



ABU DHABI GRAND PRIX *QUALIFYING*

**NEW STUNNING ALL-TIME TRACK RECORD AT YAS MARINA
THANKS TO VALTTERI BOTTAS'S POLE ON ULTRASOFT FOR MERCEDES**

**ULTRASOFT USED FROM START TO FINISH OF THE SESSION BY ALL DRIVERS
WITH MORE THAN ONE FLYING LAP POSSIBLE ON THE SAME SET**

**ONE STOP WILL BE THE OPTIMAL STRATEGY FOR TOMORROW
BUT A WIDE PIT STOP WINDOW OPENS UP DIFFERENT STRATEGIES**

Yas Marina, November 25, 2017 - Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas claimed the final pole position of the 2017 season, around 2.5 seconds faster than last year's pole time, using the same P Zero Purple ultrasoft compound choice as one year ago.

The ultrasoft was the tyre used by all the drivers from start to finish of the session, which began in daylight and then ended under the lights as the sun set. As usual here, track temperatures fell progressively during the session.

A one-stop strategy will be the quickest way to run tomorrow's race, especially with Yas Marina not being the easiest circuit to overtake on.

MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

"Qualifying went exactly as we expected it to: there wasn't a huge degree of track evolution and the lap record dropped further, with ultrasofts used from start to finish. The ultrasofts were in fact capable of more than one flying lap, which is why we saw some drivers alternating push laps with cool-down laps. We should see a one-stop ultrasoft-supersoft strategy for most drivers, but the low degradation also means that the pit stop window is pretty wide, so drivers should be able to make their stop more or less when they want to."

HOW THE TYRES BEHAVED TODAY



PURPLE **ULTRASOFT**

Used from start to finish in qualifying by all teams and drivers.



RED **SUPERSOFT**

Not used in qualifying but will be a key part of race strategy.



YELLOW **SOFT**

Seen at the start of FP3, which had very different track temperatures.



FREE PRACTICE 3 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Hamilton	1m37.627s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Bottas	1m37.900s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Raikkonen	1m38.157s	ULTRASOFT NEW

QUALIFYING TOP 10

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Bottas	1m36.231s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Hamilton	1m36.403s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Vettel	1m36.777s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Ricciardo	1m36.959s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Raikkonen	1m36.985s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Verstappen	1m37.328s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Hulkenberg	1m38.282s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Perez	1m38.374s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Ocon	1m38.397s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Massa	1m38.550s	ULTRASOFT NEW

MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
SOFT	Stroll	13
SUPERSOFT	Ericsson	32
ULTRASOFT	Wehrlein	29



BEST TIME BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
SOFT	Hamilton	1m41.135s
SUPERSOFT	Hamilton	1m38.912s
ULTRASOFT	Bottas	1m36.231s

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