUT: Aus 2019
STARTS: 73
BEST QUAL: 4th (x5)
PODIUMS: 3
BEST RESULT: 3rd (x2)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 11.36
BEST SING GP: 6th 2019

TEAM PRINCIPAL JAMES VOWLES

One of the form drivers on the grid is Alex Albon, who is maximising the most out of his Williams. Albon backed up his strong P8 with an even better seventh place at Italy and had to get his elbows out to achieve it. Crashed at Singapore last year but got a solid sixth for Red Bull in 2019.

14TH
9 POINTS

HAAS

NICO HULKENBERG — 27

AGE: 35
DEBUT: Bah 2010
STARTS: 195
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 4th (x3)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 14.17
BEST SING GP: 9th 13,14,19

TEAM PRINCIPAL GUENTHER STEINER

A fast start was "the only positive" for Nico Hulkenberg as he battled to 17th at Italy after starting 13th. Has not raced at Singapore since 2019 and was on track for a maiden career podium in 2017 only for an oil leak to end his promising night.

15TH
6 POINTS

ALFA ROMEO SAUBER

VALTTERI BOTTAS — 77

AGE: 33
DEBUT: Aus 2013
STARTS: 214
BEST QUAL: 1 (x20)
PODIUMS: 67
BEST RESULT: 1st (x10)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 13.31
BEST SING GP: 3rd 2017

TEAM PRINCIPAL ALESSANDRO ALUNNI BRAVI

"Nailing the strategy" helped Valtteri Bottas return to the points for the first time in six races at Monza after starting 14th. Also made up ground in last year's Singapore Grand Prix, but has only got one podium during his Mercedes days and will chase more points with an upgrade.

16TH
4 POINTS

ALFA ROMEO SAUBER

ZHOU GUANYU — 24

AGE: 23
DEBUT: Bah 2022
STARTS: 36
BEST QUAL: 9th (x2)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 8th (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 13.45
BEST SING GP: DNF 2022

TEAM PRINCIPAL ALESSANDRO ALUNNI BRAVI

Alfa Romeo and Zhou Guanyu are looking to "make a massive step" with the upgrades arriving at Singapore this weekend. As Bottas moved up, Zhou could only manage 14th. Only trip to Singapore was a disappointing one, crashing on lap six with Latifi.

17TH
3 POINTS

ALPHATAURI

YUKI TSUNODA — 22

AGE: 23
DEBUT: Bah 2021
STARTS: 55
BEST QUAL: 7th (x2)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 4th (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 12.53
BEST SING GP: DNF 2022

TEAM PRINCIPAL FRANZ TOST

Yuki Tsunoda will be looking forward to some racing laps to prove a point at Singapore. An engine failure meant Tsunoda could not complete the formation lap and start the race in Italy. A poorly timed one having been beaten by Lawson at Zandvoort. Crashed at turn 10 in last year's race.

18TH
2 POINTS

HAAS

KEVIN MAGNUSSEN — 20

AGE: 30
DEBUT: Aus 2014
STARTS: 154
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 1
BEST RESULT: 2nd (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 15.25
BEST SING GP: 10th 14,16

TEAM PRINCIPAL GUENTHER STEINER

Kevin Magnussen was a downcast figure in Italy after being a lap down in 18th place as the last remaining runner. The Dane labelled the race as the "worst ever" as he has revealed a specific driving detail in the way the Haas handles is holding him back.

19TH
0 POINTS

WILLIAMS

LOGAN SARGEANT — 2

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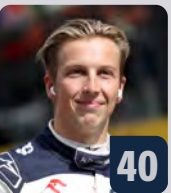BEST SING GP: N/A

TEAM PRINCIPAL JAMES VOWLES

Logan Sargeant hopes to maximise opportunities having seen two potential points scoring outings go by. After crashing following a maiden Q3 appearance in Netherlands, Sargeant tried to catch the top 10 from 15th in Italy and "tried to hold on for as long as I could" but had to settle for 13th.

20TH
0 POINTS

ALPHATAURI

LIAM LAWSON — 40

AGE: 21
DEBUT: Dutch 2023
STARTS: 2
BEST QUAL: 12th (x1)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 11th (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 12
BEST SING GP: N/A

TEAM PRINCIPAL FRANZ TOST

After a strong debut in Zandvoort, Kiwi Liam Lawson impressed once again at Italy. The Kiwi almost matched his teammate in qualifying and fell just 6s short of points having gone wheel to wheel with Piastri. Lawson is now set to get at least two more races to further enhance his case.