

#01	Commercialbank Grand Prix of Qatar	Losail
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## MotoGP facts & figures

■ **Valentino Rossi** won at Qatar in both 2005 and 2006 and finished 2nd in 2007 after qualifying on pole position. He crashed out of the race in 2004 after starting from the back of the grid as a penalty for cleaning his original grid position at the end of qualifying. Last year he finished 5th in his first race on Bridgestone tyres



■ **Casey Stoner** has a great record at Qatar; in 2005 he won the 250cc race, in 2006 he finished fifth in the MotoGP race after becoming the second youngest rider ever to qualify on pole in the premier-class and in 2007 he scored his first ever MotoGP victory on his debut riding the factory Ducati. Last year he won again in the first ever GP to be held under floodlights.



■ Losail is one of only five current circuits where Dani Pedrosa has not had a victory in any class of GP racing. The others are Estoril, Laguna Seca, Misano and Indianapolis. **Dani Pedrosa's** 3rd place finishes in the last two years have been his best MotoGP results in Qatar.

■ **Jorge Lorenzo** started on pole and finished second last year in Qatar on his debut in the MotoGP class. Lorenzo has a good record at Qatar in the smaller classes; he won the 125cc race in 2004, finished second in the 250cc race in 2005 and won the 250cc race in both 2006 and 2007. He has also started from pole at all five GP races he has started at the Losail circuit.

## Seventeen world championship race winners in MotoGP

The 2009 entry list for MotoGP maintains the strength of recent years with seventeen of the eighteen riders having won races at world championship level and eleven riders who have won world championship titles. The changes in the full time entry list for this year are as follows:

- Out from last year have gone – Sylvain Guintoli, John Hopkins, Shinya Nakano and Anthony West
- Into the MotoGP class come the following riders – Niccolò Canepa, Sete Gibernau, Mika Kallio and Yuki Takahashi
- The following table shows the achievements of the riders who have won at world championship level. The only rider who has not won at this level is new Ducati recruit Niccolò Canepa.
- The strength of the MotoGP grid can be illustrated with the following facts about the riders lining up:
- There are eleven riders who have won motorcycling World Titles in one of the following classes: MotoGP, 250cc, 125cc, Superbike or Supersport.
- These eleven riders have won a total of twenty-five World Championship titles between them.
- Of the eighteen riders competing full-time in the MotoGP class in 2009, seventeen have had race victories at World Championship level in Grand Prix, World Superbike or World Supersport.
- Between them these seventeen riders have scored 335 race victories at world championship level.

After an influx of new young riders last year, when the age profile was greatly reduced, the relative stability this year has resulted in a slight increase in the average age of the MotoGP full-time entry list from 26 years and 19 weeks at the start of 2008 to 27 years and 32 weeks. The oldest rider on the grid will be Sete Gibernau at 36 years old, who is 15 weeks older than the most experienced rider on the grid, Loris Capirossi. The youngest rider is rookie Niccolò Canepa who will be making his GP debut just 4 weeks before his 21st birthday.

	WORLD TITLES					RACE WINS				
	Total	MotoGP/500cc	250cc	125cc	WSB WSS	Total	MotoGP/500cc	250cc	125cc	WSB WSS
Valentino Rossi	8	6	1	1		97	71	14	12	
Loris Capirossi	3		1	2		29	9	12	8	
Dani Pedrosa	3		2	1		29	6	15	8	
Colin Edwards	2				2	31				31
Jorge Lorenzo	2		2			22	1	17	4	
James Toseland	2				2	16				16
Casey Stoner	1	1				23	16	5	2	
Marco Melandri	1		1			22	5	10	7	
Chris Vermeulen	1				1	15	1			10 4
Andrea Dovizioso	1			1		9		4	5	
Nicky Hayden	1	1				3	3			
Mika Kallio	0					12		5	7	
Toni Elias	0					10	1	7	2	
Sete Gibernau	0					9	9			
Randy De Puniet	0					5		5		
Yuki Takahashi	0					2		2		
Alex de Angelis	0					1		1		
	25	8	7	5	4 1	335	122	97	55	57 4



## #01 Commercialbank Grand Prix of Qatar

Losail

■ **Andrea Dovizioso** finished 4th last year in Qatar on his debut in the MotoGP class, having previously finished on the podium on three occasions at Qatar when riding in the smaller classes; in the 125cc class in 2004 and the 250cc class in 2005 and 2006.

■ **Nicky Hayden**, who will be making his debut on a Ducati and also using Bridgestone tyres, has twice finished on the podium at the Losail circuit; 3rd in 2005 and 2nd in 2006.

■ **Colin Edwards'** best result at Qatar came in the first Grand Prix at the circuit in 2004 when he finished second behind his then team-mate in the Honda Gresini team, Sete Gibernau.

■ **Chris Vermeulen** has not had the best of times at Qatar; he failed to finish in 2006 with mechanical problem, in 2007 he was 7th and last year finished out of the points after pitting to change a faulty tyre.

■ **Loris Capirossi's** 3rd place in 2006 is his best result at Qatar. He retired from the race in 2004 with mechanical problems, finished a disappointing tenth in 2005 after qualifying on pole and crashed out in 2007. Last year he was 8th on his debut on the factory Suzuki.

■ If either **Loris Capirossi** or **Chris Vermeulen** finish in the top three at Qatar it will be the first time that a Suzuki rider has finished on the podium at the opening race of the year since the Japanese GP in 2002, when wild-card rider **Akira Ryo** finished second on the debut for the Suzuki four-stroke MotoGP machine. A top three finish for either of these two riders would also be the first podium in Qatar for Suzuki.

■ **James Toseland** had two race wins at Qatar when racing in Superbikes. Last year he finished 6th on his MotoGP debut after qualifying in second place on the grid.

■ **Toni Elias'** best results in his four previous MotoGP races in Qatar have been the 8th place finishes in 2005 and 2006.

■ **Alex de Angelis'** 2nd place finish in the 250cc race at Qatar in 2007 is the only time he has reached the finish at the Losail circuit. Last year, on his debut in the MotoGP class, he was the only rider to crash out of the race.

### Influx of new riders into the 250cc class

With several of the top riders moving on to other classes, the 250cc class sees a number of new faces for 2009. These are a good mix of experienced 125cc riders, including two world champions, and young riders from around the world. The main changes to the full-time entry list from last year are as follows:

Out from 2007 have gone: Mika Kallio, Yuki Takahashi, Julian Simon, Aleix Espargaro, Fabrizio Lai, Eugene Laverty, Doni Tata Pradita, Russel Gomez and Manuel Poggiali who dropped out half way through last year

Into the 250cc class come the following riders with a few details of their previous achievements (Nationality and age in brackets):

- Gabor Talmacsi (HUN - 27) - Has completed eight full seasons in the 125cc class, taking nine wins and in 2007 becoming the first ever Hungarian rider to win a world title.
- Mike di Meglio (FRA - 21) - Reigning 125cc world champion.
- Raffaele de Rosa (ITA - 22) - Has been competing in the 125cc class since 2004 with best results of 4th in Turkey and Qatar in 2007
- Jules Cluzel (FRA - 20) - Was a full-time rider in the 250cc class in 2006 and 2007 before doing a season in the 125cc class last year. His best result is 10th in the 250cc race in Malaysia in 2006.
- Bastien Chesaux (SWI - 17) - Competed in the 125cc class last year from Germany onwards as a replacement for Stefano Bianco in the WTR San Marino Team, scoring a best result of 21st in Malaysia.
- Axel Pons (SPA - 17) - Made three wild-card appearances in the 125cc class last year with a best result of 26th at Estoril. Son of double 250cc world champion Sito Pons.
- Shoya Tomizawa (JPN - 18) - Has been a wild-card rider at the Japanese GP for the last three years; 2006 and 2007 in the 125cc class and last year on a 250cc machine.
- Vladimir Leonov (RUS - 21) - He will make his GP debut in Qatar and become the first Russian rider ever to compete full-time in Grand Prix racing.
- Aitor Rodriguez (SPA - 24) - Qatar will be his Grand Prix debut.

For the third successive year Roberto Locatelli is the senior rider in the class at the age of 34 in the opening race of the season; this will be his 15th year as a Grand Prix rider. The only other rider over the age of 30 at the opening race is Alex Debon. The youngest rider in the class will be Swiss youngster Bastien Chesaux who is just 17 years old in Qatar.

In spite of the rider changes, the 250cc class has maintained quality in depth, as can be seen from the following table, with reigning champion Marco Simoncelli defending his title against five riders who have won world titles in the 125cc class. In total there are twelve riders on the 250cc entry list who are GP winners.

	WORLD TITLES			RACE WINS		
	Total	250cc	125cc	Total	250cc	125cc
Alvaro Bautista	1		1	14	6	8
Roberto Locatelli	1		1	9		9
Gabor Talmacsi	1		1	9		9
Marco Simoncelli	1	1		8	6	2
Thomas Luthi	1		1	5		5
Mike di Meglio	1		1	5		5
Mattia Pasini	0			9	1	8
Hector Barbera	0			7	1	6
Hector Faubel	0			7		7
Hiroshi Aoyama	0			5	5	
Alex Debon	0			2	2	
Lukas Pesek	0			2		2
	6	1	5	82	21	61



#01	Commercialbank Grand Prix of Qatar	Losail
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■ **Randy de Puniet's** 9th place finish last year is the first time he has completed a race at the Losail circuit; he crashed on the first lap of the MotoGP race in 2006 and crashed on lap eight in 2007.

■ **Marco Melandri's** best result at Qatar was in 2005, when he finished second after battling with Rossi for the victory all the way to the last lap. Melandri will be making his debut on a Kawasaki having already competed on Yamaha, Honda and Ducati MotoGP machines.

■ **Sete Gibernau's** victory at Qatar in 2004 was the last time that he stood on the top step of the podium.

■ **Mika Kallio** has had three podium finishes in the smaller classes in Qatar; 2nd in the 125cc class in 2005 and 2006, 3rd in the 250cc class last year. Kallio will be the first Finnish rider to compete in the premier-class since Esko Kuperinen had two starts as a wild-card rider in 1990.

■ MotoGP debutant **Yuki Takahashi's** 5th place finish last year was his best result from four starts in the 250cc class at the Losail circuit.

■ **Niccolo Canepa** will be the only full-time MotoGP rider who has not previously raced in a GP at the Losail circuit.

## 250cc facts & figures

■ Aprilia riders have won the 250cc race at Qatar on each of the five previous visits.

■ **Marco Simoncelli's** best result at the Losail circuit is 3rd in the 125cc race in 2005. His 8th place finish in 2005 is his best result in the 250cc class in Qatar. Last year he failed to finish after crashing on lap eight,



■ **Alvaro Bautista** won the 125cc GP in Qatar in 2006 but has had less success in the 250cc class at the Losail circuit; he crashed out in 2007 on his debut ride in the 250cc class and last year finished 6th suffering from a mechanical problem after fighting for the lead up to mid-race distance.

## 125cc class wide open for new champion in 2009

With the champions from the last two years moving up to the 250cc class, the 125cc class will crown a new world champion in 2009. Other than the two past champions, the majority of the top riders from 2008 will remain in the class with only four of the top 20 from last year not returning in 2009. The main changes in the 125 field for 2009 are:

Out from last year have gone: Mike di Meglio, Raffaele de Rosa, Stevie Bonsey, Jules Cluzel, Robin Lasser, Robert Muresan, Pablo Nieto, Louis Rossi, Gabor Talmacsi, Pere Tutusaus, Hugo van den Berg and Stefano Bianco who dropped out half way through last year.

Into the series come the following riders (age and nationality in brackets): Julian Simon (SPA - 22), Cameron Beaubier (USA - 16), Jonas Folger (GER - 15), Matthew Hoyle (GBR - 17), Jasper Iwema (NED - 19), Luca Marconi (ITA - 19), Lorenzo Savadori (ITA - 16), Lukas Sembera (CZE - 16), Luca Vitali (ITA - 17), Johann Zarco (FRA - 18)

At the first race of the year there will be 21 full-time GP riders in the 125cc class who are teenagers, the same number as last year. The overall average age of the full-time 125cc riders at the opening race of the year will be 19 years and 41 weeks which is very little change from last year. Tomoyoshi Koyama is the oldest rider in the class at the age of 26; the youngest is 15 year-old German rider Jonas Folger.

## World champions reach "ton-up" of race appearances

At the Qatar GP one reigning world champion and one ex-champion will be making their 100th Grand Prix start – Marco Simoncelli and Nicky Hayden. Below is a brief summary of the career of each rider taking them up to their 100th start.

### NICKY HAYDEN

Nicky Hayden made his debut at the opening race of the 2003 season having won the AMA championship the previous year. Since that time he has ridden exclusively in the MotoGP class for the factory Honda Team before making the change to Ducati for this year. Below are some of the highlights and achievements of Hayden's Grand Prix career to date and a table summarizing his career in numbers:

- He finished on the podium twice in his first year in Grand Prix and was "Rookie of the Year".
- His first GP victory was at the US Grand Prix at Laguna Seca in 2005
- In 2006 Hayden became the last ever world champion in the 990cc MotoGP era with victories at Assen and Laguna Seca and another eight podium finishes.
- He has made more starts on a Honda in the four-stroke MotoGP class than any other rider – the next on this list is Makoto Tamada with 63 MotoGP starts riding a Honda.
- He is the seventh American rider to make 100 premier-class GP starts, the others are: Kenny Roberts Jnr, Randy Mamola, Eddie Lawson, John Hopkins, Kevin Schwantz and Colin Edwards.
- Hayden will be the seventh rider to reach 100 starts since the introduction of the MotoGP class in 2002, joining: Valentino Rossi, Shinya Nakano, John Hopkins, Loris Capirossi, Colin Edwards and Carlos Checa.

### NICKY HAYDEN'S MotoGP CAREER STATISTICS

Starts	Wins	Podiums	Poles	Fastest Laps	Top 6 finishes	Top 10 finishes	Top 15 finishes
99	3	25	5	6	54	75	84



## #01 Commercialbank Grand Prix of Qatar

Losail

■ **Hector Barbera** has finished on the podium for the last two years in Qatar; third in 2007 and 2nd last year after leading the race for several laps. Barbera will be starting his first race since breaking his back in a crash during qualifying for the Japanese GP last September.

■ **Mattia Pasini** won last year in Qatar on his debut in the 250cc class.

■ **Mike di Meglio** and **Gabor Talmacsi** will be aiming to match the achievements of Manuel Poggiali in 2003 and Dani Pedrosa in 2004, in winning on their debut in the 250cc class having previously been 125cc world champion.

■ **Gabor Talmacsi** won the 125cc race at the Qatar GP in 2005 and finished second in 2007 after qualifying on pole.

### 125cc facts & figures

■ Derbi won the 125cc GP at Qatar in 2004, KTM in 2005 and Aprilia for the last three years.

■ **Simone Corsi's** best finish from his four 125cc GP starts in Qatar was 5th in 2007.



■ **Nicolas Terol's** tenth place finish in Qatar last year was his first point scoring finish at the Losail circuit from his three visits.

■ **Bradley Smith** qualified on pole for the first time in his GP career last year in Qatar, but finished the race in 16th after leading early in the race before suffering a broken steering damper.

■ **Joan Olive** finished second last year in Qatar – one of his four podium finishes of 2008.

■ **Sergio Gadea's** victory in Qatar last year was his only podium finish of 2009.

■ **Scott Redding**, making his GP debut last year in Qatar, became the youngest ever rider to finish in the top five in a Grand Prix after becoming the youngest rider to qualify on the front row for a GP.

■ In Qatar last year **Stefan Bradl** became the youngest ever German rider to finish on a Grand Prix podium.

### MARCO SIMONCELLI

Marco Simoncelli made his Grand Prix debut as a 15 year old in the 125cc race at the Czech GP in 2002. After competing in the 125cc class until the end of 2005 he then moved up to the 250cc class. Below are Simoncelli's career highlights to date and a table summarizing his career in numbers:

- Simoncelli's first podium finish was a victory at the Spanish GP at the start of 2004 after he had qualified on pole for the first time.
- His only other GP victory in the 125cc class came one year later, again at the Spanish GP.
- His first podium in the 250cc class was at the third race of last year at Estoril, after he had qualified on pole in the class for the first time.
- His first win on a 250cc machine was at his home GP at Mugello last year.
- He went on to win the 2008 world title with a total of six victories and six other podium finishes during the year.
- His title success last year was the first in the 250cc class for a Gilera rider.
- The championship was notable as being the first rider since Dieter Braun in 1973 to win the 250cc title after not scoring points in either of the first two races of the year.

### MARCO SIMONCELLI GP CAREER STATISTICS

Class	Starts	Wins	Poles	Fastest Laps	Podium	Top six	Top ten	Top 15	First GP	First Win	Last Win
250cc	49	6	7	4	12	17	36	38	SPA/06	ITA/08	VAL/08
125cc	50	2	3	1	7	16	21	27	CZE/02	SPA/04	SPA/05
Total	99	8	10	5	19	33	57	65			

## Grand Prix racing numbers

**119** – Qatar will be the 119th MotoGP race since the advent of the four-stroke formula at the start of 2002. With Shinya Nakano moving away from MotoGP, Valentino Rossi is scheduled to become the only rider to have competed in all 119 races.

**80%** - The percentage of races won by either Casey Stoner or Valentino Rossi since the introduction of the 800cc limit for MotoGP machines at the start of the 2007 season. Between them they have won 29 of the 36 races that have taken place. The only other rider with more than a single MotoGP victory in this period is Dani Pedrosa with four wins. Chris Vermeulen, Jorge Lorenzo and Loris Capirossi have each had a single win.

**21 years 47 weeks** – The average age of the podium finishers in the MotoGP race in Qatar last year (Stoner/Lorenzo/Pedrosa) – the youngest premier-class podium of all-time.

**6** – This will be the sixth occasion that a Grand Prix event has been held at the Losail circuit

**3** – Ducati riders have won the opening race of the year for the last 3 years – Loris Capirossi at Jerez in 2006 and Casey Stoner in Qatar for the last two years

