

# MONACO GP -V- INDIANAPOLIS 500

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versus  
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## The Monaco Grand Prix and the Indianapolis 500 – A joke pairing?

In less than two week's time, the Indianapolis 500 will be run for the 101st time. In Europe, the Monaco Grand Prix will be held for the 75th time. Both races are held on the same day and this year "Indy" will see Fernando Alonso, surely one of the greatest drivers in F1 racing, take part. I wish him well.

Over here in America, we're able to watch both races on the same Sunday. Because of the time difference between Europe and America, the Monaco Grand Prix can be watched in the morning and the Indianapolis 500 in the afternoon.

On that Sunday morning, one will be watching F1 cars with, probably, in excess of 850 horsepower, driving around the tiny, narrow street circuit of Monaco at an average speed of 96.65mph. That was the fastest average speed of Fernando Alonso in 2007, the fastest average speed of the race to date. The fastest car through the speed traps there last year was Sergio Perez's Force India, at 183.7mph. The fastest lap speed in 2014 was 88.73mph, the last year that I can find figures for. Race distance is 161.734 miles, less than 1/3rd of Indy's distance.

Then in the afternoon, you can watch the Indianapolis 500 and... Juan-Pablo Montoya averaged 161.34mph in 2015 over the 500 miles when he won, which included yellow flag periods. Average lap speeds over the last few years have been in the order of 225mph. The difference between the two races in setting, distance and speed is embarrassing, if you're a Formula One fan.

For some reason, drivers, teams and the 'hoi poloi' seem to love the Monaco Grand Prix. Why? I don't get it. If ever a circuit was difficult to run a Grand Prix on, this is it. In fact, it's so tight and twisty that nine times out of ten, the pole winner in qualifying wins the race because no one can pass him, the circuit is so confining.

Suggestion to Liberty Media, the new owners of F1: Ditch Monaco and book Indianapolis, using the same circuit as the Indycar organizers do. That way, we can see a proper F1 race.

Oh, I nearly forgot: There were a series of F1 races held at Indy, but the fools who ran it put in chicanes, to slow the cars down. Naturally, the American audience who came was disappointed; they'd come to watch a proper race. One year, one of the tire suppliers couldn't guarantee that cars fitted with their tires could safely exceed 180mph(!), so only six cars started the race. No wonder fans voted with their feet and didn't come back.

So take my tip: By all means watch the Monaco GP and have a good laugh at how slowly the cars go. Then watch the Indianapolis race and see how a proper race is conducted.

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