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Alpine wins on its return to the Monte-Carlo Rally

Fifty years after its maiden overall win on the Monte-Carlo Rally in 1971, Alpine returned to the crown jewel of the FIA World Rally Championship calendar. Despite tricky and unpredictable conditions, the five Alpine A110 Rallies at the start made it to the finish and dominated the FIA R-GT and two-wheel drive categories.

Victorious on its reappearance on the world rally scene last month at the ACI Rally Monza, Alpine renewed its relationship with a genuine motorsport monument this weekend.

Known for its atypical conditions that can include rain, snow, ice and fog in the same special stage, the Monte-Carlo Rally remains one of the most prestigious events on the international calendar.

Dreaded by everyone, its challenges enabled Alpine to forge its legend: first with the category win of Jacques Feret with the Alpine A108 in 1964, then the success of Ove Andersson in the Alpine A110 1600S in 1971, and finally the sweep of the podium by the Alpine A110 1800s to begin the World Rally Championship in 1973.

Despite an itinerary adapted to curfew measures and an edition held without spectators, the 89th Monte-Carlo Rally lived up to all its promise by offering competitors the full range of all the possible traps for the 110th anniversary of the event.

Starting after several dozens of four-wheel drive entries, the Alpine A110 Rallies of Manu Guigou-Alexandre Coria, Raphaël Astier-Frédéric Vaclare, Cédric Robert-Matthieu Duval, Pierre Ragues-Julien Pesenti and Philippe Baffoun-Arnaud Dunand quickly came across roads that were more difficult than ever.

Ignoring the conditions, the Alpine A110 Rallies took the lead in two-wheel drive category on the first two muddy stages on Thursday before showing off their qualities and potential throughout a wet Friday and a snowy and icy Saturday.

Sunday's special stages proved to be trickier and trickier, but all five crews avoided the final pitfalls of the route and made it to Monaco thanks to the impressive ease of use of the model designed and developed by Signatech Automobiles.

In his first Monte-Carlo Rally, Manu Guigou led the Alpine A110 Rallies to victory in the R-GT and two-wheel drive categories while finishing 22nd overall. Leader of the R-GT category from SS2, the Frenchman won ahead of 2018 FIA R-GT Champion Raphaël Astier and Cédric Robert. Despite less experience than their counterparts, Pierre Ragues and Philippe Baffoun finished comfortably into the top 50.

Thanks to these impressive performances, Alpine can worthily celebrate the 50th anniversary of its first overall victory in Monte-Carlo in 1971. Just like this year, Alpine demonstrated extraordinary reliability as five of the Alpine A110s entered officially completed the rally back then!

Philippe Sinault, Signatech Director

"Fifty years after the historic win of Ove Andersson in this legendary rally, we couldn't have dreamt of a better comeback for Alpine on the Monte-Carlo. Manu Guigou put in a superb performance that rewarded his loyalty as he joined the Alpine A110 Rally project at the very beginning while Raphaël Astier increased his pace throughout the event. In addition to these performances, which were crowned with a second success in as many appearances on the world stage, we are particularly proud to see that all the crews at the start finished despite the epic and difficult conditions. With all the rain, snow, mud, ice and fog, nothing was easy but the five drivers were able to live up to the challenges they

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faced thanks to the confidence that the Alpine A110 Rally inspires. This once again highlights the Alpine A110 Rally's impressive ease of use even on the most difficult roads!"

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