

**FIA Formula E Championship 2018/2019  
Round 9: Monaco E-Prix**

***Michelin helps Jean-Eric Vergne and DS Techeetah to  
sparkle in the Monaco sunshine***

The Monaco E-Prix has a habit of standing out as a landmark round of FIA Formula E Championship. Over and above the close ties the Principality has long enjoyed with world-class motorsport, it was the first European venue to host a round of the newly-created all-electric racing series on May 9, 2015, a race that will be remembered for the seven-car collision that occurred first time through Turn 1.

The e-prix was ultimately won by Sébastien Buemi in the colours of Renault-e.dams. Having previously taken the spoils in Punta de l'Este, Uruguay, the Swiss became the first driver to notch up two Formula E victories. Meanwhile, passionate spectators have been part of the Monaco experience from the start, attracting a turnout of around 17,000 for all the e-prix it has hosted to date. The support for the championship of S.A.S Prince Albert II of Monaco, along with his efforts to promote sustainable development and protection of the environment, are other factors that have influenced the staging of Formula E action in the Principality.

This year's Monaco E-Prix was no exception, with the entire Principality behind the event. For organisational and road-closure timing reasons, though, Friday saw the teams have to prepare for race day without the usual shakedown session, so the first chance to lap the harbourfront loop was Free Practice 1 at 7:30am on Saturday morning. That was followed by Free Practice 2 at 10:00am, then qualifying from 11:45am until 12:50pm, ahead of the start of the e-prix at 4:34pm.

The weather ranged from cool and cloudy early on to bright sunshine and air and track temperatures of 18°C and 22°C respectively for the race itself. Despite the shifting conditions, the cars' MICHELIN Pilot Sport tyres provided high levels of grip throughout and the drivers were soon reassured, despite having been deprived of a shakedown session.

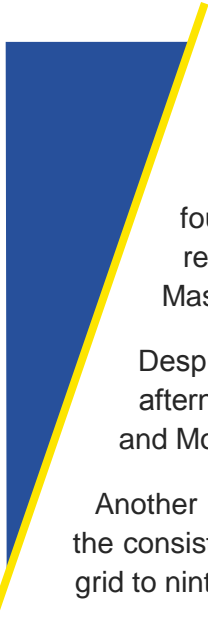
"Shakedown is important for both the teams and Michelin because it enables everyone to finetune their set-ups and allows rubber to get laid down on the track," says **Serge Grisin**, the manager of Michelin's Formula E programme.

Once reassured about the good grip levels delivered by the MICHELIN Pilot Sport, the drivers kept spectators entertained by posting increasingly faster lap times ahead of the qualifying session which was topped by Oliver Rowland (Nissan-e.dams). However, the Briton was forced to serve the three-place grid penalty he had been handed at the Paris E-Prix a fortnight ago, so it was DS Techeetah's Jean-Eric Vergne who inherited pole position.



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At lights-out, the Frenchman was quick off the line, chased by Pascal Wehrlein (Mahindra Racing), Felipe Massa (Venturi Formula E Team) and Oliver Rowland. This foursome gradually pulled clear but a mistake by Wehrlein reshuffled the order, relegating the German to fourth spot and promoting Rowland to second, ahead of Massa.

Despite Rowland's repeated attempts to steal the lead, Vergne held firm to collect the afternoon's victory, while third-placed Massa earned his first top-three finish in Formula E and Monaco-based Venturi's first podium at its home e-prix.

Another inspired performance was provided by André Lotterer (DS-Techeetah) who, aided by the consistency of his MICHELIN Pilot Sport tyres, succeeded in slicing his way from 21st on the grid to ninth at the chequered flag.

"The third generation of our Formula E tyre marks such a step forward that, independently of the fact that we've got new cars this season, it plays a significant part in improving lap times at every race, even at such a short track as Monaco," pointed out **Serge Grisin**. "Today's weather was perfect and the drivers were able to benefit from good grip which allowed them to drive smoothly, and without any major incidents, as a function of their respective energy-management strategies worked out in association with their teams. Even without a shakedown session, the efficiency and performance of the MICHELIN Pilot Sport allowed the them to join battle in first class conditions."

The next round of the 2018/2019 ABB FIA Formula E Championship will take to teams to Berlin, Germany, on May 25.



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