



53 RallyRACC: The most complete rally of the WRC

- 3 intense rally days (1 on gravel and 2 on tarmac) from 6 to 8 October
- 19 special stages and 312.02 timed km (1,289.43 in total)
- 10 different stages, 3 of which are new
- The two tarmac stages include variations compared to 2016
- The RallyRACC continues to be the only rally of the WRC with a mixed gravel-tarmac route
- Costa Daurada, Salou and PortAventura World, nerve centres of the rally
- This year, the city of Barcelona gives up on staging the Montjuic stage
- Salou becomes the only urban stage in the itinerary
- Third from last round of the WRC and scoring round for all championships

Tarragona, 16 June 2017.- 6, 7 and 8 October were already known as the dates of the staging of the 53 RallyRACC CATALUNYA-COSTA DAURADA, Rally de España 2017, and as of today, the roads, tracks and settings that have been included in the official itinerary of the race will form part of the logistic plans of drivers, teams and fans. The thirteenth edition of the RallyRACC that will be staged in the Salou-PortAventura World-Costa Daurada triangle, will include novelties as regards the organisation, and create renewed expectation on the sports side.





The structure of the event keeps all the attributes of the race, which have defined it in recent years as the great end-of-the-season event, especially since the introduction of the mixed configuration, a unique type of design in the current World Rally Championship, making use of the countless possibilities offered by the roads in Tarragona. This edition will not include the special stage held in the last three years in the city of Barcelona. This decision, taken by the Barcelona City Council, is a response to the demands of the Sants-Montjuïc district of the city.

Josep Mateu: “The refusal of the Barcelona City Council to have the rally back in Montjuïc affects the worldwide impact and image of the rally, the city and the country”.

In this 53rd edition of the event, the RACC will make once again a huge organisational and financial effort to stage one of the best rallies of the current WRC. In this sense, RACC President Josep Mateu, is very clear: “*The World Rally Championship is the utmost expression of car road racing and it demands from the RACC the set-up of a colossal operational framework that will continue with its high level this season again.*” After five years of collaboration with the city of Barcelona, twice as starting point and three as the venue of a special stage in Montjuïc, the RallyRACC won't be in Barcelona in 2017.

Josep Mateu: “All the support received from institutions or sponsors must necessarily be supported by as much dissemination as possible, and this year we are left without the great worldwide impact of the special stage in the Barcelona city centre. The set-up and dismantling of the stage implies a huge effort by the RACC, which has always been done with the highest excellence, within 24 hours, always respecting the neighbours daily live. It was always a magnificent special stage, safe, spectacular and highly praised by everyone, in addition to being a largely followed event, with live broadcasting to millions of people on TV. The refusal of the Barcelona City Council to hold the special stage in Montjuïc affects the worldwide impact and image of the rally, the city and the country”.

The route of the 53 RallyRACC will cover a total of 1,289.43 km, 312.02 of which will be timed, distributed into 19 special stages, 10 of which will be different, including 5 new stages. This will be the eighth consecutive year in which the RallyRACC will have a mixed gravel-tarmac route, with a first day that will be almost identical to that of last year, as it aims to continue making the best of the mixed structure that has already proven to be balanced but difficult. All of this distinguished the Spanish round for being really complicated on the sports side.

Excepting this first mixed stage, the regular drivers of the Rally RACC will not at all be facing an already known itinerary, as the 7 tarmac stages will include novelties in their configuration, either because they will be covered in oppo-



site direction or because they were used as special stages a few years ago. One of these stages will be completely new: 'Savallà' (Rauric-Conesa). Having a good race pace will be essential to fight for the front positions or in one of the classes, thus turning the event into a selective and absolutely unpredictable race.

Day 0, Thursday 5: Shakedown and start in Salou

The first Day of the 53 Rally RACC will be a true "Day 0" of the race. In the morning there will be the usual shakedown stage (a stage to finish setting up the vehicles), again on the mixed surface of the area known as Emprius in Salou: 2.97 km on which teams and drivers, based in the PortAventura World service park, will fine tune the settings of their cars during several passages.

The cars will remain the rest of the day at the PortAventura World service park to proceed at 20.00h to the official start ceremony in Salou, looking for the media and popular impact implied in the parade of the participants along the streets of Salou.

Day 1, Friday, 6 October: The only mixed day of the WRC

The gravel or mixed stages of the first race day will remain the same as in last year's edition. The mixed stage 'Terra Alta' will continue to be a long one (38.95 km), thus allowing to watch the cars arriving at full speed in Vilalba dels Arcs, to face the rest of the stage after a tight bend. This provides for the possibility of setting up a large and safe spectator area with an extraordinary visibility. The remaining two stages of the day, all of them on gravel and to be covered twice, just like 'Terra Alta', were already raced last year: 'Caseres' (12.50 km) and 'Bot' (6.50 km), completing the total 115.90 timed km to be covered on that day.

The configuration of the stages that make up this day has been kept identical, considering that their design and the schedule minimise the impact of dust on the suspensions after the passage of the participants. The cars will have a 30' service at PortAventura World, between passages, in addition to two facilities for refuelling (one in the morning and one in the afternoon).

08:15h	Start from PortAventura World
09:53h	SS1 'Caseres' (12.50 km, gravel)
10:21h	SS2 'Bot' (6.50 km, gravel)
10:56h	SS3 'Terra Alta' (38.95 km, mixed)
12:51h	Regrouping (20') and service (30') in PortAventura World
15:19h	SS4 'Caseres' (12.50 km, gravel)
15:47h	SS5 'Bot' (6.50 km, gravel)
16:22h	SS6 'Terra Alta' (38.95 km, mixed)
18:22h	Podium in Salou and parc fermé in PortAventura World (10')
18:32h	Service park in PortAventura World (1h.15')
19:47h	Parc fermé in PortAventura World



Day 2, Saturday, 7 October: Demanding tarmac with novelties

Saturday and Sunday are the tarmac days, this time with novelties included in both days. On Saturday, there will be three special stages covered twice: 'El Montmell' (24.40 km), 'El Pont d'Armentera' (21.29 km) and 'Savallà' (14.12 km), and a fourth will be added, namely, 'Salou' (2.24 km), the urban stage, that will be almost identical to the last two years, as the closing stage of the day.

'El Montmell' is the same stage as in 2016 with 260 metres that have been added at the end. The second passage of this stage will be broadcasted live by the TV channels that have received the rights by the promoter. The stage named "El Pont d'Armentera" is new and corresponds to the Querol stage from 2016 but raced in opposite direction. The third stage is called 'Savallà' and is completely new, located nearby Santa Coloma de Queralt and running between Rauric and Conesa. A 30-minute service in PortAventura World will allow participants to set-up their vehicles anew in order to get ready to face the loop for a second time. Both in the morning and in the afternoon, there will be a refuelling facility in Santa Coloma de Queralt. The timed kilometres of that day will be 121.86 km.

06:45h	Start from PortAventura World
08:00h	SS7 'El Montmell' (24.40 km)
09:07h	SS8 'El Pont d'Armentera' (21.29 km) *
09:54h	SS9 'Savallà' (14.12 km) *
11:20h	Regrouping in PortAventura World (15')
11:35h	Service in PortAventura World (30')
13:08h	SS10 'El Montmell' (24.40 km) (live TV)
14:15h	SS11 'El Pont d'Armentera' (21.29 km) *
15:02h	SS12 'Savallà' (14.12 km) *
16:37h	Regrouping in Salou (20')
17:00h	SS13 'Salou' (2.24 km)
17:20h	Parc fermé in PortAventura World (10')
17:30h	Service park in PortAventura World (45')
18:15h	Parc fermé in PortAventura World

(*) *New stages in 2017*

Day 3, Sunday 8 October: Six stages, no service

Sunday won't be an easy day either. The day is structured around three stages (one more than last year), with two passages, finishing with the Power Stage that will be broadcasted live around noon. The route has been made harder, slightly increasing the speed and eliminating the service, thus providing the day with a special difficulty, as any problem can turn out to be definitive. The stages to be covered are 'L'Albiol' (6.28 km), a section of the Vilaplana stage from 2016 but run in opposite direction; 'Riudecanyes' (16.35 km), with an identical configuration as in 2013; and 'Santa Marina' (14.50 km), a special that was already raced like this in 2012 but with additional 800 metres at the end. The second passage of 'Santa Marina' will give the



five fastest drivers extra points, which will be very welcomed by those drivers fighting for the world championship title. This true sprint day will cover 74.26 km, a dozen more than last year, but without service of any type, although with a refuelling point in Mont-roig del Camp.

It should be highlighted that 'Santa Marina', in its two passages, will be broadcasted live by the TV holding broadcasting rights.

06:00h	Start from PortAventura World
07:00h	SS14 'L'Albiol' (6.28 km) *
07:38h	SS15 'Riudecanyes' (16.35 km) *
08:09h	Regrouping in Mont-roig del Camp (10')
08:38h	SS16 'Santa Marina' (14.50 km) * (live TV)
10:14h	SS17 'L'Albiol' (6.28 km) *
10:53h	SS18 'Riudecanyes' (16.35 km) *
11:24h	Regrouping in Mont-roig del Camp (35')
12:18h	SS19 'Santa Marina' (14.50 km), Power Stage * (live TV)
13:38h	Parc Fermé and Service Park in PortAventura World (3'+10')
13:51h	Finish Podium in Salou

(*) *New stages in 2017*

RACC Press

Complete information on the 53 RallyRACC Catalunya-COSTA DAURADA, Rally de España 2017 is available at:

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