



BMW M Award 2013: Marc Marquez wins the BMW M6 Coupé.

The Spaniard is the top MotoGP™ qualifier of the 2013 anniversary season – Presentation ceremony at final Grand Prix in Valencia.

Valencia, 10th November 2013. Marc Marquez was a sensation in his first season of MotoGP – and his show-stopping performances also carried over to the BMW M Award. At just 20 years old, the young Spaniard came through brilliantly against more established opposition to win the 2013 BMW M Award as the top qualifier of the year. The award, in the form of an exclusive and customised BMW M car, is presented each year by MotoGP partner BMW M GmbH. As BMW M GmbH is celebrating a double anniversary in 2013 – it is the company's 15th season as "Official Car of MotoGP" and the BMW M Award is presented since ten years – this year's prize is a real highlight: an exclusive BMW M6 Coupé.

MotoGP rookie Marquez superbly claimed the BMW M Award as the youngest winner of all time. He claimed pole position, and with it full points towards the BMW M Award, on nine occasions this season. On top of this came a further six starts from the front row of the grid. Marquez eventually won the 2013 BMW M Award with a comfortable lead and 367 points to his name. The official presentation ceremony took place on the Saturday of the MotoGP season finale in Valencia, Spain. The award was presented by Carmelo Ezpeleta, CEO of Dorna Sports, and Thomas Schemera, Director Sales and Marketing BMW M GmbH.

Marquez received a BMW M6 Coupé with a host of spectacular features. These include an eye-catching "Frozen Black Metallic" paintjob. The dynamic colour scheme continues with the matt-black, double-spoke 20" M light alloy wheels. The design of the high-performance Coupé was developed in the wind tunnel. The extremely low-slung front, with integrated adaptive LED headlights, and sporty rear end take full advantage of the aerodynamics. The M Power under the bonnet is provided by an M TwinPower Turbo, eight-cylinder engine, which generates an impressive 560 hp (412 kW). The innovative technology for which M is renowned – including carbon ceramic brakes – guarantee perfect handling in all situations. The sporty elegance of this special-edition model continues in the interior. Among the many other features of this BMW M6 Coupé are M multifunctional seats for driver and passenger, 'Merino / Sakhir Orange' leather upholstery, the navigation system Professional and a head-up display. Carbon-fibre interior trims complete the racing character of this high-performance sports car.

"I am really happy to have won the BMW M Award", said Marc Marquez. "I saw this BMW M6 Coupé for the first time when it was revealed in Jerez back in May. Since then I have thought how great it would be to win this car as I always passed it on my scooter when it was on display in the paddock. But honestly I did not believe I would do so in my rookie season, so it is just fantastic to be the BMW M Award winner." Marquez added with a big smile: "My father has already expressed his interest in this car, but I have to disappoint him because, of course, I will keep it for myself!"

"The 2013 edition of the BMW M Award is special in many ways", explained Carmelo Ezpeleta, CEO of Dorna Sports. "Not only this year's best qualifier is a new star in Marc Marquez, who has had a truly outstanding rookie season, but it's also the 15th anniversary of our partnership with BMW M. This year's prize, the BMW M6 Coupé, is a state-of-the-art car which perfectly embodies the common values of MotoGP and BMW M."

"Congratulations to Marc Marquez on winning the 2013 BMW M Award," said Thomas Schemera, Director Sales and Marketing BMW M GmbH. "The BMW M Award is an important part of our

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successful long-term partnership with MotoGP. This season has shown once again just how important this award is to the MotoGP riders, and that is something we are very proud of. The technically innovative BMW M high-performance sports cars are coveted prizes, and we have provided a particularly exclusive highlight for our anniversary season, in the form of the BMW M6 Coupé."

BMW M GmbH also used the BMW M Award presentation ceremony to thank Carlos Pratola for his many years of services as the official Safety Car driver. Since 2003, the Argentinean has been in action at the wheel of various Official MotoGP Safety Cars provided by BMW M. As of next season, he will be taking over a new role within MotoGP: he will strengthen the race management team as Race Control Coordinator.

"I have always enjoyed driving the BMW M Safety Cars," said Carlos Pratola. "They are perfectly suited to the demands faced out on the racetrack, when you are charged with leading out a field of technologically-advanced prototype bikes, as they are really safe and quick cars. The safety features and technology have improved enormously over the past eleven years. I am proud to have had the opportunity to drive these fantastic cars for these eleven years."

"As the driver of the Official MotoGP Safety Cars, Carlos has always been an important partner for us," explained Thomas Schemera. "His feedback was a valuable contribution when it came to modifying the BMW M models for their use as Official Cars of MotoGP on the racetrack. We would like to thank him for the close cooperation and wish him all the best for his future role as Race Control Coordinator."

The BMW M Award.

The BMW M Award has been presented to the best qualifier of the season since 2003. Just like the points system for the races, riders at each Grand Prix weekend are awarded points relative to their positions in qualifying. Pole position is rewarded with 25 points, second place on the grid earns 20 points and third place scores 16 points – right down to one point for 15th. The rider with the most points at the end of the season wins the BMW M Award. Valentino Rossi and Casey Stoner are the current record holders, each with three BMW M Awards to their name. Jorge Lorenzo claimed his second BMW M Award last season, while Sete Gibernau and Nicky Hayden both have one award to their name. Marc Marquez is not only the youngest winner in the history of the BMW M Award, but also the first rider to secure this coveted award in his rookie season at the pinnacle of motorcycle racing.

BMW M GmbH.

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