



89th Monte-Carlo Rally (January 18-24, 2021)

A special birthday edition with brand new features!

The 89th Monte-Carlo Rally, opening round of the 2021 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), has been organized around Gap (Hautes-Alpes) -Sebastien Ogier's birthplace- since 2014, as well as in the neighbouring departments of Alpes de Haute-Provence, Drôme and Isère, in order to boost a menu which looks even more hearty for the happy drivers who will enter the 2021 edition : over 85% of the route has been changed, compared to the previous edition, and the 2021 program is a brand new mix of difficulties, alternating classic stages and new portions. This was a wish of the Organizing Committee at Automobile Club de Monaco (ACM) and the grand finale will take place, as always, in the Alpes-Maritimes. Then it will be time to celebrate at the Prize Ceremony in Monte-Carlo, for the 110th anniversary of the most ancient rally in the world ...

After two and a half days of recce, from **Monday January 18** to **Wednesday January 20**, the crews allowed to start the rally will be able to test in race conditions on **Thursday January 21** from 9:01 am, at the **Shakedown (3.32km)**, the set-up session which has remained the same since 2016, on the **Route de la Garde** in Gap.

The official start of the 89th Monte-Carlo Rally will be given that same **Thursday January 21** from 6:10 pm onwards at **Gap/Fontreyne Service Park**. The menu of this first nightly leg consists of two special stages for a total timed section of 41.36km in the departments of Hautes-Alpes and Isère: « **Saint-Disdier / Corps** » (SS1 - 20.58km - 7:08 pm) in the Dévoluy area, then « **Saint-Maurice / Saint-Bonnet** » (SS2 - 20.78km - 8:06 pm) in the Valgaudemar area, will serve as revealing previews of other difficulties to come in the next three days..

On **Friday January 22**, crews will be heading west of Gap for Race Day 2, spread over two departments (Hautes-Alpes and Drôme) for a total timed section of 126.94km. With a loop of three remote special stages to run twice in a row, this will certainly be the toughest day of the rally, on uncharted territory: three novel stages called « **Aspremont / La Bâtie-des-Fonts** » (SS3/6 - 19.61km - 8:36 am/2:58 pm), « **Chalançon / Gumiane** » (SS4/7 - 21.62km - 9:54 am/4:16 pm) and « **Montauban-sur-l'Ouvèze / Villebois-les-Pins** » (SS5/8 - 22.24km - 11:27 am/5:59 pm), all of this amounting to a very demanding 2nd leg!

The next day, on **Saturday January 23**, crews will be heading east of Gap for Race Day 3 and a total timed section of 80.74km which promises to be just as tough as the previous days. It will all start with a stage inaugurated last January, « **Saint-Clément / Freissinières** » (SS9 - 20.55km - 10:38 am) before going up in the superb heights of the Serre-Ponçon Lake through « **Saint-Apollinaire / Embrun** » (SS10 - 21.33km - 12:15 pm) and coming back to the Durance valley for a second running of « **Saint-Clément / Freissinières** » (SS11 - 20.55km - 2:08 pm). After one last break at **Gap/Fontreyne Service Park**, in the middle of the afternoon, the last stage of the day will be « **La Bréole / Selonnet** » (SS12 - 18.31km - 6:09 pm). All remaining crews will then head for the **Principality of Monaco** where they will be expected early in the evening... without any service allowed !

The final leg of this 110th anniversary edition, on the morning of **Sunday January 24**, four special stages for a total of 54.48 km will be organized, without service, in the hills of the North-West of the Alpes-Maritimes and the South-East of Alpes-de-Haute-Provence departments. This couple of loops will be a premiere for a WRC finale at Monte-Carlo Rally, but they will be set on stages well known by rally fans : two passes in each of the following stages : « **Puget-Théniers / La Penne** » (SS13/15 - 12.93km - 08:30 am / 10:45 am) followed by « **Briançonnet / Entrevaux** » (SS14/16 - 14.31km - 10:08 am / 12:18 pm) where the second pass will count as a Power Stage, with bonus points at the end...

Monaco, November 18, 2020