

2026 Australian Grand Prix - Preview

Hinwil, 3 March 2026 – Audi Revolut F1 Team heads to Melbourne for the opening round of the 2026 Formula One World Championship, a race that marks the beginning of a new chapter for both the marque and the sport. A redefined regulatory era, a new generation of cars and one of motorsport’s most prestigious names on the grid convene to create one of the most anticipated season openers for decades. After an intense winter featuring the longest testing programme in recent years and thousands of kilometres completed in Barcelona and Bahrain, the team now prepares to make its long-awaited on-track debut at Albert Park.

Melbourne will be a busy weekend for the team, on and off the track. A full programme of activations, at the team’s off-track HQ at AFLOAT on the Yarra River and at several locations around the city will bring Audi Revolut F1 Team’s presence to the capital of Victoria; and Audi Driver Development Programme inductee, Freddie Slater, will begin his first full season in F3 on Formula One’s support ticket.

The number of activities, however, will provide no distraction for the on-track team, which is fully focused on the task ahead. The work carried out in Hinwil, Neuburg and Bicester, the culmination of years of preparation, laid the foundations for this moment. Audi Revolut F1 Team heads to Australia not only to write a page of motorsport history, but with the clear aim of progressing and building experience as it begins its maiden season in Formula One.

Jonathan Wheatley, Team Principal, Audi Revolut F1 Team: “Melbourne marks the culmination of a huge collective effort. We have launched a new team, built the first Audi F1 car with our own powertrain and then completed one of the most comprehensive pre-season programmes in recent years. We also finished the first stage of the ambitious refurbishment work we have planned in Hinwil. Now, following a busy winter, we arrive at our first Grand Prix as the Audi Revolut F1 Team. There is a great sense of pride in what has been achieved so far, but also an awareness of the challenge ahead. We have a lot of work to do, and a healthy respect for our competitors, but we are making solid progress. This is the start of a long journey, and our focus is on building our team capabilities and executing a clean race weekend.”

Nico Hulkenberg (Car 27): “It’s very exciting to head to Melbourne for the first race of a completely new era and for the debut of Audi Revolut F1 Team. It’s been a long journey and a long time coming but now, finally, we’re here: you can sense the buzz with the team, also back at the factories in Hinwil and Neuburg. The amount of work that has gone on behind the scenes has been huge, and now it’s the time to turn that work into action. Albert Park is a unique track, more a street circuit, and I’m not sure it will fully show the potential of all teams: at the same time, it’s a location that can produce chaotic races. It’s the perfect place for the season opener and I am really looking forward to getting back to racing now.”

Gabriel Bortoleto (Car 5): “Starting a new season is always a great feeling, and this one is obviously special for all of us as we begin our journey as Audi Revolut F1 Team. Pre-season was important to get comfortable with our new car and properly understand how it behaves under the new regulations: we had good mileage, and I feel we’ve used that time well to tick all the boxes in our programme. Now, though, is when things really start to matter. I live for racing and I’m really looking forward to the feeling of a race weekend again. It’s the first race of another long season, my second one in Formula One already, so it will be interesting to face all the circuits again with a better understanding of them: at the same time, the new cars provide a reset for all drivers, no matter the experience – and this could be a good

opportunity. Our focus will on building a good rhythm from the start of the weekend and getting the most out of package.”

Contact:

press@audif1.com

Will Ponissi, Head of Corporate and Race Communications, william.ponissi@audif1.com, +41 79 591 57 85

Nives Pavicic, Communications Manager, nives.pavicic@audif1.com, +41 76 384 07 50

Elena Rovelli, Communications Manager, elena.rovelli@audif1.com, +41 78 209 18 57

About Audi Revolut F1 Team

Audi Revolut F1 Team is the official factory team of Audi, as the brand enters the FIA Formula 1 World Championship for the first time in 2026. This project, in which Audi will create its own hybrid drive system ('power unit') developed in Germany, represents the ultimate expression of the manufacturer's 'Vorsprung durch Technik' philosophy and embodies a long-term commitment to compete at the pinnacle of motorsport with the clear objective of challenging for world championships by 2030. Audi Revolut F1 Team is based in three locations: the power unit is developed by Audi Formula Racing GmbH at the Audi Competence Center Motorsport in Neuburg, Germany; the chassis is engineered and race operations are managed from the state-of-the-art facilities of Audi Motorsport AG in Hinwil, Switzerland; while the Audi Motorsport Technology Centre UK in Bicester, United Kingdom, provides a foothold in the heart of 'Motorsport Valley', with direct access to top F1 talent and key strategic partners. This integrated structure provides complete control over the project, embedding a culture of precision, innovation, and relentless performance. Audi's entry is strategically timed to coincide with new Formula 1 regulations focused on increased electrification, as the electric share of the hybrid drive is raised to almost 50%, and the introduction of 100% sustainable fuels. The entry into Formula 1, one of the most important platforms in the world, serves as a high-tech catalyst for the entire Audi brand, acting as a global stage to demonstrate technological leadership and connect with new, diverse audiences by creating cultural impact that resonates far beyond the race track.

