

RENAULT BRIDGESTONE

THE GP2 INSIDER



ISSUE 20 BELGIUM

PLAIN SAILING

Alvaro Parente storms home at Spa to record Ocean Racing Technology's first GP2 victory



BRUNO MICHEL
ON 100 GP2 RACES

GP2 ASIA
BLAZING A TRAIL

LUCA FILIPPI
HIS MONZA 'HOME'

SUBSCRIBE FOR FREE

DOWNLOAD PDF

[CLICK HERE FOR LATEST STANDINGS](#) →

RUMBLESTRIP

ALL THE NEWS FROM AROUND THE PADDOCK

THE RACE IS ON



The 2009 GP2 championship title battle took some further twists in the eighth round at Spa, where Nico Hülkenberg extended his lead, despite notching up his first non-finish of the season.

His cause was helped by lead rival Vitaly Petrov suffering an unfortunate engine failure on Saturday, and then only

managing to scramble a solitary point from Sunday.

The other big story from the weekend was Alvaro Parente, who dominated the feature race to score Ocean Racing's first-ever win!

[CLICK HERE FOR RACE REPORT](#)

GP3 TEST SUCCESS

Progress is being made with the development of the GP3 car, ahead of the inaugural season of the GP2 feeder series in 2010.

Romain Grosjean recently did 1,000km of trouble-free running over two days at Mugello, and GP2 technical director Didier Perrin says things are looking good.

"The kind of reliability that allows 1,000km in the third test

of a brand-new car is a good sign," said Perrin. "The level of performance was greater than we expected, now we can define the specification of the car in order to suit our objective of making it as affordable as possible but with the maximum performance."

Testing will continue later this month at the Paul Ricard and Barcelona circuits.

GET WELL

Trident Racing's Davide Rigon dedicated his points from the Belgium sprint race to his lead mechanic Vasco Rossi, who was hurt in a pitlane accident a day earlier.

"These two points are for my mechanic, Vasco," said the Italian. "He works hard, and we're all thinking of him while he is in hospital."

We're happy to report that after a couple of days in hospital, Rossi was expected to be sent home as GP2 Insider went to press. Everyone in GP2 hopes to see Vasco back in the paddock as soon as possible.



A TON OF FUN



It seems like only last week that the GP2 grid formed up for the very first time at Imola in 2005, but the series celebrated its 100th race during the last round at Spa-Francorchamps. In that time

no less than 10 GP2 drivers have gone on to compete in Formula 1, with seven – Lewis Hamilton, Heikki Kovalainen, Nico Rosberg, Romain Grosjean, Timo Glock, Sébastien Buemi and Kazuki

Nakajima – forming part of the current F1 field. Here's looking forward to seeing which stars of the future are discovered over the next 100 races!

[CLICK HERE FOR GP2 STATS](#)

LATEST NEWS



DAMS driver Jérôme d'Ambrosio held court before his home race when he hosted 16 Belgian journalists for lunch on the Thursday prior to the Spa weekend. The scribes had the opportunity to get to know d'Ambrosio in a relaxed setting and learn more about the GP2 Series – as well as enjoying the delights served up by GP2 hospitality manager Christian Staurengi and his team.

GP2 ASIA

The GP2 Asia Series has a history of blazing new trails, and another chapter will be added in October when it becomes the first series to run on the Yas Marina Circuit in Abu Dhabi.

GP2 Asia will open the new track with a two-day test on 23 and 24 October, with the season starting a week later as an F1 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix support race.

Former GP2 racer Bruno Senna took a look at the track last week and was impressed with what he found.

"Every driver is excited about the new circuit," he said. "The state-of-the-art facilities, together with a demanding track layout, will be a new challenge."

GP3



The organisation team for the new GP3 Series is coming together, with the announcement that Leon Price has been appointed Head of Operations.

"I am very happy to join the GP3 Series," said the former DPR team manager. "I am looking forward to helping make this new Series as successful as GP2."

GP3 Series organiser Bruno Michel said: "We are very pleased to welcome Leon on board. We will be announcing the GP3 teams in the coming weeks, so Leon is sure to be extremely busy."

[CLICK HERE FOR THE LATEST NEWS](#)

GOOD MONTH

OCEAN RACING

The Portuguese team has only existed for eight rounds, but it joined the ranks of GP2 winners with Parente's convincing display in the Spa feature race. Can they repeat the success at Monza?

ISPORT

2009 has been difficult for iSport, but the team returned to familiar territory with a double-podium in Spa's sprint race. The cars had genuine pace, with Nunes and van der Garde competitive all weekend.

NICO HÜLKENBERG

Spa was a tough weekend by Hülkenberg's recent standards, who posted his first retirement of the season in the sprint race. But despite taking an early shower, he still extended his overall title lead.

RACING ENGINEERING

It has been a rollercoaster season for the team that took Pantano to last year's title, but Spa was a low point. Di Grassi's podium was a good start, but both cars crashed on Sunday and were given grid penalties for Monza.

VITALY PETROV

The Russian's title hopes were dealt a blow when his engine let go in the feature race – his efforts to salvage something were thwarted when he got trapped behind team-mate Valsecchi.

BAD MONTH



Q&A

HUNDRED UP: BRUNO MICHEL

Q: Are you happy with the way that GP2 has developed over its first 100 races?

BRUNO MICHEL: Yes, very happy. It has gone by incredibly fast – to be honest I was very surprised to hear that it was the 100th race at Spa. So far it has been an interesting adventure and we have no time to get bored! That is the good thing about it.

Q: What have been the highlights so far?

BM: The highlights have been all the winners so far in the series, and what they have been doing in F1. I have many memories of impressive drivers and races, but for me, it is about seeing drivers

such as Hamilton, Glock, Rosberg, Kovalainen, Grosjean and Buemi in F1. These guys getting fantastic results is the best reward that we can have for GP2.

Q: How do you expect the series to develop over the next 100 races?

BM: I think the series has to stay more or less as it is now, which is as the feeder category for Formula 1 – I don't see any major development in the concept itself. We will continue to have a series that is driven by the level of the drivers, with cars that will be competitive but also very impressive to watch and producing a fantastic show. And we will aim to stay as close to Formula 1 as possible.

DRIVER'S EYE

LUCA FILIPPI
Super Nova Racing



I love Monza. Being Italian, I go to Monza and find something special for myself; an extra power.

Monza is unique. There aren't many corners, but there are huge differences between them. You need a really good car under braking, good traction, good straightline speed and good balance for the fast corners.

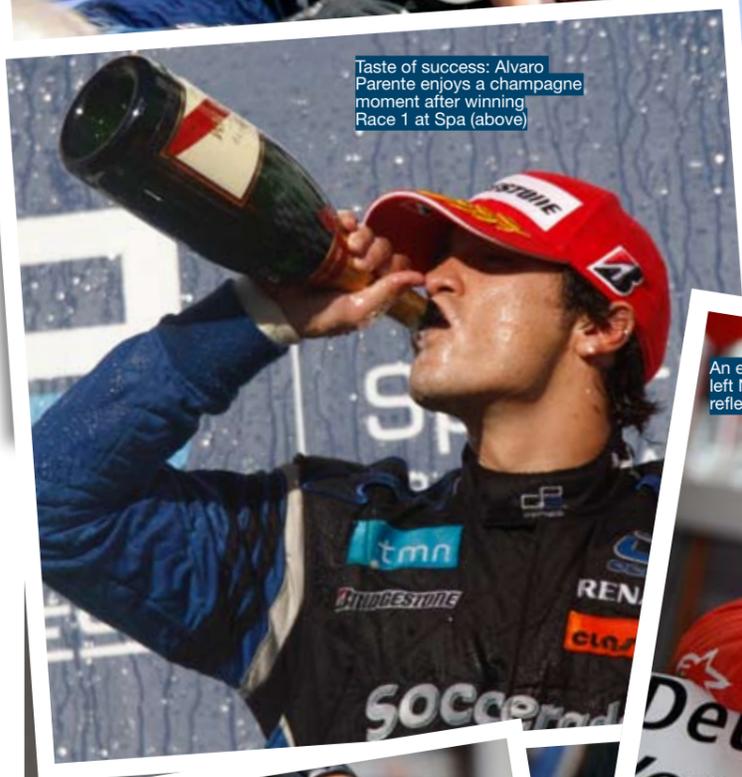
The easiest place for overtaking is Turn 1, but the most spectacular is the

Parabolica. If you get a good exit from Ascari, you can feint to the left and then brake later. But you have to get back on the power first, otherwise he will be back in front at the end of the next straight.

THE GALLERY



Taste of success: Alvaro Parente enjoys a champagne moment after winning Race 1 at Spa (above)



An early exit from Race 2 left Nico Hülkenberg to reflect on a mixed weekend



"Just enough heat in these tyres to recharge my iPod"



The grid girls were out flying the flag at Spa

Q&A

SHIP SHAPE:
TIAGO MONTEIRO



Q: Spa delivered your first win as a GP2 team owner. How did it feel?

TIAGO MONTEIRO: First of all, it is a lot more stressful from the outside the cockpit to be honest! But this is a team victory. Everybody did an amazing job. Alvaro [Parente] has been amazing all weekend. Since the beginning of the season he has been fast, he has been intelligent, and he deserved it.

Q: Can Ocean build from this in the future?

TM: Yes, definitely. We cannot fall asleep and say, 'OK, we won one, now it's going to be easy' – no way! If you look at ART or Racing Engineering, they are always improving and always getting faster and better. Everybody is very good here; you have six or seven really strong teams. We need to learn from this victory, keep on our toes and not rest. We need to keep improving and fighting.

Q: How has the first season been? It's not easy being a new team on the grid

TM: No, it's not easy. Everybody wants to win, but the competition is so strong and that it is very difficult. I was very confident in both of my drivers, and we hoped at some point that it was going to happen. It is a very tough championship, very tight with the pitstops, there is a lot of overtaking... a lot can happen. You are always hoping you can win, and we did in the end. We're very happy.

BELGIUM 2009

THE NUMBER OF CARS COVERED BY ONE SECOND IN QUALIFYING 17

ALVARO PARENTE'S POLE TIME 1m54.970s

216.004 KM/H
AVERAGE SPEED OF SERGIO PEREZ'S FASTEST LAP IN RACE TWO

[CLICK HERE FOR LUCA'S PROFILE](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR RACE IMAGES](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL RACE STATS](#)



MONZA HAS BEEN ON THE GP2 CALENDAR SINCE IT BEGAN IN 2005, BUT THIS WILL BE THE SERIES' FIRST VISIT TO PORTIMÃO

RACE PREVIEW

ITALY

MONZA (12-13 SEPTEMBER)

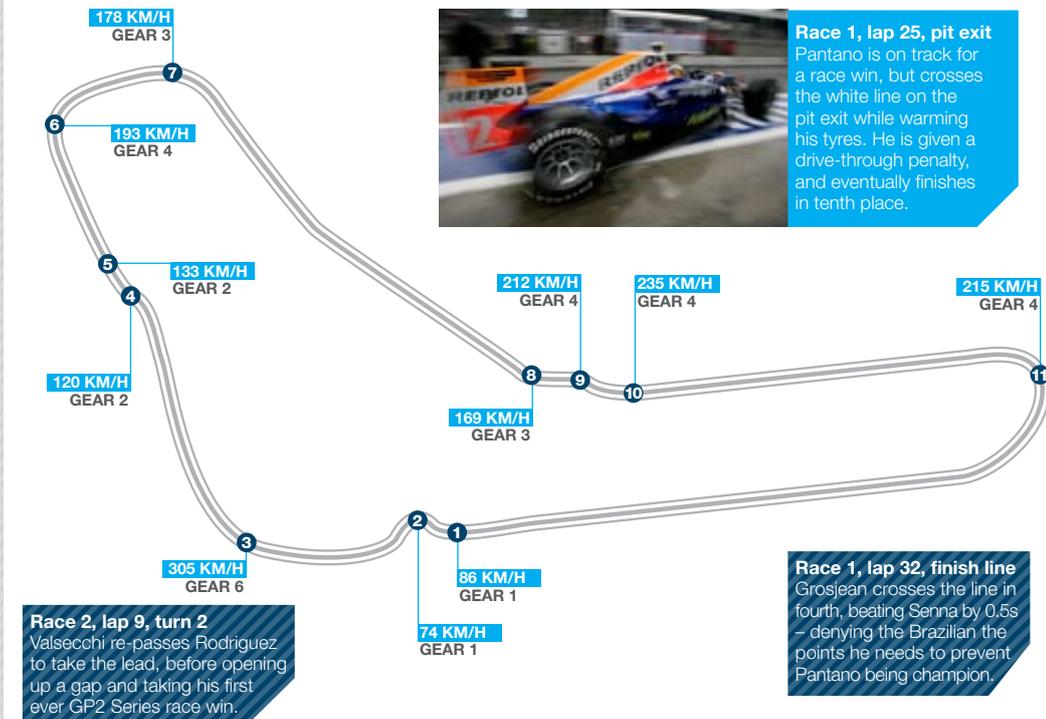
TRACK LENGTH
5.793KM

2008 FEATURE RACE WINNER
LUCAS DI GRASSI

2008 SPRINT RACE WINNER
DAVIDE VALSECCHI

2008 track temp
21-24°

2008 race weather
20-23°



2008 STATS

9.004s
- THE MARGIN OF DAVIDE VALSECCHI'S MAIDEN GP2 WIN IN THE 2008 MONZA SPRINT RACE

12 POSITIONS GAINED
IN THE 2008 MONZA SPRINT RACE BY NEWLY-CROWNED CHAMPION GIORGIO PANTANO

Driver standings

1 Nico Hülkenberg	83
2 Vitaly Petrov	56
3 Lucas di Grassi	46
4 Romain Grosjean	45
5 Pastor Maldonado	36
6 Alvaro Parente	27
7 Luca Filippi	24
8 Sergio Perez	22

Team standings

1 ART Grand Prix	119
2 Barwa Addax Team	101
3 Fat Burner Racing Eng.	46
4 Super Nova Racing	44
5 Ocean Racing Tech.	37
6 Piquet GP	36
7 Telmex Arden Int.	35
8 iSport International	31

PORTUGAL

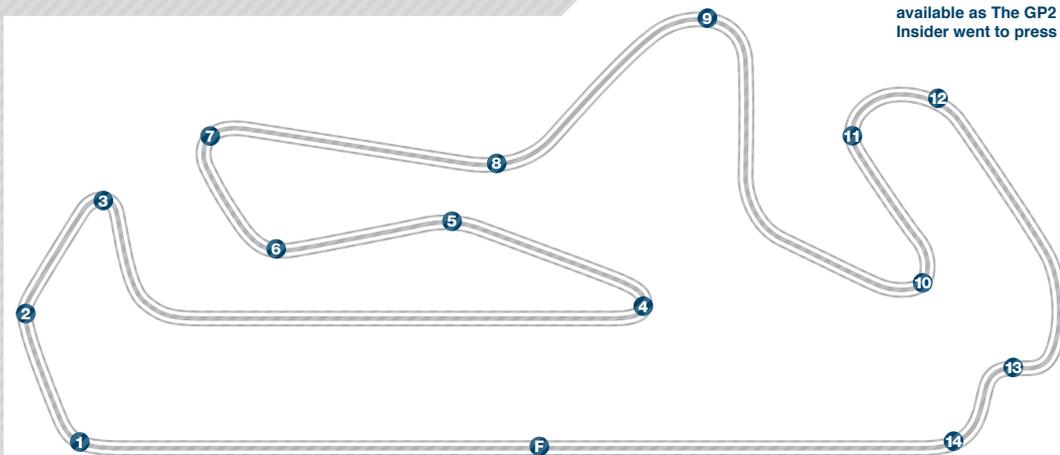
PORTIMÃO (19-20 SEPTEMBER)

TRACK LENGTH
4.692KM

2008 FEATURE RACE WINNER
N/A

2008 SPRINT RACE WINNER
N/A

No track details were available as The GP2 Insider went to press



1m.35s TIME FOR A GP2 CAR AROUND THE PREDICTED LAP ALGARVE CIRCUIT

1m35.456s MIKE CONWAY'S FASTEST LAP IN THE 2008 MONZA FEATURE RACE