



Race Preview

2015 AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX
13-15 March 2015

After a short off-season and an intense winter testing programme, Formula One's much-anticipated 2015 campaign gets underway this weekend with the sport's now traditional curtain-raiser, the Australian Grand Prix at Melbourne's Albert Park circuit.

The temporary track is a tricky test for new machinery and drivers alike. As with street circuits, the rarely raced surface initially provides little grip and evolves steeply over the weekend. It's therefore important for drivers to feed performance in gradually as the surface 'rubbers in' and they come to terms with the latest developments to machines that are almost fresh off the drawing board. And with the barriers close and expectation high at the season start, Melbourne's grand prix is always one of the season's most unpredictable.

With a number of key driver moves and team developments occurring towards the end of last year, the new season also throws up a host of intriguing questions. Will four-time champion Sebastian Vettel be the man to revive Ferrari's fortunes? Will a new look McLaren team, propelled by Honda power, become a force to be reckoned with? And which team, if any, will be able to challenge the might of last season's dominant outfit, Mercedes?

The winter test programme appeared to confirm that the Silver Arrows are once again the team to beat, with defending world champion Lewis Hamilton and teammate Nico Rosberg in ominously imperious form during the three four-day tests that took place in Spain over recent weeks.

However, testing isn't racing. It's a chance to establish a platform, build reliability and to perhaps shield the true performance potential of a new car before the action begins in earnest. That 'phoney war' ends here in Melbourne, where the real battle begins. It should be another epic contest.



CIRCUIT DATA

ALBERT PARK CIRCUIT

Length of lap:

5.303km

Lap record:

1:24.125 (Michael Schumacher, Ferrari, 2004)

Start line/finish line offset:

0.000km

Total number of race laps:

58

Total race distance:

307.574km

Pitlane speed limits:

60km/h in practice, qualifying, and the race

CIRCUIT NOTES

► The kerb on the exit of Turn Two has been extended.

DRS ZONE

► The DRS zones for this year's race will be the same as those used in 2014. The first activation point is 762m before Turn One, while the second activation point is 510m before Turn Three. They share a single detection point, located 13m before Turn 14.

ROUND 01	AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX	START TIME	16:00 Local - 05:00 GMT
RACE DATE:	15 MAR 2015	CIRCUIT LENGTH:	5.300KM
CIRCUIT NAME:	ALBERT PARK CIRCUIT	RACE DISTANCE:	307.574KM
NUMBER OF LAPS:	58	LAP RECORD:	1:24.125 - M Schumacher (2004)

KEY		Speed Rink	Sector Time	Timing Sector	Lap Time
Braking	125 3	Gear	T3	35.2	1:26.9
Sector 1	Sector 2	Sector 3			
Green	Start	Finish			
DNS Deletion	DNS Activation	Run-off Areas			
FIA Medical & Safety Cars	Marshal Posts	Light Panels			



Australian GP Fast Facts

- ▶ This year's race will be the 31st F1 Australian Grand Prix, with the event first appearing on the calendar in 1985. The inaugural race, in Adelaide, was won by Keke Rosberg. The GP moved to Melbourne in 1996 and has been held here since. This year will mark the 20th time the grand prix has been run at Albert Park.
- ▶ As with every F1 season, the 2015 campaign features a number of changes of line-up and at least three rookies will make their debut here.
- ▶ Twenty-two year-old Brazilian Felipe Nasr will race for Sauber having finished third overall in last year's GP2 championship and having also in filled the role of reserve driver at Williams, for whom he drove in five Friday practice sessions and at three tests in 2014.
- ▶ Carlos Sainz Jr (20), son of double World Rally champion Carlos Sr, joins Toro Rosso having last year become the youngest ever Formula Renault 3.5 series champion.
- ▶ Sainz is joined at the Faenza team by Max Verstappen, who at 17 years of age will become F1's youngest entrant this weekend. The son of former Footwork, Benetton, Stewart, Arrows and Minardi driver Jos, Max joins the F1 grid having last year finished third in the FIA F3 European Championship in his rookie season.
- ▶ This year also sees the return of Honda to F1 after six seasons away from the sport, this time as power unit partner to McLaren. As a constructor the company has taken three wins from its previous stints in the sport – Mexico 1965, Italy 1967 and Hungary 2006. However, as a powerplant supplier the company has been hugely successful, with 72 wins. Forty-four of those victories came in a five-year spell with McLaren from 1988-1992.
- ▶ The last man to give Honda an F1 win – at that 2006 race in Budapest – was Jenson Button, driving the team's RA106 car. In difficult wet conditions, he climbed from 14th on the grid to claim his maiden grand prix victory.
- ▶ Button joins forces with the Japanese marque again this year piloting the McLaren-Honda MP4-30.
- ▶ Button will this weekend race alongside Kevin Magnussen at McLaren. The Dane is deputising for Fernando Alonso who is sitting out this event to recuperate from an accident in winter testing. Magnussen made his grand prix debut here last year, scoring a remarkable second place in his first outing for McLaren, for whom he is reserve driver in 2015. It's the sole podium finish of his career to date.
- ▶ Michael Schumacher holds the record for most Australian Grand Prix wins with four (2000-'02 and '04). He's followed by Alain Prost and Button who each have three wins. All of Prost's came in Adelaide.
- ▶ In 19 starts, the Albert Park race has been won from pole eight times. David Coulthard holds the current record for victory from lowest grid slot at this track. He won in 2003 from 11th place on the grid.

Australian GP Race Stewards Biographies

DR GERD ENNSER

MEMBER OF THE DMSB'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR AUTOMOBILE SPORT, FORMULA ONE AND DTM STEWARD

Dr Gerd Ennsler has successfully combined his formal education in law with his passion for motor racing. While still active as a racing driver he began helping out with the management of his local motor sport club and since 2006 has been a permanent steward at every round of Germany's DTM championship. Since 2010 he has also been a Formula One steward. Dr Ennsler, who has worked as a judge, a prosecutor and in the legal department of an automotive-industry company, has also acted as a member of the steering committee of German motor sport body, the DMSB, since spring 2010, where he is responsible for automobile sport. In addition, Dr Ennsler is a board member of the South Bavaria Section of ADAC, Germany's biggest auto club.



VINCENZO SPANO

PRESIDENT OF THE SPORTING COMMISSION OF THE AUTOMOBILE AND TOURING CLUB OF VENEZUELA

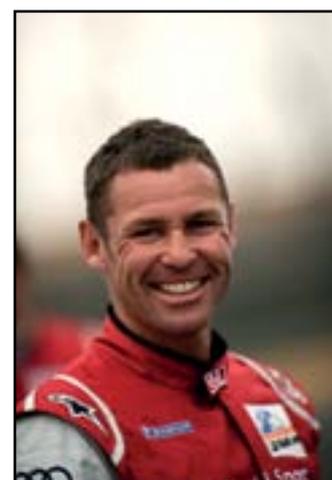
Italian-born Vincenzo Spano grew up in Venezuela, where he went on to study at the Universidad Central de Venezuela, becoming an attorney-at-law. Spano has wide-ranging experience in motor sport, from national to international level. He has worked for the Touring y Automóvil Club de Venezuela since 1991, and served as President of the Sporting Commission since 2001. He was president for two terms and now sits as a member of the Board of the Nacam-FIA zone. Since 1995 Spano has been a licenced steward and obtained his FIA steward superlicence in 2003. Spano has been involved with the FIA and FIA Institute in various roles since 2001: a member of the World Motor Sport Council, the FIA Committee, and the executive committee of the FIA Institute.



TOM KRISTENSEN

NINE TIMES LE MANS WINNER, GERMAN F3 CHAMPION (1991), JAPANESE F3 CHAMPION (1993) ALMS CHAMPION (2001)

Denmark's Tom Kristensen is the most successful driver in the history of the Le Mans 24-Hour race. He has won the classic endurance event nine times from 18 starts, racing for Porsche, Audi and Bentley. Across a four-decade racing career Kristensen competed in karts, single-seaters, touring cars and a range of sportscars. He also tested in F1. The Dane's final Le Mans victory came in 2013, a year in which he also took the World Endurance Championship title, racing alongside team-mates Allan McNish and Loic Duval. Last year he announced that at the end of the 2014 WEC season he would retire. In his final campaign he finished on the podium four times from eight races.



2014 Formula One World Championship

Final Standings (Constructors)

	Australia	Malaysia	Bahrain	China	Spain	Monaco	Canada	Austria	GB	Germany	Hungary	Belgium	Italy	Singapore	Japan	Russia	USA	Brazil	Abu Dhabi	POINTS
1. Mercedes AMG Petronas	25	43	43	43	43	43	18	43	25	40	27	18	43	25	43	43	43	43	50	701
2. Infiniti Red Bull Racing	0	15	20	22	27	15	40	4	25	20	31	35	18	33	27	10	21	10	32	405
3. Williams Martini Racing	10	10	10	6	10	6	6	27	18	18	14	15	27	10	14	15	22	16	66	320
4. Scuderia Ferrari	18	12	3	19	14	12	9	11	8	10	26	18	2	16	0	10	8	14	6	216
5. McLaren Mercedes	33	10	0	0	0	9	14	6	18	6	1	8	5	1	10	22	4	14	20	181
6. Sahara Force India F1 Team	9	10	25	10	3	10	10	10	4	7	0	5	6	8	5	1	0	4	28	155
7. Scuderia Toro Rosso	6	1	0	1	0	0	4	0	3	0	2	2	0	8	2	0	1	0	0	30
8. Lotus F1 Team	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	10
9. Marussia F1 Team	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	2
10. Sauber F1 Team	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11. Caterham F1 Team	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--	0	0

Australian GP

Formula One Timetable & FIA Media Schedule

THURSDAY

Press conference 15.00

FRIDAY

Practice session 1 12.30-14.00

Practice session 2 16.30-18.00

Press conference 18.30

SATURDAY

Practice session 3 14.00-15.00

Qualifying 17.00-18.00

Followed by unilateral and press conference

SUNDAY

Drivers' Parade 14.30

Race 16.00

Followed by podium interviews and press conference

ADDITIONAL MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

QUALIFYING

All drivers eliminated in Q1 or Q2 will be available for media interviews immediately after the end of each session, as will drivers who participated in Q3, but who are not required for the post-qualifying press conference. The TV pen will be located through the paddock entrance on the first grassed area on the left, next to the fountain.

RACE

Any driver retiring before the end of the race will be made available at the TV pen interview area. In addition, during the race every team will make available at least one senior spokesperson for interview by officially accredited TV crews. A list of those nominated will be made available in the media centre.

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