

FORMULA 1 • MADRID PREDICTION REPORT

SPANISH GRAND PRIX 2026

MADRID | SEPTEMBER 11-13 | 20 PREMIUM PAGES



RACE PREVIEW • QUALIFYING FORECAST • COMPLETE PREDICTION CARD

20-PAGE PREMIUM RACE GUIDE

REPORT CONTENTS

- Official Madrid weekend timetable
- MADRING circuit profile and decisive sectors
- Championship momentum after Monza
- Six leading victory contenders
- Driver-by-driver performance outlook
- Qualifying, strategy and safety-car forecasts
- Complete Top 10 and final prediction card
- Pre-race checklist and disclaimer



MADRING • LOCAL TIME CEST

OFFICIAL WEEKEND SCHEDULE

- FRIDAY 11 SEP • FP1 11:30-12:30
- FRIDAY 11 SEP • FP2 15:00-16:00
- SATURDAY 12 SEP • FP3 10:30-11:30
- SATURDAY 12 SEP • QUALIFYING 14:00-15:00
- SUNDAY 13 SEP • RACE 13:00

Verify any late timetable changes on [Formula1.com](https://www.formula1.com) before each session.

CIRCUIT PROFILE

MADRING: THE NEW TEST

Madrid joins the championship with a street-hybrid circuit around IFEMA and Valdebebas. With no previous Grand Prix data, Friday practice carries exceptional weight. Teams must validate simulation work, ride-height choices and tyre preparation in real conditions.

5.4 KM APPROX.

22 CORNERS

57 LAPS EXPECTED



WHERE THE LAP IS WON

KEY TRACK CHARACTERISTICS

- Linked corners demand front-end precision
- Slow exits reward traction and clean deployment
- Long loaded sections test tyre temperature control
- Rapid surface evolution can change the setup window
- Walls punish small errors during qualifying

The fastest package may be the one that gives its driver confidence earliest.

AFTER THE ITALIAN GRAND PRIX

CHAMPIONSHIP MOMENTUM

Kimi Antonelli arrives in Madrid with a 66-point championship lead over Mercedes team-mate George Russell. His Monza victory from 19th strengthened his status as the benchmark, but a new circuit gives rivals a rare chance to disrupt the established order.

ANTONELLI • LEADER
RUSSELL • -66 POINTS
MERCEDES • TEAM TO BEAT



EDITORIAL WIN CHANCES

THE MAIN CONTENDERS

- Kimi Antonelli • 29%
- George Russell • 24%
- Lando Norris • 17%
- Max Verstappen • 14%
- Lewis Hamilton • 9%
- Charles Leclerc • 7%



Percentages are editorial estimates, not betting probabilities.

TITLE LEADER • WIN CONTENDER

KIMI ANTONELLI

Antonelli's Monza recovery combined raw pace, overtaking and control under pressure. Madrid changes the challenge from recovery to rapid learning. If Mercedes begins Friday inside the setup window, he should remain at the centre of the victory fight.

RACE OUTLOOK: P1-P3 • CONFIDENCE 4/5

PRIMARY CHALLENGER

GEORGE RUSSELL

Russell remains the most direct championship rival and one of the strongest one-lap candidates. His precision should translate well to a narrow new venue. The decisive question is whether he can convert qualifying speed into tyre life over a full race distance.



QUALIFYING OUTLOOK: POLE CONTENDER • 4/5

THE AERODYNAMIC THREAT

LANDO NORRIS & McLAREN

McLaren brings an efficient package and a driver capable of exploiting a rapidly evolving circuit. Norris has the stronger recent momentum. Piastri adds a second strategic option if tyre preparation or traffic creates a mixed grid.



TEAM PICK: AT LEAST ONE McLAREN ON THE PODIUM

THE DISRUPTOR

MAX VERSTAPPEN

Third at Monza, Verstappen remains too dangerous to place outside the leading group. Red Bull must provide rear stability through the linked corners and enough straight-line efficiency to attack. A clean qualifying session puts him in the podium conversation.

RACE OUTLOOK: P3-P5 • CONFIDENCE 3/5

HAMILTON • LECLERC

FERRARI RESPONSE MISSION

Ferrari needs a clean reset after Leclerc's early Monza retirement. Hamilton's sixth place offers a baseline, but both drivers require sharper qualifying execution. Madrid's atmosphere may lift the team, though Mercedes and McLaren begin with the stronger form.

TEAM OUTLOOK: DOUBLE POINTS • PODIUM UPSIDE

ALONSO • SAINZ

SPANISH HOME SPOTLIGHT

Spain's drivers carry exceptional attention into MADRING's debut. Alonso's experience can pay off as grip evolves, while Sainz's methodical feedback should help his team learn quickly. Both are credible Q3 candidates if Friday runs cleanly.



EDITORIAL PICK: AT LEAST ONE SPANIARD IN Q3

SATURDAY • 14:00 CEST

QUALIFYING FORECAST

- Projected pole: George Russell
- Front-row rival: Kimi Antonelli
- Second-row threat: Lando Norris
- Dark horse: Max Verstappen
- Q3 watch: Fernando Alonso

**POLE CONFIDENCE: 3/5**

SUNDAY DECISION POINTS

RACE STRATEGY & TYRES

- Track position should carry a premium
- Friday long runs define the degradation baseline
- Undercut strength depends on warm-up and traffic
- A neutralisation can transform the ideal pit window
- Teams must protect against an early safety car

Strategy confidence is medium because the circuit has no Grand Prix history.

NEW CIRCUIT • HIGHER UNCERTAINTY

SAFETY CAR & RACE RISK

- Safety-car appearance • 58%
- Virtual safety car • 44%
- Rain-affected session • 21%
- Red flag during weekend • 27%
- Finishers under 18 • 33%



Risk estimates reflect a narrow new venue, changing grip and limited historical data.

COMPLETE RACE CLASSIFICATION

PREDICTED TOP 10

- 1 Kimi Antonelli
- 2 George Russell
- 3 Lando Norris
- 4 Max Verstappen
- 5 Lewis Hamilton
- 6 Oscar Piastri
- 7 Charles Leclerc
- 8 Fernando Alonso
- 9 Carlos Sainz
- 10 Pierre Gasly

PROJECTED WIN MARGIN: UNDER 8 SECONDS

DIGITAL WORLD PULSE PICKS

FINAL PREDICTION CARD

- **WINNER** • Kimi Antonelli
- **POLE** • George Russell
- **PODIUM** • Antonelli / Russell / Norris
- **FASTEST LAP** • Max Verstappen
- **DARK HORSE** • Fernando Alonso

OVERALL RACE CONFIDENCE: 3.5/5

REVIEW BEFORE LIGHTS OUT

FINAL RACE CHECKLIST

- Confirmed grid and technical penalties
- Friday long-run pace and tyre drop-off
- FP3 balance changes and driver confidence
- Weather, wind and track temperature
- Pit-lane loss and overtaking evidence
- FIA race-director notes and track limits

Revisit the predictions after qualifying and confirmed penalties.

EDITORIAL & INFORMATION NOTICE

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER

This independent report is created for information and entertainment. Every prediction, projected position, confidence score and strategy scenario reflects an editorial opinion formed before the event; none is a guaranteed result.

Session times, entries, grid penalties, weather and technical status can change. Confirm current details through Formula1.com, the FIA and official team announcements.

Digital World Pulse is not affiliated with or endorsed by Formula 1, the FIA, MADRING, any constructor, driver or commercial rights holder. Event and participant names are used only for identification.

The report does not provide betting, financial or professional advice. Readers remain responsible for their own decisions.

