



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

PULSE THE FUTURE

Italian Grand Prix 2026 Prediction Report

Monza Circuit Guide, Recent Winners,
Race Outlook & Editorial Predictions



AUTODROMO NAZIONALE MONZA

SPEED | STRATEGY | PREDICTION

Independent analysis for informational and entertainment purposes only.

PREPARED BY DIGITAL WORLD PULSE



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ITALIAN GRAND PRIX 2026 - PREDICTION REPORT

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EDITOR'S NOTE

This independent editorial preview combines official circuit data, current 2026 championship context, recent Monza results and scenario-based analysis. Probabilities are opinion-based and are not betting advice.

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AUTODROMO MONZA: HISTORY & PROFILE



CIRCUIT FACTS

FIRST F1 GP
1950

CIRCUIT LENGTH
5.793 km

LAPS
53

RACE DISTANCE
306.72 km

FASTEST LAP
1:20.901

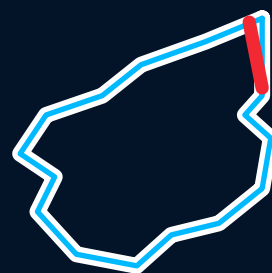
THE TEMPLE OF SPEED

Built in just 110 days in 1922, Monza became the world's third purpose-built motor-racing circuit. It joined Formula 1's inaugural championship in 1950 and has staged the Italian Grand Prix every year bar one since.

Its identity is unmistakable: ultra-low downforce, long full-throttle sections and heavy braking into tight chicanes. Cars spend roughly 80% of the lap at full throttle and approach 350 km/h before the Rettifilo braking zone.

The Royal Park setting, preserved banking and the passion of the Tifosi make Monza one of the sport's most historic and emotionally charged venues.

TRACK LAYOUT



STYLISTED CIRCUIT SCHEMATIC

KEY MILESTONES

1922

CIRCUIT OPENS

1950

FIRST F1 ITALIAN GP

TODAY

GLOBAL SPEED ICON



TRACK CHARACTERISTICS & KEY FACTORS



LOW DOWNFORCE

The lowest-drag packages of the season reward power and efficiency.



HEAVY BRAKING

Around 350 km/h to roughly 70 km/h makes Rettifilo decisive.



SLIPSTREAM

Tows can transform qualifying and create passing opportunities.



CHICANE ATTACK

Aggressive kerbs test stability, traction and floor control.



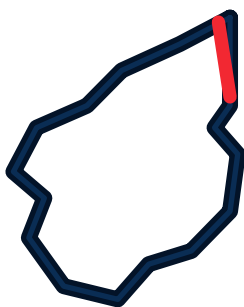
LOW DEGRADATION

A one-stop race is the base case unless heat or a Safety Car intervenes.

QUALIFYING + STRAIGHT-LINE SPEED ARE CRUCIAL

Clean air and track position protect strategy

KEY ZONES



1

RETTIFILO

Best overtaking zone; braking confidence matters.

2

LESMO COMPLEX

Rear stability and traction build lap time.

3

ASCARI

Fast direction change punishes imbalance.

4

CURVA ALBORETO

Exit speed launches the full main straight.

TRACK AT A GLANCE

Circuit length	5.793 km
Corners	11
Main straight	1.1 km
Full throttle	~80%
Race laps	53

GRIP EVOLUTION



WHAT USUALLY MATTERS HERE

- ✓ **TOP SPEED**
Low drag without losing braking stability.
- ✓ **QUALIFYING TOW**
Traffic planning can decide tenths.
- ✓ **BRAKE TEMPERATURES**
Repeated big stops must stay controlled.
- ✓ **PIT TIMING**
Undercuts are modest; track position rules.
- ✓ **RESTARTS**
Cold tyres into Turn 1 create risk.

RACE DAY FACTORS

350

KM/H APPROACH

70

KM/H T1 ENTRY

1

STOP BASE CASE

53

LAPS

TIP

Protect the tow, brakes and Turn 1 exit.



RECENT WINNERS & TREND NOTES

The last three Italian Grand Prix results and what Monza's modern era tells us.

2025

ITALIAN GRAND PRIX

1

MAX VERSTAPPEN
RED BULL

2

LANDO NORRIS
McLAREN

3

OSCAR PIASTRI
McLAREN



2024

ITALIAN GRAND PRIX

1

CHARLES LECLERC
FERRARI

2

OSCAR PIASTRI
McLAREN

3

LANDO NORRIS
McLAREN



2023

ITALIAN GRAND PRIX

1

MAX VERSTAPPEN
RED BULL

2

SERGIO PEREZ
RED BULL

3

CARLOS SAINZ
FERRARI



EDITORIAL NOTES

WIN

WINNING BLUEPRINT VARIES

Verstappen's 2025 control and Leclerc's 2024 one-stop triumph show Monza can reward both raw pace and strategic nerve.

HOME

FERRARI HOME EFFECT

Scarlet cars regularly find an extra edge in qualifying, while pressure from the Tifosi magnifies every execution detail.

PACE

McLAREN STAYS IN RANGE

Four podium places across the last two editions confirm strong efficiency and tyre-management potential.

WHAT THE LAST 3 RACES SUGGEST

TOW

Qualifying gaps can compress dramatically.

T1

Launch and braking discipline shape Lap 1.

TYRE

One-stop timing can unlock track position.

EFF

Low-drag efficiency matters more than max load.

SC

A Safety Car can flip the base-case strategy.



2026 SEASON

2026 DRIVER STANDINGS

1	KIMI ANTONELLI MERCEDES	242
2	GEORGE RUSSELL MERCEDES	183
3	LEWIS HAMILTON FERRARI	183
4	LANDO NORRIS McLAREN	159
5	CHARLES LECLERC FERRARI	155
6	MAX VERSTAPPEN RED BULL	112
7	OSCAR PIASTRI McLAREN	104

OFFICIAL STANDINGS ACCESSED 24 AUGUST 2026

STORYLINES TO WATCH

PEN

ANTONELLI GRID DROP

A planned engine change means at least a 10-place penalty.

WIN

NORRIS MOMENTUM

Back-to-back wins put McLaren firmly in the victory conversation.

ITA

FERRARI AT HOME

Hamilton and Leclerc arrive tied/close in the title chase and hungry for red glory.

TOW

QUALIFYING TRAFFIC

Tows and track position can decide who controls the opening stint.

CONSTRUCTOR PICTURE

MERCEDES		425
FERRARI		338
McLAREN		263

DRIVER ANALYSIS

Kimi Antonelli leaves Zandvoort with a 59-point championship lead after finishing second, but Monza will become a recovery mission because Mercedes plans to exceed his power-unit allocation. That pushes Ferrari's Lewis Hamilton and Charles Leclerc to the front of the home-race forecast. Norris brings the strongest immediate momentum after wins in Hungary and the Netherlands, while Russell remains the season's most consistent alternative. Verstappen's Zandvoort crash lowers his current-form score, but his commanding 2025 Monza win makes him impossible to dismiss.

THE PENALTY CHANGES THE FAVORITE - NOT THE CHAMPIONSHIP LEADER.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

PULSE THE FUTURE

2026 ITALIAN GRAND PRIX WEEKEND SCHEDULE

MONZA

ITALY

4-6 SEPTEMBER 2026

FRIDAY

04 SEP

53 LAPS | 306.72 KM | NO SPRINT | ALL TIMES LOCAL CEST

PRACTICE 1

Opening setup and aero validation.

12:30 - 13:30

PRACTICE 2

Long runs, tyre data and tow practice.

16:00 - 17:00

SATURDAY

05 SEP

PRACTICE 3

Final low-fuel and race-trim checks.

12:30 - 13:30

QUALIFYING

Critical battle for tow and track position.

16:00 - 17:00

SUNDAY

06 SEP

GRAND PRIX

The Italian Grand Prix over 53 laps.

15:00

WHAT TO WATCH

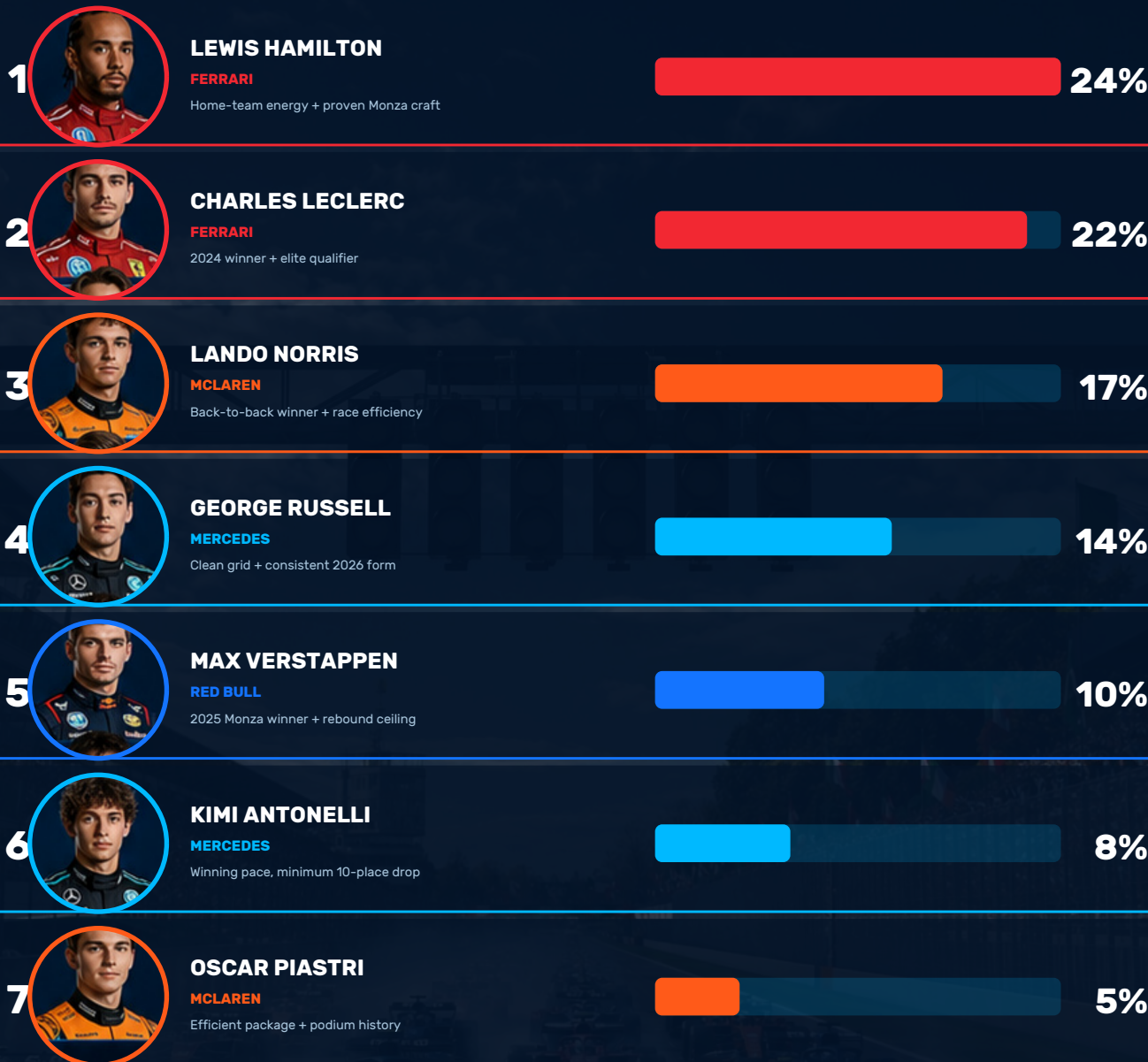
- Slipstream choreography in Q3
- Antonelli's grid-penalty recovery setup
- Ferrari vs McLaren on straight-line efficiency
- Turn 1 incidents and Safety Car timing

Schedule subject to change. Official local timetable accessed 24 August 2026.



MAIN CONTENDERS & EDITORIAL CHANCES

OPINION-BASED WIN PROBABILITIES - NOT BETTING ADVICE



FERRARI LEADS THE PRE-WEEKEND MODEL

Antonelli penalty is the key swing factor



FINAL PREDICTION & SCENARIO OUTLOOK

2ND

CHARLES LECLERC

1ST

LEWIS HAMILTON

3RD

LANDO NORRIS

DARK HORSE

GEORGE RUSSELL

Mercedes consistency and clean starting position keep Russell close to the podium battle.

RECOVERY DRIVE

KIMI ANTONELLI

Minimum 10-place grid penalty makes a Top-6 recovery the realistic target, not victory.

SCENARIO OUTLOOK



IF QUALIFYING DECIDES IT

Leclerc's one-lap speed puts Ferrari in control.



IF STRAIGHT-LINE PACE WINS

Norris and Verstappen can pressure the red cars.



IF CHAOS RESETS STRATEGY

Antonelli's recovery and Piastri's tyre life become live threats.

EDITORIAL PICKS

WINNER

HAMILTON

POLE

LECLERC

FASTEST LAP

NORRIS

TEAM

FERRARI



QUALIFYING & GRID FORECAST

PREDICTED STARTING ORDER - EDITORIAL FORECAST

1

CHARLES LECLERC

FERRARI

2

LEWIS HAMILTON

FERRARI

3

LANDO NORRIS

McLAREN

4

GEORGE RUSSELL

MERCEDES

5

MAX VERSTAPPEN

RED BULL

6

OSCAR PIASTRI

McLAREN

7

ISACK HADJAR

RED BULL

8

LIAM LAWSON

RED BULL

9

PIERRE GASLY

ALPINE

10

CARLOS SAINZ

WILLIAMS

POLE

LECLERC

FERRARI FRONT-ROW SCENARIO

P5 RAW

ANTONELLI

STARTS OUTSIDE TOP 10

ANTONELLI PENALTY NOTE

Antonelli is forecast to qualify around P5 on raw pace, but a planned power-unit change carries a minimum 10-position grid penalty. Our predicted starting order therefore places him outside the Top 10, with the exact slot dependent on the final component change and any other penalties.

POLE CONFIDENCE: 4/5 | FRONT-ROW FERRARI: 3/5 | Q3 TOW DISRUPTION RISK: HIGH



RACE STRATEGY & TYRE SCENARIOS

Strategy ranges are editorial and compound allocation remains subject to official confirmation.

BASE CASE

ONE STOP

62%

Start on the medium-range race tyre, extend the opening stint and switch to the hard-range tyre between Laps 18-25.

L18-25

BASE PIT WINDOW

ONE-STOP CONTROL

ATTACK

EARLY UNDERCUT

21%

Pit around Laps 14-18 to escape traffic. Strong for a front-row car if degradation is higher than expected.

CHAOS

SAFETY CAR PIVOT

17%

A neutralisation around the first stop window can convert a compromised grid slot into cheap track position.

PIT WINDOW WATCH

L14-18

AGGRESSIVE UNDERCUT

L18-25

BASE WINDOW

L28+

LONG FIRST STINT

DECISION TRIGGERS

- Front-left graining
- Brake temperature in traffic
- Gap to a DRS train
- Safety Car timing
- Antonelli recovery traffic



TEAM-BY-TEAM PERFORMANCE OUTLOOK

A	FERRARI	Best combined home-track profile; front row and victory are realistic.		88
A-	MERCEDES	Russell is a podium threat; Antonelli has winning pace but a recovery grid.		81
B+	McLAREN	Norris momentum and efficient race pace keep both cars in the fight.		76
B	RED BULL	2025 winning reference helps, but current consistency is less secure.		69
C+	ALPINE	Gasly is the leading midfield points candidate on efficient trim.		56
C	WILLIAMS	Straight-line profile suits Sainz, though execution has lagged in 2026.		50
C	AUDI	Hulkenberg can exploit attrition and long-stint discipline.		47
C-	FIELD	A clean weekend and Safety Car timing are required for a surprise.		39

EDITORIAL TEAM PICK

FERRARI - WIN BASE CASE



FERRARI AT MONZA

HOME-RACE SPECIAL

WHY FERRARI LEADS THE FORECAST

Leclerc won at Monza in 2024 and remains one of Formula 1's sharpest low-downforce qualifiers. Hamilton arrives tied with Russell for second in the championship and has repeatedly converted high-pressure weekends into strong results. The 2026 Ferrari is second in the constructors' table and its home-circuit incentive is unmatched.

46%

WIN CHANCE

43%

POLE CHANCE

28%

DOUBLE PODIUM

71%

BOTH TOP 5

RED TEAM RACE PLAN

- Control the tow in Q3
- Protect Turn 1 track position
- Keep Norris outside undercut range
- Split strategies only if Safety Car intervenes



ANTONELLI RECOVERY MISSION

KNOWN CONSTRAINT

Mercedes has announced a planned power-unit change that will trigger a minimum 10-place grid penalty. Monza was selected because overtaking is easier here than at many circuits, but traffic, brake temperatures and DRS trains still make the recovery highly sensitive to the opening laps.

1

START

P15-P20

Avoid Lap 1 damage; gain places without overheating brakes.

2

LAP 15

P10-P12

Use straight-line pace and undercut the midfield train.

3

LAP 35

P7-P9

Exploit fresher tyres and any Safety Car timing.

4

FINISH

P6 PICK

High-value recovery without forcing a podium gamble.

RECOVERY SUCCESS

TOP 10

78%

TOP 6

46%

PODIUM

14%

WIN

8%

1

RISKS

First-lap contact in the midfield

2

Brake overheating while following

3

Slow stop inside a DRS train

4

Overtaking time loss vs front runners

5

Extra component penalty scope

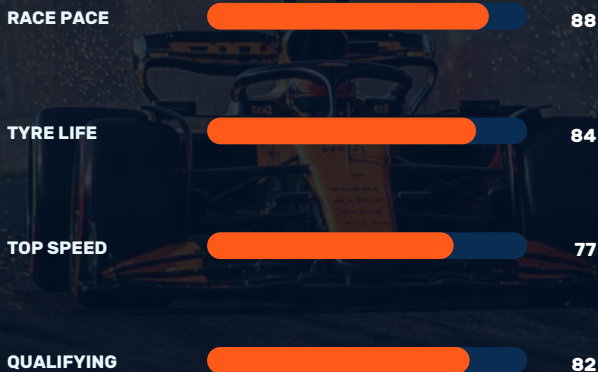


McLAREN vs RED BULL THREAT ANALYSIS

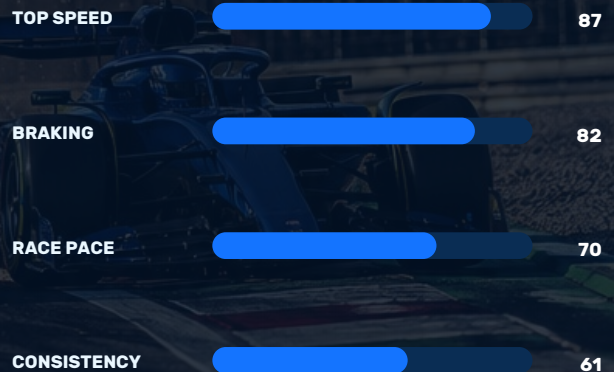
THE NON-FERRARI ROUTE TO VICTORY

McLaren brings the strongest immediate momentum after Norris won in Hungary and the Netherlands. Red Bull owns the best recent Monza benchmark through Verstappen's dominant 2025 victory, but a volatile 2026 form line makes its ceiling harder to price. Both teams need Ferrari to lose clean air or strategy control.

McLAREN



RED BULL



EDITORIAL CALL

NORRIS IS THE PRIMARY THREAT

Verstappen remains the higher-variance dark horse. Piastri's clean-race route is a Top-6 finish with podium upside if the leaders split strategies.



MIDFIELD & DARK HORSES

1

ISACK HADJAR

POINTS PICK

62%

Red Bull machinery and strong season score make him best of the rest.

2

LIAM LAWSON

TOP-10 THREAT

54%

Zandvoort P7 provides momentum and confidence.

3

PIERRE GASLY

EFFICIENCY PLAY

47%

Clean race and low-drag trim can convert into points.

4

NICO HULKENBERG

STRATEGY PICK

38%

Experienced execution and Dutch GP points raise his floor.

5

CARLOS SAINZ

QUALIFYING UPSIDE

34%

The circuit profile helps, but 2026 points form remains limited.

SURPRISE PODIUM ROUTE

SAFETY CAR + FRONT-RUNNER CONTACT + PERFECT ONE-STOP EXECUTION



RACE RISK & SAFETY CAR MATRIX

35%

FIRST-LAP INCIDENT

Turn 1 compresses the field from very high speed.

42%

SAFETY CAR

Chicanes, gravel and stalled cars create neutralisation risk.

38%

VIRTUAL SAFETY CAR

Mechanical stops can open a cheap pit window.

23%

TWO-STOP RACE

Requires higher degradation, heat or strategic disruption.

18%

OUTSIDE-TOP-6 PODIUM

Needs attrition or a perfectly timed neutralisation.

72%

DRY-RACE BASE CASE

No reliable event-week weather forecast is available yet.

WEATHER NOTE

The race is still too far away for a dependable forecast. The dry-race figure is a baseline scenario, not a meteorological prediction. Update the report after FP3 if conditions materially change.



PREDICTED FINAL CLASSIFICATION - TOP 10

1	LEWIS HAMILTON FERRARI	WINNER
2	CHARLES LECLERC FERRARI	+4.8s
3	LANDO NORRIS McLAREN	+8.6s
4	GEORGE RUSSELL MERCEDES	+13.2s
5	MAX VERSTAPPEN RED BULL	+18.5s
6	KIMI ANTONELLI MERCEDES	+24.7s
7	OSCAR PIASTRI McLAREN	+30.1s
8	ISACK HADJAR RED BULL	+1 LAP
9	LIAM LAWSON RED BULL	+1 LAP
10	PIERRE GASLY ALPINE	+1 LAP

P1

HAMILTON

FERRARI HOME WIN

P6

ANTONELLI

RECOVERY PICK

CLASSIFICATION LOGIC

Ferrari controls the front, Norris stays within strategy range, Russell protects a strong Mercedes score, and Antonelli recovers to P6 after starting outside the Top 10.



COMPLETE PREDICTION CARD

1ST

LEWIS HAMILTON

RACE WINNER | CONFIDENCE 3/5

POLE POSITION

CHARLES LECLERC

CONFIDENCE **4/5**

CONSTRUCTOR

FERRARI

CONFIDENCE **4/5**

PRIMARY THREAT

LANDO NORRIS

CONFIDENCE **3/5**

RECOVERY

ANTONELLI TOP 6

DARK HORSE

GEORGE RUSSELL

SAFETY CAR: YES 2/5

BOTTOM LINE

Ferrari has the strongest Monza-specific setup in this pre-weekend model. Hamilton is the race pick, Leclerc the pole pick, Norris the primary external threat, and Antonelli the headline recovery story. Practice data can still materially change the forecast.

FINAL PRE-RACE UPDATE RECOMMENDED AFTER FP3 / BEFORE QUALIFYING



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Research baseline: formula1.com official calendar, circuit facts, results and standings; fia.com race report.

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