## **JEREZ**

## AN UNFORGETTABLE RACE TRACK EXPERIENCE

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As a passionate motorcycle mechanic and enthusiast, I had the opportunity to experience a special race track event in Jerez, Spain, together with Moto-Center Thun.

It is my pleasure to share with you this experience, which I was able to enjoy not only as a mechanic but also as a driver on a real GP track. At the same time, my report should give you a taste of the coming year full of motorsport passion. I would be delighted to take you along to the preparations for an event with Swiss Racing for Fun.

## Here we go!

Preparations begin at our Moto-Center Thun. Our customers bring their motorcycles and accessories to our workshop, where we prepare everything for transport by truck to Spain. For participants, this means they can relax and board the plane without having to worry about transport. The articulated lorry with over 20 expensive bikes and luggage sets off from cold Switzerland four days before the event. It travels over 2,000 kilometres and brings the valuable cargo safely to its destination. When we finally arrive in sunny southern Spain – there's still snow at home - the adventure begins in the warm atmosphere of the race track. This must be what life in the MotoGP circus feels like. In Ierez, we set up the pit professionally: in addition to an area for the motorcycles, there is a small office, a photo corner, a screen for live timing and cosy spots inside and outside that serve as a restaurant. Everything is designed to make the riders feel at home with us. Thanks to over 30 years of experience in Jerez, the Swiss Racing for Fun team knows what to look out for.

Customers can book their training flexibly – from a few days to eight full days. And these eight days are quite something: the race track is open every day, and riders are divided into groups according to their level. From beginners to professionals, everyone is catered for. To ensure that everyone gets the most out of their riding experience , the groups are reorganised in the evening based on the times

achieved. Each rider has five 20- to 25-minute sessions per day, enough to improve their own skills as well as to test the motorbike and adjust it for the coming season.

The atmosphere in the pit lane and on the track is impressive. The camaraderie among the riders is palpable. It's great to see such a diverse group of participants from all over Europe – from hobby riders to racing professionals – sharing their passion. Professional marshals and an ever-ready rescue service ensure the necessary safety, so that every rider can concentrate fully on the experience.

For me personally, it's a first to drive on the track myself. The speed, the lines, the challenge – it's not for nothing that Jerez is a GP track. I'm overwhelmed by the dynamics of the turns and the technical layout of the track. But as a driver, I can't do without technical support: the race service on site provides us with tyres, wear parts and everything else we need for racing.

## What is a lap in Jerez like...

... and what goes through your mind? We get ready, all our gear has to fit properly and the motorbike has to be ready. Is the tank full, is there enough oil in the engine and coolant in the system? All important things to ensure that we can ride for the whole eight days. And now the most important thing: are the tyres still good and at the right temperature? They are preheated with tyre warmers so that they offer optimum grip right from the start. 'Right, now two minutes until the session starts.' Helmet on and tyre warmers off. As we enter the track, the marshals check that the rider and the motorbike belong to the current group. Now it's time to get started. On the first lap, check whether the track is clear or whether anyone has spilled any fluid. On the second lap, it's time to attack! After the start-finish straight, there is a slight uphill right-hand bend, followed by a downhill right-hand bend. The important thing here is to trust the front end of the bike. Then you hit a long left-hand bend that lets you drift nicely outwards. Then it's back







into another fast left-hand bend, which I take at full throttle on my bike. The rear end starts to slide slightly, but that's no problem: at full throttle, the bike pulls itself back into a straight line. Then it's into a seemingly endless right-hand bend, which leads slightly uphill and directly onto the long back straight. Now it's time to make myself small and seek aerodynamics before selecting the optimal braking point at almost 300 km/h in order to change direction by almost 180 degrees in a sharp right-hand bend. This is followed by an ingenious double left-hand combination, which allows for an incredible amount of lean angle and speed. In the evening, the sun shines directly into your face here. The lap is not over yet: it continues with two righthand bends, which can be taken as a single large bend if you enter them correctly. Now it's not far to

the finish line. A short straight, followed by a quick right-hand bend and the last left-hand bend.

On this last bend, it is important to take the entrance well so that you can pick up a lot of speed on the start-finish straight. Slow down again and finish the lap. This continues for another 15 minutes until the session is over. In each lap, on every bend or straight, you try to find a little time to go even faster.



After eight intense days, the Swiss Racing for Fun event has sadly come to an end. I will remember many wonderful hours in the warm sun of southern Spain, many new acquaintances and friendships, and the realisation that I still have a lot to learn with my motorbike. I will be back, no question about it. The days in Jerez are a perfect start to the new season and an experience that I can only recommend to everyone – whether you are a beginner or an experienced racer. There is nothing else

like it for experiencing and sharing a passion for motorsport.

I am already looking forward to the next event and am excited to see how the 2025 motorcycling season will unfold. Until then, the memories of this unique racetrack experience will remain alive – and the anticipation of what is yet to come will remain high.



