

MotoGP facts & figures

■ **Valentino Rossi** has finished on the podium eleven times in his twelve visits to Phillip Island across all three GP classes. The only race at Phillip Island that he did not finish in the top three was on his first visit riding a 125cc machine in 1997 when he finished sixth. In 1998 and 1999 he won the 250cc races and since then has had nine podiums in the premier-class including five victories, the last of which was in 2005. Phillip Island is one of just two current circuits where Rossi has not started from pole riding a Yamaha – the other is Laguna Seca.



■ **Jorge Lorenzo** won the 250cc race at Phillip Island in both 2006 and 2007, having qualified on pole on both occasions. Last year, on his debut at the circuit on a MotoGP machine, he finished fourth after starting from second place on the grid.



■ **Dani Pedrosa's** victory in the 250cc race in Australia in 2005 is his only podium finish in any class at the Phillip Island circuit. On his first race at Phillip Island on a MotoGP machine in 2006 he finished down in 15th in the dry and then wet race. In 2007 he was fourth after qualifying on pole, and last year he crashed on the first lap of the race.

■ **Casey Stoner** has dominated the Australian Grand Prix with start-to-finish victories in both of the last two years.

■ **Andrea Dovizioso** won the 125cc race at Phillip Island in 2004 by just over one tenth of a second from current MotoGP rivals Jorge Lorenzo and Casey Stoner. His third place finish on a 250cc machine in 2007 is his only podium at Phillip Island since then. Dovizioso had an eventful MotoGP race in Australia last year after getting edged off the track on the first lap and dropping down to tenth, and then fighting through the field to battle for fourth before tangling with Tose-land on the final lap and finishing seventh.

Australian riders in MotoGP

Current MotoGP riders Casey Stoner and Chris Vermeulen are continuing the strong tradition of riders from Australia having success in the premier-class of Grand Prix racing. Australian riders have scored a total of 104 Grand Prix victories in the premier-class, making them the fourth most successful nation after Italy, USA and Great Britain.

The first rider from Australia to finish on a Grand Prix podium was Harry Hinton, at the Dutch GP in 1950. The first Australian rider to win in the 500cc class was Ken Kavanagh who took the victory at the Ulster GP at the Dundrod circuit in 1953.

The following table shows career statistics of all 18 riders from Australia who have appeared on the podium in the premier-class:

Rider	500cc/MotoGP World Titles	Wins	Podium finishes	Year of premier-class debut
Mick Doohan	5	54	95	1989
Wayne Gardner	1	18	52	1983
Casey Stoner	1	18	32	2006
Jack Findlay	0	3	24	1958
Daryl Beattie	0	3	14	1992
Garry McCoy	0	3	10	1998
Ken Kavanagh	0	1	9	1951
Chris Vermeulen	0	1	7	2005
Jack Ahearn	0	1	7	1954
Troy Bayliss	0	1	5	2003
Kevin Magee	0	1	3	1987
Bob Brown	0	0	9	1955
John Dodds	0	0	3	1965
Kenny Blake	0	0	1	1978
Keith Bryen	0	0	1	1953
Keith Campbell	0	0	1	1953
Harry Hinton	0	0	1	1949
Tom Phillis	0	0	1	1958

Yamaha having great season in MotoGP

Jorge Lorenzo's victory in Portugal was the tenth time this year that a Yamaha rider has stood on the top step of the MotoGP podium. One more win by a Yamaha rider and it will equal the most successful year ever for Yamaha in terms of premier-class victories which they achieved in 2005, as shown in the following list:

Most victories in the premier-class in one season by manufacturer

- 15. Honda x 2 – 1997 & 2003
- 14. Honda – 2002
- 13. Honda x 2 – 1996 and 1998
- 12. Honda – 2001
MV-Agusta – 1972
- 11. Ducati - 2007
MV-Agusta – 1970
Yamaha – 2005
- 10. MV Agusta x 2 – 1968 & 1969
Yamaha x 2 – 2008 & 2009 (from first 14 races)

#16 Iveco Australian Grand Prix

Phillip Island

■ **Colin Edwards'** best result at Phillip Island since moving to MotoGP is a fourth place finish in 2004 when riding a Honda. His best result on a Yamaha at the circuit is sixth in 2005.

■ **Loris Capirossi's** single win at Phillip Island came in the 125cc class back in 1990 on his way to winning his first world title. Capirossi has had five podium finishes in the premier-class at Phillip Island from eight starts.

■ **Randy de Puniet's** sixth place finish in 2007 riding a Kawasaki is his best result at Phillip Island and also the best ever MotoGP result for Kawasaki at the Australian circuit.

■ **Marco Melandri** is the only rider to have won in all three classes at the Phillip Island circuit having won the 125cc race in 1999, the 250cc class in 2002 and the MotoGP race in 2006 - which was also the last time he stood on the top step of the podium. His win in 2006 was the first MotoGP race at which riders changed bikes mid-race due to the change in weather conditions.

■ **Toni Elias'** third place finish in the 125cc GP in 2001 is his only podium finish at Phillip Island across all three classes. His 9th place finishes in 2005 and 2006 are his best results from four starts on a MotoGP machine in Australia.

■ **Chris Vermeulen's** second place at Phillip Island in 2006 was his first podium finish in Grand Prix racing and his best result in his debut season racing in MotoGP. In 2007 he finished 8th after qualifying down in 16th place on the grid. Last year he finished down in 15th after getting caught up in Pedrosa's first lap crash and running off the track. Vermeulen is the only rider in the MotoGP class to score points at every race so far in 2009.

■ **Alex de Angelis** finished on the podium at Phillip Island in both 2004 and 2006 when riding in the 250cc class. Last year, on his debut at the circuit on a MotoGP machine, he crashed on the first lap after taking a respectable 10th place in qualifying.

■ **James Toseland** finished on the podium five times during his time in World Superbike, including a race win in 2007. Last year in Australia, Toseland finished sixth for the sixth time in 2008 but arguably this was his strongest race, finishing just 12 seconds behind race winner Stoner.

Italy set for 200th win in the 250cc class

Marco Simoncelli's victory at the Portuguese GP was the 199th victory for Italian riders in the 250cc class of Grand Prix racing. Italy are by far the most successful nation in the class, having taken more than twice as many victories as Great Britain, the second most successful nation. The following list shows the Grand Prix wins by nation in the 250cc class:

VICTORIES BY NATION IN THE 250CC CLASS

199.	Italy
96.	Great Britain (including Northern Ireland)
84.	Spain
81.	Germany (including former East and West Germany)
67.	Japan
34.	France
23.	Rhodesia
21.	Australia
19.	USA, Venezuela
18.	South Africa
15.	Finland
7.	Argentina, Switzerland
6.	San Marino
5.	Sweden
3.	Ireland
2.	Austria, Belgium, Canada
1.	Hungary, The Netherlands, New Zealand

Twenty eight different riders have contributed to the 199 wins achieved by the Italian nation:

NUMBER OF GP WINS IN THE 250CC CLASS BY ITALIAN RIDERS

29.	Max Biaggi
22.	Luca Cadalora
20.	Walter Villa
14.	Tarquinio Provini, Valentino Rossi
13.	Carlo Ubbiali
12.	Loris Capirossi
11.	Marco Simoncelli
10.	Marco Melandri
6.	Renzo Pasolini
5.	Dario Ambrosini, Enrico Lorenzetti, Loris Reggiani
4.	Pier Francesco Chili, Andrea Dovizioso, Doriano Romboni
3.	Roberto Rolfo, Graziano Rossi, Bruno Ruffo
2.	Silvio Grassetti, Mattia Pasini, Franco Uncini
1.	Gianfranco Bonera, Mario Lega, Marcellino Lucchi, Emilio Mendogni, Paolo Pileri, Fausto Ricci



#16 Iveco Australian Grand Prix

Phillip Island

■ **Raffaele de Rosa's** crash in Portugal resulted in him failing to score points for the first time this year.

■ **Thomas Luthi** won the 125cc GP at Phillip Island in 2005 on his way to winning the world title. Luthi missed the Australian GP last year as he was still suffering injuries from a crash during practice for the Indianapolis GP.

■ **Lukas Pesek** won the 125cc race at the Australian Grand Prix in 2007 – one of the two victories he achieved in the smallest classes of GP racing.

125cc facts & figures

■ None of the riders starting the 125cc race at the Australian Grand Prix have previously won a GP race at the Phillip Island circuit.

■ **Julian Simon** finished fourth in the 250cc GP at Phillip Island last year, which is his best ever result at the circuit and was also his joint best result of the 2008 season.



■ **Bradley Smith** has not finished in the points in his three visits to Phillip Island. In 2006 he finished 28th, in 2007 he was 16th and last year he led the race away from his second place on the grid but crashed at the hairpin on the first lap. Smith's third place finish in Portugal resulted in him becoming the first British rider to take three successive podium finishes in any of the solo classes since Barry Sheene in 1982.

■ **Nico Terol** has not finished in the top ten in his four GP starts at Phillip Island.

■ After not taking a GP victory in his previous 48 GP starts, **Pol Espargaro** won the race in Indianapolis, was knocked off at the final corner in Misano when set to win the race and won again in Portugal.

■ **Sandro Cortese's** second place finish in Portugal is his best ever Grand Prix result from his 79 Grand Prix starts.

■ **Stefan Bradl** has not stood on the podium since finishing second at the Australian Grand Prix last year.

Grand Prix racing numbers

100 – At the Australian GP Sergio Gadea will be making his 100th Grand Prix start, all of which have been in the 125cc class.

50 – Hiroshi Aoyama will clinch the 250cc world title if he scores fifty points in the three remaining races of the year, irrespective of the results of other riders.

25 – Julian Simon needs to score just 25 points from the remaining three races of the year to cinch the 125cc world title even if closest challenger Bradley Smith wins all three races.

24 – Casey Stoner celebrates his 24th birthday on the first day of practice at Phillip Island.

23 seconds – At the Portuguese Grand Prix Valentino Rossi finished 23 seconds behind race winner Jorge Lorenzo. This is the largest margin Rossi has ever finished behind a team mate in MotoGP in a race in which he has not crashed and re-mounted.

21 – This will be the 21st Australian Grand Prix, which has been held every year since the first event in 1989. The first two Australian Grands Prix were held at Phillip Island before visiting the Eastern Creek circuit for six successive years, before returning to Phillip Island in 1997 where it has since remained.

11 – Jorge Lorenzo took the eleventh pole of the year for Yamaha in Portugal. This is the greatest number of premier-class pole positions in a single season for Yamaha.

7 – The fourth place finish for Valentino Rossi at Portugal was only the seventh time he has finished one place off the podium in his 164 starts in the premier-class of Grand Prix racing. The last time he had finished fourth was at Laguna Seca in 2007.

7 – Australian riders have taken seven premier-class victories in the home Grand Prix; Wayne Gardner at Phillip Island in 1989 and 1990, Mick Doohan at Eastern Creek in 1992 & 1995 and Phillip Island in 1998, Casey Stoner for the last two years at Phillip Island.

4 – Yamaha riders have won the last four MotoGP races. A victory for any of the Yamaha riders in Australia and it will equal the longest ever sequence of successive wins for Yamaha in the premier-class which they achieved in 2005 and 2008.

4th – Valentino Rossi's fourth place finish in Portugal was the first time that he has failed to finish on the podium in his ten visits to the Estoril circuit for a MotoGP race.

2.832 Seconds – The 2001 race at Phillip Island is the closest premier-class race of all time with just 2.832 seconds covering the first nine riders across the line.

