

FIA FORMULA 3 WORLD CUP ATTRACTS UP-AND-COMING TALENTS

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This weekend, the motor-racing calendar features one of the most important Formula 3 races worldwide: the Macau Grand Prix, that regained the FIA Formula 3 World Cup status in 2016. The Macau GP has been contested with Formula 3 vehicles since 1983 and has since gained a legendary reputation. Hence it comes as no surprise that the most successful Formula 3 drivers in the world are keen on competing in the 2017 edition of the event. This also applies to the FIA Formula 3 European Championship front runners, such as 2017 European Champion Lando Norris (Carlin) and runner-up Joel Eriksson (Motopark with VEB).

It is difficult to compare the Macau GP with any other race. The street circuit at the South China Sea contains a wide and very fast segment as well as a slow and tight section. Typical for a street circuit run-off areas are rare. So making a mistake in Macau more often than not means a damaged car and the end of the session.

Only a few drivers are able to resist the special appeal of this extraordinary event and so, more than a dozen drivers who contested the 2017 FIA Formula 3 European Championship will also make the trip to Macau. The leader of the pack is the reigning FIA Formula 3 European Champion Lando Norris, followed by runner-up Joel Eriksson and Maximilian Günther (SJM Theodore Racing by Prema) who finished third in the championship. This means that, together with Callum Ilott (SJM Theodore

Racing by Prema), Jehan Daruvala (Carlin), Ferdinand Habsburg (Carlin), Guanyu Zhou (SJM Theodore Racing by Prema) and Ralf Aron (Van Amersfoort Racing), the Macau GP grid will feature eight of the drivers that secured top ten positions in the 2017 FIA Formula 3 European Championship standings. In total 14 of the 22 drivers entered for the event have at least competed one race weekend during the 2017 FIA Formula 3 European Championship season.

And they all have the same goal: to make it into the Macau GP record book as winner of the prestigious event. The first name on this illustrious list is Ayrton Senna who won the first edition of the race back in 1983. Seven years later, the future record Formula One World Champion Michael Schumacher won the race in the former Portuguese colony and in 1991, Scotland's David Coulthard made it to the top step. Meanwhile, only three drivers succeeded in winning the race twice: Italy's Edoardo Mortara, Felix Rosenqvist from Sweden and Portugal's António Félix da Costa.