

Marking the 100th ADAC GT Masters race: Highlights remembered

- Christopher Haase is most successful driver in the series
- Corvette driver Toni Seiler is longest-serving driver in the ADAC GT Masters
- Race reporter Swen Wauer has commentated at every fixture

The ADAC GT Masters is in celebratory mood: The weekend at the Slovakia Ring (September 13th-15th) is the 50th race weekend ever to take place in the history of the Super Sports Cars League. Sunday's race (live on *kabel eins*, starting at 12:00pm) will be the 100th in the series. To mark the occasion, the most successful driver, the most senior driver, and the only person to have watched every single race remember their personal best moments from the previous 98 ADAC GT Masters races.

The most successful: Christopher Haase

The career of Christopher Haase (25, Germany / Prosperia C Abt Racing) is closely intertwined with the ADAC GT Masters. Haase, currently in an Audi and the first ever ADAC GT Masters champion is the most successful driver in the series with eleven victories so far. Haase was not only the first champion but also secured the very first pole position at the ADAC GT Masters debut in 2007, winning the inaugural race along with former Ferrari Formula 1 driver Gianni Morbidelli in the Reiter Engineering Lamborghini Gallardo.

"I still look back very fondly to the opening race weekend of the ADAC GT Masters at the Nürburgring in 2007. I had previously been competing in ADAC club sport, racing a 90bhp Dacia Logan, and then suddenly found myself in the cockpit of a 500bhp Lamborghini, lining up at the Nürburgring. No one had heard of me before but, after achieving pole position and the win, everyone wanted to know who I was." There's another reason why the premiere in the Eifel sticks in Haase's mind. "I was so nervous before the race that I simply jumped the gun. I had to see the race director afterwards, and his words of admonishment are still ringing in my ears."

"Another event that I remember very well took place during the 2009 season. I was competing in the FIA GT3 European Championship in Portugal and took the Audi R8 to victory in both races with Christopher Mies. And the following weekend, I also won both ADAC GT Masters races at the Sachsenring in the R8, that time with Henri Moser. The twin successes at the Sachsenring represent some of my best moments in the ADAC GT Masters."

The most senior: Toni Seiler

So far, no other driver has participated in as many ADAC GT Masters races as Corvette driver Toni Seiler (55, Switzerland / Callaway Competition). The long-serving veteran, who always drives a Corvette, has missed only two weekends: "There have been many highlights in all of the races, as, for example, when I secured my maiden win with Patrick Gerling in 2007 at the Lausitzring. After crossing the finish line, we climbed onto the car's roof to claim victory. Many others have done that since. Unfortunately, the following day, the Corvette crashed into the wall and we had to sit out the next event in Zolder. The Nürburgring race in 2010 was also quite special. I was in the lead until just before the finish when it began to rain. I ended up slipping and sliding all over the place and took the chequered flag in third place."

It is difficult to imagine Seiler in the ADAC GT Masters without his trademark, yellow Corvette, but Moni too has also been a constant companion. "My wife Moni has been with me at every ADAC GT Masters weekend. I am very grateful to her for that, because if it hadn't been for her support and her love of motor racing, I certainly would not be where I am today, still sitting in a racing car." Even when at the wheel of his yellow Corvette, he is still thinking of Moni, as the

Media information

American yellow sports car in which Seiler first lined up at the Sachsenring in 2007, has been named süße Moni – gorgeous Moni – after his wife. Whilst Seiler has remained true to his one and only, the Corvette had to make way for a younger model, süße Moni 2, in early 2012.

The voice of the ADAC GT Masters: track commentator Swen Wauer

Swen Wauer is the voice behind the ADAC GT Masters and has commented on all of the races so far for fans at the track. Wauer reminisces: “Many incredible moments during the last 98 races have got me quite excited. The moment at the Nürburgring in 2007 when the field left the pits for the first time to begin the first free practice session led by a Porsche was very special, as was watching Christopher Haase take his first tentative steps in motor racing, but also seeing the two Czech drivers Martin Matzke and Jiri Skula, aged just 16 at the time, really shake the field up back in 2007 is unforgettable. Other things that stick in my mind? Well, there’s Mickey Raja, who has become a permanent fixture in the commentator’s box, and Mario Farnbacher’s second place in his second ADAC GT Masters race at Hockenheim in 2011 at the wheel of a Ferrari. But I’ll never forget Sebastian Asch and Maximilian Götz either when they secured the title in last year’s final race. Plus, teams have staged some fabulous parties in the paddock, complete with legendary karaoke contributions from Frank Kechele.”

There have been plenty of challenging moments behind the microphone to keep him on his toes during the 49 race weekends staged to date: “I especially remember the water fest in 2011 at the Red Bull Ring, when things got really chaotic after a rain shower in the middle of the race. Keeping track of everything was not easy in the circumstances but terrific fun.”

Only once in the previous 98 races has Wauer really been lost for words: “A local radio station was at the Sachsenring, broadcasting the ADAC GT Masters. The connecting piece was short and concise: “We are now handing you back to the Jenson Button of the Sachsenring, to Swen Wauer and the ADAC GT Masters.” There was a brief silence, but I am sure that fans were just as bemused as I was by his introduction.”

Tickets for all ADAC GT Masters races start at €20 and can be purchased online at www.adac.de, from any ADAC branch office, online at www.eventim.de or from one of the more than 20,000 Eventim outlets throughout Europe.

Dates and venues: 2013 ADAC GT Masters

26th - 28th April:	etropolis Motorsport Arena Oschersleben
10th - 12th May:	Circuit Spa-Francorchamps (Belgium)
7th - 9th June:	Sachsenring
2nd - 4th August:	Nürburgring
9th - 11th August:	Red Bull Ring (Austria)
30th August - 1st September:	Lausitzring
13th - 15th September:	Slovakia Ring (Slovakia)
27th - 29th September:	Hockenheimring, Baden-Württemberg

ADAC GT Masters website: Access to Press Area via ‘Press’ in the top menu bar at www.adac.de/motorsport.

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