



**ST. PETERSBURG (November 27, 2012)** – Tickets for the Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg, taking place March 22-24, 2013, are now on sale. The waterfront street course serves as the season-opener for four race series, reasserting its status as one of the premier racing circuits in North America.

For a third consecutive year, the event will mark the beginning of the IZOD IndyCar Series season. Three-time winner at St. Petersburg Helio Castroneves will return to defend his memorable 2012 win, following an incredible season where Dario Franchitti claimed a historic third Indianapolis 500 win and Ryan Hunter-Reay took home the championship trophy to become the first American to win the title since 2006.

“Being the first race of the season is an honor and we expect to see more great racing in 2013 with the IZOD IndyCar Series having completed a full year with the new DW12 chassis,” said Tim Ramsberger, Vice President and General Manager of the Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg. “With all the sights and sounds that racing has to offer, it is truly an experience that you have to be a part of in person. If you haven’t been to the Honda Grand Prix yet, we invite you to come check it out.”

The “Road to Indy”, the leading ladder series for open-wheel racing, globally, will be represented with Firestone Indy Lights and USF2000 National Championship each taking to the track. Graduates of the development ladder include Graham Rahal and Marco Andretti.

The Pirelli World Challenge also returns to the streets of St. Petersburg, marking the fourth straight year that the series opens its season in the sunny, tropical destination. The series, which features cars from the world’s most popular manufacturers, will hold a doubleheader weekend with GT and GTS competitors hitting the track on Saturday and Sunday of race weekend.

“We are excited to welcome back IndyCar and the Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg,” said Mayor Bill Foster. “The Grand Prix is one of St. Petersburg’s and Florida’s signature events. We look forward to hosting the race teams as well as the thousands of fans who come to enjoy not only the race, but also all the other activities St. Pete has to offer.”

“American Honda is thrilled to serve as title sponsor of the Grand Prix of St. Petersburg for a ninth consecutive year,” said T.E. McHale, Motorsports Manager at American Honda Motor Company, Inc. “I have had the good fortune to attend the past eight events and every year I find something new that enhances the festive atmosphere of our race weekend on the St. Petersburg waterfront. The Honda Grand Prix has established itself as one of the IZOD IndyCar Series’ destination events, and I cannot think of a better place to kick off the 2013 season.”

In addition to world-class racing, Drifting Exhibitions will return to the Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg, which will take place on-track between races. Festival-goers will also be entertained with numerous interactive activities in the Bright House Networks Speed Zone and IndyCar Fan Village, live music, exhibits, great food concessions and beer gardens, and much more.

Tickets to the event start at \$20 for General Admission and \$65 for Reserved Seating (tax included). For full pricing information and to buy tickets to the 2013 Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg, visit [gpstpete.com](http://gpstpete.com) or call 877-283-5385. Three-day reserved tickets purchased before December 31 will also receive a free weekend IndyCar Paddock Pass (a \$65 value).

**About the Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg** The Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg takes place March 22-24, 2013 and is run on a 1.8-mile, 14-turn waterfront circuit that includes a combination of adjacent downtown streets circling Pioneer Park, the Progress Energy Center for the Arts, the Salvador Dali Museum and extending onto the runways at Albert Whitted Airport, which overlook the Tampa Bay and picturesque St. Petersburg Harbor and Marina.

To learn more about the Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg, visit [gpstpete.com](http://gpstpete.com) . 'Like' us on Facebook at

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**More Information:** Kathleen Stelmach 416-341-9929 ext. 227 [kathleen@torchiacom.com](mailto:kathleen@torchiacom.com)