

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

MAX VERSTAPPEN MAY BE THE CURRENT KING OF FORMULA 1, BUT HE WILL BE IN SERGIO PEREZ TERRITORY AT THE MEXICO CITY GRAND PRIX.

PEREZ WILL be the darling of the almost 400,000 fans that will pack out the Autódromo Hermanos Rodríguez.

Although the undisputed home hero is local Perez, it is Verstappen who has dominated on the track.

The Dutch driver has won four of the last five Mexican Grands Prix with the Red Bull well suited to the high altitude track even when it was far from the dominant car.

Verstappen's run kicked off in 2017 when a fast start shot him past poleman Sebastian Vettel, while the following year he jumped teammate Daniel Ricciardo after the Australian edged him out to score his third and latest pole position.

Only the dominant Lewis Hamilton and Mercedes W10 brought the run to the end before the Dutchman returned to winning ways after the COVID break.

With Verstappen nursing braking issues and still doing the Sprint and Grand Prix double at COTA, yet another Mexican triumph appears a near certainty.

But with the track being 2km above sea level at high altitude, it is always one of the toughest tests on machine of the year with the engines fighting for air.

Despite a disrupted history, it is one of the more historic tracks on the calendar having first held a championship Grand Prix in 1963 won by Jim Clark's Lotus.

Since its return in 2015 after 23 years away, it has quickly cemented itself its own

niche on the F1 circus.

Massive crowds can be seen all around the track and most notably in the old Foro Sol baseball stadium where the podium is held and cars navigate a tight hairpin section before returning to the back end of the old Peralta corner.

Whilst McLaren headed to COTA with brilliant momentum as the undisputed second fastest team, that is now more unclear despite Lando Norris still finishing second.

In fact it was Lewis Hamilton and the upgraded Mercedes that had the greater pace to challenge Red Bull.

Ferrari and Charles Leclerc also snatched pole but strategy hurt the #16's campaign.

In the end both Hamilton and Leclerc were disqualified due to its rear skids being deemed illegal.

The United States Grand Prix proved to be a tough time for Australians Oscar Piastri and the returning Daniel Ricciardo.

Both lost ground in Sunday's main race and will be determined to bounce back.

The weekend will be a return to the traditional weekend format of three practice sessions, qualifying and the single race, at breakfast time Monday morning.



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ROUND TWENTY MEXICO CITY GRAND PRIX - OCTOBER 27-29

FORMULA ONE will go racing through an old baseball stadium at one of the most passionate and historic places on the calendar. Huge crowds will be out in force at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez cheering on Sergio Perez 2km above sea level. A high-speed and low-downforce circuit opens with long straights and chicanes before a mixture of fast to low speed corners in the final sector where the cars drive through a stadium. Watchout for drama in the very long run from the start down to turn one.



TRACK STATS

QUALIFYING LAP RECORD

• Max Verstappen 1:14.758
Red Bull 2019

RACE LAP RECORD

• Valtteri Bottas 1:17.774
Mercedes 2021

TRACK FACTS



TRACK LENGTH:
4.304



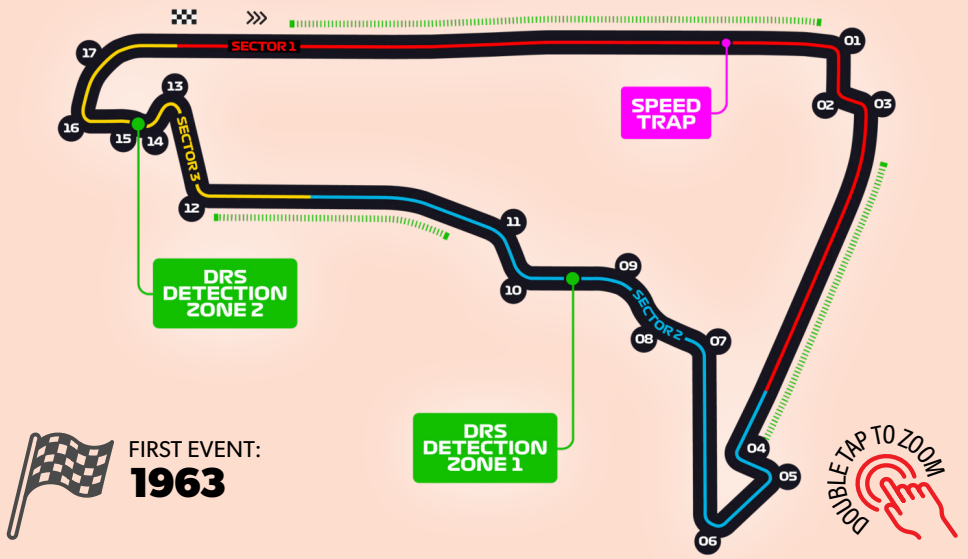
DIRECTION:
CLOCKWISE



AVERAGE SPEED:
190KM/H



TOP SPEED:
371KM/H



TRACK SCHEDULE (ALL TIMES AEDT)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

TIME	SESSION
05.30-06.30	Practice 1
09.00-10.00	Practice 2

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

TIME	SESSION
04.30-05.30	Practice 3
08.00-09.00	Qualifying

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30

TIME	SESSION
07.00	Grand Prix

LIST OF RACE RESULTS

2022: Max Verstappen	1991: Riccardo Patrese	1969: Denny Hulme
2021: Max Verstappen	1990: Alain Prost	1968: Graham Hill
2019: Lewis Hamilton	1989: Ayrton Senna	1967: Jim Clark
2018: Max Verstappen	1988: Alain Prost	1966: John Surtees
2017: Max Verstappen	1987: Nigel Mansell	1965: Richie Ginther
2016: Lewis Hamilton	1986: Gerhard Berger	1964: Dan Gurney
2015: Nico Rosberg	1970: Jacky Icky	1963: Jim Clark

LIST OF POLE POSITIONS

2022: Max Verstappen	1991: Riccardo Patrese	1969: Jack Brabham
2021: Valtteri Bottas	1990: Gerhard Berger	1968: Jo Siffert
2019: Max Verstappen	1989: Ayrton Senna	1967: Jim Clark
2018: Daniel Ricciardo	1988: Ayrton Senna	1966: John Surtees
2017: Sebastian Vettel	1987: Nigel Mansell	1965: Jim Clark
2016: Lewis Hamilton	1986: Ayrton Senna	1964: Jim Clark
2015: Nico Rosberg	1970: Clay Regazzoni	1963: Jim Clark



MOST WINS

4 Max Verstappen
2 Jim Clark
Alain Prost
Nigel Mansell,
Lewis Hamilton

1

MOST POLES

4 Jim Clark
3 Ayrton Senna
2 Nigel Mansell, Max Verstappen



1ST
466
POINTS

RED BULL

MAX VERSTAPPEN

AGE: 26
DEBUT: Aus 2015
STARTS: 181
BEST QUAL: 1st (x30)
PODIUMS: 94
BEST RESULT: 1st (x50)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 1.33
BEST MEX GP: 1st 22,21,18,17



TEAM PRINCIPAL CHRISTIAN HORNER

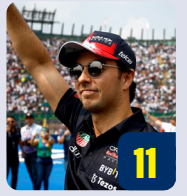
He had to work hard for it, but Max Verstappen raised a half century of wins in COTA. Started by squeezing Leclerc to Sprint glory before rising from sixth and overcoming some brake issues to claim another GP. Now Mexico dawns, a place he dominated even when Red Bull was far from the fastest car having scored double the amount of wins of any other driver.

2ND
240
POINTS

RED BULL

SERGIO PEREZ

AGE: 33
DEBUT: Aus 2011
STARTS: 253
BEST QUAL: 1st (x3)
PODIUMS: 34
BEST RESULT: 1st (x6)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 4.65
BEST MEX GP: 3rd 22,21



TEAM PRINCIPAL CHRISTIAN HORNER

Sergio Perez may be the darling of the huge home crowd in Mexico, but there remains constant frustration around his performances in the dominant Red Bull. COTA was an improved effort, but he produced another disappointing quali effort and scored fourth. Expectations will be high to get a hat-trick of home podiums.

3RD
201
POINTS

MERCEDES

LEWIS HAMILTON

AGE: 38
DEBUT: Aus 2007
STARTS: 328
BEST QUAL: 1st (x104)
PODIUMS: 196
BEST RESULT: 1st (x103)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 4.5
BEST MEX GP: 1st 19,16



TEAM PRINCIPAL TOTO WOLFF

Lewis Hamilton will be hurting after losing his impressive third in USA. A fast final stint pushed him to second on the road on Sunday and came within 2s of beating Max. However, car #44 was disqualified for running too low. But its proof the Mercedes upgrade worked and it will be hopeful of replicating last year's pace in Mexico.

4TH
183
POINTS

ASTON MARTIN

FERNANDO ALONSO

AGE: 41
DEBUT: Aus 2001
STARTS: 373
BEST QUAL: 1st (x22)
PODIUMS: 105
BEST RESULT: 1st (x32)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 5.47
BEST MEX GP: 9th 21



TEAM PRINCIPAL MIKE CRACK

USA was a weekend to forget for Alonso. Was knocked out in Q1 for the first time this year and 50s back in 13th in the Sprint. Started the GP from the pit lane on Sunday, but managed to climb to the 10 only for floor issues to force him into retirement. It "hurt" the proud Spaniard, who is now under threat from Sainz and only has two top 10s in Mexico.

5TH
171
POINTS

FERRARI

CARLOS SAINZ JR

AGE: 28
DEBUT: Aus 2015
STARTS: 180
BEST QUAL: 1st (x5)
PODIUMS: 17
BEST RESULT: 1st (x2)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 5.75
BEST MEX GP: 5th 22



TEAM PRINCIPAL FRED VASSEUR

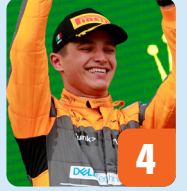
Carlos Sainz continues to collect valuable points in the #55 Ferrari. Although he did not get to taste the success straight away, Hamilton's loss was Sainz' gain with the Ferrari driver promoted to a third podium in six races. It was a reward for a solid weekend. Has been steady for Ferrari at Mexico City.

6TH
159
POINTS

MCLAREN

LANDO NORRIS

AGE: 23
DEBUT: Aus 2019
STARTS: 100
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 11
BEST RESULT: 2nd (x5)
AVG 2023 RESULT: 7.87
BEST MEX GP: 9th 2022



TEAM PRINCIPAL ZAC BROWN

Lando Norris produced another special performance in his 100th race. Norris celebrated the milestone by getting a fourth straight podium. Was third until being promoted due to the excluded #44 and was easily the lead McLaren. Will be disappointed if he does not improve his Mexico PB having finished 10th and ninth since a first up DNF in 2019.

7TH
151
POINTS

FERRARI

CHARLES LECLERC

AGE: 25
DEBUT: Aus 2018
STARTS: 120
BEST QUAL: 1st (x20)
PODIUMS: 27
BEST RESULT: 1st (x5)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 5.58
BEST MEX GP: 4th 2019



TEAM PRINCIPAL FRED VASSEUR

A weekend full of promise ultimately ended in disappointment for Charles Leclerc. Took a 20th pole on Friday and finished third in the Sprint after a stoush with Max. But his pace fell away on Sunday, drifting to fifth before being rubbed out. Has enjoyed Mexico, getting points for Alfa and a lowest result of sixth for Ferrari.

8TH
143
POINTS

MERCEDES

GEORGE RUSSELL

AGE: 25
DEBUT: Aus 2019
STARTS: 100
BEST QUAL: 1st (x2)
PODIUMS: 10
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 7.15
BEST MEX GP: 4th 2022



TEAM PRINCIPAL TOTO WOLFF

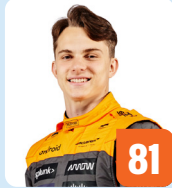
George Russell wished he joined Norris celebrating a 100th race on the podium, but instead lamented on "missed opportunities" after finishing fifth and not matching Hamilton. Came home fourth at Mexico last year despite a front row start, having been beaten by Hamilton off the line.

9TH
83
POINTS

MCLAREN

OSCAR PIASTRI

AGE: 21
DEBUT: Bah 2023
STARTS: 18
BEST QUAL: 2nd (x1)
PODIUMS: 2
BEST RESULT: 2nd (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 9.67
BEST MEX GP: N/A



TEAM PRINCIPAL ZAC BROWN

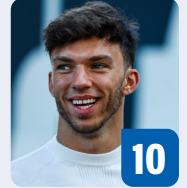
Oscar Piastri's hot run of form came to an end at COTA. Started fifth in the Sprint, but battled tyre dramas and drifted to 10th. Made Q3 but could only start 10th and was caught in the middle of opening lap drama with a whack from Ocon causing damage which led to retirement. Braced for new challenge of high altitude racing.

10TH
56
POINTS

ALPINE

PIERRE GASLY

AGE: 27
DEBUT: Mal 2017
STARTS: 126
BEST QUAL: 2nd (x1)
PODIUMS: 4
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 10.36
BEST MEX GP: 4th 2021



TEAM PRINCIPAL BRUNO FAMIN

Pierre Gasly believed his solid sixth place was the "best result possible" for Alpine. Seventh and sixth in the Sprint and GP respectively marked "the most productive weekend of the year" for the Frenchman. Enjoyed Mexico in 2021, scoring a strong fourth for AlphaTauri.

11TH
53
POINTS

ASTON MARTIN

LANCE STROLL



AGE: 24
DEBUT: Aus 2017
STARTS: 139
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 3
BEST RESULT: 3rd (x3)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 9.36
BEST US GP: 12TH 2022



TEAM PRINCIPAL MIKE KRACK

Lance Stroll made a welcome return to the points in the USA which at one point was highly unlikely. Started from the pits after a setup change but soared to 11th by lap 33. Would eventually be promoted to seventh and was beaming post race, having not scored points for six races.

12TH
44
POINTS

ALPINE

ESTEBAN OCON



AGE: 27
DEBUT: Bel 2016
STARTS: 129
BEST QUAL: 3rd (x2)
PODIUMS: 3
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 9.7
BEST MEX GP: 5th 2017



TEAM PRINCIPAL BRUNO FAMIN

Esteban Ocon lost significant ground to Gasly in the battle of the Alpine teammates after a costly retirement in COTA. Ocon whacked Piastri in the side-pod during the battle for position in the early stages. Has an up and down record at Mexico City with results of 21st, fifth, 11th, 13th and eighth.

13TH
25
POINTS

WILLIAMS

ALEX ALBON



AGE: 27
DEBUT: Aus 2019
STARTS: 77
BEST QUAL: 4th (x5)
PODIUMS: 3
BEST RESULT: 3rd (x2)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 11
BEST MEX GP: 5th 2019



TEAM PRINCIPAL JAMES VOWLES

In a special day for Williams both cars got points in COTA with Alex Albon leading the charge. After missing out on the top eight by just 0.3s Albon was worried the same happened in the GP, finishing 11th but the disqualifications came to aid. Finished a solid 12th last year for Williams in Mexico City.

14TH
10
POINTS

ALFA ROMEO SAUBER

VALTTERI BOTTAS



AGE: 33
DEBUT: Aus 2013
STARTS: 218
BEST QUAL: 1st (x20)
PODIUMS: 67
BEST RESULT: 1st (x10)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 12.69
BEST MEX GP: 2nd 2017



TEAM PRINCIPAL ALESSANDRO ALUNNI BRAVI

USA was a step backwards for Valtteri Bottas after the promise of Qatar. Hoping to rebound at Mexico where he clung onto points last year. Scored three podiums for Mercedes and took pole in 2021, but that race was a disappointing one having been spun by Ricciardo.

15TH
9
POINTS

HAAS

NICO HULKENBERG



AGE: 35
DEBUT: Bah 2010
STARTS: 198
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 4th (x3)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 14.38
BEST MEX GP: 6th 2018



TEAM PRINCIPAL GUENTHER STEINER

Despite narrowly missing points, Nico Hulkenberg was pleased with his fighting drive in COTA. Started from the pits but managed to get 11th which left the German thankful for the setup changes made that resulted in the pit lane start. Has four points finishes from five starts at Mexico.

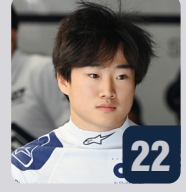
16TH
8
POINTS

ALPHATAURI

YUKI TSUNODA



AGE: 23
DEBUT: Bah 2021
STARTS: 58
BEST QUAL: 7th (x2)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 4th (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 12.75
BEST MEX GP: DNF 22,21



TEAM PRINCIPAL FRANZ TOST

USA was a statement making weekend for Yuki Tsunoda, while Ricciardo returned and battled, Tsunoda got his best result of the year with eighth. Has never finished a Mexican Grand Prix, retiring in 2021 due to a first lap crash with Schumacher and last year after being hit by now teammate Ricciardo.

17TH
6
POINTS

ALFA ROMEO SAUBER

ZHOU GUANYU



AGE: 23
DEBUT: Bah 2022
STARTS: 40
BEST QUAL: 9th (x2)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 8th (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 13.45
BEST MEX GP: 13th 2022



TEAM PRINCIPAL ALESSANDRO ALUNNI BRAVI

Zhou Guanyu had a steady USA weekend finishing 17th and 13th in the Sprint and GP. Admits the team could not have done anything with strategy to go further up the leaderboard. Started 12th and finished 13th a lap down at Mexico City in 2022.

18TH
3
POINTS

HAAS

KEVIN MAGNUSSEN



AGE: 30
DEBUT: Aus 2014
STARTS: 157
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 1
BEST RESULT: 2nd (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 15.07
BEST MEX GP: 8th 2017



TEAM PRINCIPAL GUENTHER STEINER

Despite finishing the US GP no higher than he did in Qatar, Kevin Magnussen believed the car "felt better" thanks to the batch of upgrades Haas supplied prior to its home race. Has not enjoyed Mexico in the past, with 2017 his only race of note finishing eighth with a next best result of 15th.

20TH
1
POINTS

WILLIAMS

LOGAN SARGEANT



AGE: 22
DEBUT: Bah 2023
STARTS: 18
BEST QUAL: 10th (x1)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 10th (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 15.29
BEST MEX GP: N/A



TEAM PRINCIPAL JAMES VOWLES

With his future up in the air and a massive home crowd in attendance, Logan Sargeant could not have timed his first points appearance any better. Sargeant finished 12th on the road but was promoted to a joyous 10th. A strong drive having started from 16th. Enjoyed a practice session with Williams at Mexico last year.

21ST
0
POINTS

ALPHATAURI

DANIEL RICCIARDO



AGE: 34
DEBUT: GB 2011
STARTS: 234
BEST QUAL: 1st (x3)
PODIUMS: 32
BEST RESULT: 1st (x8)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 14.5
BEST MEX GP: 3rd 2016



TEAM PRINCIPAL FRANZ TOST

The return of Daniel Ricciardo may have been an underwhelming one, but he will be better for the drive and eyes bigger things in Mexico. Was last on track but felt a "positive" feeling at the end. Has not got a Mexican top five since his 2016 podium, while got a stunning last pole at the track in 2018.