



## FIA World Rally Championship

### WTCR meets WRC: Tarquini gets a taste of the Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC

- Hyundai Motorsport reveals footage of reigning WTCR – FIA World Touring Car Cup champion Gabriele Tarquini in the Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC, exclusively on IGTV (HMSGOfficial)
- Tarquini enjoyed co-drive experience with WRC driver Andreas Mikkelsen on the day following the team's Rally Italia Sardegna victory
- Second video featuring Tarquini and Team Director Andrea Adamo set for release on IGTV on July 9 – uniting Hyundai Motorsport's WRC and Customer Racing worlds.

Alzenau, Germany

July 8, 2019 – Hyundai Motorsport has today revealed footage of reigning WTCR – FIA World Touring Car Cup champion Gabriele Tarquini enjoying his first taste of FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) machinery on gravel.

Released on the company's IGTV channel (HMSGOfficial), the first video in a two-part series shows Tarquini enjoying a co-drive experience with Hyundai Motorsport WRC driver Andreas Mikkelsen.

The footage was shot after the team's victory and double podium at Rally Italia Sardegna, and shows the Italian star spending time away from his usual WTCR surroundings. He had followed the WRC weekend closely to see first-hand a different side to the company's business with which he is usually acquainted.

The two primary pillars of Hyundai Motorsport concentrate on WRC and a dedicated Customer Racing offering, which includes the competitive Hyundai i20 R5 rally car and the title-winning i30 N TCR which Tarquini himself helped to develop.

WRC presents challenges unlike those faced in circuit racing, so the Sardinia weekend afforded Tarquini a unique insight into driving style, car characteristics and technical demands. He was also put in the driving seat himself, with his long-time friend and Hyundai Motorsport Team Director Andrea Adamo alongside him as a co-driver. The results from that pairing will be seen in the second IGTV video, to be published on Tuesday July 9.

**Team Director Andrea Adamo said:** *"To welcome Gabriele to Rally Italia Sardegna was a fantastic opportunity for us to unite the two areas of Hyundai Motorsport business. As the reigning WTCR champion, someone who has played such an important role in development of our i30 N TCR, Gabriele was able to experience the challenges faced by WRC drivers first-hand. Let's just say he should probably stick to circuit racing and I should stick to my current job! We had a lot of fun and it was a perfect way to cross over the different worlds in which we are involved."*

**Gabriele Tarquini said:** *"I am grateful to Andrea, Andreas and Hyundai Motorsport for the opportunity to experience the incredible i20 Coupe WRC after Rally Italia Sardegna. It was the first time for me to drive on gravel and I was truly amazed. The acceleration, stability on the straight, gear changes, braking, driving style, are all so different to what I'm accustomed, and very impressive. These WRC drivers are crazy and talented individuals. I don't know how Andrea remained so calm. Even in the passenger seat alongside a pro like Andreas, I was scared. It's a totally different world to WTCR but equally fantastic; I*



*hope we can return the favour one day!"*

Hyundai Motorsport can be found on Instagram and IGTV at **HMSGOfficial**

**July 8** – Video 1: Gabriele co-drive experience alongside Andreas Mikkelsen

**July 9** – Video 2: Gabriele in the driving seat, with Andrea Adamo as co-driver

### **About Hyundai Motorsport GmbH**

Established on 19 December 2012, Hyundai Motorsport GmbH is responsible for Hyundai's global motorsport activities, including the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) and Customer Racing projects. In WRC, Hyundai Motorsport quickly established a strong reputation taking victory in its debut season in 2014. The team amassed ten wins up to the end of the 2018 season and finished as runners-up in the manufacturers' championship on three consecutive occasions. Since the establishment of its Customer Racing activities in September 2015, Hyundai Motorsport has become a trusted partner for teams and drivers looking for success on the rally stages or on racetracks around the world. From its competitive i20 R5 rally car to the competitive i30 N TCR, Hyundai Motorsport-built cars have claimed victory in several championships, including national rally series in France and Spain, as well as the teams' and drivers' titles in the inaugural FIA World Touring Car Cup (WTCR) season. Unified under Hyundai Motorsport, WRC and Customer Racing are together playing instrumental roles in driving Hyundai's global high-performance N brand, and are supporting an important perception shift for the Hyundai brand around the world.

Further information about Hyundai Motorsport is available at: <http://motorsport.hyundai.com>

### **About Hyundai Motor**

Established in 1967, Hyundai Motor Company is committed to becoming a lifetime partner in automobiles and beyond with its range of world-class vehicles and mobility services offered available in more than 200 countries. Employing more than 110,000 employees worldwide, Hyundai sold more than 4.5 million vehicles globally. Hyundai Motor continues to enhance its product line-up with vehicles that are helping to build solutions for a more sustainable future, such as NEXO – the world's first dedicated hydrogen-powered SUV.

More information about Hyundai Motor and its products can be found at:

<http://worldwide.hyundai.com> or <http://globalpr.hyundai.com/>

To download high-resolution photos for editorial use, full drivers' profiles, as well as other useful press information about the team please refer to:

<http://press.motorsport.hyundai.com/home>

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