



Engines ready before the race

The CUPRA Team gets ready for the 24 Hours of Barcelona

- > CUPRA-Monlau Team is prepared to face the endurance challenge
- > Two male and two female drivers in the team will compete for the victory
- > CUPRA Ambassador Jordi Gené arrives to Barcelona following his win at the 24 Hours of Nürburgring

Martorell, 07/09/18. – The CUPRA Team is ready for the 24 Hours of Barcelona, one of the most challenging races for drivers, technicians and engineers.

Earlier this week, the first tests of the CUPRA-Monlau team were carried out at the Barcelona-Catalunya circuit, where the prestigious endurance racing series is scheduled to take place this weekend. For CUPRA Racing, it is a great opportunity to demonstrate the performance of its cars and keep gathering experience around one of the most challenging competition in the racing world.

It will be the first participation by the CUPRA Team made up of two male and two female drivers, all of them with extensive and successful experience in endurance racing.

Laia Sanz (eight-time Dakar finisher and winner of thirteen Trial and five Enduro World Championships) said **“Being an ambassador of a brand such as CUPRA is an honour for me and with great pleasure I’m going to draw from the experience of competing with CUPRA Racing. I had been looking forward to racing cars and this wish is coming true. I really like this experience and can’t wait for the start of the race”**.



Ambassador of the CUPRA brand, Jordi Gené, who has been collaborating with SEAT for the past 15 years, has stepped onto the podium several times at many prestigious racing series including endurance. This year, Gené won the 24 Hours of Nürburgring race in the TCR class and is going for a repeat performance on the Barcelona-Catalunya racetrack.

Jordi Gené said **“Barcelona-Catalunya is my home racetrack, I’m always very happy to be back here. The team showed very good results after the tests; we improved our times every lap and we believe that we are ready to take the highest positions in the race”**.

Alba Cano is also joining the CUPRA-Monlau team. After successful results in karting, she switched over from open-wheels to race cars six years ago. Last year with SEAT she won the Touring Car Endurance series.

The driver seat alongside Alba, Jordi and Laia will be shared by Francesc Gutiérrez. He is the only driver who has participated in all 24 Hours of Barcelona races and has 30 years experience in different motorsport competitions, such as rallies, circuit races, ice, autocross. He successfully combines professional sport with his position as Sport Vice-president of the Catalan Automotive Federation and has also been a promoter of CER (Campeonato de España Resistencia).

The TCR class is one of the most numerous on the grid. Jaime Puig favourably evaluates the chances of the CUPRA Team: **“We are very proud and excited to have such a strong team with two male and two female drivers on board. All of them have extensive experience in endurance races and the CUPRA TCR. The 24 Hours race is one of the most difficult circuit competitions. It’s a huge challenge for everybody: engineers, managers, mechanics, drivers and organisers. We believe it’s a perfect occasion to demonstrate all of CUPRA’s potential”**.

The 24 Hours of Barcelona is taking place from 7 to 9 September at the Barcelona-Catalunya circuit. Start of the race will be in 8 of September at 2pm and will be finished after 24 Hours – in 9 of September at 2 pm. At this moment,



47 teams and 51 cars have already registered to participate in the race, of which is around 20 cars are in the TCR class.

CUPRA is a special brand for unique people designed to captivate customers looking for what the new brand has to offer: Uniqueness, Sophistication and Performance. The time has come for car lovers to get involved with a new brand that meets their expectations. Along with the launch of new models, CUPRA will also keep the motorsport and racing spirit alive by participating in the TCR series. The CUPRA world is alive and ready to conquer a new group of enthusiasts in more than 260 specially selected SEAT dealerships all across Europe.

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