

# MERCEDES DRIVER LEWIS HAMILTON WINS FROM SECOND ON THE GRID WITH A ONE-STOP ULTRASOFT-SOFT STRATEGY

# MAX VERSTAPPEN USES SOFT-ULTRASOFT STRATEGY TO FINISH FIFTH FROM THE BACK OF THE GRID, WITH A VERY LONG FIRST STINT

# ALL THREE COMPOUNDS USED ON THE LOW-DEGRADATION SURFACE WITH NEARLY ALL THE DRIVERS STOPPING ONLY ONCE

Sochi, September 30, 2018 – The top four finishers at the Russian Grand Prix used the same ultrasoft-soft strategy, having also occupied the first four places on the grid. By contrast, Red Bull's Max Verstappen was fifth from the very back of the grid after using an alternative soft-ultrasoft strategy and leading for a large part of the race. Some graining was seen on the ultrasoft, also due to weather that was a bit cooler than previous days, with some rain falling before the start of the race (which nonetheless remained dry from start to finish).

All three compounds were used, in track temperatures of around 30 degrees centigrade.

### MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

"There were no real surprises during this race, with the top four drivers carrying out the strategy that we predicted to be theoretically quickest, but we saw a brilliant drive from Max Verstappen and his Red Bull team mate Daniel Ricciardo, who used an alternative strategy to move up into the top six from the back of the grid. Tyre degradation was very low, which allowed for some long stints on the soft. Generally speaking, the tyre performance on these fastest-ever Formula 1 cars was exactly in line with our expectations, with a new race lap record set at the very end by Valtteri Bottas on the soft."

## **BEST TIME BY COMPOUND**

Bottas	Verstappen	Perez
1m35.861s	1m36.283s	1m41.143s
Hamilton	Ricciardo	Leclerc
1m35.916s	1m36.345s	1m41.502s
Vettel	Ericsson	Magnussen
1m35.990s	1m37.931s	1m41.658s

### LONGEST STINT OF THE RACE

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
SOFT	Alonso	47
ULTRASOFT	Sainz	19
HYPERSOFT	Perez	12



# THE WINNING STRATEGY

Lewis Hamilton won the race using one pit stop, going from ultrasoft to soft on lap 14, as we expected. The top four followed the same strategy, ahead of Max Verstappen and Daniel Ricciardo who started on soft. The highest-classified driver to start the race on hypersoft was Sauber's Charles Leclerc in seventh.



Car	Driver	Start	Pit 1	Pit 2
44	HAM	USu	Sn (14)	
77	BOT	USu	Sn (12)	
5	VET	USu	Sn (13)	
7	RAI	USu	Sn (18)	
33	VER	Sn	USn (43)	
3	RIC	Sn	USn (39)	
16	LEC	HSu	Sn (10)	
20	MAG	HSu	Sn (9)	
31	OCO	HSu	Sn (10)	
11	PER	HSu	Sn (12)	
8	GRO	HSu	Sn (8)	
27	HUL	Sn	USn (35)	
9	ERI	HSu	Sn (11)	USn (37)
14	ALO	USn	Sn (5)	
18	STR	USn	Sn (7)	
2	VAN	USn	Sn (11)	
55	SAI	Sn	USn (32)	
35	SIR	USn	Sn (10)	
10	GAS	Sn		
28	HAR	HSn	Sn (3)	

S = SoftUS = Ultrasoft HS = Hypersoft u = usedn = new

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