

# THE RACE OF THEIR LIVES

WHEN THE FESTIVAL OF SPEED THAT IS THE MACAU GRAND PRIX KICKS OFF ON NOVEMBER 19, IT WILL MARK 61 YEARS OF ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING MOTORSPORTS EVENTS IN WORLD RACING.

一连四日的澳门格兰披治大赛车将于11月9日开始，标志着这项世界性跑车盛事踏入第六十一个年头。

BY ROB MCGOVERN





MANY DRIVERS TO GO ON TO HAVE GREAT CAREERS AT F1 AFTER THROWING THEIR CARS AROUND THE NARROW STREETS OF MACAU, INCLUDING MICHAEL SCHUMACHER, DAVID COULTHARD, RALF SCHUMACHER AND MIKA HAKKINEN.

澳门曲折多弯的赛道亦造就了多位世界知名车手迈克尔·舒马赫、David Coulthard、Ralf Schumacher及Mika Hakkinen。



原本是自行组织的俱乐部赛事，本地赛车发烧友有意于澳门曲折多弯的街道上举办赛车比赛，赛道与摩纳哥的格兰披治大赛车赛道相似，所以后来便发展成自成一家的兰披治大赛车。首届赛事只有15辆车参赛，比赛成绩以完成东望洋赛道路程的长短来计算，冠军得主Eduardo de Carvalho在这个五十一圈的赛事中勇摘桂冠。其后过了十六年，澳门才开始发展成当今的城市光景。赛道在首届赛事后虽然经过多翻修整，但仍保持了澳门格兰披治大赛车的精神和精髓。

澳门格兰披治摩托车大赛于1967年首度上演，1972年赛事更增设房车赛，令澳门格兰披治大赛车成为汽车速度竞赛的世界盛事。

要说澳门格兰披治大赛车的赛事发展（更可说是澳门的发展）的背后功臣不得不提叶德利。这名来自印尼的商人是赛车爱好者，曾于1956年参加澳门格兰披治大赛。后来更于1976年组成一级方程式车队德利车队，于世界各地比赛，不曾错过任何一次的澳门赛事。

于澳门格兰披治大赛车历史上最大的转折点可说是1983年，在叶德利的积极推动下，澳门的方程式赛事由太平洋方程式正式改制为三级方程式赛车。德利赛车队邀请了仍属新人的巴西车手洗拿代表出战，并为车队取得冠军，洗拿其后更晋身一级方程式赛车成为车坛传奇。在1994年壮年离世前，他三次成为世界一级方程式车手总冠军。在洗拿之后，澳门曲折多弯的赛道亦造就了多位世界知名车手包括David Coulthard、Ralf Schumacher、Mika Hakkinen，以及迈克尔·舒马赫(Michael Schumacher)这位成功由三级方程式转战一级方程式的七届世界冠军。澳门格兰披治大赛车亦获世界知名车手如Kevin Schwantz、Carl Fogarty、Ron Haslam及Michael Rutter等参与。

长3.8英里的东望洋赛道沿途多弯，最窄仅宽7米，以及一条足以让三级方程式赛车加速至时速161英里的大直路，而被公认为最具挑战性的赛道之一。但这些街道特色令赛事更危险同时更刺激。当中最凶险的可说是葡京弯，于1990年特意施工改建，以减少由大直路进入湾路的碰撞意外。但悲剧仍于2000年发生，Frans Verschuur车队的Renault Megan意外冲过防撞栏至一名大陆游客身亡。2013年一级方程式赛车世界冠军Lewis Hamilton于英

originally conceived as a treasure hunt, the proposed circuit for the Macau Grand Prix streets bore more than a passing resemblance to the famed Monaco race track, and so it was suggested that the race be made into a grand prix. This was 1954, and the inaugural Macau Grand Prix was held with just 15 drivers. The four hour race saw the drivers complete 51 laps of the Guia circuit with Portugal's Eddie Carvalho coming out on top.

That was sixteen years before Macau would begin the transformative process that would see it become the city of lights we see today, and while the circuit was refined over the first few years after its inception, the essence of what makes the Macau Grand Prix so exciting was left untouched.

Motorcycles were added to the Grand Prix in 1967, and with the addition of touring cars in 1972 the Macau Grand Prix became a true festival of speed.

One of, if not the driving force, behind the transformation of the grand prix (and of Macau's transformation generally) was Teddy Yip. An Indonesian businessman, Yip was a keen driver and competed in the Macau Grand Prix in 1956. Yip founded the Formula One team Theodore Racing in 1976 and competed all over the world, but always sent a team to compete in Macau.

Probably the most significant change in the history of the Macau Grand Prix came in 1983. With Yip's involvement, Macau switched from the Formula Pacific specification to Formula Three. Also new to Macau that year was a young Brazilian driver called Ayrton Senna. Senna won the inaugural F3 race with Teddy Yip's Theodore Racing Team (West Surrey Racing running under the Theodore Racing Team banner). Senna moved to Formula One the following year and went on to motor racing superstardom, winning the Formula One World Drivers' Championship three times before his untimely death in 1994 aged just 34. The Brazilian was the first of many drivers to go on to have great careers at F1 after throwing their cars around the narrow streets of Macau, including Michael Schumacher, who went on become a seven-time world champion after racing at F3, David Coulthard, Ralf Schumacher and Mika Hakkinen. Similarly, the Motorcycle Grand Prix has featured many famous riders such as Kevin Schwantz, Carl Fogarty, Ron Haslam and Michael Rutter.

The 3.8-mile Guia circuit is considered to be one of the most dangerous and demanding circuits in world motor sport for its combination of tight corners and a long straight that allows F3 cars to reach their top speed of around 260 km/h. But it is the street circuit elements, the limited overtaking opportunities and the narrow streets that add both the excitement and danger. Perhaps the most notorious part of the track is Lisboa Bend. Modified in 1990 to reduce the number of racers who ended up hurtling into



国广播公司的访问中说到澳门可说是世界最出色的跑道，但同时令人难以专心驾驶，因为它比摩纳哥的街道赛道长了足足一倍。

很可惜有些车手不敌赛事的难度，历届赛事中有数次人命伤亡。最近的是2012年香港车手丘永材及葡萄牙车手Luis Carreira同样是撞到防撞栏后失救身亡。

洗拿首次参赛一级方程式便夺冠是赛事历史上重要的一日，但最令本地人难忘的必然是本地车手安德烈·高度(André Couto)于2000年在三级方程式赛事中胜出。该场赛事是安德烈第六次为澳门出赛，终于夺得该项殊荣时，本地报章说他「禁不住流下男儿泪」。

今届的澳门格兰披治大赛车亦会于最后两场赛事首次接受全新TCR国际房车系列赛的比赛用车参与。至于世界房车锦标赛(WTCC)澳门站赛事，今年将取消，转为在卡塔尔举行以配合电视台的转播时间。

三级方程式大赛不容置疑是赛车明星发光发亮的舞台，今年亦有多名经验车手及新人同

场竞技。哥伦比亚的Tatiana Calderón是全场唯一女参赛者，亦是首次于澳门作赛。澳门本地车手郑颖聪会升级挑战三级方程式，希望继安德烈·高度之后再为澳门夺冠。最引人注目的两位车手分别是来自瑞典的Felix Rosenqvist，上年第五次来澳参赛的他夺得冠军宝座，今届致力卫冕；以及第二次来澳门参赛的Max Verstappen，他是史上最年轻的一级方程式世界冠军，更是荷兰最佳一级方程式车手Jos Verstappen的儿子。

今届的澳门格兰披治大赛车赛程紧凑，狂迷们均热切期待。2014年共六日的赛事录得超过十万的入场人次，今年更加一票难求。11月19(星期四)及20日(星期五)为练习赛及分组赛。21日(星期六)及22日(星期天)为主要赛事。

第62届澳门格兰披治大赛车将于2015年11月19至22日假澳门街道进行。练习赛门票为MOP 50起，主要赛事门票为MOP 130至900。更多票务详情请登上www.macau.grandprix.gov.mo。

the crash barriers after coming out of the long and fast straight, it was the scene of a deadly encounter when in 2000 Frans Verschuur's Renault Megan ran through the barriers and into a truck, killing a Mainland tourist. Despite this, current F1 World Champion Lewis Hamilton told the BBC back in 2013 that Macau is the coolest street circuit in the world, but he did say that it was a challenge to concentrate as it is twice the length of Monaco's street circuit.

Unfortunately that difficulty has proved to be too much for some drivers, and the race has claimed several casualties over the years, the last coming in 2012 when Hong Kong's Phillip Yau Wing-choi and Portugal's Luis Carreira both died as a result of injuries after colliding with the crash barriers.

Senna's victory in the inaugural F3 race has gone down in history as a big day for the race, but from a local perspective, a day that long lives in the memory was when Macao's own André Couto won the 2000 F3 Grand Prix. The race was Couto's sixth attempt to claim a win for Macau, but when he did, according to a newspaper report from the time, 'grown men were reduced to tears'.

This year the Macau Grand Prix will see Macau host the final two races in the inaugural season of the TCR International Series. The timely inclusion

was facilitated by Macau being dropped by the WTCC, after a decade, in favour of a night race in Qatar to obtain a more favourable time slot for television.

The F3 race is undoubtedly the place to see stars of the future, and this year the field is mix of experience and debutants. Colombia's Tatiana Calderón is the only woman in the race and will be looking to impress on her Macau debut. Macau's own Chang Wing Chung will go one step further by making his F3 debut and will be looking to repeat André Couto's 2000 win for Macao. Perhaps the two drivers to watch closest are Swedish driver Felix Rosenqvist who will be hoping to repeat his triumph of last year when he won the race on his fifth visit to Macau, and Max Verstappen, the youngest F1 World Championship Grand Prix driver in history and son of the most successful Dutch F1 driver Jos Verstappen, who will return to Macau for the second time.

*The 62nd Macau Grand Prix will be held on the streets of Macau Nov 19-22, 2015 (Thursday, Nov 19 and Friday Nov 20 are practice and qualifying days). Ticket prices start at 50MOP for practice days and from 130 to 900 MOP for race days. For more information about tickets, visit www.macau.grandprix.gov.mo.*

The races that form the Macau Grand Prix are:

- 太阳城集团澳门格兰披治电单车
- 太阳城集团三级方程式
- 路车挑战赛
- 澳门东望洋大赛2.0T
- 国际汽联GT世界
- 澳门房车
- 太阳城集团澳门格兰披治
- 电单车第四十八届大赛 - 练习赛
- 大中华杯
- 明星莲花挑战赛
- Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix
- Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix – FIA F3 Intercontinental Cup
- Macau Road Sport Challenge
- Suncity Group Macau Guia Race 2.0T
- SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup
- CTM Macau Touring Car Cup
- Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 49th Edition
- Chinese Racing Cup - Practice
- Suncity Lotus Celebrity Cup Race

**最快圈速:** 2:10.732 (Edoardo Mortara, 三级方程式, 2009)  
**电单车最快圈速:** 2:23.616 (Stuart Easton, 2010, Kawasaki)  
**FIA世界房车锦标赛 - 澳门东望洋大赛最快圈速:** 2:27.009 (Rob Huff, 2014, Lada Granta 1.6T)  
**澳门GT - 最快圈速:** 2:19.550 (Edoardo Mortara, 2013, Audi R8 LMS)

**Fastest Lap Record:** 2:10.732 (Edoardo Mortara, Formula 3, 2009)  
**Motorcycle Lap Record:** 2:23.616 (Stuart Easton, 2010, Kawasaki)  
**FIA World Touring Car Championship – Guia Race of Macau Lap Record:** 2:27.009 (Rob Huff, 2014, Lada Granta 1.6T)  
**Macau GT Cup Lap Record:** 2:19.550 (Edoardo Mortara, 2013, Audi R8 LMS)