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2006 Formula One World Championship A race-by-race guide to the season

Bahrain Grand Prix

12th March 2006

The 2004 Bahrain Grand Prix was the first ever Formula One World Championship race to be held in the Middle East region, and has already built a reputation as a formidable driving challenge. The Sakhir Grand Prix circuit, located 30km from the island's capital, stretches over 5.411 km and, with 50,000 grandstand seats and room for an additional 50,000 standing, was designed to provide an incredible viewing experience. F1 lovers can see cars

heading out into the external desert area, before coming back into the oasis-like straight. The track offers the driver a unique experience in the way the circuit's width varies at the end of the different straights, allowing for diverse racing lines, and the 12-corner design provides at least three genuine overtaking opportunities.



Malaysian Grand Prix

19th March 2006



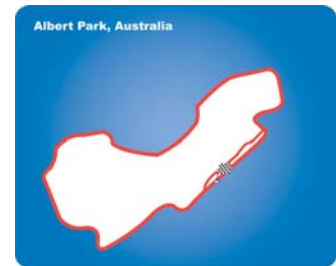
Huge grandstand capacity at the Sepang International Circuit makes for great viewing for the thousands of spectators that travel to the Malaysian Grand Prix each year, delivering on the Prime Minister's demand in the mid 1990s for a track that would be the envy of the world in facilities and technology.

Developed by the renowned circuit designer Hermann Tilke, Sepang is one of the most technical circuits in Formula One, combining long high-speed twisting straights to make the track extremely complex but also ideal for overtaking due to its width.

Australian Grand Prix

2nd April 2006

Set in mown parkland in the heart of Australia's second largest city, the Melbourne Grand Prix circuit is easy to walk around for spectators and draws thousands of fanatics across the 5.303 km track. The 58-lap race has been held in Melbourne's beautiful Albert Park since 1996 following a highly successful decade of races in Adelaide. The race, which for many years had the role of the season opener, is extremely popular with drivers and fans alike, and the party atmosphere of Melbourne keeps them coming back year after year. As the Australian Grand Prix Commission say, Melbourne truly is 'a great place for the race'.



San Marino Grand Prix

23rd April 2006



As a place of pilgrimage for any devotee to Italian motorsport, few tracks in the championship inspire the same adoration as Imola. Although the track, which lies in the heart of Ferrari country, is based in Italy, the circuit plays host to the San Marino Grand Prix. Built first in 1950 from a collection of new roads joining up public highways, the track will forever be associated with the tragic death of the legendary Ayrton Senna and a statue of the champion now stands outside

the corner where he died in 1994. Despite the tragedy, Imola still maintains its magic and incomparable atmosphere on race-weekend, providing drivers with a challenging circuit that makes tough demands of even the very best drivers.

European Grand Prix

7th May 2006

Having hosted the European Grand Prix since 1999, the Nurburgring, overlooked by the Eifel Mountains in the North Rhine region of Germany, is near the hometown of Michael Schumacher, the most successful Formula One driver of all time. At just over 5.1 km, the track provides great racing and offers improved safety over the original Nurburgring, the Nordschleife, which ran for a staggering 22.5 kilometres (14 miles) and featured an incredible 172 corners.



Spanish Grand Prix

14th May 2006



Formula One is no stranger to Barcelona's Circuit de Catalunya, with races having been held there since 1991 and teams conducting annual testing at the venue. However, acquaintance does not lessen the challenge as the combination of high and low-speed corners make the race both physically and mechanically draining. The final two turns, known together as New Holland, provide what many drivers see as one of the greatest challenges of the season

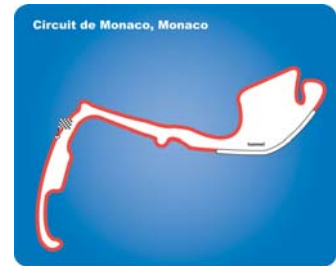
in preparing for the fast exit out of the sequence that is needed before maximum velocity down the straight

to have the chance to overtake in the first corner.

Monaco Grand Prix

28th May 2006

As the only race in the Championship that takes place on public roads, the Monaco Grand Prix is the one race of the year that every driver dreams of winning. Drivers require a combination of precision driving, technical excellence and sheer bravery to win on the unforgiving Monte Carlo circuit, which leaves no margin for error. The narrow track provides little room for overtaking which places more importance on qualifying than at any other grand prix throughout the season. The Monaco Grand Prix, which has been a regular fixture in the world championship since 1995, also provides drivers with the shortest course of the season at 3.34km long.



British Grand Prix

11th June 2006

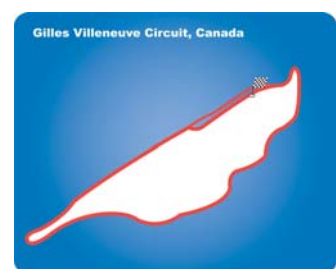


Having hosted the very first round of the first Formula One World Championship in 1950, which was won by Guiseppe Farina in an Alfa Romeo, Silverstone is steeped in motorsport history. With England also home to six of the Formula One teams and the sport's commercial management based in London, the annual Silverstone event feels very much like a home Grand Prix for more than just the British drivers. Since the first race in 1950, many changes have been made to the grounds, the track and the surrounding area, but Silverstone's 5.1km still remain some of the most formidable on the racing circuit.

Canadian Grand Prix

25th June 2006

Following the success of Formula One great Gilles Villeneuve, the city of Montreal took the Ile de Notre Dame in 1977 and connected all the island's roads to make a racing circuit. From the inaugural Grand Prix in 1978, the track has been a permanent fixture in the F1 World Championship ever since. Bringing passion and fanatical support, few places embrace their Grand Prix as enthusiastically as Montreal with the city coming to a stop over the weekend and fans from all corners of the earth coming to Montreal to party.



United States Grand Prix

2nd July 2006



Indianapolis is a true motorsport institution, having been built in 1908 and holding the mantle of the oldest racetrack that is still in use today. The first Indianapolis took place in 1911 and when the Formula One World Championship was formed in 1950, the Indy 500 was a championship round. While the Indianapolis round only ran until 1960, in 2000 the race rejoined the calendar

with a newly constructed infield course.

French Grand Prix

16th July 2006

The French Grand Prix takes place annually at world-famous Magny Cours in the beautiful setting of the Upper Loire region. While the racing circuit was originally built on farm land and was just over a mile in length, it has steadily expanded and has stood at 4.26 km since the circuit was first introduced to the Formula One calendar in 1991.



German Grand Prix

30th July 2006



Built in 1939 as a high-speed test track for Mercedes-Benz who needed a venue to test racing cars, the original track at the Hockenheim circuit was almost 8km long and was formed of two long curved straights with a long corner at either end. When a plan to build a motorway through the circuit was approved, the government supplied the management with a large sum of money for compensation and it was with this that the now famous Hockenheim

circuit was built. Despite a few modifications since, the race has remained an integral part of the Championship since it debuted in 1970.

Hungarian Grand Prix

6th August 2006

Hungary first hosted a (pre-Championship) Grand Prix in the 1930s, however it was not until the early 1980s that the world of Formula One turned its attentions on to the country when the national sporting authority was keen to put it back on the map of global motorsport. Having built a brand new circuit in a valley outside of Budapest, the track opened and held its first Formula One event in August 1983 which was watched by more than 200,000 fans. While the track itself is one of the most narrow and twisty in the championship, the 4.381km course has provided its fair share of nail-biting and exciting races.



Turkish Grand Prix

27th August 2006



The 2006 Turkish Grand Prix will only be the country's second following on from its debut in 2005 at the new purpose-built circuit in Istanbul. The spectacular new track covers a distance of 5.378 km, features 14 corners and allows cars to reach speeds of up to 300km/h. The new track provides a stern test of a driver's ability with a wide variety of corners, plenty of gradients and the fact that, unusually, the course runs anti-clockwise. While only host to one

Grand Prix so far, several high profile individuals in the sport have described the circuit as 'the best track in the

world' and the amazing facilities, which includes seating for a crowd of over 130,000, ensure competitors and spectators alike have a weekend to remember.

Italian Grand Prix

10th September 2006

Providing both an incredible example of a track that perfectly combines and balances speed and skill, the Monza circuit outside Milan has a heart and soul all of its own. The course has hosted some of the most incredible races of all time and also some of the most tragic accidents since its inception in 1922. Monza is both one of the quickest circuits on the F1 calendar but is also one of the longest at over 5.793km long and is surrounded by such legend that the Italians call the race "La Pista Magica" (the magical track).



Belgian Grand Prix

17th September 2006



Belgium's Spa-Francorchamps circuit is one of the most historic in the championship having first hosted a Grand Prix as long ago as 1924, and remains one of the most popular races with fans, drivers and constructors alike. Spa holds the record as the longest circuit on the calendar with a total length of just under 7km providing long straights set against a picturesque setting and also devilish corners which can prove extremely tricky when faced with changeable weather and rain that never seem too far away on race weekend.

Chinese Grand Prix

1st October 2006

With a 29,000-seater grandstand that provides incredible views of almost 80% of the circuit, the new Shanghai International Circuit was first introduced into the Formula One calendar in 2004 providing China with a foothold in the F1 world. The course was designed for the 21st century and is remarkable for its changes of acceleration and deceleration in different winding turns and also lengthy maximum velocity straights.



Japanese Grand Prix

8th October 2006



Designed by the legendary John Hugenholtz, the Suzuka circuit was first commissioned by Honda for use as a test facility, and continues to provide a massive challenge for car and driver ability. Suzuka has remained a much-loved stop on the championship tour since 1987, with the revered figure-of-eight design making it a uniquely designed racetrack. Spectators can be sure of high adrenaline excitement during the race as Suzuka has hosted eight World Championship-deciding races, including the infamous Prost/ Senna collisions.

Brazilian Grand Prix

22nd October 2006

Since the first Championship Grand Prix took place on the Interlagos circuit in 1973, the track has built a reputation as providing a lucky charm for local drivers with wins for Brazilian greats including Emerson Fittipaldi, Carlos Pace, Carlos Reutemann and Ayrton Senna. As the 2006 season finale, this legendary track is sure to provide a racing spectacle and a huge party for all those involved and everyone who supports Formula One!



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