

MICHELIN GETS A NEW WINNER AS PETRUCCI TRIUMPHS IN MUGELLO

Michelin saw the 11th different winner on its tyres since returning to MotoGP™ in 2016 as Danilo Petrucci (Mission Winnow Ducati) took victory in an exciting Gran Premio d'Italia Oakley from the Autodromo Internazionale del Mugello in Italy.

The 5,425m Mugello circuit has been a demanding venue all weekend, not just because of its layout, but this year the surface was more abrasive and had a lot more bumps than recent years. This meant tyre consumption was increased and the choice for today's race was a very important decision, one which saw five of the six available MICHELIN Power Slick compounds being used.

Reigning World Champion Marc Marquez (Repsol Honda Team) started from pole position after a stunning qualifying on Saturday saw him smash the outright lap-record with a time of 1'45.519, he got the holeshot and led for the first four laps, but then a fantastic race unfolded which saw four different leaders throughout the remaining 193-laps. The battle at the front witnessed a train of many riders all challenging for the lead, with Marquez, Petrucci, Andrea Dovizioso (Mission Winnow Ducati) and Alex Rins (Team SUZUKI ECSTAR) all taking turns in first place. The riders pushed their respective Michelin rubber to the limit in the hot conditions, as temperatures reached almost 50°C on track numerous overtaking manoeuvres were completed as the riders battled to get supremacy over their adversaries. A final lap encounter decided the result as the leaders went into turn one together, before Petrucci came out in front, Marquez was second and Dovizioso pushing hard in third, despite efforts from the two chasing riders these positions stayed the same to the flag and Petrucci took his maiden victory, making him the fourth winner of the season and the eleventh since Michelin made a return to MotoGP. Marquez's second place helped increase his lead in the championship, whilst Dovizioso had the reward of recording 356.7Km/h through the start/finish speed trap this weekend, which is the highest speed ever recorded in MotoGP and one that also highlights the stability and straight-line performance of the MICHELIN Power Slick tyres.

Michelin's whole range of slick tyres were tried in the practice sessions, as the field worked to find the best pairing for their respective machines, the high temperatures and challenging surface made today's race a real test for the rubber, but performance, grip and consistency were on show throughout the whole race, with the fastest circulation coming on lap-15 from Jack Miller (Pramac Racing) as he narrowly missed setting a new record despite the poor condition of the track. A crowd of 83,761 bathed in the warm sun and were treated to not just the battle at the front, but other encounters throughout the field. Rins was fourth over the line, with Takaaki Nakagami (LCR Honda) recording his best finish in the MotoGP class with fifth place and the title of First Independent Rider. Maverick Viñales (Monster Energy Yamaha MotoGP) took sixth, with wild-card and Ducati Test Rider Michele Pirro (Mission Winnow Ducati) finishing in an impressive seventh. Cal Crutchlow (LCR Honda) was eighth, Pol Espargaro (Red Bull KTM Factory Racing) was ninth - making five different manufacturers in the top-nine - with Fabio Quatararo (Petronas Yamaha SRT) in tenth.

Michelin will now head to Spain for the Catalunya Grand Prix at Montmelo near Barcelona on Sunday 16th June, an event which will also see the second in-season official test of the year take place on the Monday after the race.



Tim Walpole – tim.walpole@motocom.co.uk – Phone: +44.7976.397.265

Alessandro Barlozzi – alessandro.barlozzi@michelin.com – Phone: +33.6.42.23.55.93

Danilo Petrucci – Mission Winnow Ducati:

“The tyres were just perfect for the whole race. We almost did the fastest lap and the end of a very fast race. The point was that until this morning I was trying to do the race with the soft tyre and in the end we did the race with the medium and some also used the hard, so the really good point was that all three rear tyres could be used in the race, which is unbelievable because yesterday we did lap-record pace with that soft tyre and today you can use it in the race. If the temperature had been a bit cooler like yesterday, I would have felt better about using the soft for the race, which was the same as the one I used for the time attack in qualifying, which is a very good point for me. I had no issues with the front tyre. It is really good and we can brake hard, you need to understand the tyre, but when you do it is amazing as it lets you push right until the last lap.”

Piero Taramasso – Michelin Motorsport Two-Wheel Manager:

“Today was a fantastic spectacle to what has been both a very tough, but also extremely rewarding weekend. The whole array of tyres were used in the practices and five of the compounds were raced today. The track was in poor condition compared to last year, but the tyres all worked well and we had some very fast lap-times, plus a new outright lap-record, the fastest speed from a MotoGP bike and the race was 10-seconds quicker than last year. We have learned a lot though and will need to look at how the tyres behaved in the race and reassess the compounds for next season to take into account the extra abrasiveness. Overall we are very pleased and now we head to Catalunya for another important race and a test on the Monday where we will be trying some tyres for 2020.”



Tim Walpole – tim.walpole@motocom.co.uk – Phone: +44.7976.397.265

Alessandro Barlozzi – alessandro.barlozzi@michelin.com – Phone: +33.6.42.23.55.93