

= 2015 Paris ? Nice =

The 2015 Paris ? Nice was the 73rd edition of the Paris ? Nice stage race . It took place from 8 to 15 March and was the second race of the 2015 UCI World Tour following the Tour Down Under . The race was a return to the traditional format of Paris ? Nice after an unorthodox course in 2014 . It started in Yvelines , west of Paris , with a prologue time trial ; the course then moved south through France with several stages suitable for sprinters . The decisive part of the race began on stage four with a summit finish at the Col de la Croix de Chaubouret ; stage six also had a mountainous route . The race ended after seven days with the climb of Col d 'Eze outside Nice .

The 2014 champion , Carlos Betancur ( AG2R La Mondiale ) , chose not to defend his title . The early lead in the race was taken by Micha? Kwiatkowski ( Etixx ? Quick @-@ Step ) in the prologue ; he kept the lead until stage three , when Michael Matthews took over the race lead through time bonuses . Stage four was won by Richie Porte ( Team Sky ) , while Kwiatkowski took back the race lead . On stage six , a chaotic stage in rainy conditions , Tony Gallopin ( Lotto ? Soudal ) won and took over the race lead , but he was unable to defend his lead on the final @-@ day time trial . Porte , the 2013 champion , won the general classification as well as two stages . Kwiatkowski finished second overall , with Simon ?pilak ( Team Katusha ) on the same time in third place .

The points classification was won by Matthews , who had four top @-@ ten finishes as well as his stage win . The mountains classification was won by Thomas De Gendt ( Lotto ? Soudal ) . Kwiatkowski won the young riders classification as the best rider born after 1 January 1990 . The teams classification was won by Team Sky .

= = Teams = =

As Paris ? Nice is a UCI World Tour event , all 17 UCI WorldTeams were invited automatically and were obliged to send a squad . Three Professional Continental teams received wildcard invitations .

= = Pre @-@ race favourites = =

Paris ? Nice overlaps with another UCI WorldTour race , the 2015 Tirreno ? Adriatico . In 2015 , the Italian race attracted the main Grand Tour riders , such as Alberto Contador ( Tinkoff ? Saxo ) , Chris Froome ( Team Sky ) , Vincenzo Nibali ( Astana ) and Nairo Quintana ( Movistar Team ) . Only one former Grand Tour champion chose to compete Paris ? Nice : Bradley Wiggins ( Team Sky ) .

The favourites for the race included the 2013 champion , Richie Porte ( Team Sky ) , the 2011 champion , Tony Martin ( Etixx ? Quick @-@ Step ) and the 2014 world champion , Micha? Kwiatkowski ( Etixx ? Quick @-@ Step ) . Other riders considered to have a chance of victory included Geraint Thomas ( Team Sky ) , who had just won the Volta ao Algarve , Romain Bardet and Jean @-@ Christophe Péraud ( both AG2R La Mondiale ) , Tejay van Garderen ( BMC Racing Team ) , Andrew Talansky ( Cannondale ? Garmin ) and Rui Costa ( Lampre ? Merida ) .

Paris ? Nice is also raced by many classics riders preparing for the Spring Classics and especially Milan ? San Remo , which comes just a few days later . Riders expected to feature on the flatter days included classics specialists such as Alexander Kristoff ( Team Katusha ) , John Degenkolb ( Giant ? Alpecin ) , Arnaud Démare ( FDJ ) and Philippe Gilbert ( BMC Racing Team ) and sprinters like Nacer Bouhanni ( Cofidis ) and André Greipel ( Lotto ? Soudal ) .

= = Route = =

The previous edition had been an unusual race with no time trials or summit finishes , but the 2015 edition of the race was a return to the traditional form : the race began with a prologue individual time trial near Paris ; this was followed by a series of road stages south through France , including one summit finish ; the race ended with a mountain time trial on Col d 'Eze . The race is known as the " race to the Sun " and is seen as a mini Tour de France , where riders need to be both competent time @-@ trialists and capable of climbing mountains . The key stages were expected to

be the summit finish to Col de la Croix de Chaubouret on stage 4 and the concluding time trial on Col d'Eze .

= = Stages = =

= = = Prologue = = =

8 March 2015 ? Maurepas to Maurepas , 6 @. @ 7 km ( 4 @. @ 2 mi )

The race began with a prologue individual time trial in the Yvelines department . The 6 @. @ 7 km ( 4 @. @ 2 mi ) prologue was flat , with three major turns . The riders included four of the top five of previous year 's world time trial championships in Bradley Wiggins ( Team Sky ) , Tony Martin ( Etixx ? Quick @- @ Step ) , Tom Dumoulin ( Giant ? Alpecin ) and Rohan Dennis ( BMC Racing Team ) .

The first rider to set off in the race was Daniel McLay ( Bretagne ? Séché Environnement ) . Dylan van Baarle ( Cannondale ? Garmin ) was the leader for a significant period , with a time of 8 ' 04 " . The lead was briefly held by Giacomo Nizzolo ( Trek Factory Racing ) and Tiago Machado ( Team Katusha ) . Their times were beaten by Dennis , who recorded a time of 7 ' 40 " . Dennis held the lead for an hour and a half , until he was beaten by Micha? Kwiatkowski by less than a second . Kwiatkowski 's time was enough to beat all the other riders . He therefore took the yellow jersey of the overall leader , as well as the green jersey of the points leader and the white jersey of the best young rider . The absence of categorised climbs meant that no polka @- @ dot jersey was awarded .

= = = Stage 1 = = =

9 March 2015 ? Saint @- @ Rémy @- @ lès @- @ Chevreuse to Contres , 192 km ( 119 @. @ 3 mi )

The first road stage of the race took the riders over an almost entirely flat course 192 km ( 119 @. @ 3 mi ) course south from Saint @- @ Rémy @- @ lès @- @ Chevreuse to Contres . There was one climb in the day 's racing ? the Côte de Bel Air ? after 3 km ( 1 @. @ 9 mi ) .

The first breakaway of the day came from Jonathan Hivert ( Bretagne ? Séché Environnement ) . He attacked alone and took both the mountains points and the victory at the first intermediate sprint . Despite at one point having a lead of nearly four minutes , he sat up and was caught by the peloton . Michael Matthews ( Orica ? GreenEDGE ) , in eighth place after the prologue , took second place in the intermediate sprint to win two bonus seconds , moving him to ten seconds behind Kwiatkowski , while John Degenkolb ( Giant ? Alpecin ) took a second for finishing third .

The next significant move was made by Hivert 's teammate , Anthony Delaplace , who broke away with Thomas Voeckler ( Team Europcar ) . The two remained in the breakaway for most of the rest of the stage , which was raced at a very slow pace . Delaplace and Voeckler had a lead of over six minutes , but the peloton gradually chased them down . With 25 km ( 16 mi ) remaining , they had about a minute 's lead and Voeckler forced an acceleration . Their lead extended to over 1 ' 40 " with 15 km ( 9 mi ) remaining , and they won the final intermediate sprint . Geraint Thomas ( Team Sky ) took the bonus second for third place . The breakaway still had over 40 seconds ' lead with 5 km ( 3 mi ) remaining , but were caught by the sprinters ' teams 1 @. @ 5 km ( 0 @. @ 9 mi ) from the finish line .

Degenkolb was the first rider to start the sprint in a disorganised finale to the stage , but he was not able to maintain his speed and finished outside the top ten . The stage was won by Alexander Kristoff ( Team Katusha ) ahead of Nacer Bouhanni ( Cofidis ) and Bryan Coquard ( Team Europcar ) . Kwiatkowski therefore maintained his lead in the general , points and youth classifications , while Hivert took the polka dot jersey of the mountains classification .

18 km ( 11 mi ) from the end of the stage , Tom Boonen clashed wheels while riding at the back of the peloton . He fell on his shoulder and , after receiving medical attention , abandoned the race with a suspected broken collarbone . That evening , it was announced that , though his collarbone was

not broken , he had suffered a dislocation in his shoulder and would miss the Spring Classics season , including his principal targets at Paris ? Roubaix and the Tour of Flanders .

### === Stage 2 ===

10 March 2015 ? ZooParc de Beauval ? Saint @-@ Aignan to Saint @-@ Amand @-@ Montrond , 172 km ( 106 @. @ 9 mi )

The second road stage was a 172 km ( 106 @. @ 9 mi ) route from the ZooParc de Beauval to the town of Saint @-@ Amand @-@ Montrond . The first part of the route was a 127 km ( 79 mi ) route southeast . The riders then entered a finishing circuit ; they first rode the final 8 kilometres ( 5 mi ) of the circuit , before doing a complete 45 km ( 28 mi ) lap . The route was again mostly flat , with just one categorised climb . This was the Côte de la Tour and came as part of the finishing circuit .

The first breakaway of the day was formed by Arnaud Gerard ( Bretagne ? Séché Environnement ) , who escaped alone and earned a lead of over eight minutes , with the peloton riding slowly behind . Gerard won both intermediate sprints . On the first , Alexander Kristoff ( Team Katusha ) took second place to win two bonus seconds . John Degenkolb ( Giant ? Alpecin ) , who had come third and won a one @-@ second bonus in the first sprint , took second place in the second sprint ahead of Michael Matthews ( Orica ? GreenEDGE ) .

The chase was led by Cofidis and Team Europcar and Gerard had less than a minute 's lead at the Côte de la Tour . Philippe Gilbert ( BMC Racing Team ) , Jonathan Hivert ( Bretagne ? Séché Environnement ) and Laurens De Vreese ( Astana ) attacked over the climb , with Hivert winning a point for the mountains classification and maintaining his lead in the competition . The race came back together with approximately 38 km ( 24 mi ) left to race .

The following period of racing was relatively calm , without attacks and with Cannondale ? Garmin controlling the pace . With 9 @. @ 2 km ( 5 @. @ 7 mi ) remaining , however , Tony Martin ( Etixx ? Quick @-@ Step ) attacked and was joined by Geraint Thomas ( Team Sky ) , Lars Boom ( Astana ) and Matti Breschel ( Tinkoff ? Saxo ) . Breschel suffered a puncture and dropped out of the move , but Martin , Thomas and Boom continued their breakaway attempt . Several riders , including Rui Costa ( Lampre ? Merida ) , made unsuccessful attempts to bridge across to the leading group . The chase in the main peloton was led by Lotto ? Soudal and the leading group was caught with 1 @. @ 5 km ( 0 @. @ 9 mi ) remaining .

The first team to move forward in the sprint was Orica ? GreenEDGE , with IAM Cycling following soon afterwards . Greg Henderson , however , was the penultimate man in the Lotto ? Soudal train ; his lead @-@ out brought André Greipel to a perfect position to open his sprint . Arnaud Démare ( FDJ ) came close , but Greipel was able to win the stage . Degenkolb took third place and , with bonus seconds taken into account , was just two seconds behind Kwiatkowski .

### === Stage 3 ===

11 March 2015 ? Saint @-@ Amand @-@ Montrond to Saint @-@ Pourçain @-@ sur @-@ Sioule , 179 km ( 111 mi )

The third stage started where stage two had ended , Saint @-@ Amand @-@ Montrond , and took the riders over a 179 km ( 111 mi ) route to the finish line in Saint @-@ Pourçain @-@ sur @-@ Sioule . The route started with a 146 @. @ 5 km ( 91 @. @ 0 mi ) route , initially heading south @-@ east before turning north in the final part of the stage . The riders then entered another finishing circuit . They first rode the final 13 km ( 8 mi ) of the circuit , then did an entire 19 @. @ 5 km ( 12 @. @ 1 mi ) lap . There was a short climb and two corners in the final kilometre of the stage .

The first break of the day was formed by Philippe Gilbert ( BMC Racing Team ) and Florian Vachon ( Bretagne ? Séché Environnement ) after 9 km ( 6 mi ) . Bradley Wiggins ( Team Sky ) and Antoine Duchesne ( Team Europcar ) attempted to bridge across to the leading pair ; Wiggins was first to drop back , while Duchesne was never able to get closer than two minutes to the pair ahead . Bob Jungels ( Trek Factory Racing ) took third place in the first intermediate sprint . At the first mountains sprint , Gilbert crossed the line first to win four points and take the lead of the mountains

classification . Following repeated attacks from the peloton behind , Gilbert and Vachon were joined after 74 km ( 46 mi ) by Thomas Voeckler ( Team Europcar ) . Gilbert then won the two other third @-@ category climbs , earning a nine @-@ point lead in the classification .

With 50 km ( 31 mi ) remaining , Gilbert , Vachon and Voeckler still had a five @-@ minute lead , with the sprinters ' teams joining Kwiatkowski 's Etixx ? Quick @-@ Step team in chasing the breakaway down . With 20 km ( 12 mi ) to race , the lead was cut to 43 seconds , and Gilbert dropped out of the break with 17 km ( 11 mi ) remaining . Vachon was next to drop out of the leading group ; Voeckler was then joined by Paolo Tiralongo ( Astana ) . Voeckler himself then fell back , while Tiralongo was joined by two AG2R La Mondiale riders : Jan Bakelants and Romain Bardet . This group of three riders held a gap of approximately 16 seconds , but were chased down by the peloton .

The sprint was led by Orica ? GreenEDGE in support of Michael Matthews , for whom the short hill before the finish line was ideal . Lampre ? Merida tried and failed to come past them in the final kilometre . With 500 m ( 1 @, @ 640 ft ) to go , Orica ? GreenEDGE still had four riders at the head of the peloton . Matthews was able to hold on for the win , despite a late challenge from Davide Cimolai ( Lampre ? Merida ) and Giacomo Nizzolo ( Trek Factory Racing ) .

Thanks to the bonus seconds he won on the line , Matthews took over the overall lead in the race , as well as the leadership of the points and young rider classifications .

#### == Stage 4 ==

12 March 2015 ? Varennes @-@ sur @-@ Allier to Col de la Croix de Chaubouret , 204 km ( 126 @. @ 8 mi )

The fourth stage of the race was the longest of the race : a 204 km ( 126 @. @ 8 mi ) route from Varennes @-@ sur @-@ Allier to the Col de la Croix de Chaubouret , the only summit finish in the race . The route was hilly throughout , with two second @-@ category and five third @-@ category climbs before the final ascent . The Col de la Croix de Chaubouret was the highest point in the race at 1 @, @ 201 m ( 3 @, @ 940 ft ) , making this the queen stage of the 2015 Paris ? Nice . It was a 10 km ( 6 mi ) climb averaging 6 @. @ 7 % , with some sections at 9 % .

The early break was formed by Antoine Duchesne ( Team Europcar ) , Thomas De Gendt ( Lotto ? Soudal ) and Chris Anker Sørensen ( Tinkoff ? Saxo ) . They earned a lead of more than eight minutes , with De Gendt winning the first seven mountain sprints of the day . This won him enough points to put him in the lead of the mountains classification . Duchesne was dropped on the first second @-@ category climb of the day , the Côte de La Gimond , which came after 152 km ( 94 mi ) . Work in the main peloton from Orica ? GreenEDGE had reduced the deficit significantly and , on the Gimond , AG2R La Mondiale drove hard to split the peloton in two . Rafa? Majka ( Tinkoff ? Saxo ) was among the riders temporarily distanced , though his teammates were able to bring him back into the main group .

As they crossed the Col de La Gachet with 29 km ( 18 mi ) remaining , De Gendt and Sørensen had two minutes ' lead ; this was reduced to less than a minute 3 @. @ 5 km ( 2 @. @ 2 mi ) later at the summit of the penultimate climb of the day , the Côte de la Croix Blanche . Andrew Talansky ( Cannondale ? Garmin ) and Majka both suffered mechanical problems around the summit of this climb . Etixx ? Quick @-@ Step continued to chase the breakaway down and they were caught with 13 km ( 8 mi ) remaining .

At the base of the Col de la Croix de Chaubouret , Team Sky and BMC Racing Team came to the head of the peloton . Sky 's Lars Petter Nordhaug led the peloton through the first 4 km ( 2 @. @ 5 mi ) of the climb , dropping Michael Matthews ( Orica ? GreenEDGE ) along the way . Warren Barguil ( Giant ? Alpecin ) crashed at the base of the climb ; though he eventually finished the stage , he was unable to return to the main group . After Nordhaug pulled off , his teammate Nicolas Roche took over . His turn at the head of the group caused several riders to be distanced , including Talansky , Majka and Wilco Kelderman ( LottoNL ? Jumbo ) .

With 3 km ( 1 @. @ 9 mi ) remaining , Roche pulled off and Geraint Thomas ( Team Sky ) attacked the small group of leaders . He gained a small lead and was joined by Jakob Fuglsang ( Astana )

and Simon Pilaak ( Team Katusha ) . Tejay van Garderen ( BMC Racing Team ) and Rubén Fernández ( Movistar Team ) attempted to bridge across , but Fernández , while looking at the group behind , cycled straight into Van Garderen and crashed . Richie Porte ( Team Sky ) covered this move . He was again able to follow as Michał Kwiatkowski attacked . When Kwiatkowski had caught Thomas 's group inside the final one kilometre ( 0 @. @ 6 mi ) , Porte himself attacked . Thomas , his teammate , was the only rider able to follow him and they finished first and second on the stage . Kwiatkowski finished third , eight seconds behind .

With the time bonuses won on the stage , Kwiatkowski was able to re @-@ take the race lead ; he was one second ahead of Porte with Thomas a further two seconds back .

### == = Stage 5 == =

13 March 2015 ? Saint @-@ Étienne to Rasteau , 192 @. @ 5 km ( 119 @. @ 6 mi )

The fifth stage of the race was a 192 @. @ 5 km ( 119 @. @ 6 mi ) route that started in Saint @-@ Étienne , travelled south and ended in Rasteau . The course began with a first @-@ category climb , the Col de la République , but the remainder of the stage was generally flat . Three categorised climbs were located in the second half of the stage ( two third category and one second ) , with the final climb 8 @. @ 5 km ( 5 mi ) from the stage finish . The final 500 m ( 1 @, @ 640 ft ) were uphill .

The break was formed on the first @-@ category climb that began the day 's racing . Thomas De Gendt ( Lotto ? Soudal ) , who had taken the lead of the mountains classification on stage four , attacked again . He was joined by Andrew Talansky ( Cannondale ? Garmin ) , Romain Sicard ( Team Europcar ) , Egor Silin ( Team Katusha ) and Paweł Poljański ( Tinkoff ? Saxo ) . De Gendt won the mountain sprint on this climb and on all the other climbs of the day . The group was never allowed more than four minutes ' lead , since Talansky was only 2 ' 51 " behind the leader on general classification . The chase was led by Kwiatkowski 's Etixx ? Quick @-@ Step team , who were joined by Cofidis with 60 km ( 37 mi ) remaining . With 20 km ( 12 mi ) remaining and the gap at 1 ' 30 " , Team Sky 's Bradley Wiggins moved to the front of the peloton . After Wiggins had reduced the gap , BMC Racing Team took up the pace @-@ setting .

Sicard and Poljański dropped out of the leading group on the final climb and , with less than 5 km ( 3 mi ) remaining and a lead of 25 seconds , an attack from De Gendt distanced Talansky too . Orica ? GreenEDGE were now leading the chase behind but , with 3 km ( 2 mi ) left , the leading pair still had a 30 @-@ second lead . With 1 km ( 0 @. @ 6 mi ) remaining , a final attack from De Gendt dropped Silin . De Gendt attempted to hold on for a solo victory , but he was unable to avoid the sprinters ' teams . As he was caught , Bryan Coquard ( Team Europcar ) opened his sprint . Davide Cimolai ( Lampre ? Merida ) , however , was able to come past him in the final metres to take his second win of the year . Coquard finished second , with Michael Matthews ( Orica ? GreenEDGE ) winning further points for the green jersey by finishing third .

The top 10 of the general classification remained unchanged after the stage .

### == = Stage 6 == =

14 March 2015 ? Vence to Nice , 181 @. @ 5 km ( 112 @. @ 8 mi )

The final road stage of the race was a 181 @. @ 5 km ( 112 @. @ 8 mi ) route starting in Vence and ending on the Promenade des Anglais in Nice . The route was mountainous throughout : it included three first @-@ category climbs and three second @-@ category climbs . The summit of the final climb , the Côte de Peille , came with 27 km ( 17 mi ) remaining , as the riders descended into Nice down the Col d 'Èze . The end of the descent came with approximately 2 km ( 1 @. @ 2 mi ) remaining , with a flat run to the finishing line .

A large breakaway escaped in the early part of the stage . This included 31 riders , representing a variety of teams but not Team Sky or Etixx ? Quick @-@ Step . Tim Wellens ( Lotto ? Soudal ) was the best placed rider on general classification , 1 ' 25 " behind Kwiatkowski ; he was the virtual leader of the race through much of the day . Wellens 's teammate Thomas De Gendt was also in the breakaway : he won the first two climbs of the day to increase his lead in the mountains

classification .

The first major attacks came with about 60 km ( 37 mi ) remaining : Kwiatkowski attacked with three teammates ( Tony Martin , Julian Alaphilippe and Micha? Go?a? ) , briefly gaining a lead of half a minute . Team Sky were able to catch them . After the next climb , the Col Saint @-@ Roch , the same four riders attacked , with Tony Gallopin ( Lotto ? Soudal ) following . They again gained a half @-@ minute lead , while Sky had just one domestique left to help Porte and Thomas . Etixx ? Quick @-@ Step were unable to continue their pressure , however , on the Côte de Peille . Gallopin attacked after sensing that Kwiatkowski was vulnerable . Near the top of the climb , Porte and Thomas caught Kwiatkowski 's group , then attacked them and left them behind . They were joined by several riders , including Simon ?pilak ( Team Katusha ) and Jakob Fuglsang ( Astana ) .

At the summit of the final climb , therefore , Gallopin had a lead over Porte and Thomas 's group , with Kwiatkowski struggling in another group behind . On the descent , however , Porte and Thomas both crashed in separate incidents ; they were recaptured by Kwiatkowski 's group . ( After the final stage , Porte attributed these crashes to over @-@ inflated tyres . ) Gallopin won the final intermediate sprint and the bonus seconds , ahead of the chasing group that was led by Rui Costa ( Lampre ? Merida ) and Fuglsang . Gallopin , however , was able to extend his lead throughout the long descent . He won the stage solo , more than 30 seconds ahead of the first chasing group . Porte and Thomas were over a minute behind , with Kwiatkowski losing an additional two seconds on the finish line .

Gallopin , who had been 38 " behind Kwiatkowski , took the race lead . He was now 36 " ahead of Porte , with Kwiatkowski , Thomas , Fuglsang and Costa within six seconds of him . Gallopin said after the stage that , while he hoped to defend his yellow jersey in the final stage time trial on the Col d 'Èze , it would be difficult to stay ahead of Porte .

= = = Stage 7 = = =

15 March 2015 ? Nice to Col d 'Èze , 9 @. @ 6 km ( 6 @. @ 0 mi )

The 2015 Paris ? Nice concluded with a mountain time trial on the Col d 'Èze . The 9 @. @ 6 km ( 6 @. @ 0 mi ) course began in Nice and had an average gradient of 4 @. @ 7 % . The steepest part of the climb came in the early stages : the second kilometre had an average gradient of 8 @. @ 5 % . The intermediate timing point came at the Col des Quatre Chemins , 4 km ( 2 mi ) from the finish . The final 1 @. @ 5 km ( 0 @. @ 9 mi ) towards the summit of Col d 'Èze were contested on a false flat . This time trial is the traditional final stage of Paris ? Nice , though it was absent from the 2014 edition . The last time the course was used , in the last stage of the 2013 Paris ? Nice , the stage was won by Richie Porte ( Team Sky ) , securing his overall race victory . As is customary in time trial stages , the riders set off in reverse order from where they were ranked in the general classification at the end of the previous stage . The race was held in rainy and windy conditions .

The first major news of the day was that Bradley Wiggins ( Team Sky ) , who had won the stage in the 2012 Paris ? Nice and who was the reigning world time trial champion , would not start the stage . He had been in 103rd place overnight , more than 56 minutes behind the race leader .

The first rider to set off was Stijn Vandenbergh ( Etixx ? Quick @-@ Step ) , who recorded a time of 23 ' 37 " . Alexander Kristoff ( Team Katusha ) completed the course in 22 ' 11 " and led the race for a while . Sérgio Paulinho ( Tinkoff ? Saxo ) briefly took over the lead , before he was overtaken by Thomas De Gendt ( Lotto ? Soudal ) , whose time was 21 ' 19 " . Rein Taaramäe ( Cofidis ) recorded a better time , but was immediately beaten by the next rider , Andrew Talansky ( Cannondale ? Garmin ) . Talansky 's time was 21 ' 00 " ; he led until former world time trial champion Tony Martin ( Etixx ? Quick @-@ Step ) became the first rider to complete the course in under 21 minutes . Martin was the leader of the stage until the final few riders completed the course .

Simon ?pilak ( Team Katusha ) was the first of the general classification contenders to beat Martin ; his time was 20 ' 36 " . This was enough to beat many of the other contenders for the overall classification : Rui Costa ( Lampre ? Merida ) , Geraint Thomas ( Team Sky ) and Micha? Kwiatkowski ( Etixx ? Quick @-@ Step ) all finished behind ?pilak . Porte , in second place overnight

, was the only rider able to beat ?pilak 's time : Porte was 11 seconds ahead at the intermediate time check and finished the stage 13 seconds ahead .

The final rider to set off was the race leader Tony Gallopin ( Lotto ? Soudal ) . Gallopin was 36 seconds ahead of Porte overnight and expressed hope that he would be able to defend his lead and take overall victory . Immediately after he set off , however , he was nervous and uncomfortable on his bike . ( Gallopin , like most of the riders , was riding a conventional road bike with aero bars attached . ) At the intermediate time check , he was already 58 seconds behind Porte ; he lost another 41 seconds in the second part of the stage . His time of 22 ' 02 " meant he finished 29th on the stage and lost the yellow jersey . He dropped to sixth place overall .

Porte therefore won both the stage and the overall victory in the race , his first general classification victory since he won Paris ? Nice in 2013 . Kwiatkowski 's fifth place on the stage was enough to ensure both second place overall ( 30 seconds behind Porte ) and victory in the young rider classification . ?pilak finished on the same overall time as Kwiatkowski in third place , with Costa also on the same time in fourth .

= = Classification leadership table = =

In the 2015 Paris ? Nice , four jerseys were awarded . The general classification was calculated by adding each cyclist 's finishing times on each stage . Time bonuses were awarded to the first three finishers on road stages ( stages 1 ? 6 ) : the stage winner won a ten @-@ second bonus , with six and four seconds for the second and third riders respectively . Bonus seconds were also awarded to the first three riders at intermediate sprints ( three seconds for the winner of the sprint , two seconds for the rider in second and one second for the rider in third . The leader of the general classification received a yellow jersey . This classification was considered the most important of the 2015 Paris ? Nice , and the winner of the classification was considered the winner of the race .

The second classification was the points classification . Riders were awarded points for finishing in the top ten in a stage . Unlike in the points classification in the Tour de France , the winners of all stages were awarded the same number of points . Points were also won in intermediate sprints ; three points for crossing the sprint line first , two points for second place , and one for third . The leader of the points classification was awarded a green jersey .

There was also a mountains classification , for which points were awarded for reaching the top of a climb before other riders . Each climb was categorised as either first , second , or third @-@ category , with more points available for the more difficult , higher @-@ categorised climbs . For first @-@ category climbs , the top seven riders earned points ; on second @-@ category climbs , five riders won points ; on third @-@ category climbs , only the top three riders earned points . The leadership of the mountains classification was marked by a white jersey with red polka @-@ dots .

The fourth jersey represented the young rider classification , marked by a white jersey . Only riders born after 1 January 1990 were eligible ; the young rider best placed in the general classification was the leader of the young rider classification .

There was also a classification for teams , in which the times of the best three cyclists in a team on each stage were added together ; the leading team at the end of the race was the team with the lowest cumulative time .