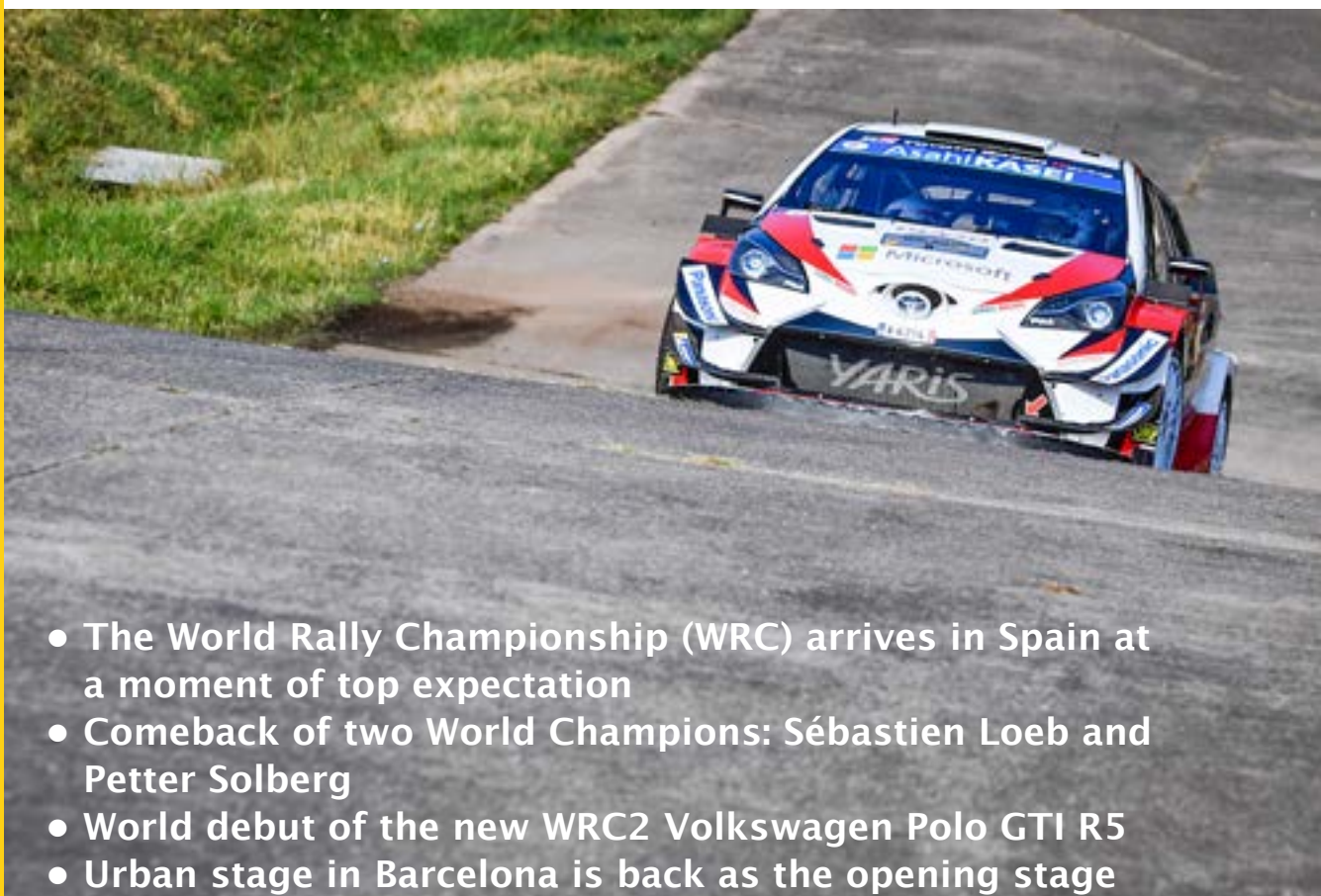


54 RallyRACC:

A thrilling event filled with novelties



- The World Rally Championship (WRC) arrives in Spain at a moment of top expectation
- Comeback of two World Champions: Sébastien Loeb and Petter Solberg
- World debut of the new WRC2 Volkswagen Polo GTI R5
- Urban stage in Barcelona is back as the opening stage on Thursday
- Salou continues to host a stage, the last stage on Saturday
- Costa Daurada, Salou and PortAventura World, nerve centres for the 14th consecutive time
- New design of the longest stage of the rally: La Fatarella-Vilalba (38.,85 km)
- The only event in the world championship with a mixed gravel-tarmac layout
- 4 race days and 18 special stages (10 different), with a total of 331.58 timed km
- RallyRACC introduces measures to reduce the carbon footprint



Madrid, 18 October 2018.- The penultimate round of the FIA World Rally Championship, the RallyRACC CATALUNYA-COSTA DAURADA, Rally de España 2018, will be staged from 25 to 28 October, with several organizational novelties and sports attractions that will turn this 54th edition into one of the most interesting events of the recent seasons.



The event is organised by the RACC and the itinerary is made up of 1,495.73 km, 331.58 of which are timed, distributed into 18 special stages (10 of them different). The rally runs along the roads of the province of Tarragona, framed by the triangle made-up of Costa Daurada, Salou and PortAventura World, with a stopover in Barcelona to race the opening stage of the event, in the heart of the city, on Thursday 25, in the afternoon. For many years, the RallyRACC has been a synthesis of the best of the World Rally Championship, offering a mixed gravel-tarmac route, unique in the calendar, in addition to a comfortable and welcoming infrastructure both for participants and spectators.

In its 14th consecutive edition staged at the Costa Daurada, the Spanish event is a combination of innovation and show, which this year is boosted by the excitement of the uncertainty as regards the leadership in the championship, with three drivers fighting for the title after the results in Wales:



Thierry Neuville (Hyundai), Sébastien Ogier (Ford) and Ott Tänak (Toyota), the first two separated by only 7 points. Moreover, the particular circumstances and the fact that the RallyRACC is one of the favourite events of the crews, took the most laureate driver in the history of rallying, Sébastien Loeb, to choose the Spanish race to close his mini-campaign in 2018 at the wheel of his Citroën C3 WRC.

There will also be a worldwide launch at the RallyRACC, with the new Volkswagen Polo GTI R5, a latest generation car that will join the group of favourites of the well-stocked WRC2 series. This vehicle will be taking part for the first time in a race, with a driver who is also a big novelty in the current WRC, no other than former World Rally Champion and two-time Rallycross World Champion Petter Solberg, joined by Frenchman Éric Camilli.

And if this should not be enough, the RallyRACC will be having another outstanding participant, North American driver Ken Block, the king of acrobatics at the wheel and star at the Global Rallycross, who will be performing his only participation in the WRC this season at the wheel of a Ford Fiesta WRC.

Thursday 25: Back to Barcelona

After a one-year break, the city of Barcelona returns to the itinerary of the RallyRACC. As it happened from 2014 to 2016, Montjuïc will be host to an authentic special stage that will combine spectacular show and dissemination, and provide for the first provisional classification of the rally. This urban special stage will be raced on Thursday 25 October, with the same layout as in previous editions: a combination of quick and slow sections, and other sections that are especially aimed the enjoyment of spectators.

The caravan of participants will take the start of the rally in Salou at 13.15h, and arrive at Avenida María Cristina in Barcelona from 15h onwards. The





special stage as such will start at 18.08h. During these three hours, the drivers will take part in several promotional activities and there will be also a caravan of vehicles with a history driving along the stage to the delight of spectators.

Friday 26: Even more difficult mixed day

One of the highlights among the novelties introduced in the race structure are the changes made to the gravel day (Friday, 26 October), especially in the stage that had been known so far as Terra Alta, which has been the most difficult stage of the gravel day since 2010. This long mixed stage of 38.85 km (the longest of the rally) has evolved to become the great novelty of this edition, and will be raced in opposite direction with the name of 'La Fatarella-Vilalba'. The first 23 km are the end of Terra Alta, run in opposite direction, to continue on 12 km, which are completely new, to reach Vilalba dels Arcs. The surface changes from tarmac to gravel will continue to be decisive, but with a completely different itinerary.



This day will see the comeback of two stages that were not raced since 2014: 'Gandesa' (7



km) and 'Pesells' (26.59 km), thus contributing to a second race day with the mentioned novelty as its highlight.

Saturday 27 and Sunday 28: Demanding and selective tarmac
The remaining two days, Day 3 and 4 of the event, will be run completely on tarmac, and will include stages that are already known by the participants from the last two years. On Saturday 27 October, these stages will be 'Querol' (21.26 km), 'El Montmell' (24.40 km) and 'Savallà' (14.12 km), which are special stages that have shown to be highly selective and will be run twice.

On this day, the participants will have to face the classic urban stage on their arrival in Salou, framed by the Promenade and with the Mediterranean Sea in the background, a very popular stage.

Two stages will be covered twice on Sunday 28, fourth and last day of the RallyRACC: 'Riudecanyes' (16.35 km) and 'Santa Marina' (14.50 km), the latter being the Power Stage in its second passage, awarding points to the top five crews.



Salou and PortAventura World, nerve centres of the 54 RallyRACC
Salou will be once again the capital of the 54 RallyRACC. Passeig de Jaume I will be the location of the podium, venue of the official start and finish of the rally, as well as of the prize-giving ceremony. It will also be host to a trade area with a large variety of offers and activities for fans and the ge-



neral public, filling the avenue with visitors from all over the world. This area will also be the venue of the already mentioned urban stage that will put an end to the competitive activities on Saturday. As every year, the race direction (headquarters) and the media centre will be located in the Convention Centre of the PortAventura leisure resort (the best location of the WRC due to its large, comfortable and modern facilities). The main car park (next to Ferrari World) will be the location of the Service Park and the Village, which will be the focus of fans during the race days.



The 54 RallyRACC counts on the collaboration of the Tarragona County Council, the Tourism Board of the Tarragona-Costa Daurada, the Salou Town Council, the Tourism Board of Salou, PortAventura World, the Catalan Tourist Board and Toyota, apart from the Barcelona City Council and the Barcelona County Council.

Key event for the World Championship

Given its position in the world championship calendar, and the development of the events staged so far, the 54 RallyRACC CATALUNYA-COSTA DAURADA, Rally de España 2018, will be a key race for the decision on the titles of the World Rally Championship (Drivers, Co-Drivers and Manufacturers), WRC2 and WRC3. The RallyRACC will be the 12th and penultimate scoring round for the WRC2 and WRC3 classes. Moreover, the RallyRACC will also be a scoring round towards three new championships that have gathered a large number of entrants: Peugeot Rally Cup Ibérica (5th out of 6), Beca Júnior R2 (6th out of 6) and N5 RMC Cup (5th out of 6).



Toyota, favourite in an open championship

Considering the results of the championship at every event staged this season, a thrilling fight between the four official structures can surely be expected: Toyota (current leader), Hyundai, Ford and Citroën. The leading driver in the championship is Thierry Neuville from Belgium (Hyundai i20 Coupé WRC), who took the victory in Sweden, Portugal and Sardinia-Italy. The current World Champion, Frenchman Sébastien Ogier (Ford Fiesta WRC) is second, and took the victory in Monte Carlo, Mexico, Corsica-France and Wales-Great Britain. And Estonian driver Ott Tänak (Toyota Yaris WRC), possibly the driver of the moment, is running third, after winning in Argentina, Finland, Germany and Turkey, the three last races in a row. Neuville has an advantage of 7 points over Ogier and 21 over Tänak.

Anything can happen, considering that there are still 50 points at stake, in addition to the 10 points awarded to the two fastest times at the two Power Stages that are still to be run. There are many alternatives for the lead of the championship and it is only logical to think that there are drivers who haven't said their last word yet: Jari-Matti Latvala and Esapekka Lappi (Toyota), Andreas Mikkelsen and Dani Sordo (Hyundai), Craig Breen (Citroën) and Elfyn Evans and Teemu Suninen (Ford). And it is more than obvious that at the RallyRACC we will have to watch closely the performance of Sébastien Loeb (Citroën), 8-times winner of the Spanish round, who can become a tough nut to crack for the candidates for the podium of the WRC.

**Thursday, 25 October: Start from Salou; first stage in Barcelona**

08.00h Shakedown (Emprius, 2 km, mixed)
 13.15h Start (Podium on the Salou Promenade)
 18.08h SS1 Barcelona (3.2 km, tarmac) (live TV)
 20.08h Parc fermé in PortAventura World

Friday, 26 October: Hard opening test on gravel

08.00h Start from PortAventura World
 09.33h SS2 'Gandesa' (7 km, gravel)
 10.06h SS3 'Pesells' (26.59 km, gravel)
 11.20h SS4 'La Fatarella-Vilalba' (38.85 km, mixed)
 13.15h Regrouping (20') and service (30') in PortAventura World
 15.23h SS5 'Gandesa' (7 km, gravel)
 15.56h SS6 'Pesells' (26.59 km, gravel)
 17.10h SS7 'La Fatarella-Vilalba' (38.85 km, mixed)
 19.10h Passage through the podium in Salou and parc fermé in PortAventura World (10')
 19.20h Service park in PortAventura World (1h.15')
 20.35h Parc fermé in PortAventura World

Saturday, 27 October: The most demanding tarmac

06.45h Start from PortAventura World
 08.23h SS8 'Savallà' (14.12 km)
 09.08h SS9 'Querol' (21.26 km)
 10.08h SS10 'El Montmell' (24.40 km) (live TV)
 11.43h Service in PortAventura World (30')
 13.28h SS11 'Savallà' (14.12 km)
 14.10h SS12 'Querol' (21.26 km)
 15.08h SS13 'El Montmell' (24.40 km) (live TV)
 16.42h Regrouping in Salou (15')
 17.00h SS14 'Salou' (2.24 km)
 17.20h Parc fermé in PortAventura World (10')
 17.30h Service parc in PortAventura World (45')
 18.15h Parc fermé in PortAventura World

Sunday, 28 October: A difficult outcome

06.45h Start from PortAventura World
 07.35h SS15 'Riudecanyes' (16.35 km)
 08.38h SS16 'Santa Marina' (14.50 km) (live TV)
 09.45h Service in PortAventura World (30')
 10.50h SS17 'Riudecanyes' (16.35 km)
 11.21h Regroup in Mont-roig del Camp (35')
 12.18h SS18 'Santa Marina' (14.50 km), Power Stage (live TV)
 13.41h Service park in PortAventura World (10')
 14.01h Finish podium in Salou

**TV and RallyRACC**

The RACC has prepared, in agreement with the WRC promoter, a large TV dissemination of the 54 RallyRACC, as a complement to the offer of movistar+, the digital platform that holds the TV rights of the FIA World Rally Championship in Spain, and has therefore the signal of all of the images produced by the WRC in all of the scoring rounds, including the RallyRACC.

In addition to movistar+ and all the international broadcasters that have an agreement signed with the promoter (around 90 channels in 94 countries), Teleduarte will be offering a detailed information about the four race days, with a daily report of 26 minutes at the end of every day, in addition to the information offered during the news spaces at TVE. This channel will also broadcast the following stages live: 1-Barcelona (Thursday 25, from 18h to 19h), 13-El Montmell 2 (Saturday 27, from 15h to 16h) and 18-Santa Marina (Sunday 28, from 12h to 13h).

Esport3, the sports channel of TV3, will be offering daily highlights and all live stages of the rally. The planned schedule is as follows: Thursday 25, live broadcast of the urban stage in Barcelona (from 17.45h to 19.20h). Friday 26, highlights of the day (22.30h). Saturday 27, live broadcast of the two passages of El Montmell, with a connection 10' before and 10' after; highlights of the day (24h). Sunday 28, live broadcast of the two passages of Santa Marina, with a connection 10' before and 10' after; 35' live broadcast of the finish podium in Salou (from 14.45h to 15.20h); final event highlights (21.15h). As in previous years, TV3 will produce the signal of the first of the live broadcasted stages, which will be the images distributed worldwide by the WRC promoter.

The RallyRACC reduces the carbon footprint

The RallyRACC attained last year the Achievement of Excellence against the FIA Environmental Certification Framework, the highest possible certification. This year, the rally is working hard in order to minimise the carbon footprint of the event, both by the participating teams, as well as the organisation and the public. The organisation is well aware of the fact that only by means of awareness, involvement and collaboration of all the parties will



 COSTA DAURADA
ATRONAT D' TORRE DE LA DIPUTACIÓ DE TARRAGONA

 SALOU
europe's beach

 CATALUNYA

 Ajuntament de Barcelona

 PortAventura WORLD
PARKS & RESORT

 TOYOTA

 Diputació Barcelona
#DibaOberta

 Europcar

 Diputació Tarragona

 Ajuntament de Salou

 Generalitat de Catalunya

 esportcat

it be possible to achieve a more sustainable RallyRACC.

The measures that were already introduced last year include an extensive environmental policy based on the commitment to sustainability: Car-wash areas and water re-use, collection of oil and fluids in the service area, selective waste collection containers in the service park and several stages, and the use of hybrid Toyota vehicles by the organisation.



This year, the RACC made another step forward introducing a series of measures to assess the environmental impact of the rally, with the aim of reducing the impact and involving spectators to achieve this target. According to the data on power consumption, CO2 emissions and waste generation, the organisation generates 10.92 % of the impact, the participating teams 26.56 %, and the spectators 62.52 %; these data are logical considering that spectators are the largest group involved.

In this edition, there will be volunteers holding tablets that are connected to the Lavola portal through the RallyRACC website and App, to provide all spectators with a voluntary and individual compensation mechanism in order to reduce the carbon footprint caused by their CO2 emissions.

Thus they will be able to calculate instantly their emissions, the respective cost and the projects available to be funded with their compensation. Spectators will be able to collaborate with the environmental project of their choice, from the projects proposed by Clean CO2 by Lavola, a company with proven solvency in sustainability projects and the compensation of emissions. The contributions made by the spectators of the RallyRACC will be accredited by means of a certificate showing the compensation of the carbon emissions generated at the rally.

Produced by JAS Info Service • Pictures: @World by Andre Lavadinho & Aurelien Vialatte

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RallyRACC and the FIA World Rally Championship

The RallyRACC will be staging its 54th edition in 2018. In 2014 it celebrated its 50th anniversary and in 2015 the 25th consecutive edition as a scoring round towards the FIA World Championship. In these 27 years in the championship, the RallyRACC has been based for 14 years in Lloret de Mar (Costa Brava) and for 14 years in Salou and PortAventura World (Costa Daurada).

- 1916 The 'Vuelta automovilística a Catalunya' is born
- 1957 Rallye Cataluña and Vuelta a Catalunya get together in the Spanish Championship
- 1973 Organisation of the Rally Cataluña-Rallye de las Cavas of the Spanish Championship
- 1980 The Rally Catalunya becomes part of the European Championship
- 1988 Merger of Rally Catalunya and Rally Costa Brava in the European Championship
- 1991 1st edition of the Rallye Catalunya-Costa Brava, scoring round towards the World Rally Championship
- 2005 The RallyRACC CATALUNYA-COSTA DAURADA is born (Salou/PortAventura)
- 2014 The RallyRACC CATALUNYA celebrates its 50th anniversary
- 2018 28 consecutive years of RallyRACC in the FIA World Rally Championship

Complete information about the 54 RallyRACC available at:

- Official website: www.rallyracc.com
- Social media: Facebook, Twitter (#RallyRACC #WeAreAllRallyRACC), Instagram
- Official Programme produced by the RACC and Official Guide created by AutoSport Hebdo
- Stage and Spectator Guide available at the official website
- Movistar+: 26' daily highlights, 52' on the last day and live broadcasting of the stages 1 (Barcelona, Thursday 25), 10 and 13 (El Montmell, Saturday 27), and 16 and 18 (Santa Marina, Sunday 28) by the digital platform movistar+ (holder of the WRC rights in Spain).
- TV3-Esport3, only in the Catalan area: Thursday 25, live broadcast of the stage in Barcelona (from 17.45 a to 19.20). Friday 26, highlights of the day (22.30h). Saturday 27, live broadcast of the two passages of El Montmell, with a connection 10' before and 10' after; daily highlights at 24h. Sunday 28, live broadcast of the two passages of Santa Marina, with a connection 10' before and 10' after; 35' live broadcast of the finish podium in Salou (from 14.45h to 15.20h); highlights (21.15h).
- TVE -Teledporte. Daily highlights 26' and, additionally: Thursday 25, live broadcast of the stage in Barcelona (from 18h to 19h). Saturday 27, live broadcast of El Montmell-2 (from 15h to 16h). Sunday 28, live broadcast of Santa Marina-2 (from 12h to 13h).

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