



MEXICAN GRAND PRIX QUALIFYING

FERRARI DRIVER SEBASTIAN VETTEL EMERGES ON TOP WITH ULTRASOFT AFTER ONE OF THE CLOSEST QUALIFYING SESSIONS OF THE YEAR

SLIPPERY TRACK AND LACK OF DOWNFORCE AT ALTITUDE IN MEXICO, BUT POLE IS MORE THAN TWO SECONDS FASTER THAN LAST YEAR

WITH LOW DEGRADATION, ONE STOP FROM ULTRASOFT TO SUPERSOFT IS THE MOST LIKELY RACE STRATEGY

Mexico City, October 28, 2017 – Ferrari’s Sebastian Vettel set the fastest time in qualifying at Mexico City with the ultrasoft tyre, beating last year’s pole by more than two seconds and taking his 50th career pole at the same time.

Ferrari and Red Bull were the only teams to get through Q1 with the supersoft tyre only (having nominated fewer sets of the ultrasoft than Mercedes). From Q2 onwards, only the ultrasoft was used (except for McLaren’s Stoffel Vandoorne, who used supersoft).

Qualifying took place in ambient temperatures peaking at 24 degrees centigrade and 44 degrees on track. Similar conditions are expected for the race tomorrow, where one pit stop is the most likely strategy if degradation remains low.

A different tyre strategy was evident also from McLaren’s Fernando Alonso in qualifying, who elected not to take part in Q2 to save tyres for the race despite an impressive Q1, following a grid penalty that will put him towards the back tomorrow.

MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

“Although the track had improved since yesterday, grip levels were still generally quite low – with the lack of downforce in the thin air at altitude here – leading to most drivers using ultrasoft to gain the most mechanical grip throughout qualifying. With tyre warm-up being crucial here, we sometimes saw the best performance coming after one or two flying laps in qualifying. With degradation expected to remain low, a one-stopper would appear to be the most likely strategy for the race tomorrow.”

HOW THE TYRES BEHAVED TODAY



PURPLE **ULTRASOFT**

The most popular choice for qualifying: top 10 qualifiers will start on this.



RED **SUPERSOFT**

Ferrari and Red Bull were the only teams to use this in qualifying, in Q1.



YELLOW **SOFT**

Not seen in qualifying.



FREE PRACTICE 3 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Verstappen	1m 17.113s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Hamilton	1m 17.188s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Vettel	1m 17.230s	ULTRASOFT NEW

QUALIFYING TOP 10

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Vettel	1m 16.488s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Verstappen	1m 16.574s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Hamilton	1m 16.934s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Bottas	1m 16.958s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Raikkonen	1m 17.238s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Ocon	1m 17.437s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Ricciardo	1m 17.447s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Hulkenberg	1m 17.466s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Sainz	1m 17.794s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Perez	1m 17.807s	ULTRASOFT NEW

MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
SOFT	Raikkonen	25
SUPERSOFT	Hartley	29
ULTRASOFT	Hamilton	38

BEST TIME BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
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SOFT	Ricciardo	1m 18.769s
SUPERSOFT	Verstappen	1m 17.630s
ULTRASOFT	Vettel	1m 16.488s

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THE RACING SPOT

More info on
Racingspot.pirelli.com

For further information please contact

Roberto Boccafoli • +39 335 125 6694 • roberto.boccafoli@pirelli.com

Maria Stella Narciso • +39 338 942 3585 • mariastella.narciso@pirelli.com

Anthony Peacock • +44 7765 896 930 • anthony@mediaticaworld.com

Sara Vimercati • +39 366 620 9720 • sara.vimercati@pirelli.com

Pirelli Tyre Press Office • +39 02 6442 4270 • pressoffice@pirelli.com