



AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX QUALIFYING

**VALTTERI BOTTAS CLAIMS HIS SECOND CAREER POLE POSITION,
USING PURPLE ULTRASOFT**

**HIS TEAM MATE LEWIS HAMILTON WILL START P8 FOLLOWING A GRID
PENALTY: USES SUPERSOFT IN Q2 AS AN ALTERNATIVE START STRATEGY**

**CLOUDY AND UNCERTAIN WEATHER FORECAST TO REMAIN FOR THE RACE
TOMORROW, WITH ONE PIT STOP EXPECTED**

Spielberg, 8 July 2017 – Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas set fastest time in qualifying for the Austrian Grand Prix, using the purple ultrasoft tyre to go nearly two seconds faster than the best time in qualifying last year.

His team mate Lewis Hamilton will start from eighth on the grid following a penalty but used an alternative strategy by selecting the supersoft tyre to set his best time in Q2. This means that he is the only one in the top 10 to start the grand prix tomorrow on this compound, which should allow him to run a longer first stint than his direct rivals.

Strategy is obviously going to be directly influenced by the weather though, with the unpredictable conditions expected to remain tomorrow. If the race is dry, a one-stop strategy is likely for most competitors.

MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

“The main point of strategic interest today was Lewis Hamilton’s decision to run an alternative strategy, which may have been influenced by his grid penalty. By running a long opening stint on the supersoft, he gives himself the option to go with either the ultrasoft or the soft to the end, depending on the race circumstances. It looks like a one-stop strategy will be the preferred choice tomorrow, but of course this depends on the weather conditions as well, which still appear to be uncertain. Once again, we saw the speed of the latest regulations here in Austria: pole was nearly two seconds faster than the quickest time from qualifying last year.”



PURPLE **ULTRASOFT**

Used for most of qualifying by the majority of competitors.



RED **SUPERSOFT**

The talking point in qualifying: Hamilton used it to get through Q2.



YELLOW **SOFT**

With a small performance gap between compounds, interesting for the race.



FREE PRACTICE 3 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Vettel	1m 05.092s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Hamilton	1m 05.361s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Bottas	1m 05.515s	ULTRASOFT NEW

QUALIFYING TOP 10

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Bottas	1m 04.251s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Vettel	1m 04.293s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Hamilton	1m 04.424s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Raikkonen	1m 04.779s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Ricciardo	1m 04.896s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Verstappen	1m 04.983s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Grosjean	1m 05.480s	ULTRASOFT USED
Perez	1m 05.605s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Ocon	1m 05.674s	ULTRASOFT USED
Sainz	1m 05.726s	ULTRASOFT USED

MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
SOFT	Raikkonen	28
SUPERSOFT	Grosjean, Vettel	29
ULTRASOFT	Ericsson	37

BEST TIME BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
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SOFT	Hamilton	1m 05.975s
SUPERSOFT	Hamilton	1m 04.800s
ULTRASOFT	Bottas	1m 04.251s

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