

**THREE DIFFERENT TYRE STRATEGIES IN THE TOP FIVE
AT THE JAPANESE GRAND PRIX**

**ONE-STOPPER FOR NEARLY ALL THE DRIVERS DURING
BY FAR THE HOTTEST DAY OF THE WEEKEND**

**PIRELLI REMAINS AT SUZUKA WITH RENAULT FOR A TWO-DAY DEVELOPMENT
TEST WITH 2019 PROTOTYPE TYRES**

Suzuka, October 7, 2018 – Lewis Hamilton led a Mercedes one-two, stopping just once without losing the lead. Both Mercedes adopted the same soft-medium strategy, but behind them there were some different one-stop strategies that completed the top five. The exception was Red Bull’s Daniel Ricciardo, who finished fourth using the same soft-medium strategy as the top two, having started 15th due to a problem in qualifying. Another driver to show plenty of pace was Ferrari’s Sebastian Vettel, finishing sixth with a supersoft-soft strategy after dropping towards the back following a racing incident. With temperatures and energy loads high at the Suzuka circuit, in contrast to the variable weather seen up to today, there were a number of question marks about strategy before the race start. Nonetheless, the majority of drivers were able to stop only once: helped additionally by an early safety car. Pirelli now remains in Suzuka for a two-day development test with Renault, assessing 2019 prototype tyres on Tuesday and Wednesday.

MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

“With temperatures being so much warmer than they have been up to now, we knew that there would be some additional challenges at this very demanding track. This was indeed the case, especially in the closing stages of the race, but it did not compromise the action at all, as the many impressive fightbacks showed. Thanks also to an early safety car most drivers were able to make just one stop, and we also saw some very long stints on all three compounds. Many chose to finish the grand prix on the medium – the equivalent of last year’s soft – despite the fact that this tyre wasn’t used extensively in free practice, and not at all in these warm conditions.”

BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

		
Hamilton 1m32.785s	Vettel 1m32.318s	Stroll 1m33.354s
Bottas 1m33.110s	Verstappen 1m33.367s	Sirotkin 1m33.985s
Ricciardo 1m33.187s	Hamilton 1m34.013s	Verstappen 1m35.093s

LONGEST STINT OF THE RACE

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
MEDIUM	Ericsson	47
SOFT	Sainz, Verstappen	32
SUPERSOFT	Gasly	29

THE WINNING STRATEGY

Lewis Hamilton won the race using one stop on lap 24 as predicted, using the optimal soft-medium strategy that we thought would be quickest. Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel set the fastest race lap – beating last year's benchmark by nearly 0.8 seconds – just before the flag using the soft tyre.

Car	Driver	Start	Pit 1	Pit 2
44	HAM	Su	Mn (24)	
77	BOT	Su	Mn (23)	
33	VER	SSu	Sn (21)	
3	RIC	Sn	Mn (23)	
7	RAI	SSu	Mn (17)	
5	VET	SSu	Sn (26)	
11	PER	SSu	Sn (24)	
8	GRO	Su	Mn (29)	
31	OCO	SSu	Mn (26)	
55	SAI	Sn	Mn (32)	
10	GAS	SSu	Sn (29)	
9	ERI	Sn	Mn (5)	
28	HAR	SSu	Sn (28)	
14	ALO	Sn	Mn (26)	
2	VAN	Sn	Mn (23)	
35	SIR	Sn	Mn (4)	SSn (38)
18	STR	Sn	Mn (14)	SSn (39)
16	LEC	Sn	Mn (4)	Su (35)
27	HUL	Mn	Sn (30)	
20	MAG	Sn	Mn (2)	

M = Medium

S = Soft

SS = Supersoft

n = new

u = used

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