

Ferrari chooses Michelin Pilot Sport Cup 2 tyres as sole fitment on its 458 Speciale

Michelin has been selected as the exclusive worldwide supplier of tyres for the new Ferrari 458 Speciale.

The simultaneous co-development of the tyre and car, using both simulated and track tests, led to very high levels of performance in three specific areas that were identified prior to the start of the project: faster dry lap times, consistent performance lap after lap and optimal grip on wet roads. In short, the Michelin Pilot Sport Cup 2 tyre is an integral part of the new Ferrari 458 Speciale and a key component in giving it its exceptional performance.

The new Michelin Pilot Sport Cup 2 tyre with its five high-tech features

The tread compound

Produced with the same tools used to manufacture race tyres, the tread compound of the Michelin Pilot Sport Cup 2 integrates Bi-Compound technology. The outer rubber has been specially designed to deliver outstanding dry grip on curves, especially in tight corners, while the inner part of the tread uses rubber made with a more rigid elastomer to ensure precise steering.

An aramid fibre belt

The main feature of the belt made with aramid, a high-density fibre, is its heightened tensile strength. This composite is both light and highly resistant; in fact, it is five times stronger than steel at an equivalent weight. The tyre's footprint remains constant as centrifugal growth of the tyre is effectively controlled, even at very high speeds.

The Track Variable Contact Patch 3.0[®]

This innovation optimizes pressure in the tyre's contact patch so that a constant and optimum amount of rubber is always in contact with the track, thereby ensuring superior grip in both long and fast, and tight corners.

A new bead area

The bead area is 10 per cent wider than that of a traditional sports tyre. It is strengthened with a high modulus rubber compound that increases the tyre's lateral stiffness and delivers sporty responsiveness as well as precise steering.

Velvet sidewalls for clearer markings

The Michelin Velvet Technology[®] creates contrast on certain sections of the outer sidewall using micro-geometry techniques that absorb light. The geometry of the texture thus generated allows technicians to vary the contrast and create shades of black that have the look of velvet and make the sidewall markings much more visible.

The very high performance levels of the new Michelin Pilot Sport Cup 2 are made possible due to the considerable resources that Michelin invests in its research and development activities – around €600 million per year. This means that the Group's products do not only perform in one or two specific areas, but in all areas and this is what is known as 'Michelin Total Performance'.

Tyre sizes for the new Ferrari 458 Speciale:

245/35 ZR 20 91 Y front 305/30 ZR 20 103 Y rear

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