

919 Hybrid to start at festival of speed

25/06/2015 At the festival of speed, Porsche celebrates 17 overall victories at the 24 Hours of Le Mans. Factory driver Brendon Hartley will race the winning car of 2015 on the racetrack in Goodwood.

The Porsche legend has been closely linked with the legendary 24 Hours of Le Mans race since the beginning of the company's history. Iconic race cars such as the Porsche 917 and the 956/962 Group C “rockets” have shaped the image of the brand and motorsport alike. Since June, 14th, the Porsche 919 Hybrid also joined the proud ranks of Le Mans winners.

There is good reason to race the Le Mans-winning Porsche LMP1 car with the Le Mans number 19 entry at the Goodwood Festival of Speed (25 – 28 June 2015). Porsche factory driver Brendon Hartley (New Zealand) will race the near 1000 hp hybrid prototype on the twisty and narrow racetrack. In addition to this high-speed appearance, Porsche will display both the Porsche 936/81 and the 962 C – the Le Mans-winning cars of 1981 and 1987. The WSC Spyder, which raced at Le Mans in 1998, will take the start at Goodwood, too.

The plug-in hybrid-models of Porsche will also start in Goodwood

Porsche's street legal sports cars will be represented by several plug-in hybrid-models on the racetrack at Goodwood House. In addition to the Panamera S E-Hybrid and the Cayenne S E-Hybrid, the high-performance sports car 918 Spyder will tackle the racecourse. In 2014, the car set a new lap record for electrically powered cars. The Goodwood Festival of Speed will see the U.K. premiere of the 911 GT3 RS. Last but not least, Porsche will send the Cayman GT4 as well as the all-new Boxster Spyder on the famous hill-climb. The owner of the huge park is Charles Henry Gordon-Lennox, Earl of March and Kinara.

Prior to the Porsche 919 Hybrid's victory, the brand had won the world's most important endurance race a total of 16 times – the first time in 1970 and most recently in 1998, or 17 years ago. By clinching the 17th overall victory for Porsche at the 2015 24 Hours of Le Mans, the most efficient Porsche race car of all time has also launched a new chapter in the brand's long and successful history. Moreover, just like many of its famous predecessors, the Porsche 919 Hybrid also represents the dawn of a new era in automotive technology.

Tecnology transfer from racing into seriel production

Indeed, Porsche has repeatedly introduced ground-breaking innovations in motorsport, and these have often made their way into production models as well. The turbocharged engine that earned its wings in Le Mans is as much a part of the Porsche brand DNA as is the Porsche dual-clutch transmission (Porsche Doppelkupplungsgetriebe), which was used in 1986 for the first time in a Porsche 962 at the Circuit des 24 Heures. Sports cars from Zuffenhausen have also repeatedly reaped the benefits of pure motorsport technologies, such as ground effect aerodynamics and carbon-fibre components. With its most recent triumph at the 24 Hours of Le Mans, the Porsche 919 hybrid drive with a total system output of approximately 1,000 hp underwent a baptism of fire under the most gruelling conditions.

At the same time, all of Porsche's overall victories in Le Mans can be attributed to the exceptional work performed by the people who design, build, prepare and drive unique vehicles – as the following review of 16 historic successful outings at the Circuit des 24 Heures illustrates.

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