

FORMULA 1 EMIRATES GRAND PRIX DE FRANCE 2021 – SUNDAY

VERSTAPPEN WINS WITH A TWO-STOP MEDIUM-HARD-MEDIUM STRATEGY MASTER CLASS

Le Castellet, June 20, 2021

KEY MOMENTS

- Red Bull's Max Verstappen won the French Grand Prix thanks to an unusual two-stop strategy, going from P Zero Yellow medium to P Zero White hard to medium again. Verstappen was the only frontrunner to stop twice today, taking the lead again just a lap before the chequered flag.
- Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton claimed the lead after the first corner but when Verstappen made his second stop, he elected to stay out on a one-stop medium-hard strategy: the tactics used by the majority of the field. The only other two-stopper was Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, classified 16th.
- The majority of the drivers, including of course the entire top 10 on the grid, chose to start on the medium tyre. Both Aston Martin drivers as well as both Alfa Romeo drivers, plus Alpine's Esteban Ocon and Haas driver Nikita Mazepin were the only drivers to start on the hard tyre, with nobody using the soft during the race.
- With the top eight finishers all having started on the medium tyre, Aston Martin's Sebastian Vettel was the highest placed driver to run an alternative starting strategy. He ran a 37-lap stint opening stint on the hard tyre, before switching to the medium and eventually finishing ninth ahead of his team mate, on the same run plan.
- Temperatures were considerably cooler than they had been over the previous couple of days, with rain on Sunday morning that dried out in time for the race but washed the surface clean of residual rubber. While ambient temperatures remained around 27 degrees centigrade, track temperature was down to about 37 degrees: nearly 15 degrees cooler than free practice and qualifying.

HOW EACH TYRE PERFORMED

- **HARD C2:** This was used for a long second stint by the majority of competitors, as well as a very long first stint for Vettel. This compound allowed some drivers to run 37 laps on it, with Hamilton fighting for the win right to the end.
- **MEDIUM C3:** A key element to Verstappen's victory, after Red Bull decided to switch him onto this compound for a two-stopper and final sprint to the flag. McLaren's Lando Norris also used this tyre to great effect, pulling a very long first stint before switching to the hard at the end and eventually finishing fifth.
- **SOFT C4:** Not used during the race at all, with the conditions (including today's 'greener' track) favouring the harder compounds rather than the P Zero Red soft, which has a lower resistance to graining.

FORMULA 3: RACE 3

Trident driver Jack Doohan, the son of motorbike ace Mick Doohan, took his first Formula 3 win from fourth on the grid, after a race held in wet conditions this morning that brought out the Cinturato wet tyres for the first time. Championship leader Dennis Hauger (Prema) claimed an early lead in the slippery conditions but was overhauled with five laps to go. The rain had largely stopped by lap six (of 20) so a key element of the race was keeping the wet tyres alive – with no intermediates available for Formula 3 – as conditions dried, as well as maximising all the grip available.

MARIO ISOLA – HEAD OF F1 AND CAR RACING

“This race turned into an intense and exciting strategic battle, with a number of unknown factors such as cooler track temperatures, rain this morning that reset the track, and wind that continued to catch a few drivers out, all playing a part. These aspects contributed as well to increased front-left graining, which was key today. As a result, although a one-stopper was expected, there was also possibility of a two-stopper, which Red Bull and Max Verstappen went for decisively. The margins were very finely balanced, as everyone could see, between a two-stopper and a one-stopper, and it took a lot of commitment to make either strategy work. Congratulations to Max Verstappen and Red Bull for a strategic masterclass today, which kept everyone guessing right up to the final lap.”

BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

		
Perez 1m36.693s	Verstappen 1m36.404s	-
Bottas 1m36.960s	Vettel 1m37.138s	-
Verstappen 1m37.052s	Leclerc 1m37.681s	-

LONGEST STINT OF THE RACE

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
HARD C2	Ricciardo – Vettel Tsunoda - Schumacher	37
MEDIUM C3	Ocon – Norris Perez - Giovinazzi	24
SOFT C4	-	-

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