

SAN MARINO MOTOGP 2026 PREDICTIONS

22-PAGE PREMIUM RACE PREVIEW | RIDER FORM | SPRINT | PODIUM PICKS

Misano World Circuit
Marco Simoncelli

RIDER FORM

Deep dive

SPRINT

Saturday call

PODIUM

Sunday picks

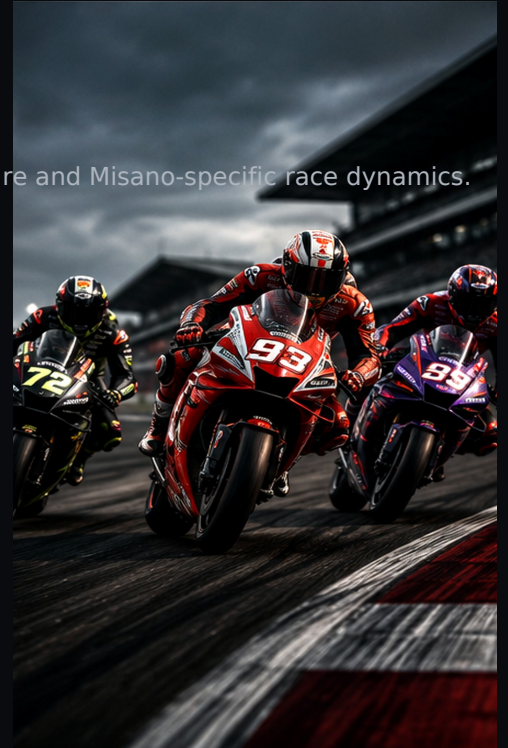
BOLD CALLS

Dark horses

REPORT OVERVIEW

Inside this report

A dense, editorial race-week guide built around the post-Aragon title picture and Misano-specific race dynamics.



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03 | WEEKEND SNAPSHOT

Misano arrives with the title fight compressed

Round 14 follows immediately after Marc Marquez swept Aragon and cut Jorge Martin's championship lead to 19 points.

VENUE**MISANO**

Marco Simoncelli Circuit

WEEKEND**SEP 11-13**

Friday to Sunday

ROUND**14**

of the 2026 season

FORMAT**SPRINT**

Saturday + Sunday GP

WHY THIS ROUND MATTERS

Martin leads on 256 points, but Marquez is now only 19 behind and Bezzecchi sits 24 back. Misano can produce a championship lead change if one of the top three has a compromised weekend.

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Friday: FP1 + Practice. Saturday: FP2, Q1/Q2 and Sprint. Sunday: Warm-up and the Grand Prix. The current published event schedule places the Sprint at 14:00 BST Saturday and the race at 13:00 BST Sunday.

EDITORIAL ANGLE

Aragon rewarded outright confidence. Misano asks for something different: high-speed direction change, clean trail braking, rear stability, and repeatable rhythm. Our model therefore reduces the weight of the previous race result and increases the weight of adaptability and circuit fit.

04 | TRACK PROFILE

Misano World Circuit - the real shape of the challenge



ACTUAL MISANO LAYOUT - KEY CORNER GROUPS

LENGTH

4.226 KMcompact, rhythm-heavy
lap

TURNS

16

10 right / 6 left

KEY ZONE

T8-T10

Quercia to Tramonto

FAST TEST

T11

Curvone commitment

WHAT THE CIRCUIT REWARDS

Strong braking placement into the slower corners, a bike that changes direction without fighting the rider, and rear stability when accelerating through the long right-hand sequences.

WHAT USUALLY DECIDES THE RACE

Front-row track position matters, but Misano is not purely a qualifying circuit. The second half of the race often exposes tyre-management differences and riders who can keep corner-exit speed without abusing the rear.

05 | LAP ANALYSIS

Where the Misano lap is won and lost

Four zones shape the competitive order: early braking precision, Quercia entry, Curvone commitment and the final Carro-Misano sequence.

A | T1-T6

The opening complex rewards riders who can brake deep without destabilizing the front. A mistake here creates a poor chain of exits rather than a single lost tenth.

B | QUERCIA / T8

A major braking and direction-change reference. Riders need confidence to rotate the bike and still protect rear grip on exit.

**C | CURVONE / T11**

The commitment test. High-speed confidence matters more than aggression; a rider who lifts early repeatedly gives away lap time.

D | CARRO TO MISANO

Late-lap precision. This is where a good lap can unravel through small line errors, especially with a used rear tyre.

PREDICTION ANGLE

Misano should favor riders who arrive with a stable base setup. A one-lap hero can still qualify well, but the Grand Prix model rewards repeatable mid-corner speed and late-race rear-grip discipline.

06 | TITLE FIGHT

Championship picture after Aragon

Jorge Martin still leads, but the advantage is now narrow enough for Misano to change the identity of the championship leader.

POS	RIDER	PTS	GAP
1	JORGE MARTIN	256	-
2	MARC MARQUEZ	237	-19
3	MARCO BEZZECCHI	232	-24
4	FABIO DI GIANNANTONIO	208	-48
5	AI OGURA	203	-53
6	PEDRO ACOSTA	189	-67



PRESSURE POINT

Martin remains the reference, but Marquez carries maximum momentum after the Aragon sweep. Bezzecchi is close enough that one perfect Sprint + GP weekend could put him at or near the championship lead.

MISANO LEVERAGE

The top three can all mathematically leave Misano leading the standings. That turns Saturday into more than a side event: Sprint points can change the strategic pressure before Sunday even begins.

07 | MOMENTUM RESET

What Aragon changed - and what it did not

Marc Marquez won both the Sprint and Grand Prix in Aragon. Pedro Acosta finished second on Sunday, Marco Bezzecchi third, while championship leader Jorge Martin came home fifth.

MARQUEZ

The strongest momentum signal in the paddock. The key question is whether the same braking authority transfers cleanly to Misano's faster rhythm.

MARTIN

Still leads the championship. Aragon was a warning rather than a collapse; Misano offers a chance to rebuild control with cleaner one-lap speed.

BEZZECCHI

Two third places in Aragon kept him firmly in the title equation. Misano is a circuit where confidence and rhythm can amplify his strengths.

ACOSTA SIGNAL

Sunday P2 at Aragon strengthens the case that Acosta belongs in the podium conversation. His upside at Misano depends on whether KTM can give him a bike that turns without sacrificing rear traction.

WHAT WE DO NOT OVERFIT

One dominant weekend does not automatically define the next one. Our Misano model discounts pure Aragon finishing position and re-weights circuit fit, Friday adaptability, qualifying position and tyre behaviour.

08 | RIDER FORM

The title trio

Three riders arrive at Misano separated by only 24 points. Each has a different route to controlling the weekend.

01 JORGE MARTIN

9.0/10

APRILIA

Championship leader. Needs a clean Friday and front-row start more than a spectacular comeback. His safest route is to make Misano a low-variance weekend.

02 MARC MARQUEZ

9.5/10

DUCATI

Aragon sweep, maximum momentum. The danger pick if the Ducati gives him braking confidence from the opening session.

03 MARCO BEZZECCHI

9.1/10

APRILIA

Only 24 points from the lead. Misano rewards rhythm, and his current consistency gives him one of the strongest two-day podium profiles.



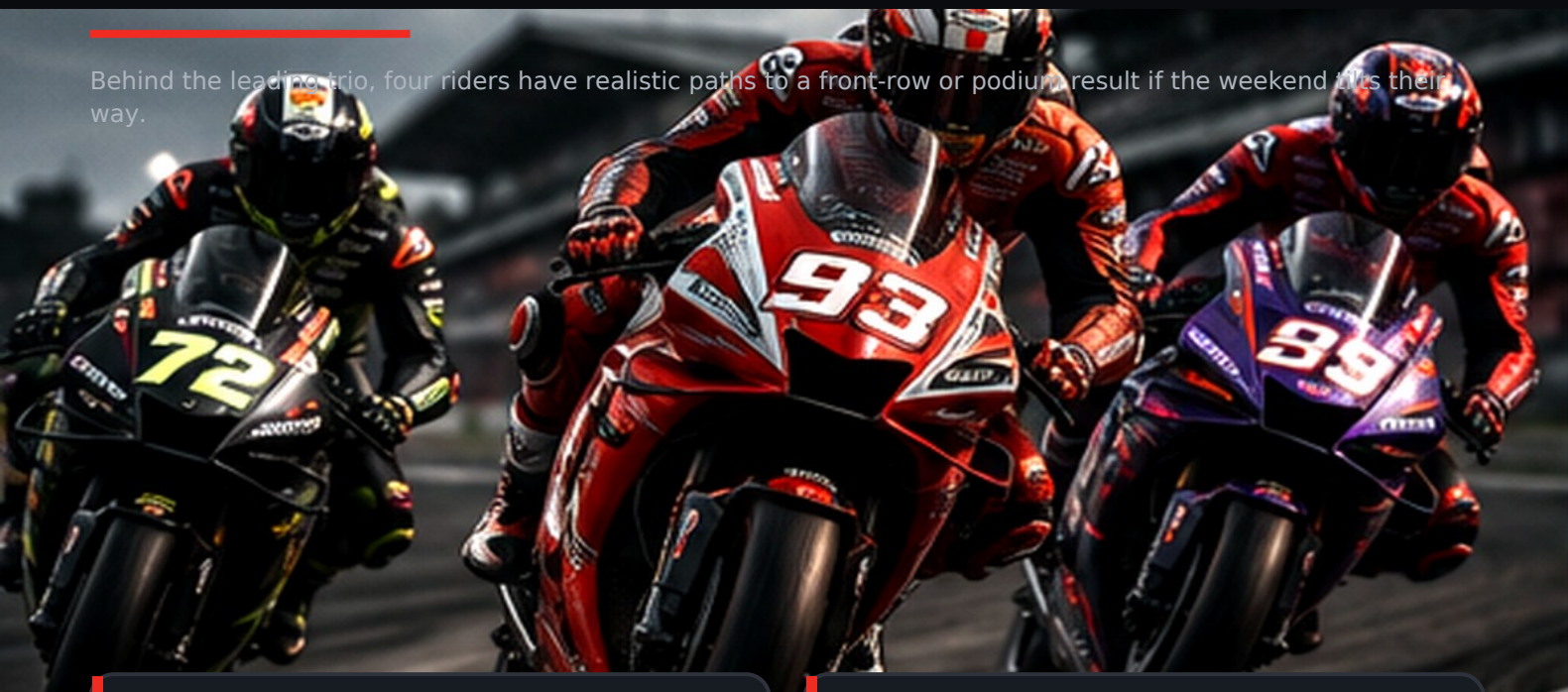
FORM VERDICT

Marquez has the hottest momentum, Martin still owns the championship reference point, and Bezzecchi may have the most balanced risk/reward profile for Misano specifically.

09 | RIDER FORM

The challengers who can disrupt the title story

Behind the leading trio, four riders have realistic paths to a front-row or podium result if the weekend fits their way.

**FABIO DI GIANNANTONIO**

Consistent enough to punish any mistakes from the title trio. Needs qualifying improvement to avoid spending the Sprint in traffic.

P4 CHAMPIONSHIP**PEDRO ACOSTA**

High-ceiling threat. If KTM rotates well through Misano's change-of-direction zones, Acosta can fight the podium again.

ARAGON P2**AI OGURA**

The points total keeps him relevant even after missing Aragon. Fitness and immediate pace will define his ceiling.

P5 CHAMPIONSHIP**FRANCESCO BAGNAIA**

A difficult Aragon makes Misano a rebound weekend. Experience at Italian circuits keeps him on the watch list despite current volatility.

RECOVERY MISSION**MOST LIKELY SURPRISE**

Acosta. His Aragon runner-up is fresh evidence of front-running pace, and his aggressive braking can create opportunities if the KTM finds a stable rear platform through Misano's faster sections.

10 | BIKE MATCHUPS

Which packages fit Misano best?

Misano is not a single-attribute circuit. The fastest package must combine braking confidence, direction change and rear stability over a race distance.

DUCATI

Braking authority + drive

High

Marquez gives the factory package a clear win path. Bagnaia remains a rebound variable.

APRILIA

Corner speed + rhythm

High

Martin and Bezzecchi make Aprilia the deepest title-level threat at this round.

KTM

Braking + aggression

Medium-High

Acosta can turn KTM into a podium bike if rear traction survives the long race.

YAMAHA

Corner speed recovery

Medium-Low

The current championship position suggests a difficult baseline; a qualifying surprise would be the clearest upside.

HONDA

Progress + discipline

Medium

Marini and Mir can target points through consistency rather than pure pace.



BEST OVERALL FIT

Aprilia and Ducati enter as the most complete packages on paper. KTM has a legitimate podium path through Acosta, while the rest need either a qualifying jump or a high-variance race scenario.

11 | FRIDAY

Practice outlook - what to watch before predictions harden

The report is published before track action, so these are the signals that would cause us to upgrade or downgrade a rider once practice begins.

01 LONG-RUN CONSISTENCY

Who can repeat lap time after 8-10 laps without visible rear-grip drop?

02 SECTOR 2 CONFIDENCE

Quercia and the transition toward Tramonto expose whether the bike rotates cleanly.

03 CURVONE COMMITMENT

A strong T11 trace is a confidence indicator, especially for qualifying.

04 FINAL SECTOR EXITS

Late-lap traction shows whether a setup is sustainable rather than merely fast.

05 DIRECT Q2 SECURITY

Any title contender forced into Q1 immediately raises weekend risk.

12 | ONE-LAP PACE

Qualifying & grid battle

Misano rewards front-row starts, and a poor grid slot can force riders to spend tyre life overtaking before the decisive phase of the Grand Prix.

1

MARC MARQUEZ

POLE PICK

Aragon form + braking confidence

2

MARCO BEZZECCHI

FRONT ROW

Misano rhythm + Aprilia balance

3

JORGE MARTIN

FRONT ROW

Championship-control response

4

PEDRO ACOSTA

ROW TWO

High ceiling if KTM turns cleanly

5

FABIO DI GIANNANTONIO

ROW TWO

Consistent weekend profile



GRID IMPORTANCE

A top-three start reduces the need to force passes in the opening laps. Our race model adds a meaningful win-probability bonus to any contender starting on the front row.

13 | SATURDAY

Sprint race predictions

Short distance magnifies qualifying position and opening-lap aggression. Tyre management matters less than in the Grand Prix, but rear drop can still decide the final laps.

1

MARCO BEZZECCHI

Best Misano rhythm pick

2

MARC MARQUEZ

Highest aggression ceiling

3

JORGE MARTIN

Championship-safe points route

TOP FIVE PROJECTION

1 Bezzecchi | 2 Marquez | 3 Martin | 4 Acosta | 5 Di Giannantonio. The Sprint call leans slightly toward Bezzecchi because Misano-specific rhythm gets more weight than pure Aragon momentum.

SATURDAY WATCHLIST

First-lap position gain, rear-grip drop after half distance, whether Acosta can split the Ducati/Aprilia group, and whether Martin can avoid being forced into a defensive points race.

SPRINT VERDICT

Pick: MARCO BEZZECCHI. Danger pick: MARC MARQUEZ. The Sprint should be tight enough that a single qualifying position or one opening-lap move can invert the top two.

14 | RACE MANAGEMENT

Tyre behaviour - the Sunday separator

The Grand Prix is long enough for rear-grip management to reshape the order. The fastest opening five laps do not necessarily identify the strongest Sunday package.

PHASE 1 | LAPS 1-7

Protect track position without overheating the rear in traffic. Avoid wasting tyre in low-percentage passes.

PHASE 2 | LAPS 8-18

Settle into repeatable corner-exit speed. This is where stable rear traction begins to create gaps.

PHASE 3 | FINAL THIRD

Exploit braking confidence and a cleaner exit line once fuel load falls and rivals begin to slide.



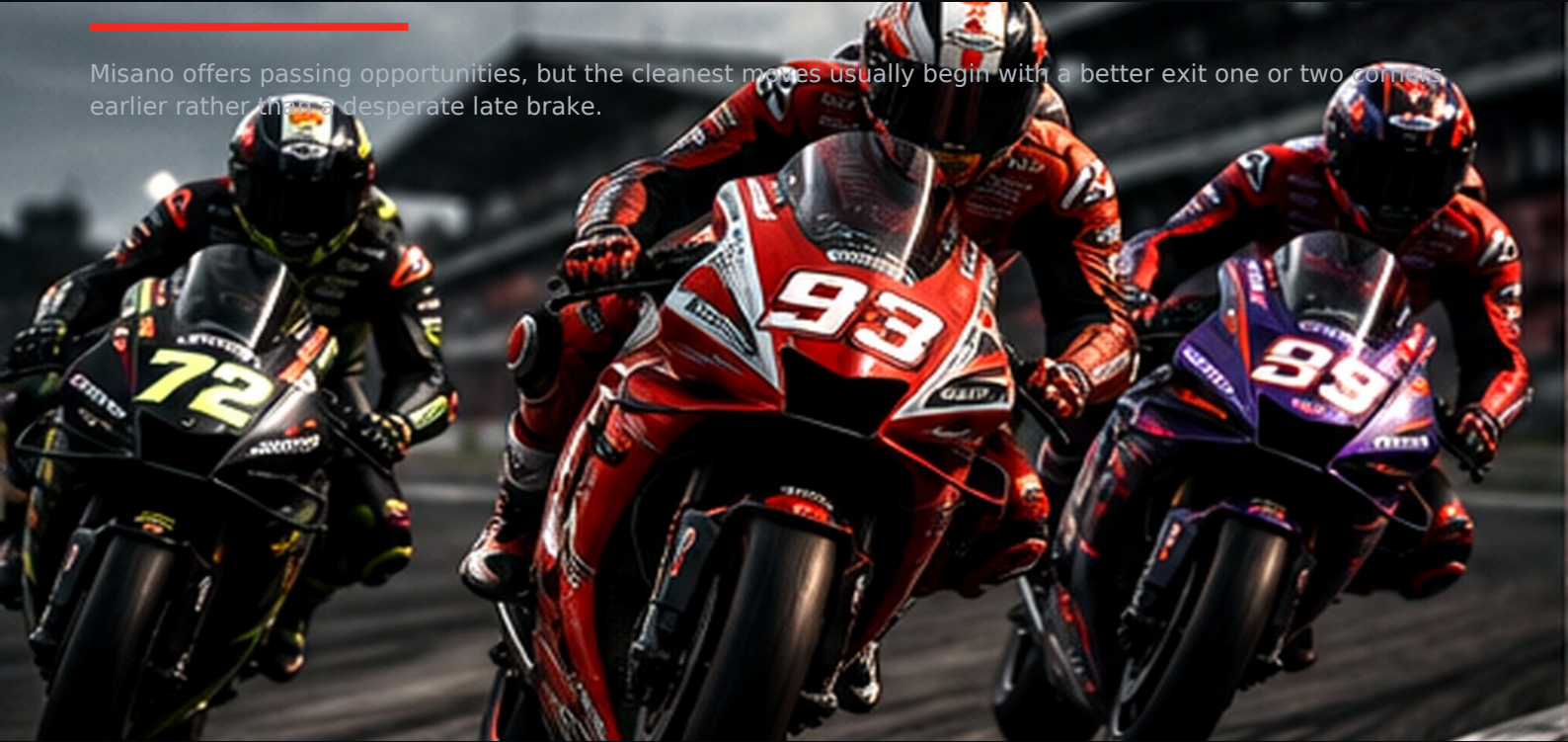
WHO BENEFITS

Martin and Bezzecchi gain from a race that rewards rhythm. Marquez gains if he can lead early and control pace. Acosta gains if the KTM remains composed once rear grip begins to fade.

15 | RACECRAFT

Where overtakes are most likely to happen

Misano offers passing opportunities, but the cleanest moves usually begin with a better exit one or two corners earlier rather than a desperate late brake.



T1 OPENING COMPLEX

Race-start opportunity. High reward, high contact risk.

QUERCIA T8

Primary braking reference. A strong approach can create a clean inside move.

TRAMONTO T10

Exit quality from the preceding sequence matters. Good place to pressure a rider into a defensive line.

CARRO T14

Late-race attack point if braking confidence remains high.

RACECRAFT MODEL

The rider who spends the least tyre completing passes gets the Sunday advantage. This is why a front-row start is valuable even for riders with strong overtaking ability: every avoided battle preserves rear grip for the final third.

16 | SCENARIOS

Four ways the weekend can change

Predictions are strongest in a stable dry weekend. These scenario shifts are the main reasons the finishing order could diverge sharply from the base model.

A | COOL / HIGH GRIP

Qualifying becomes even more important. Marquez and Bezzecchi gain from confidence on fresh rubber.

B | HOT / REAR DROP

Martin and rhythm-focused riders gain. Tyre management gets more weight than raw opening pace.

C | MIXED CONDITIONS

Variance spikes. Grid order becomes less predictive and experienced adaptability rises in value.

D | EARLY INCIDENT

A first-lap shuffle can expose riders to traffic and fundamentally alter tyre usage.

**BASE CASE**

Our published picks assume a broadly dry, conventional race weekend. Any meaningful weather change should be treated as a reason to re-rank the top five rather than simply adjust margins.

17 | SUNDAY CALL

Grand Prix podium picks

The Sunday model blends championship form, Aragon momentum, Misano circuit fit, expected qualifying position and tyre-management resilience.



1

MARC MARQUEZ

WIN PICK

The best combination of current momentum, braking confidence and ability to control a race from the front.

2

MARCO BEZZECCHI

PODIUM

Misano-specific rhythm makes him the strongest alternative if Marquez cannot establish track position early.

3

JORGE MARTIN

PODIUM

Still the championship leader and likely to prioritize a clean, high-value result after a difficult Aragon Sunday.

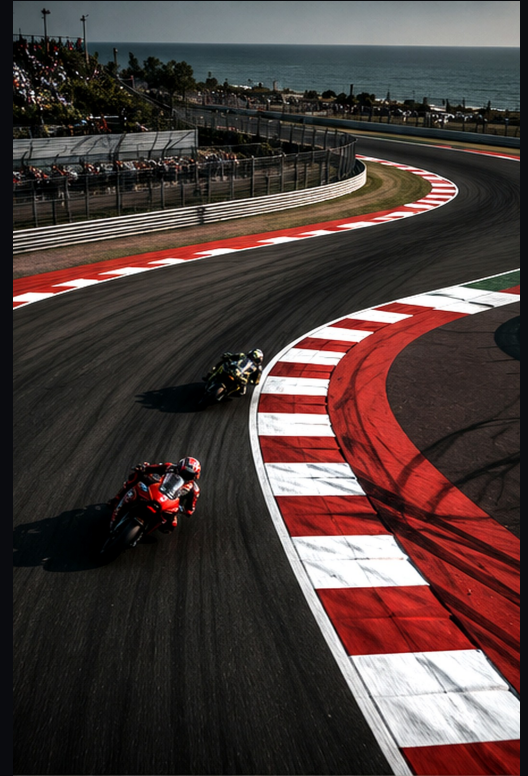
PODIUM CONFIDENCE

Medium. The top three are close enough that qualifying order can change the preferred winner. Marquez is the base-case pick; Bezzecchi is the circuit-fit alternative; Martin remains the championship-control selection.

18 | FULL ORDER

Projected Top 10

A pre-weekend finishing-order model, not a guaranteed result. Positions 4-10 carry substantially higher uncertainty than the podium.



1	MARC MARQUEZ	WIN
2	MARCO BEZZECCHI	+1.8s
3	JORGE MARTIN	+3.4s
4	PEDRO ACOSTA	+6.7s
5	FABIO DI GIANNANTONIO	+9.2s
6	FRANCESCO BAGNAIA	+12.6s
7	AI OGURA	+15.1s
8	ALEX MARQUEZ	+17.5s
9	LUCA MARINI	+20.4s
10	RAUL FERNANDEZ	+22.8s

BIGGEST UNCERTAINTY

Bagnaia, Ogura and Fernandez. Fitness, rebound form and Friday pace can move each of them several positions relative to this baseline.

19 | HIGH-CONVICTION CALLS

Bold predictions

These are deliberately higher-risk calls: outcomes that are plausible enough to matter, but far from guaranteed.

01

BEZZECCHI WINS THE SPRINT.

02

MARC MARQUEZ STARTS FROM THE FRONT ROW.

03

PEDRO ACOSTA FINISHES INSIDE THE TOP FOUR.

04

THE SUNDAY PODIUM GAP STAYS UNDER FIVE SECONDS.

05

AT LEAST ONE APRILIA LEADS LAPS IN BOTH RACES.

06

BAGNAIA REBOUNDS INTO THE TOP SIX.

WHY THESE MATTER

Misano is close enough that a small setup advantage can create a large positional swing. Bold calls identify where the base case has asymmetric upside rather than pretending the entire weekend is predictable.

20 | UPSET PATHS

Dark horses & surprise scenarios

Three riders sit outside the base case podium but have a realistic route to changing the story.

PEDRO ACOSTA

Aragon P2 confirms immediate front-running form. A front-row start would move him from outsider to genuine podium favorite.

BEST DARK HORSE

FABIO DI GIANNANTONIO

Fourth in the championship after Aragon. He does not need chaos; he needs a clean qualifying and one of the title trio to make a mistake.

CONSISTENCY PLAY

FRANCESCO BAGNAIA

Misano offers a home-round reset. Current form makes him risky, but experience and Ducati potential keep the ceiling high.

REBOUND VOLATILITY

UPSET SCENARIO

Acosta qualifies on row one, Marquez gets trapped behind an Aprilia at the start, and the race becomes a three-bike tyre-management contest rather than a controlled Ducati lead.

WHAT WOULD CHANGE OUR MIND

A weak KTM Friday would downgrade Acosta immediately. A Bagnaia Q2-level practice run with stable long-run pace would upgrade him faster than any other rider in the current top-10 model.

21 | FINAL VERDICT

San Marino MotoGP 2026 - final pre-weekend call

The championship is close, the circuit rewards rhythm, and the Aragon winner arrives with the strongest momentum. That creates a narrow but clear base-case hierarchy.

GRAND PRIX WINNER

M. MARQUEZ

Base-case pick

SPRINT WINNER

BEZZECCHI

Misano rhythm pick

DARK HORSE

ACOSTA

Podium upside

WEEKEND TAKEAWAY

Marquez is the strongest Sunday pick, Bezzecchi carries the best Sprint/circuit-fit alternative, and Martin remains the rider most likely to protect a championship-quality points haul even if he is not the outright fastest.

CONFIDENCE LEVEL

Moderate. The top three are close enough that qualifying and Friday long-run pace can change the preferred order. Treat this report as an analytical snapshot published before on-track sessions.

SOURCES / CURRENT CONTEXT

- MotoGP / Yamaha event context: San Marino GP at Misano, September 11-13, 2026.
- Crash.net standings after Aragon: Martin 256, Marquez 237, Bezzecchi 232, Di Giannantonio 208, Ogura 203, Acosta 189.
- Aragon result context: Marc Marquez won; Pedro Acosta P2; Marco Bezzecchi P3; Jorge Martin P5.
- Track layout reference: Wikimedia Commons, Misano World Circuit.svg, CC BY-SA 3.0.



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01

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02

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