MGM Resorts Newsroom

Kimi Antonelli & George Russell Race on Bellagio Fountains, Smooth Operator Carlos Sainz Returns to ARIA, Charles Leclerc Visits Ferrari Boutique and Other Top Drivers Take Over The Strip Ahead of Las Vegas Grand Prix

Click here to download assets from boat race on Bellagio Fountains (credit: Marriott Bonvoy)

Click here to download additional driver moments (credit: MGM Resorts)

LAS VEGAS (November 19, 2026) – On Wednesday, Nov. 18, the hottest drivers in racing took over the MGM Zone ahead of the FORMULA 1 HEINEKEN LAS VEGAS GRAND PRIX 2026. **George Russell**, **Kimi Antonelli**, **Charles Leclerc**, **Carlos Sainz**, **Ollie Bearman** and **Rafael Câmara** made appearances across Bellagio, ARIA Resort & Casino, and The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas providing fans with once-in-a-lifetime, only-in-Vegas moments.

Key Highlights:

- **Mercedes F1 Team Drivers Kimi Antonelli & George Russell Race on Bellagio Fountains:**Marriott Bonvoy transformed the Fountains of Bellagio into a custom Formula 1-inspired racecourse for an exclusive competition with the Mercedes-AMG PETRONAS F1 Team. George Russell and Kimi Antonelli competed against five Marriott Bonvoy members racing around the lake in a custom Marriott speedboat.
- **Kimi Antonelli & George Russell Test Pit Skills at Bellagio:**Following their race on Lake Bellagio, Antonelli and Russell headed to the all-new immersive Mercedes-AMG PETRONAS F1 Team Fan Hub located on Bellagio Drive. The duo tested their skills at the interactive pit lane challenge before joining fans who are invited to explore the space throughout the weekend, filled with racing simulators, historic team memorabilia, a 2026 team show car and more.
- **Carlos Sainz Returns to ARIA with the Smooth Operator Dance Lounge:**Driver Carlos Sainz returned for the third consecutive year with his fan-favorite Smooth Operator Dance Lounge at ARIA inspired by his viral rendition of Sade's "Smooth Operator." Sainz joined fans inside the transformed Proper Eats featuring limited-edition apparel, decor and cocktails rooted in Sainz's bold style. Sainz finished the night inside Smooth Operator's own speakeasy at Easy's Cocktail Lounge, a VIP escape with live music.
- **Charles Leclerc at Ferrari Boutique at Bellagio**: Scuderia Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc made a surprise appearance at the boutique, greeting enthusiastic fans as he made his way toward the custom Ferrari on display. After a brief Q&A, Leclerc autographed the vehicle before bidding the crowd farewell.
- **Ollie Bearman, Rafael Câmara & Ryō Hirakawa Unveil Haas Showcase at The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas:**The TGR Haas F1 Team revealed its weeklong display at The Cosmopolitan as drivers Ollie Bearman, Rafael Câmara and Ryō Hirakawa joined fans for a special meet-and-greet. Located on Level 2 of the Chelsea Tower and accessible around the clock, the showcase offers photo and video opportunities to capture the Haas race car and exclusive memorabilia.
- **George Russell Plays Padel at Pop-Up Court at Fountain Walk:**Celebrating the inaugural Las Vegas Pro Padel League (PPL) tournament, Mercedes-AMG PETRONAS F1 Driver George Russell took over the exhibition court for a game with friends built beside the Bellagio Fountains. The exhibition kick-started the professional tournament taking place throughout the weekend at Dolby Live at Park MGM.

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