

MotoGP facts & figures

■ If any of the Yamaha riders finish on the podium at Estoril then Yamaha will take the MotoGP Constructors title irrespective of other results.

■ **Valentino Rossi** has an incredible record at Estoril having finished on the podium on each of his nine visits to the circuit, including five race victories. Rossi has started from pole on just one occasion at Estoril – in 2006.



■ **Jorge Lorenzo** took his first MotoGP victory last year at the Portuguese GP in only his third race in the elite class which took him to the top of the championship table equal on points with Pedrosa. This was Lorenzo's first ever win at the Estoril circuit.



■ **Dani Pedrosa's** second place finish in 2007 in Portugal after a race long battle with Rossi was his first podium finish in any class of Grand Prix racing at the Estoril circuit. Last year he was again the first Honda across the line in second place. Estoril is one of just four current circuits where Pedrosa has not had a win in any class of GP racing; the others are Losail, Indianapolis and Misano.

■ **Casey Stoner's** third place finish in 2007 is his only podium from three MotoGP starts at Estoril. He crashed out on the MotoGP race at Estoril in 2006 and in the process took out **Sete Gibernau**. Last year he finished sixth while having to deal with a TV control box that had become detached from its mountings. Stoner's race win in the 250cc class at Estoril in 2005 was his only point scoring finish at the circuit when racing in the smaller classes. Stoner has never had a pole at Estoril in any of the three GP classes.

Ten years of Grand Prix racing at Estoril

This will be the tenth year that the Portuguese Grand Prix has been held at the Estoril circuit. Prior to moving to Estoril there had been two previous Portuguese Grand Prix events, both hosted in Spain; at Jarama in 1987 and Jerez in 1988. The first Grand Prix event at Estoril was in 2000 and it has been on the calendar every year since. Below are the highlights of the previous nine Grand Prix events held at Estoril:

2000 – Garry McCoy had the honour of winning the first 500cc race at Estoril riding a Yamaha, after qualifying on pole for the only time in the premier-class. In the 250cc class Daijiro Kato took his first GP victory outside of Japan from Olivier Jacque, with Marco Melandri finishing third to become the youngest ever rider to finish on a 250cc podium.

2001 – Each of the races were won by riders on their way to winning their respective world titles: 500cc – Valentino Rossi, 250cc- Daijiro Kato and 125cc – Manuel Poggiali.

2002 – Valentino Rossi won a race that was run in very wet conditions, after Sete Gibernau had led for most of the race only to crash out with four laps to go. Fonsi Nieto had an incredible win in the 250cc race after crashing on lap thirteen and re-joining the race down in seventh place.

2003 – Valentino Rossi won in the premier-class for the third successive year at Estoril. Spanish riders were successful in the smaller classes, with Toni Elias winning the 250cc race and Pablo Nieto taking his one and only GP victory in the 125cc class.

2004 – Both Valentino Rossi and Toni Elias repeated the victories of the previous year. The 125cc race was won by Hector Barbera ahead of current MotoGP riders Mika Kallio and Jorge Lorenzo.

2005 – Alex Barros dominated proceedings by winning the race from pole position and setting the fastest lap as well as being fastest in every practice session. This was the last time that Barros stood on the top step of the podium in Grand Prix racing. Casey Stoner won for the first time in the 250cc class, while Mika Kallio took his first ever Grand Prix win in the 125cc class.

2006 – After qualifying down in 11th place on the grid, Toni Elias scored his one and only MotoGP victory to date by just 0.002 seconds from Valentino Rossi to equal the closest ever recorded finish in the premier-class since the introduction of electronic timing. Alvaro Bautista's win in the 125cc race was his 14th podium of the year – a new record for most podium finishes in a single season in the 125cc class.

2007 – Valentino Rossi won for the fifth time at Estoril after a great battle with Pedrosa. Alvaro Bautista takes the 250cc race after finishing lap one down in 12th place. Hector Faubel won the 125cc race from championship rival Gabor Talmacsi, with Pol Espargaro taking his first ever GP podium in third.

2008 – Last year the Portuguese Grand Prix was the third event of the year and gave Jorge Lorenzo his first MotoGP win after he had qualified on pole for the third successive race. With this victory, Lorenzo became the 100th different rider to win a premier-class Grand Prix. Alvaro Bautista took his first win of the year in the 250cc class while Simone Corsi took back-to-back wins to extend his lead in the 125cc championship chase.



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Estoril

■ **Andrea Dovizioso** finished on the podium on all three occasions when he raced in the 250cc class at Estoril, including a race victory in 2006. Last year on his first race at the circuit on a MotoGP bike he suffered his only non-finish of the year when he crashed out on lap 16.

■ **Colin Edwards'** fourth place finishes in 2006 and 2008 are his best results at the Estoril circuit. His crash at Misano resulted in him failing to score points for the first time since the German Grand Prix last year.

■ **Loris Capirossi** has had two podium finishes at Estoril; the last time was in 2003 riding the Ducati after he had qualified in pole position.

■ **Alex de Angelis** had two podium finishes from his eight starts at Estoril racing in the smaller classes; 3rd in the 125cc class in 2003 and 3rd in the 250cc class in 2006. Last year on his first ride at the circuit on a MotoGP machine he finished 11th after qualifying down in 16th place on the grid.



■ Tenth place finish in 2006 is the best result for **Randy de Puniet** in his three MotoGP starts at Estoril. Last year he finished the first lap down in 14th but then fought back through the pack to 7th before sliding off with just 2 laps remaining and re-starting to finally finish 15th.

■ **Marco Melandri's** 4th place finish in 2005 on a Honda is his best result from six MotoGP starts at Estoril.

■ Last year in Portugal **Chris Vermeulen** had his best result at the Estoril circuit, finishing 8th and just in front of his teammate Capirossi

■ **Toni Elias** has a fantastic record at the Estoril circuit having won three times; the 250cc GP race in 2003 and 2004, and the MotoGP race in 2006 after he had qualified down in eleventh place on the grid. Things have not gone as well for the last two years, finishing 8th in 2007 after running off the track early in the race and last year he was 12th but still in front of fellow Ducati riders Melandri and Guintoli.

Fourth longest winning career for Valentino Rossi

Valentino Rossi's latest victory at Misano came more than 13 years since he took his first GP victory in the 125cc race at the Czech GP in 1996. This latest win moves him above Loris Reggiani in the following table and he now has the fourth longest winning career in Grand Prix racing:

| LONGEST WINNING CAREERS IN GRAND PRIX RACING- ALL SOLO CLASSES | | | |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Rider | First GP win | Last GP win | Length of winning GP career |
| 1. Loris Capirossi | 125cc/GB/1990 | MotoGP/Japan/2007 | 17 years 49 days |
| 2. Angel Nieto | 50cc/E. Germany/1969 | 80cc/France/1985 | 16 years 8 days |
| 3. Phil Read | 350cc/GB/1961 | 500cc/Czech/1975 | 14 years 71 days |
| 4. Valentino Rossi | 125cc/Czech/1996 | MotoGP/San Marino/2009 | 13 years 19 days |
| 5. Loris Reggiani | 125cc/GB/1980 | 250cc/Czech/1993 | 13 years 12 days |
| 6. Max Biaggi | 250cc/South Africa/1992 | MotoGP/Germany/2004 | 11 years 316 days |
| 7. Toni Mang | 125cc/W. Germany/1976 | 250cc/Japan/1988 | 11 years 211 days |
| 8. Alex Barros | 500cc/FIM/1993 | MotoGP/Portugal/2005 | 11 years 203 days |
| 9. Luigi Taveri | 125cc/Spain/1955 | 125cc/Italy/1966 | 11 years 133 days |
| 10. Giacomo Agostini | 350cc/W. Germany/1965 | 500cc/W. Germany/1976 | 11 years 126 days |



Valentino Rossi to make 100th start on a Yamaha

At the Portuguese Grand Prix, Valentino Rossi is set to make his 100th Grand Prix start since joining the Yamaha factory team at the start of 2004, to become only the third rider to reach the milestone of 100 starts on a Yamaha in the premier-class. The following table shows the riders who have made most starts in the premier-class riding Yamaha machinery:

| PREMIER-CLASS STARTS RIDING YAMAHA | |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Rider | Starts |
| 1. Norick Abe | 143 |
| 2. Carlos Checa | 112 |
| 3. Valentino Rossi | 99 |
| 4. Christian Sarron | 98 |
| 5. Eddie Lawson | 86 |

Below is a statistical summary of Valentino Rossi's success in the 99 races he has competed in so far riding for Yamaha:

| Starts | Wins | Podiums | Poles | Fastest Laps |
|--------|------|---------|-------|--------------|
| 99 | 44 | 71 | 27 | 25 |

■ James Toseland finished 7th last year in Portugal on his first ever visit to the Estoril circuit.

■ **Nicky Hayden's** 4th place two years ago is his best ever finish at the Estoril circuit, when he also started from pole for the only time in 2007. In 2006 Hayden was famously knocked off by his teammate Pedrosa on lap five and last year he crashed out of 4th place on lap 17.

■ **Mika Kallio** had four podium finishes at Estoril when racing in the smaller classes including his first ever Grand Prix win in the 125cc class in 2005 after qualifying on pole for the first time in his GP career. Kallio's 7th at the San Marino Grand Prix is his best result since moving up to the MotoGP class at the start of the year.

250cc facts & figures

■ **Hiroshi Aoyama's** second place finish in 2006 on a KTM is his only podium at the Estoril circuit.

■ **Alvaro Bautista** has won for the last three years in Portugal – the 125cc race in 2006 and the 250cc race in both 2007 and 2008. In 2007 he won after finishing the first lap down in 12th place and then setting a new lap record as he stormed through the field. Last year he was leading by the end of the first lap and maintained the lead throughout the race to win by more than seven seconds.



■ **Marco Simoncelli's** second place finish last year at Estoril was his first podium finish on a 250cc machine after starting from pole for the first time in the class.

■ **Hector Barbera's** fifth place finish in 2007 is his best result at Estoril since moving up to the 250cc class. Barbera won the 125cc Portuguese GP in 2004 riding an Aprilia.

Great year of Grand Prix racing for Spain

With Spanish riders challenging at the top of all three championship tables it has been one of the most successful years ever for Spanish riders in Grand Prix racing, as illustrated by the following statistics:

Spanish riders currently occupy two of the top four positions in the championship standings in both the MotoGP and 250cc class, and three of the top four positions in the 125cc championship.

Spanish riders have taken 15 victories so far in 2009, equalling the number of victories by Italian riders.

Following the French GP earlier in the year, for the first time in the 60-year history of Grand Prix racing, all three championship classes had Spanish riders topping the championship standings.

Spanish riders have started from pole 19 times from the 37 races held so far in 2009.

Spanish riders have taken a total of 55 podium finishes this year, which already equals the highest number of podiums achieved in a single season by Spanish riders.



Julian Simon could take 125cc title in Portugal

With a 57.5 point lead at the head of the 125cc championship standings following his victory at Misano, Julian Simon could take the title by finishing either first or second at Estoril, depending on where his closest championship challengers finish. The following scenarios would give Simon the world title at the Portuguese GP:

If he wins the race and Nico Terol finishes no higher than 9th and Bradley Smith finishes no higher than 5th.
If Simon finishes second with Nico Terol finishing no higher than 14th and Bradley Smith finishing no higher than 9th.

■ Estoril is one of **Mattia Pasini's** least successful circuits, where he has never finished higher than eighth. In 2007 Pasini qualified on pole but crashed on lap eleven whilst leading the race and then re-started to finish 8th. Last year he crashed on the 21st lap after touching Aoyama and then re-mounted only to crash again at the end of the back straight when he found his front brake had been damaged in the crash.

■ **Hector Faubel** won the 125cc race at Estoril in 2007. After scoring just 7 points in the first three races of this year Faubel has now had nine successive top ten finishes.

125cc facts & figures

■ **Julian Simon's** best result at Estoril is 5th, in 2006 when riding a KTM. Simon needs to score just 43 points from the remaining four races to secure the world title irrespective of the results of other riders.



■ **Nico Terol's** third place finish last year in Portugal was his first point scoring finish at the Estoril circuit.

■ **Bradley Smith's** best finish at Estoril is 12th in 2007. Last year he qualified down in 13th but was battling with the leading group when he suffered a crash on the 13th lap.

■ **Pol Espargaro's** third place finish two years ago at Estoril was his first appearance on a Grand Prix podium.

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

■ **Simone Corsi** won the 125cc race in Portugal last year after qualifying in pole position.

■ **Danny Webb's** fifth place finish last year at Estoril is his best ever result in Grand Prix racing.

Grand Prix racing numbers

56 years – On race day at Estoril it will be exactly 56 years since Fergus Anderson (Moto Guzzi) won the Spanish Grand Prix at Montjuich Park in 1953 to become the oldest rider ever to win a premier-class Grand Prix at the age of 44 years and 237 days.

50 – Valentino Rossi's win at the San Marino Grand Prix was the 50th victory for Yamaha since the introduction of the four-stroke MotoGP formula at the start of 2002.

24 – Dani Pedrosa will celebrate his 24th birthday on the Tuesday before the Portuguese Grand Prix.

19 – Valentino Rossi's victory at Misano makes him the most successful rider of the 800cc era of MotoGP with 19 victories, one more than Casey Stoner.

10 – Valentino Rossi's pole at the San Marino Grand Prix was the tenth pole of the year for Yamaha, equalling their best ever haul of premier-class poles in a single season which they achieved in both 1978 and 1988.

6 – Valentino Rossi has started from pole six times this year – the most poles he has had in a single season since joining Yamaha.

3 – Estoril is one of just three circuits on this year's calendar where Ducati have not had a MotoGP win. The others are Indianapolis and Le Mans.

1 – Following the first lap crash at Misano that eliminated Colin Edwards and Alex de Angelis, Chris Vermeulen is now the only rider in the MotoGP class to have scored points at every race so far in 2009.

