



PRESS RELEASE

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Boulogne-Billancourt, 7 March 2022

## **MICHELIN Pilot Sport 4S K1 and MICHELIN Pilot Sport Cup 2R K2 Two bespoke tires for an exceptional car, the Ferrari 296 GTB**

- Two tires for two types of usage: a road tire and a track-focused tire specially designed for the Ferrari 296 GTB.
- 18 months of development for the two tires combining performance and respect for the environment.
- A joint design project with the Ferrari teams, where simulation played a key role.

Michelin has been chosen by Ferrari as an official tire supplier for its new 296 GTB. As a result, Michelin will supply two different tires for the car – the MICHELIN Pilot Sport 4S K1 for predominantly road driving, and the road legal MICHELIN Pilot Sport Cup 2R K2 for drivers wishing to push the limits of their car on track.

With the launch of each new model, Ferrari tops the performance of the previous generation. Michelin shares the same philosophy and has been taking up the challenge alongside the car manufacturer for many years, designing special made-to-measure tires.

### **Performance**

For such an exceptional car, tire performance is a lot more than merely a functional aspect. In the quest for ultimate performance, it is a determining factor, providing safety, precision and driving pleasure while being perfectly tuned to the vehicle's style.

### **A specific development**

The Ferrari 296 GTB tires were specially designed in a joint project with the Ferrari teams, and they are identified by Ferrari's own marking with the 'K' symbol on the sidewalls of the tires. Bespoke design was the only solution to achieve the performance levels demanded by Ferrari.

The Michelin teams were involved right from the start of the project from the moment the technical specifications were defined. It took four development cycles and 18 months to design the tires which are now approved for sale.



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The use of highly advanced, cutting-edge simulation tools was an important factor. They enabled a significant reduction in the environmental footprint of the project due to the manufacture of fewer prototype test tires, while also reducing the number of physical tests and development time. The simulator also enabled the tires to be fine-tuned for the vehicle with great precision.

During test sessions, some of which were on the Fiorano circuit in Italy, Michelin collected valuable data to achieve very high-performance levels in terms of grip, feel and driving precision.

Commenting on the project, Hervé Charbonnel, MICHELIN tire development engineer, on the new Ferrari 296 GTB said: *"It was a challenge and a great adventure. The demands of the Ferrari engineers led us to use the best of our technology to develop the special MICHELIN Pilot Sport 4S K1 and MICHELIN Pilot Sport Cup2R K2 tires. Thanks to our know-how associated with the use of simulation techniques, we were able to push the limits of grip with a new optimization of the tread, while providing precision and the sensations of sports driving that are such crucial characteristics of Ferrari."*

### Two tires, two types of usage

Michelin has developed two innovative components and two special technologies to create two tires with very different uses, and has done so under the Group's all-sustainable strategy: reduced use of raw materials, lower rolling resistance, reduction in the number of tires manufactured and the number of physical tests carried out.

- **MICHELIN Pilot Sport 4S K1**, a high-technology tire for everyday use. Recognized for its performance on road and also suitable for occasional circuit use, this tire gives the car an excellent balance between grip, control and driving pleasure while offering excellent longevity. The tires have a tread in which several rubber compounds are combined. This technology, taken to the extreme, combines four different compounds (two for the front tires and two for the rear) to afford optimum dry grip and provide driving precision, along with the grip required for safety in wet conditions.
- The road-legal racing tire, **MICHELIN Pilot Sport Cup 2R K2**, is delighting lovers of exciting driving sensations. It benefits from a mix of special rubber compounds composed of functional elastomers to obtain a more homogeneous material. The result: a very high degree of dry grip allowing very high cornering speeds, combined with excellent stability at high speed, improved rolling resistance and grip on wet surfaces.

These two tires use innovative technologies developed by Michelin:

- A hybrid belt composed of aramid and nylon results in optimum transmission of the driver's inputs;
- Multi compound technology;



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- Innovative internal technology wavy summit.

### **Equipment**

FRONT: 245/35ZR20 (95Y) XL TL PILOT SPORT 4 S K1

REAR: 305/35ZR20 (107Y) XL TL PILOT SPORT 4 S K1

or

FRONT: 245/35 ZR20 (95Y) XL TL PILOT SPORT CUP 2 R K2

REAR: 305/35 ZR20 (107Y) XL TL PILOT SPORT CUP 2 R K2

Michelin, the leading mobility company, is dedicated to enhancing its clients' mobility, sustainably; designing and distributing the most suitable tires, services and solutions for its clients' needs; providing digital services, maps and guides to help enrich trips and travels and make them unique experiences; and developing high-technology materials that serve a variety of industries. Headquartered in Clermont-Ferrand, France, Michelin is present in 170 countries, has 123,600 employees and operates 71 tire production facilities which together produced around 170 million tires in 2020. ([www.michelin.com](http://www.michelin.com))

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