

Beat: Automobiles

## 85th Edition of the Famous MONTE-CARLO RALLY (Rallye Automobile Monte-Carlo)

Monte-Carlo, From 16 to 22 January, 2017

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**USPA NEWS** - For the Monte-Carlo Rally's 85th Edition, the Organising Committee of the Automobile Club of Monaco has designed an atypical route. The 85th edition of the world's oldest International Rally officially started on Thursday, 19 January from the Place du Casino in Monte-Carlo at around 6:15pm....

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The 2017 Monte Carlo Rally is a Motor Racing Event for rally cars that was held over four days between 19 and 22 January 2017. It marks the eighty-fifth running of the Monte Carlo Rally, and is the first round of the 2017 World Rally Championship.

The 2017 World Rally Championship is the forty-fifth season of the World Rally Championship, an Auto Racing Championship recognised by the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) as the highest class of International Rallying. Teams and crews are competing in thirteen events (starting in Monte Carlo on 19 January and ending in Australia on 19 November) for the World Rally Championships for Drivers, Co-drivers and Manufacturers.

It was in 1909 that the idea of a car rally first took shape in Monaco. Alexandre Noghès, President of the 'Association Sport Automobile Vélocipédique Monégasque', predecessor of today's 'Automobile Club de Monaco', suggested a Race which would connect a large number of European cities from which the competitors would set off to converge on the finishing line in Monaco. As usual, it was the powerful Société des Bains de Mer, Monaco's founder and business manager, which financed the project that it considered to be a sizeable business opportunity.

The Monte-Carlo Rally was not initially organised as a race in terms of speed but rather of consistency, as well as mechanical and human endurance. Back in those days, driving across Europe in the middle of winter was something of an achievement. In keeping with the commercial aim of the Société des Bains de Mer to draw a wealthy clientele to Monaco, the rally was extended to include a women's event, adding a needed touch of glamour and elegance to the occasion. From the 1960s onwards, pure speed was also taken into consideration and the leading professional racing stables took an interest in the event.

Since 1998, the rally's spirit of pure competition has continued to exist, though there has been a return to the original concept thanks to the organisation of an historic rally based solely on consistency.... In this way, the Monte-Carlo Rally comes full circle every winter, revisiting its prestigious past and reliving the original spirit which inspired the event in 1911.

Source : Automobile Club Of Monaco - Monaco Tourist and Convention Authority

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