



# Race Preview

## 2016 ABU DHABI GRAND PRIX

25-27 November 2016

The 2016 Formula One World Championship heads to Abu Dhabi this weekend for its 21st and final round. The Yas Marina Circuit provides a spectacular backdrop for the season finale and a Drivers' Championship showdown.

Going into the event, championship leader Nico Rosberg holds a 12-point advantage over sole title rival and Mercedes team-mate Lewis Hamilton. The winner of the three most recent races, form is with Hamilton, but even if the defending champion takes that run to a fourth win in a row, Rosberg will need only to finish third to seal the title. Beyond that eventuality, many permutations are possible. Should Hamilton finish second, then Rosberg needs to finish sixth or better. If the Briton takes third then his German team-mate needs eighth or better.

A fascinating battle is thus in prospect, and it is one that could be influenced by rivals elsewhere – step forward Red Bull Racing's Max Verstappen and Daniel Ricciardo, and Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel and Kimi Räikkönen – and also by the challenge of the state-of-the-art Yas Marina Circuit itself.

Divided into three distinctly different sectors – with the first featuring the track's fastest corners, the second two long straights and the third a slower, more technical segment – Yas Marina presents a set-up puzzle: prioritise aerodynamic grip for the slower sections or trade that against straightline speed. Getting the blend right could decide who emerges victorious.

Yas Marina also hosts a twilight race, with the race set to start at 17:00 local time. It means that as darkness falls track temperature drops considerably and tyre performance can change dramatically. To cope with these demands tyre manufacturer Pirelli is this weekend bringing the softest trio of compounds in its range – the Soft, Supersoft and Ultrasoft.

The Abu Dhabi Grand Prix has a track record of providing Formula One with epic championship deciders in the past – such as the four-way battle of 2010 – and this year looks set to be no exception.



### YAS MARINA CIRCUIT

**Length of lap:**

5.554km

**Lap record:**

1:40.279 (Sebastian Vettel, Red Bull Racing, 2009)

**Start line/finish line offset:**

0.115km

**Total number of race laps:**

55

**Total race distance:**

305.355km

**Pitlane speed limits:**

80km/h in practice, qualifying, and the race

### CIRCUIT NOTES

- ▶ One row of Tec 2 configuration Tecpro has been installed against the guardrail on the left after the exit of Turn 21.
- ▶ One additional, removable 'Yas kerb' has been installed at Turn One.
- ▶ All of the existing bollards have been replaced (18 in total).

### DRS ZONE

- ▶ There will be two DRS zones at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. The first detection point will be 40m before Turn Seven, with the activation point 390m after Turn Seven. The second detection point will be 50m after Turn Nine with the activation point at the apex of Turn 10.

<b>ROUND 21</b>	<b>ABU DHABI GRAND PRIX</b>	<b>START TIME</b>	17:00 Local - 13:00 GMT
<b>RACE DATE:</b>	27 NOV 2016	<b>CIRCUIT LENGTH:</b>	5.554KM
<b>CIRCUIT NAME:</b>	YAS MARINA CIRCUIT	<b>RACE DISTANCE:</b>	305.355KM
<b>NUMBER OF LAPS:</b>	55	<b>LAP RECORD:</b>	1:40.279 - S Vettel [2009]

**KEY**

Speed Kmh  
Braking 120 3 Gear

Sector Time  
T3  
40.8  
Lap Time  
1:40.2

Timing Sector  
Lap Time

● Sector 1    ● Sector 2    ● Sector 3  
 Circuit     Start     Finish  
 DRS Detection     DRS Activation     Run-off Areas  
 FIA Medical & Safety Cars     Marshal Posts     Light Panels



## FAST FACTS

- ▶ This will be the eighth edition of the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. The race joined the calendar in 2009, with the inaugural winner being Sebastian Vettel.
- ▶ Since 2009 just three other drivers have won at the Yas Marina Circuit. Lewis Hamilton won in 2011 for McLaren and again for Mercedes in 2014, Kimi Räikkönen won for Lotus in 2012 and Nico Rosberg won last year. Vettel has also taken two further wins at the island track, in 2010 and 2013. He is thus the most successful driver at this event.
- ▶ Vettel's three wins were all taken at the wheel of Red Bull Racing cars, making the Milton Keynes squad the most successful here. Mercedes are next on the list with two wins.
- ▶ This weekend's title showdown will be the third seen at Yas Marina. The circuit has hosted four season finales (2009, 2010, 2014 and last year) two of which decided the destination of the Drivers' Championship title. Vettel's 2010 race win saw him become Formula One's youngest title winner – at the age of 23 – while Lewis Hamilton's 2014 victory here, in a controversial double points race, handed the Briton the second of his three world championship crowns to date.
- ▶ This will be Felipe Massa's 250th F1 start and the final grand prix of his career. The Brazilian, who is retiring from Formula One at the close of this season, made his F1 race debut at the 2002 Australian Grand Prix driving for Sauber. Since then he has scored 11 wins. All were scored in the first three seasons of an eight-campaign spell at Ferrari. The first came in Turkey in 2006 and his last win, to date, was at the 2008 Brazilian Grand Prix. During his 14 years of F1 racing, Massa finished on the podium a total of 41 times, took 16 pole positions and scored a total of 1122 world championship points, putting him eighth on the list of all-time scorers behind Jenson Button.
- ▶ Button is also bowing out of F1 this weekend, though his step back from grand prix racing is not yet permanent.
- ▶ The Briton, for whom this will be a 305th grand prix start, will continue to work with McLaren and will be available to race for the team "should the need arise".
- ▶ Massa holds an enviable record at the Yas Marina Circuit as the only driver on this year's grid to finish in the points in every one of his races here. The Brazilian missed the inaugural event but has since finished 10th, fifth, seventh and eighth (for Ferrari), and second and eighth for Williams.
- ▶ Three drivers have been on pole twice – Hamilton in 2009 and 2012, Vettel in 2010 and 2011, and Rosberg, who has started the last two events from the front of the grid. The only other driver to start from pole is Mark Webber, in 2013.
- ▶ Nine drivers have appeared on the Abu Dhabi podium. Apart from race winners Vettel, Hamilton, Rosberg and Räikkönen, the podium has also been visited by Button (three times), Fernando Alonso (2), Webber (2), Massa (1), and Valtteri Bottas (1).

# RACE STEWARDS BIOGRAPHIES

## PAUL GUTJAHR

### **PRESIDENT OF THE FIA HILL CLIMB COMMISSION, BOARD MEMBER AND PRESIDENT OF AUTO SPORT SUISSE SARL**

Paul Gutjahr started racing in the late 1960s with Alfa Romeo, Lancia, Lotus and Porsche, then March in Formula 3. In the early '70s he became President of the Automobile Club Berne and organised numerous events. He acted as President of the organising committee of the Swiss GP at Dijon between 1980-82. Between 1980-2005 he acted as President of the Commission Sportive Nationale de l'Automobile Club de Suisse and in 2005 he became President and board member of the Auto Sport Suisse motor sports club. Gutjahr is President of the Alliance of European Hill Climb Organisers and has been steward at various high-level international competitions. He was the Formula 3000 Sporting Commissioner and has been a Formula One steward since 1995.



## ANDREW MALLALIEU

### **PRESIDENT OF THE BARBADOS MOTORING FEDERATION; MEMBER OF THE FIA RALLY COMMISSION; F1, WRC AND F3 STEWARD**

Andrew Mallalieu's 30-year plus involvement in motor sport spans rallying, hill climbs and circuit racing in Barbados and the greater Caribbean region. He is currently President of the Barbados Motoring Federation. Andrew has served as a steward at a wide variety of events including rounds of the World Rally Championship and European F3. A Certified Public Accountant and a Chartered Surveyor his non-motorsport activities include ownership of the Terra Caribbean Group where he is the Chief Executive. He has also been an advisor to the Barbados Government on real estate development issues.



## TOM KRISTENSEN

### **NINE TIMES LE MANS WINNER, GERMAN F3 CHAMPION, JAPANESE F3 CHAMPION, ALMS CHAMPION**

Denmark's Tom Kristensen is the most successful driver in the history of the Le Mans 24-Hour race having won the endurance event nine times before retiring from competition in November 2014. Kristensen's outstanding career saw him race in single-seaters, touring cars as well as testing in Formula One. However, it is for his achievements in sportscars that he is correctly most lauded. Kristensen's first Le Mans win came in 1997, driving for the Joest Racing team. After two years competing with BMW, he rejoined Joest, now racing as Audi Sport Team Joest, in 2000, winning three Le Mans 24-Hours in succession with the team. He won again with Bentley in 2003 before returning to the wheel of Audi machines to win in 2004-'05, 2008 and 2013. In 2013 he also won the FIA World Endurance Championship title.







# FORMULA ONE TIMETABLE & FIA MEDIA SCHEDULE

## THURSDAY

**Press conference** 15.00

## FRIDAY

**Practice session 1** 13.00-14.30

**Practice session 2** 17.00-18.30

**Press conference** 19.00

## SATURDAY

**Practice session 3** 14.00-15.00

**Qualifying** 17.00-18.00

Followed by unilateral and press conference

## SUNDAY

**Drivers' Parade** 15.30

**Race** 17.00

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 interview pen is located in the paddock in front of the media centre.

### 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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