

FERRARI DRIVER SEBASTIAN VETTEL WINS A THRILLING GRAND PRIX HELPED BY PIT STOP STRATEGY FROM SECOND ROW OF THE GRID

ONE-STOPPER FROM ULTRASOFT TO SOFT UTILISED BY THE MAJORITY OF DRIVERS, IN WARM AND DRY CONDITIONS




ALTERNATIVE STRATEGY USED BY RED BULL, STARTING ON THE SUPERSOFT. DANIEL RICCIARDO FINISHES JUST OFF PODIUM DESPITE GRID PENALTY

Melbourne, March 25, 2018 – Pit stop strategy was central to the outcome of the Australian Grand Prix. Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel took advantage of a longer first stint to then make a pit stop under safety car conditions. This put him in first place, in front of Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton, who had led from pole and made his own stop in green flag conditions earlier in the race in response to an initial stop from Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen. The vast majority of drivers stopped just once, going from ultrasoft to soft, but a different strategy was used by Red Bull, with both drivers starting on supersoft before moving onto soft. Daniel Ricciardo ended up just off the podium in a close finish, despite a grid penalty. Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas and McLaren's Stoffel Vandoorne also used a different strategy, starting on the ultrasoft and finishing in the points on the supersoft.

MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

"There were effectively two halves to this grand prix, before and after the safety car, which helped to decide the outcome thanks to a clever pit strategy from Ferrari. In the end, we saw a very close race to the finish, with the top five places fiercely contested all the way to the final lap. Most drivers opted for a one-stop strategy, with the quite long safety car period mid-race also helping these tactics by minimising wear and degradation. The behaviour of all three compounds – each used as race tyres – was definitely positive. Two cars even finished the race on a one-stop strategy without using the hardest compound available."

BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

		
Ricciardo 1m25.945s	Vandoorne 1m26.958s	Hamilton 1m27.753s
Raikkonen 1m26.373s	Bottas 1m27.019s	Raikkonen 1m27.982s
Hamilton 1m26.444s	Ricciardo 1m28.127s	Vettel 1m28.245s

LONGEST STINT OF THE RACE

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
SOFT	Raikkonen	39
SUPERSOFT	Bottas, Vandoorne	32
ULTRASOFT	Hartley	34

TRUTHOMETER

Sebastian Vettel won the race by using the fastest one-stop strategy as we predicted for ultrasoft starters. We expected the cars to make their sole stop on lap 28; Vettel made his stop on lap 26, seven laps after a stop from former leader Lewis Hamilton.

Car	Driver	Start	Pit 1	Pit 2
5	VET	USu	Sn (26)	
44	HAM	USu	Sn (19)	
7	RAI	USu	Sn (18)	
3	RIC	SSu	Sn (26)	
14	ALO	USn	Sn (26)	
33	VER	SSu	Sn (21)	
27	HUL	USu	Sn (24)	
77	BOT	USu	SSn (25)	
2	VAN	USn	SSn (25)	
55	SAI	USu	Sn (22)	
11	PER	USn	Sn (24)	
31	OCO	USn	Sn (23)	
16	LEC	SSn	Sn (20)	USn (27)
18	STR	SSn	Sn (25)	USn (29)
28	HAR	SSn	Sn (1)	USn (22)
8	GRO	USu	SSn (24)	
20	MAG	USu	SSn (22)	
10	GAS	USn		
9	ERI	SSn		
35	SIR	SSn		

SS= Supersoft

US= Ultrasoft

S= Soft

n= new

u= used

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