

**2018 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC)**  
**Round 4: Corsica Linea Tour de Corse**

***The MICHELIN Pilot Sport H5  
produces imperial performance in Corsica***

This year's 'Rally of the 10,000 Corners' lived up to its promise by producing a thrilling and spectacular contest in the mountains of Corsica to the event's traditional backdrop of exquisite landscapes. The three-day, 1,120.10-kilometre rally featured 12 special stages totalling 333.48km which took participants from Bastia in the north to Corsica's southern capital Ajaccio, via a loop through the splendid Cap Corse region on Saturday.

More than 70 percent of the competitive distance was new compared with recent years, so competitors had plenty to keep them on their toes. Although three different types of tyre were available for the 2018 Tour de Corse, the WRC runners opted for the hard-compound MICHELIN Pilot Sport H5 throughout to cover the predominantly dry conditions. The performance, safety and longevity of this version allowed Michelin's partners to put the tyre factor to the back of their minds from start to finish.

"The scrap everyone had been hoping for between Sébastien Loeb and Sébastien Ogier failed to materialise when the former made a mistake on SS2," reports **Jacques Morelli**, the manager of Michelin's FIA WRC programme. "Even so, spectators were treated to other exciting fights up and down the field, as well as a tremendous show. We had no problems whatsoever with the MICHELIN Pilot Sport H5 and all our partners were pleased with its performance over the three days. It is designed to combine top performance with consistency over long distances and it delivered on both accounts here in Corsica, not only on Friday's leg, which included two attempts at a stage of more than 49km in length, but also on Sunday morning which kicked off with a 55km test, followed by the 16.25km Power Stage. Given the times the crews succeeded in posting despite this year's challenging format, I believe we matched the expectations of our partners by providing them with a tyre that allowed them to maintain a strong pace all the way to the end."

The 2018 Tour de Corse was won by M-Sport's Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia (Ford Fiesta WRC), while Ott Tänak/Martin Jarveoja (2nd, Toyota Yaris WRC) and Thierry Neuville/Nicolas Gilsoul (3rd, Hyundai i20 WRC) made it an all-Michelin podium.

The French tyre firm monopolised the top two places in the WRC2 class, too, thanks to winners Kopecky/Dresler (Skoda Fabia R5) and second-placed Bonato/Boulloud (Citroën C3 R5) who ran the MICHELIN RH3.

The next round of the 2018 FIA World Rally Championship will take teams to South America for Rally Argentina on April 26-29.



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