

**ABB FIA Formula E Championship 2017/2018
Round 7: E-Prix of Rome**

***Debut race for the MICHELIN Pilot Sport EV2
in the streets of Rome***

As Formula E continues to explore new venues, the next race takes teams to Italy for the first time with an e-prix in the EUR district of the country's capital, Rome. Originally developed in 1937 to be a showcase of modernity, the location was earmarked to host the 1942 Esposizione Universale Roma (EUR) but that was ultimately cancelled following the outbreak of World War 2. The area – which has since become a draw for tourists and a centre for business – went on, however, to welcome the Olympic Games in 1960. In a nod to its original calling, it is now poised to stage an all-electric single-seater race.

The 2.85-kilometre, 21-turn track is the second-longest of the 2017/2018 calendar and its start/finish line is situated on Via Cristoforo Colombo. Drivers will also pass the Obelisco di Marconi, the work of Arturo Dazzi erected in 1959, as well as the celebrated Colosseo Quadrato (aka Palazzo della Civiltà Italiana) which was inaugurated in 1940.

"The track in Rome is not unlike Paris, and average speeds are likely to be very similar," says **Serge Grisin**, the manager of Michelin's Formula E programme. "The circuit is essentially made up of right-angle turns but there is also a faster portion. The surface features several different types of relatively old asphalt which is crazed in places. Expect grip levels to be low to very low, but we are accustomed to this sort of scenario so we are not unduly worried, although the MICHELIN Pilot Sport EV2 has never lapped here before, of course."

As for the weather forecast, Saturday 14 April is expected to be mostly cloudy with a 30-40% chance of rain in the region during the afternoon, and with an air temperature of around 22° C. The MICHELIN Pilot Sport EV2 tires, equipped with a sculpted tread, could thus make their debuts in the wet.

"We are looking forward to the rain," concludes **Serge Grisin**. "Since their launch in 2016, the MICHELIN Pilot Sport EV2 tires have never been used on wet asphalt during the race, a condition for which they were designed. If the track is wet, we will have the opportunity to collect some valuable feedback."



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