

06/05/2022



ACTION GALORE COMING UP AT IMOLA



The Clio Cup is ramping up its momentum as forty-six drivers head to the Autodromo Enzo e Dino Ferrari in Imola this weekend for round two of the Clio Cup Europe and the Clio Cup Italia season-opener. Many of the Italian drivers will aim to win on home soil at this motorsport landmark to kick off their campaign in the best possible way against rivals from across Europe.

Two weeks after the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix, Imola is now preparing to host the Clio Cup. As one of the few anti-clockwise tracks on the calendar, the Italian circuit often serves up spectacular races with its chicanes and brutal braking zones that test the mettle of the most daring drivers... And this first meeting in Italy promises to be all the more exciting as it will confirm or refute the initial trends seen in Clio Cup Europe while allowing the Italian contenders to show what they've got on the European stage!

Clio Cup Europe: who will stop Jurado?

Double race-winner at Jarama, Anthony Jurado (Milan Compétition) has taken the lead in the Clio Cup Europe. Although he arrives at Imola intending to extend his lead, the Frenchman knows it will be a tall order against Marc Guillot (Milan Compétition) and David Pouget (GPA Racing), both of whom won last year at Imola. Currently fourth in the general classification, Nicolas Milan (Milan Compétition) also wants to raise his game in defence of his title at a



crucial moment marked by the arrival of new contenders, including three-time Clio Cup Central Europe title-winner Tomáš Pekař (Carpek Services).

With a brace of victories in the Challengers Cup, Poland's Jerzy Spinkiewicz (Uniq Racing) is aiming more than ever for a first overall win but podium finishes in Spain, Mathieu Lannepoudenx (Milan Competition), Alex Lahoz (Cotauto Motorsport) and Guillaume Maio (GM Sport), all hope to dethrone him. Juuso Panttila (Carpek Services), Nico Abella (Chefo Sport) and Lin Chen Han (Uniq Racing) are also targeting a maiden top three result while Italians Jacopo Giuseppe Cimenès (Essecorse), Luciano Gioia (Essecorse), William Mezzetti (Progetto E20 Motorsport) and Lorenzo Nicoli (Progetto E20 Motorsport) hope to use their knowledge of the track to upset the hierarchy. Other familiar faces, such as Italy's Alessio Alcidi (Tuder Motorsport), Argentina's Mariano Alonso (GPA Racing) and Serbian Nikola Miljkovic (Tempo Racing Team) will also kick off their seasons at Imola.

Rene Steenmetz (Chefo Sport) and Quinto Stefana (Milan Competition) are about to resume their duel in the Gentlemen Drivers Cup after picking up a win apiece at Jarama. However, neither of them should overlook Stephan Polderman (Chefo Sport); and Michel Faye (GM Sport), both on the podium in Spain. Argentina's Gabriel Alonso (GPA Racing), one of the 2021 BRM Award winners, is another serious contender. France's Horn (GPA Racing) and Italy's Andrea Argenti (SI Racing Team), and Daniele Pasquali (Tuder Motorsport) will begin their European campaigns at Imola.

Clio Cup Italy: who will succeed Marc Guillot?

With Marc Guillot not defending his title, the race to succeed him is wide open. In this reshuffled field, three favourites seem to be emerging: Italy's Gabriele Torelli (Faro Racing) and Felice Jelmini (PMA Motorsport), both victorious in Clio Cup Europe last year, and Austria's Sandro Soubek (Mair Racing Osttirol), one of the driving force in the Clio Cup Central Europe.

However, many drivers want to join the battle. Second and third in the Challengers Cup last season, Alessio Alcidi and Lorenzo Nicoli want to do better, but they will have to deal with William Mezzetti, Daniele Pasquali, Giacomo Trebbi (MC Motortecnica), Sandro Cutini (Proteam Race) and Cristian Ricciarini (Essecorse), who won the Clio Cup Italia in 2009 and 2016. Already racing at Jarama, Jacopo Giuseppe Cimenès and Luciano Gioia also hope to spring a surprise, as do Gianalberto Francesco Coldani (MC Motortecnica), Damiano Puccetti (PMA Motorsport), Cosimo Papi (Scuderia Costa Ovest) as well as Alex and Mattia Lancellotti (Faro Racing) in their debuts.

Defeated by Alessandro Sebasti Scalera a few months ago, Quinto Stefana and Due (Oregon Tam) are expected to battle at the sharp end of the Gentlemen Drivers Cup. However, they will have to watch out for Vittorio Zadotti (Scuderia Costa Ovest) and Andrea Argenti, who improved throughout the 2021 season. Clio Cup novice Andrea Cordini (Oregon Team) will also join the category.

The impressive field of forty-three Clio Cups will be joined by Kazakhstan's Yeraly Ospanov (Milan Competition) and Italian journalists Andrea Farina and Edoardo Curioni (Press League by Oregon Team). Scheduled for Saturday at 7.20 pm and Sunday at 4.30 pm, the two Imola weekend races will be streamed live on the Renault Clio Series Facebook page and the Renault Clio Series YouTube channel.

TIMETABLE

Friday 6 May

12:15-12:45 pm: Collective tests 1

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5:10 -5:40 pm: Collective tests 2

Saturday 7 May

12:25-12:45 pm: Qualifying 1

7:20-7:50 pm: Race 1 (25 minutes + 1 lap)

Sunday 8 May

10:00-10:20 am: Qualifying 2

4:30-5:00 pm: Race 2 (25 minutes + 1 lap)

2022 Clio Cup Series - Calendars			
16-18 April	Nogaro	Clio Cup France	FFSA GT
23-24 April	Jarama	Clio Cup Europe Clio Cup Spain	RFEDA
7-8 May	Imola	Clio Cup Europe Clio Cup Italia	ACI GT
14-15 May	Magny-Cours	Clio Cup France Clio Cup Spain Clio Cup Eastern Europe	GT World Challenge
4-5 June	Misano	Clio Cup Italia	ACI GT
11-12 June	Valencia	Clio Cup Spain	RFEDA
18-19 June	Zandvoort	Clio Cup Europe Clio Cup France Clio Cup Eastern Europe	GT World Challenge
9-10 July	Hungaroring	Clio Cup Europe Clio Cup Eastern Europe	GT Open
16-17 July	Mugello	Clio Cup Italia Clio Cup France	ACI GT
3-4 September	Hockenheim	Clio Cup Europe Clio Cup Eastern Europe Clio Cup France	GT World Challenge
10-11 September	Red Bull Ring	Clio Cup Europe Clio Cup Eastern Europe Clio Cup Italia	GT Open
8-9 October	Monza	Clio Cup Europe Clio Cup Italia Clio Cup Eastern Europe	ACI GT
15-16 October	Le Castellet	Clio Cup Europe Clio Cup France Clio Cup Spain	FFSA GT
12-13 November	Barcelona	Clio Cup Europe Clio Cup Spain Clio Cup Italia	RFEDA

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ABOUT THE CLIO CUP

Since the launch of the R8 Gordini Cup in 1966, Renault has maintained a continuous presence on circuits around the world. Several thousand Clio Cups have been sold since 1991, and all five generations have been recognised for their performance, reliability and affordability. With its experience in promotional formulas and one-make series, Renault provides its savoir-faire and expertise to professionals and amateurs by offering a modern product adapted to their needs. In 2022, the Clio Cup will be in action in the Clio Cup Europe but also in Clio Cup France, Clio Cup Spain, Clio Cup Italia and Clio Cup Eastern Europe, thanks to an innovative calendar opening up numerous opportunities for competitors from all backgrounds: experienced drivers, Challengers and Gentlemen Drivers!

ABOUT RENAULT

Renault, a historic mobility brand and pioneer of electric vehicles in Europe, has always developed innovative vehicles. With the 'Renaulution' strategic plan, Renault has embarked on an ambitious, value-generating transformation moving towards a more competitive, balanced and electrified range. Its ambition is to embody modernity and innovation in technology, energy and mobility services in the automotive industry and beyond.

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