

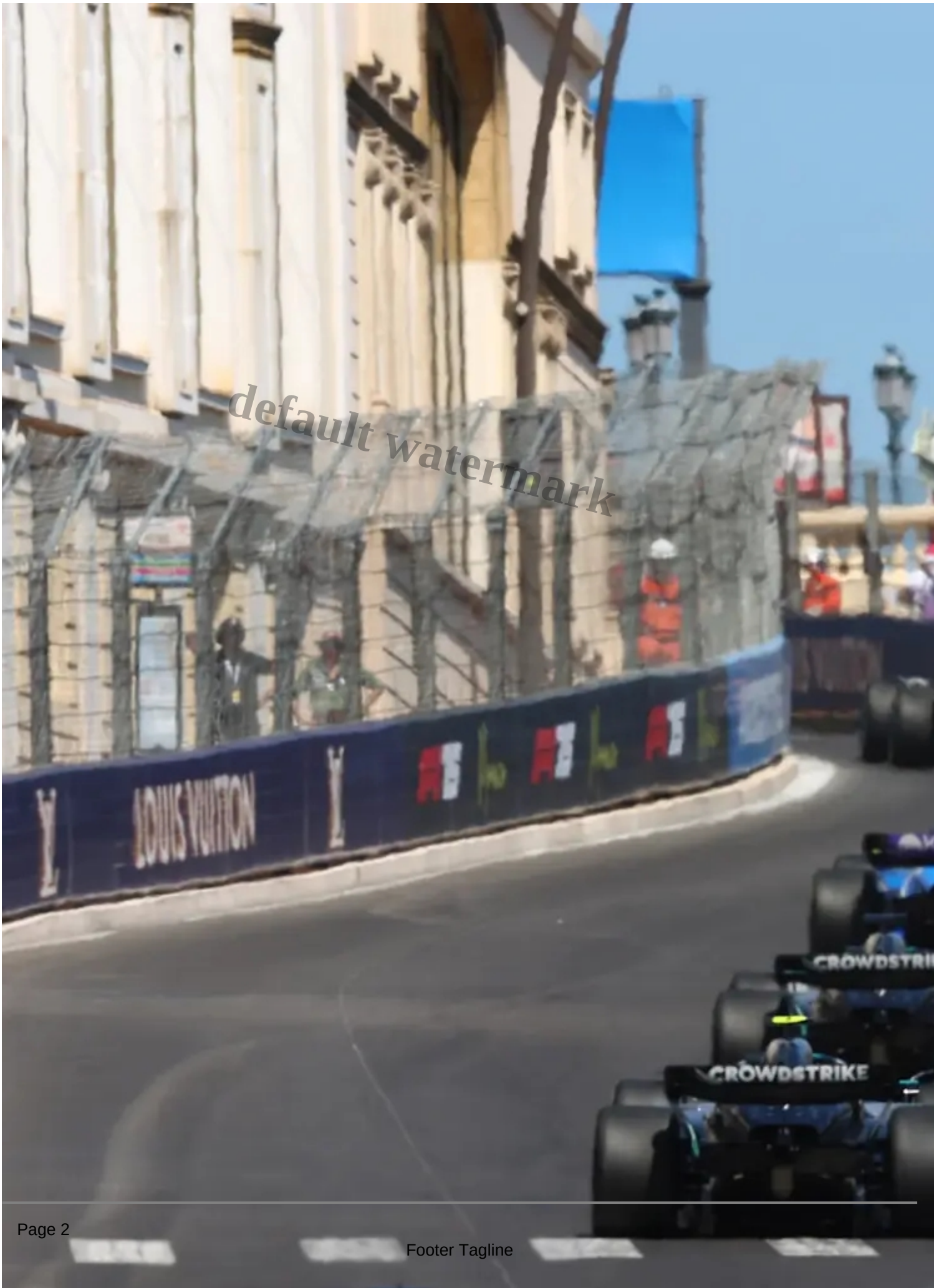
Monaco Grand Prix 2026 Race Week: Can Ferrari Or McLaren End Mercedesâ?? Perfect Record?

Description

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It is **Monaco Grand Prix 2026** race week â?? and as the motorhomes return to the Principality for the first time this season, the stakes could not feel higher. Formula 1â??s most glamorous street circuit is ready to stage its annual spectacle, and for championship leader Kimi Antonelli, it represents both an opportunity to extend his lead and a genuinely tricky test of character. The race takes place on Sunday 7 June 2026, with qualifying on Saturday making it one of the most critical sessions of the year.

Monaco Grand Prix 2026 Schedule: What To Watch And When


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LOUIS VUITTON
CROWDSTRIKE

Source: Formula 1 official website (formula1.com)

Here is the full weekend schedule (all times local Monaco time, which is SGT minus 6 hours):

- **Friday 5 June:** Free Practice 1 (12:30â??13:30) and Free Practice 2 (16:00â??17:00)
- **Saturday 6 June:** Free Practice 3 (11:30â??12:30) and Qualifying (15:00â??16:00)
- **Sunday 7 June:** Monaco Grand Prix race start 14:00 local (20:00 SGT)

The circuit is unchanged â?? 3.337 kilometres, 78 laps, 19 corners wound through the streets of Monte Carlo. What does change each year is which car suits it, and in 2026, that question is more open than it has been in a very long time.

Can Ferrari Or McLaren End Mercedesâ?? Perfect Start To The Monaco Grand Prix 2026?

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Source: Formula 1 official website (formula1.com)

Mercedes have won every Grand Prix so far in 2026 â?? a remarkable 100% record heading into round six. Kimi Antonelli has been the main beneficiary, winning four of the five races and establishing a 43-point championship lead over teammate George Russell. But Monaco is the circuit most likely to expose any weakness in the Silver Arrowsâ?? package, and the paddock is circling.

Ferrari believe Monaco will suit their 2026 car. The SF-26 has shown itself to be exceptionally strong through low-speed corners â?? an area where Monaco places enormous demands â?? but it has been let down by power-unit disadvantages on longer straights. Here in Monte Carlo, those straights barely exist. Charles Leclerc, the MonÃ©gasque who grew up on these streets, knows this circuit better than anyone on the grid and will feel the weight of a nationâ??s expectations bearing down on him. A home victory for Leclerc would be one of the sportâ??s great sporting moments.

McLaren are also bullish. Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri believe their carâ??s low-speed corner pace gives them a genuine shot at pole and victory â?? something that felt improbable just a year ago. And with 22 cars now on the grid following Cadillacâ??s arrival, Q1 traffic management becomes a genuine strategic minefield. Expect frantic radio messages and more than a few tense moments as teams hunt clean air on their flying laps.

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Antonelli vs Russell: The Mercedes Championship Fight Comes To Monaco

The most compelling subplot of the 2026 season runs right through the Monaco paddock this weekend. George Russell had the Canadian Grand Prix in his hands before a power unit failure ended his race from the lead, leaving him 43 points adrift of Antonelli with a long season still ahead. In Canada, the intra-team rivalry boiled over â?? Antonelli was forced wide at Turn 1 as both Silver Arrows fought for position, prompting Toto Wolff to intervene on team radio. Monacoâ??s narrow streets and its legendary ability to amplify pressure only add to the tension.

Russell is quick enough to win here â?? he has been all season. If he secures pole on Saturday, the race may well be his to lose. But if Antonelli converts from the front, a championship gap of 50-plus points with still so much racing to come would begin to look very significant indeed.

For more on the F1 season so far, catch up with our Monaco Grand Prix 2026 initial preview and the full Canadian Grand Prix race result and analysis. Singapore fans can also look forward to the Singapore GP 2026 Zone 1 line-up guide as our home race approaches. All the latest F1 and sports action is in our Sports section.

Lights out on the streets of Monte Carlo: Sunday 7 June, 20:00 SGT. Do not miss it.

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