



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Boulogne-Billancourt – 18 April 2021

HIGH-PRESSURE WEEKEND AT THE GRANDE PREMIO 888 DE PORTUGAL

- Fabio Quartararo wins high-pressure Portimao race
- In Q2 Fabio Quartararo sets a new all-time circuit lap record of 1'38.862
- Alex Rins sets a new race lap record of 1'39.450
- New fastest race time of 41'46.412

Michelin's 2021 Medium front and Hard rear compound Power Slick tyres were used to great effect by race winner Fabio Quartararo (Monster Energy Yamaha MotoGP) during the gripping third round of the MotoGP™ World Championship at the Algarve International Circuit near Portimao.

During a high-pressure race, Quartararo and Alex Rins (Team Suzuki Ecstar) traded race lap records during their battle for the lead, before Rins unfortunately crashed out. However, in the process Rins had the consolation to set a new race lap record of 1'39.450 on lap 18.

Rounding off a great weekend for the Frenchman, Quartararo took Pole Position on Saturday, with a stunning all-time circuit lap record time of 1'38.862, although this was slightly overshadowed by an incredible lap of 1'38.494 by Francesco Bagnaia (Ducati Lenovo Team) which was cancelled due to a yellow flag infringement. Both laps showing the grip levels available from the Soft MICHELIN Power Slicks used by both riders.

Compared to the 2020 race, this year saw a reduction in race duration of 1.75 seconds, highlighting the improvement in tyre consistency performance that Michelin's tyre developers have made since last year.

During the practice sessions all three of the slick tyre options were tried, with most riders choosing the Medium options front (symmetric) and rear (asymmetric) for today's 25-lap race. However, higher track temperatures meant that some riders decided to opt for the Hard rear (asymmetric), and Danilo Petrucci (KTM Tech 3 Factory Racing) was alone in choosing the Hard front (symmetric).

The lasting grip characteristics and consistency of the Medium MICHELIN Power Slicks was clearly demonstrated by Maverick Viñales (Monster Energy Yamaha MotoGP) in FP4 when he pushed his tyres to the Michelin-imposed safety limit of 31 laps, with no adverse effects on their performance.



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The undulating and demanding track layout meant that rear grip was a crucial factor for all riders when accelerating through the uphill sectors, whilst front end grip and stability under braking was equally important on the downhill sections. This creates a situation where the bikes are either accelerating, braking or on their edges, but the characteristics of Michelin's Portimao tyre allocation allowed the tyres to manage these tough conditions.

Speaking after the race, Piero Taramasso, Michelin Motorsport Two-Wheel Manager, said: "Coming back to Portimao for the second time meant that we were able to benefit from the data we got from the race here in November and offer the riders an optimal range of tyre options. The incredible circuit layout, with its numerous elevation changes and hard acceleration and braking zones means that the tyres are continually under a lot of stress during the 25 laps of racing, but with six different manufacturers in the top seven places, and looking at the lap times and the condition of the tyres after the race, we are very happy with the results."

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+33 (0) 1 45 66 22 22

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27 cours de l'Île Seguin, 92100 Boulogne-Billancourt