

Meeting Nelson Panciatici: A Paul Ricard Story

-By Laura Helary - Professionnal Photographer for Hellophoto!-

It's been almost two months since I started counting the days to this ELMS Round at Paul Ricard circuit. I had such a great experience during the 24Hours Le Mans in june, I was looking forward to take pictures in Le Castellet, which is my favorite track after Le Mans, due to it's beauty and luxury.

Here we are. 9:00 am on Friday, we are driving to Le Castellet with my father who's racing the #67 Imsa Performance Porsche. 5 hours later, the week-end begins. Checking papers, signing documents, retrieving tabards and locker, looking for a fireproof suit, checking all cameras and lens... Everything must be perfect: at 3pm, I have a special meeting for work with someone you've probably heard of.

3pm, everything is on order and I can head on to the Signatech Alpine paddock for my first appointment of the week-end.

Nelson Panciatici receives me on the terrace of his team for a short shooting promoting his major sponsor : Ralf Tech.

I'm always under pressure when meeting a new potential model or co-worker, hoping to have a good connection with him and to make a good job together.

I can't tell you which of us two was the most stressed about those pictures.

I started talking a bit with Nelson to make him feel more comfortable (or was it for me?) and taking the pictures at the same time.

In fact, I talked a lot, such a chatterbox, yet I think we both did our best and enjoyed the moment.

And the pictures came out as great as I wanted it to be.

Funny fact of the story is our parents used to be friends for years when we were only childs, life can be surprising sometimes!

Nelson and his teammates , Paul-Loup Chatin and Oliver Webb had a good week-end on Paul Ricard track and signed P2 on the race, securing their first position in the championship. Final round will take place in Estoril , Portugal, in the end of october.

I will do the journey to support them and bring back awesome images of the week-end, and hopefully we'll see Alpine Champions!