

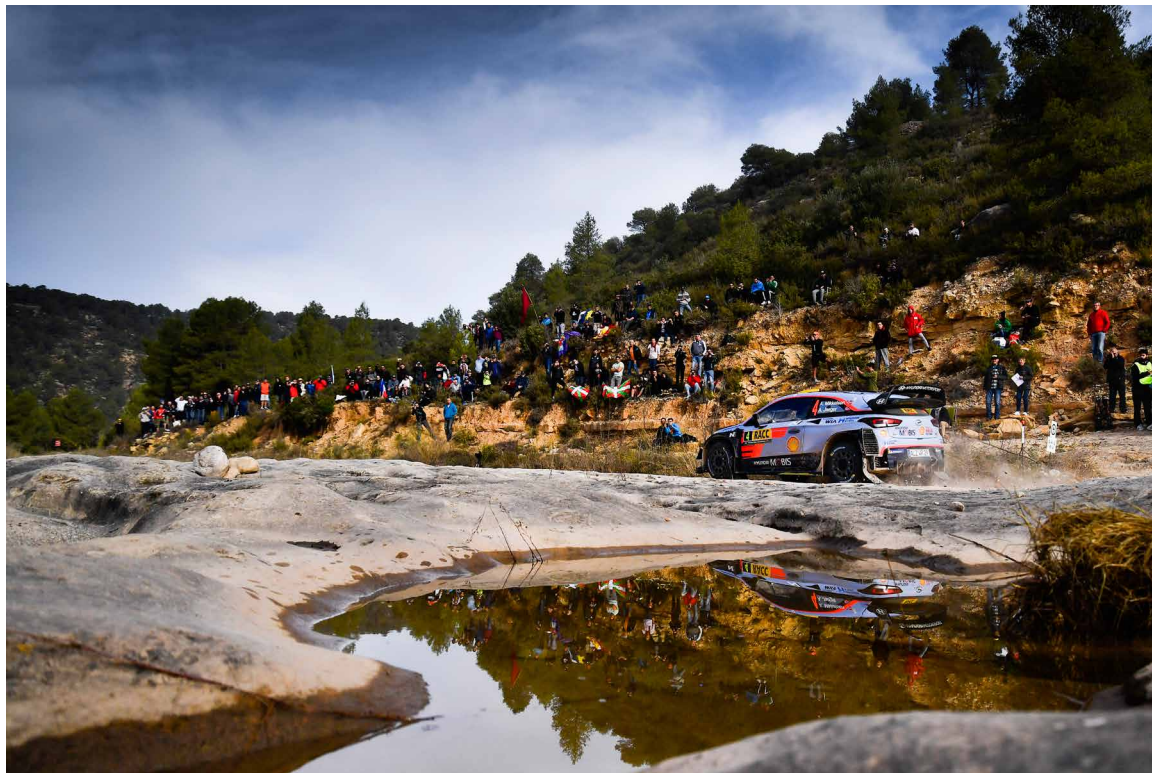


55 RallyRACC: Decisive for the 2019 World Championship

- The RallyRACC CATALUNYA-COSTA DAURADA, best sports offer of the WRC
- Sébastien Loeb (Hyundai) vs. Sébastien Ogier (Citroën), the great battle
- Toyota, and especially Ott Tänak, ready to win their first RallyRACC
- Dani Sordo (Hyundai) wishing to take the victory in his 17th participation in the RallyRACC
- Extraordinary participation figures in WRC2 Pro and WRC2: 28 R5 units
- Spanish trio ready to give a surprise in WRC2: 'Cohete' Suárez, Jan and Nil Solans
- 3 race days with 17 special stages and 325.56 timed km
- The event keeps the urban stage in Salou on Saturday 26

Barcelona, 17 October 2019.- With one week left for the start of the 55 RallyRACC CATALUNYA-COSTA DAURADA, Rally de España 2019, huge expectation is being generated by the possible outcome of the different cham-





pionships of the FIA WRC, which have not been decided yet: Drivers-Co-drivers, Manufacturers and WRC2. The event that will be staged from 24 to 27 October, will have its nerve centre in Salou and the PortAventura theme and leisure park.

This round will be the penultimate round of the world championship and the main favourites will start the race separated by only a few points in the standings. The RallyRACC is the only event of the world championship with a mixed layout on gravel and tarmac, and also one of the rallies with the best tarmac stages of the championship. This configuration, which has been kept for ten consecutive editions, offers difficulty to the crews and a spectacular show for fans.

The driver who has shown himself most competitive in the season so far is, without doubt, Ott Tänak (Toyota Yaris WRC), who will be looking forward to write down his name in the list of winners of the RallyRACC, a victory that would provide him with a probably definitive advan-





tage in the fight for the title. In any case, the participation of the two leading drivers of the RallyRACC since the event has been staged at Costa Daurada, Sébastien Loeb (Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC) and the 2018 winner Sébastien Ogier (Citroën C3 WRC) provide the event with an extraordinary attractiveness. Together they make up the winners of 12 of the 14 editions staged so far.

On top of that, the presence of Dani Sordo (Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC), in what will be his 17th consecutive participation in his home rally, raises the interest of fans, wishing to see him on the top step of the podium. He has stepped on that top spot once this season, in Sardinia. Sordo has finished the RallyRACC 7 times on 2nd or 3rd place. The presence of Spanish



crews is without doubt one of the major incentives of this edition, since Dani Sordo will be joined by a group of three promising drivers in the WRC2 category: José Antonio Suárez-Alberto Iglesias (Škoda Fabia R5), Nil Solans-Marc Martí (Volkswagen Polo R5) and the recently crowned Junior World Champion, Jan Solans (Ford Fiesta R5).



It is precisely this class WRC2 – and the vehicles which comply with the R5 regulations – which has the largest entry and the one that promises to be most thrilling as there is no clear favourite. In fact, many of them are in the fight for the title of the class: the Škoda Fabia R5 machines of Pierre-Louis Loubet, Benito Guerra, Nicolay Gryazin, Fabio Andolfi, Marco Bulacia and the Volkswagen Polo R5 of Kajetan Kajetanowicz.

The large entry list of the Peugeot 208 R2 models that participate in the Peugeot Rally Cup Ibérica and also in the Beca Júnior R2, is an incentive for the future champions. In the first competition, the fight will be between the top two classified drivers, Daniel Berdomás and Josep Bassas, and in the second, Bassas and Sergi Francolí will be contesting the title.

The route of the 55 RallyRACC gathers all characteristics that made the event famous in the last decade: the difficulty added to a high pace, which has been greatly praised due to its high selectiveness. The itinerary consists of 1,288.85 km, 325.56 of which are split into 17 special stages, 6 of which will be raced on gravel and 11 on tarmac, including the urban special in Salou.

Titles for which the 55 RallyRACC counts

- 13th out of 14 scoring rounds towards the FIA World Rally Championship (Drivers, Co-Drivers and Manufacturers)





- The key: Ott Tänak (Toyota), Sébastien Ogier (Citroën) and Thierry Neuville (Hyundai) are currently fighting for the drivers' title
- The fight for the manufacturer's title will be decided between Hyundai Shell Mobis WRT and Toyota Gazoo Racing WRC
- 13th out of 14 scoring rounds towards the FIA World Rally Championship 2 Pro (Drivers, Co-Drivers and Manufacturers)
- The key: Finnish driver Kalle Rovanperä (Škoda) has already taken the title. Gus Greensmith (Ford) and Mads Østberg (Citroën) will be fighting for the runner-up position
- 13th out of 14 scoring rounds towards the FIA World Rally Championship WRC2 (Drivers, Co-Drivers and Manufacturers)
- The key: The race for the title is completely open, with a fight between Pierre-Louis Loubet (Škoda), Benito Guerra (Škoda), Nicolay Gryazin (Škoda) and Kajetan Kajetanowicz (Volkswagen), among the most outstanding participants
- Peugeot Rally Cup Ibérica (5th of 6)
- The key: Clear dominance of the leader, Daniel Berdomás, and thrilling fight for the runner-up position between Josep Bassas, Carlos Fernandes, Daniel Nunes and Ruairi Bell
- Beca Junior R2 (5th of 6)
- The key: Led by Josep Bassas, who may only be contested by Sergi Fran colí. Both drivers are participants of the Volant RACC/Trofeu Mavis





Thursday, 24 October: Tests and Promotion in Salou

Thursday is still the usual test day and it will be staged again on the already known location in the Emprius area, a perfect place due to its short distance from the service park and the Salou city centre. The Shakedown of the RallyRACC will have the usual mixed configuration on a total of 2 km, split into 999 metres on gravel, followed by 1,001 metres on tarmac.

This dress rehearsal for drivers and teams will take place between 09:01 and 14:30 hours. To be precise, the track will be used by P1 and P2 drivers from 9 to 10:30h; from 10:45 to 12:45 by other P2 drivers and from 13 to 14:30 hours by non-priority drivers.

Thursday is also the day of the ceremonial start, at 19:00h on the usual podium in Salou, located at Passeig Jaume I. On that same place, one hour before the start, there will be different promotional activities.

Friday, 25 October: 6 gravel and mixed stages

This first rally day is made-up of a loop with three stages run twice: Gandesa, Horta-Bot and La Fatarella-Vilalba. The stage 'Horta-Bot' (19 km) will be featuring a completely new format, making use of a section of the stage known as Pesells, raced in 2018, although starting approx. 6 km



later, just before Arenys de Lledó, and a section of a little less than 1 km that is completely new. It is a fast stage and with high pace, on a gravel surface that is in excellent condition, and a few short sections on asphalt, though mostly covered by a fine gravel coat.

Both 'Gandesa' (7 km) and the large and mixed 'La Fatarella-Vilalba' (38.85 km) are exactly the same as they were raced in 2018, although with a clearly different distance. 'La Fatarella-Vilalba' is a long, difficult and very selective special stage, with several surface changes, from gravel to tarmac, and, as usual, with different, very large and comfortable spectator areas, including Vilalba del Arcs, which offers extraordinary visibility.

In between the two passages of these 3 stages, the teams will make a stop at PortAventura World (with 15' regrouping and 40' service). The participants will also have four chances to refuel during the day, two in the service park and two at the restaurant Coll del Moro. Between the stages 'Gandesa' and 'Horta-Bot' the itinerary includes a passage control in Horta de Sant Joan. Once the day is over, the crews will have 1h 15' to adapt their cars to the tarmac stages of the second day. The timed kilometres of this day are 129.70 km. This is the schedule:





08:00h	Start from PortAventura World
09:23h	SS1 'Gandesa 1' (7 km, gravel)
10:03h	SS2 'Horta-Bot 1' (19 km, gravel)
11:13h	SS3 'La Fatarella-Vilalba 1' (38.85 km, mixed gravel-tarmac)
13:08h	Regrouping (15') and service (40') in PortAventura World
15:26h	SS4 'Gandesa 2' (7 km, gravel)
16:06h	SS5 'Horta-Bot 2' (19.00 km, gravel)
17:16h	SS6 'La Fatarella-Vilalba 2' (38.85 km, mixed gravel-tarmac)
19:41h	Passage through the podium in Salou and parc fermé in PortAventura World (10')
19:51h	Service park in PortAventura World (1h.15')
21:06h	Parc fermé in PortAventura World



Saturday, 26 October: 7 special stages on tarmac

Saturday and Sunday are the two days which will be raced completely on tarmac. The Saturday stages are exactly the same as in 2018, with 3 stages run twice: 'Savallà' (14.08 km), which was run for the first time in 2017; 'Querol' (21.26 km), which returned to the route last year after a couple of years; and 'El Montmell' (24.40 km). As usual, the day will be closed with 'Salou' (2.24 km), a great urban special stage that always arises the interest of the public.

In between the two passages, the vehicles will have a 40' service in PortAventura World, in addition to 15' minutes right after the start of the day and 45' after the finish. Moreover, the teams will have 5 refuelling chances, three in the service park and two in Santa Coloma de Queralt. The timed kilometres of that day will be 121.72 km. Schedule of the day



07:30h	Start from PortAventura World
09:00h	SS7 'Savallà 1' (14.08 km)
09:41h	SS8 'Querol 1' (21.26 km)
10:38h	SS9 'El Montmell 1' (24.40 km) (live TV)
12:00h	Regrouping (10') and service (40') in PortAventura World
14:01h	SS10 'Savallà 2' (14.08 km)
14:42h	SS11 'Querol 2' (21.26 km)
15:38h	SS12 'El Montmell 2' (24.40 km) (live TV)
17:12h	Regrouping in Salou (15'), before the urban stage
17:30h	SS13 'Salou' (2.24 km)
17:50h	Short parc fermé in PortAventura World (10')
18:00h	Service parc in PortAventura World (45')
18:45h	Parc fermé in PortAventura World



Sunday, 27 October: Final sprint with 4 stages

In the past years, Sunday has always been thrilling and often decisive, as it decided the name of the winning crew on the last few kilometres. In any case, the structure of the day consist of two highly selective stages that will be run twice: 'Riudecanyes' (16.35 km) and 'La Mussara' (20.72 km), two twisty and technical stages that will provide for the same selectivity as the rest of the tarmac stages of the previous day.



The special stage 'La Mussara' was raced for the last time in 2014 and it will also be the Power Stage that provides additional points to the top five times. This stage will be broadcasted live on TV. It is well known that 'Riudecanyes' has the best natural venue to accommodate spectators on the large hill of the famous roundabout.

On this last day, there will also be an intermediate passage through the service park in PortAventura World, with 30' to refresh the machines before the definitive loop. Moreover, the teams will have a 15' service right after the start of the day, and additional 10' before the final podium in Salou. There will be two chances to refuel, one during the morning park and another after the service, both in PortAventura World. Before the Power Stage there will be a 35' regrouping in order to adjust the schedule to the live TV broadcast of the second passage of 'La Mussara'. The day will have 74.14 timed km. This is the schedule:

06:45h	Start from PortAventura World
07:14h	SS14 'Riudecanyes 1' (16.35 km)
08:38h	SS15 'La Mussara 1' (20.72 km) (live TV)
09:20h	Regrouping (10') and service (30') in PortAventura World
10:54h	SS16 'Riudecanyes 2' (16.35 km)
11:25h	Regrouping in Les Borges del Camp (35')
12:18h	SS17 'La Mussara 2' (20.72 km, Power Stage) (live TV)
13:38h	Parc fermé (3') and service parc (10') in PortAventura World
14:01h	Final time control in Salou (before the finish podium)





Costa Daurada, Salou and PortAventura World

For the fifteenth year in a row, Costa Daurada, the city of Salou and the PortAventura World theme and leisure park will be the nerve centres of the RallyRACC. The seaside town of Salou will be once again the world centre of rallying during a whole week, with the international bustle, and activities of all types for fans and the public in general. In addition to the Salou Town Council, the 55 RallyRACC counts also on the collaboration of the Tarragona County Council, the Tourism Board of the Costa Daurada, the Tourism Board of Salou, PortAventura World, the General Secretariat of Sports of the Catalan Government, the Catalan Tourism Agency and Toyota.



RallyRACC and the FIA World Rally Championship

The RallyRACC reaches this year its 55 edition. In 2014 it celebrated its 50th anniversary and in 2015 the 25th consecutive edition as a scoring round towards the FIA World Championship, as the former Rally Catalunya, scoring round towards the European Rally Championship, entered the World Championship calendar in 1991. During the 29 years in the world championship, the RallyRACC has been based for 14 years in Lloret de Mar (Costa Brava) and for 15 years in Salou and PortAventura World (Costa Daurada).



- 1916 The 'Volta Automobilística a Catalunya' is born
- 1957 Creation of the Rallye Catalunya-Volta Catalunya, scoring round towards the Spanish Championship
- 1973 Organisation of the Rallye 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 and PortAventura)
- 2014 The RallyRACC celebrates its 50th anniversary
- 2019 29 consecutive years of RallyRACC in the FIA World Rally Championship

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