

FORMULA ONE

Alonso sees Red

F1 stars auction unique pics



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By **CHRIS HOCKLEY** Published: 12th January 2014

THIS is the amazing view enjoyed by Fernando Alonso on the Italian Grand Prix podium — captured in a terrific photo taken by the man himself.

It shows a sea of red as Italy's fanatical Ferrari fans, known as Tifosi, gathered on Monza's pit straight to celebrate Alonso's second place behind champ Sebastian Vettel.

The driver was so overwhelmed by the vibrant scene he took a picture to mark the occasion.

At the time Alonso was going through a sticky patch in his spat-peppered relations with Ferrari bosses.

And some Formula One pundits wondered if he was taking the photo for posterity, knowing he could soon be leaving the team.

We may never know if that was true, but in any case it was well worth snapping such a brilliant shot.

Alonso's picture is one of a unique set taken by F1 drivers and team principals that will be auctioned next month to raise money for London's renowned Great Ormond Street children's hospital.

Others are being donated and signed by the likes of Vettel, Lewis Hamilton, Jenson Button and Kimi Raikkonen.

The sale, arranged by the Zoom organisation, will be hosted by BBC Grand Prix presenter Suzi Perry at London's InterContinental Park Lane hotel.

Cameras provided by Nikon and signed by world champions will also be auctioned at the event on February 7.

Zoom's Christian Sylt said: "Thanks to the support of the teams and Bernie Ecclestone, we are able to showcase a varied collection of photographs which encapsulate life inside Formula One.

"Every image provides a unique, insider's view of motor racing and offers a rare opportunity for the public to own a slice of history and help support the incredible work undertaken at Great Ormond Street hospital."