



Lewis Hamilton Claims Stunning Spanish Grand Prix 2026 Victory For Ferrari In All-British Podium Classic

Description

Lewis Hamilton delivered one of the drives of his storied career at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya on Sunday, claiming his 106th Formula 1 victory and Ferrari's first of the 2026 season in a masterclass of strategy and nerve that produced an extraordinary all-British podium for the first time since 1968.

Starting from the front row, Hamilton executed a three-stop strategy to perfection, but it was a perfectly-timed Virtual Safety Car gamble following Fernando Alonso's retirement that proved decisive.

[Despite qualifying pole-sitter George Russell's best efforts](#), the seven-time world champion held his nerve to finish 19.5 seconds clear, with Lando Norris completing a historic British 1-2-3. The victory is Hamilton's seventh at Barcelona breaking Michael Schumacher's record of six and his first since the 2024 Belgian Grand Prix.



Source: Formula 1 official website (formula1.com)

The VSC Moment That Changed Everything

The race turned on lap 41. Fernando Alonso's Aston Martin ground to a halt at Turn 9, triggering a Virtual Safety Car period that handed Hamilton's strategy team the opportunity they had been constructing the race around. Hamilton, running on the soft compound after a bold opening stint, dived into the pits for what proved a free stop – emerging in clean air at the front of the field. From that moment, the result was never in doubt.

Russell, who had qualified magnificently on pole and led the early laps, gave everything in pursuit but Hamilton's pace on fresh rubber in the closing stages was simply too good. Norris completed an extraordinary afternoon for British motorsport by holding off Max Verstappen in fourth and Oscar Piastri in fifth, securing McLaren's podium and making Formula 1 history in the process.

Records Fall At The Circuit De Catalunya

The statistics underline just how significant this result is. Hamilton's seventh win at Barcelona surpasses Schumacher's record of six at this circuit. His 106th career victory moves him further beyond any driver in the sport's history. And his first win since the 2024 Belgian Grand Prix ends a wait that had begun to feel extended, particularly after his emotionally-charged move from Mercedes to Ferrari over the winter.

For Ferrari, this is the moment their 2026 season truly begins. The Scuderia had watched rivals dominate the early rounds, but this win – delivered by their prized acquisition on one of the sport's most storied circuits – sends a clear signal to the paddock. [Kimi Antonelli had been setting the early-season pace](#), but the picture has shifted dramatically in the Catalan sunshine.

default watermark



Source: Formula 1 official website (formula1.com)

Heartbreak For Antonelli And Leclerc

The race was not without drama. Kimi Antonelli, who had been a factor throughout the afternoon, suffered an electrical failure on lap 62 of 66 – a brutal retirement that underlined the unforgiving nature of Formula 1. Charles Leclerc also failed to finish, making the final classification all the more remarkable given that two of the pre-race favourites were absent from the results sheet.

An Emotional Tribute To The Tifosi

Hamilton's words after crossing the line captured the magnitude of the moment. "First I have to start and say a huge grazia to everyone here, my team here at Ferrari," he said, switching instinctively to Italian in tribute to the Scuderia faithful who have embraced him since his arrival. The podium – Hamilton, Russell, Norris – was the first all-British top three in Formula 1 since 1968, a statistic that drew gasps in the grandstands and will be remembered long after the confetti settles.

Final Classification

Lewis Hamilton (Ferrari) 1:32:28.105 • George Russell (Mercedes) +19.561s • Lando Norris (McLaren) +23.719s • Max Verstappen (Red Bull) +40.497s • Oscar Piastri (McLaren) +58.661s.
DNF: Antonelli (electrical, lap 62), Leclerc, Alonso (lap 41). [Follow our Sports section](#) for full F1 2026 season coverage.

Date Created

15/06/2026

Author

jadeyeo