

AUTOMOTIVE

## Land Rover races across the globe in competition series

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*Image Credit: Motor Trends*

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By SARAH RAMIREZ

British automaker Land Rover is teaming up with Motor Trend for a series showcasing the driving capabilities of the new 2018 Range Rover Sport.

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The series, "Motor Trend Presents: Driven," highlights the Range Rover Sport's versatility across a variety of terrains. Each of the three short films features British racecar driver Justin Bell participating in unique challenges, capturing the adventurous spirit Land Rover is known for.

### Challenging courses

Motor Trend's Driven has Mr. Bell race the Range Rover Sport in France, Finland and California. Each environment presents drivers with unique challenges, as seen in each 10-minute film.

In France, Mr. Bell drives the Range Rover Sport SVR uphill "The shoelaces of Montvernier," a 2.5-mile stretch of pavement with 18 sharp hairpin turns. His competitor was champion cyclist Phil Gaimon, who cycled the same road downhill.

*France's Motor Trends: Driven episode pits the Range Rover Sport against a steep, winding course.*

Wide summer tires, Brembo brakes and 15-inch rotors help the Range Rover Sport complete the course, just three seconds before cyclist Mr. Gaimon reaches his finish line.

Traveling to Finland, the main challenge for the Range Rover Sport is snow and ice at the Arctic Circle Test Track.

Here, Mr. Bell races against driver Vanina Ickx of Belgium, who both drive SVRs. Low-traction launch mode is crucial in this competition, as is the Range Rover's warm leather interior.



*Range Rover Sports tackle snow and ice in Finland. Image credit: Motor Trend*

In the third film, retired IndyCar racer Dario Franchitti meets Mr. Bell in Monterey, CA for a two-part race. They drive Supercharged models to help them handle the off-road course.

In addition to the turns at the Laguna Seca raceway, the "Corkscrew" turn and drop presented a unique obstacle for the Range Rovers.

While most drivers will not encounter these challenges during their everyday trips, this series is a unique way to highlight the features that make Range Rovers versatile across different climates and environments.

### **Rover innovations**

Land Rover continues to innovate and make its sports utility vehicles even more adaptable for adventurous drivers.

The British automaker is working on all-terrain and off-roading driverless sport utility vehicles in what it has named project Cortex. Land Rover has stated that the technology could possibly reach level 5 and be capable in all weather.

Future driverless Land Rover vehicles could be able to drive off-road in all weather in the near future, throughout dirt, rain, ice, snow and fog ([see story](#)).

Earlier this spring, Jaguar Land Rover opened its new headquarters in Mahwah, NJ with a focus on development through a product research and training center. The new electric Jaguar I-Pace and Range Rover SV Coupe were spotlighted in a seminar during the opening festivities ([see story](#)).

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