

MotoGP facts & figures

■ **Valentino Rossi** has had two victories at the Ricardo Tormo circuit, in 2003 on a Honda and in 2004 riding a Yamaha. Valencia is one of only four circuits on this year's calendar where Rossi has not had a win riding the 800cc bike; the others are Losail, Donington and Phillip Island. His third place finish last year is his only podium at Valencia in the last three years. In 2007 he retired with engine failure and in 2006 he crashed and re-started to finish 13th.

■ Valencia is one of just three of the current circuits where **Jorge Lorenzo** has not had a Grand Prix victory in any class, the others being Sachsenring and Laguna Seca. Lorenzo's single podium finish at Valencia was in 2005 when he was second in the 250cc race behind Pedrosa.



■ **Casey Stoner** scored his first ever GP victory at Valencia, in the 125cc class in 2003 riding an Aprilia. In his first MotoGP race at Valencia in 2006 he crashed out from fifth place when only seven laps from the flag, in 2007 he finished second and last year he had a perfect weekend with pole position, start to finish race win and a new lap record.



■ **Dani Pedrosa** is the only rider to have won in all three classes at the Ricardo Tormo circuit. In his seven races at the circuit across the three GP classes he has only once finished off the podium and that was fourth in 2006 in his first season in the MotoGP class. He set a new lap record in winning the MotoGP race at Valencia in 2007 from pole position and last year he finished second.

Valentino Rossi moves up start list

At the Grand Prix of Valencia, Valentino Rossi is scheduled to make his 167th start in the premier-class. Rossi made his premier-class debut at the opening race of 2000 at Welkom in South Africa and since then he has competed in every single 500cc/MotoGP race. At the Valencian event Rossi will move to equal fourth with Kenny Roberts Jr. in the following table of the riders with most starts in the premier-class:

RIDERS WITH MOST STARTS IN THE PREMIER-CLASS OF GP RACING	
Rider	Starts in the MotoGP/500cc class
1. Alex Barros	245
2. Carlos Checa	192
3. Loris Capirossi	187
4. Kenny Roberts Jr.	167
5. Valentino Rossi	166
6. Sete Gibernau	160
7. Jack Findlay	156
8. Randy Mamola	145
9. Norick Abe	144
10. Alex Criville	139



#18 Gran Premio Generali de la Comunitat Valenciana

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■ **Andrea Dovizioso's** only podium finish at Valencia was in 2004 when he finished second in the 125cc race. Last year at Valencia, in his debut season in the MotoGP class, he finished an excellent fourth and was the first rider from a satellite team across the line and the first rider using Michelin tyres.

■ **Colin Edwards'** sixth place finish last year is his best result at Valencia from his six visits to the circuit.

■ **Marco Melandri** won the 250cc GP at Valencia in his world championship winning season of 2002. He also won the MotoGP race at Valencia riding a Honda in 2005.

■ **Loris Capirossi** has twice finished on the podium at Valencia in the MotoGP class; in 2003 and 2006, both times riding a Ducati. If he does not finish in the top three this year in Valencia it will be the first time since 1992 that he will have gone a full season without a podium finish.

■ **Alex de Angelis** scored his only victory in Grand Prix racing in the 250cc class at the Valencia event in 2006. Last year, in his rookie MotoGP season, he finished tenth after qualifying down in 16th place on the grid.

■ **Toni Elias** finished on the podium three times at Valencia when racing in the smaller classes of Grand Prix. His sixth place finish in 2006 is his best result from his four outings in the premier-class at the Ricardo Tormo circuit.

■ **Chris Vermeulen's** sixth place finish in 2007 is his best result at Valencia from his three races there. A top fifteen finish for Vermeulen at the final race of the year will mean he has scored points at all seventeen races during the 2009 season.

■ **Randy de Puniet** won the 250cc race at Valencia in 2003 riding an Aprilia. Since moving up to the MotoGP class his best result at the circuit is ninth in 2007 when riding a Kawasaki.

■ **Nicky Hayden** has had mixed fortunes at Valencia – he crashed in both 2003 and 2004 and then had podium finishes in 2005 and then in 2006 to clinch the world title. In 2007 he finished 8th after qualifying on the front row and last year was fifth on his last ride for Honda after again qualifying on the front row.

Casey Stoner equals Freddie Spencer

Casey Stoner's victory at the Malaysian Grand prix was his 20th win in the MotoGP class. This is one more win than Barry Sheene and equals the number of premier-class victories achieved by Freddie Spencer, during their careers, as shown in the following list:

RIDERS WITH MOST PREMIER-CLASS VICTORIES

77.	Valentino Rossi
68.	Giacomo Agostini
54.	Mick Doohan
37.	Mike Hailwood
31.	Eddie Lawson
25.	Kevin Schwantz
24.	Wayne Rainey
22.	Geoff Duke
	Kenny Roberts
	John Surtees
20.	Freddie Spencer
	Casey Stoner
19.	Barry Sheene



Rossi and Stoner dominate the 800cc era

Casey Stoner and Valentino Rossi have been the two dominant riders since the introduction of the 800cc capacity limit at the start of the 2007 season. In total there have been 52 races in the 800cc era, of which Stoner and Rossi between them have won 39. The following table compares the statistics of Stoner and Rossi, together with Pedrosa and Lorenzo, who are the only two other riders who have scored more than a single victory in the MotoGP class since the start of 2007. The table shows how closely matched Rossi and Stoner have been over this period and their considerable superiority over this period compared to the next best riders.

	Starts	Wins	% wins	Podiums	% Podiums	Poles	% poles	Points	Points/start
Stoner	49	20	40.8	33	67.3	16	32.6	867	17.69
Rossi	52	19	36.5	36	69.2	13	25	900	17.31
Pedrosa	51	5	9.8	29	56.9	9	17.6	700	13.72
Lorenzo	33	5	15.1	17	51.5	9	27.3	435	13.18

■ **James Toseland** had four podium finishes at Valencia during his time racing in the World Superbikes, including two victories. On his MotoGP debut at the circuit last year he finished down in eleventh, after getting a bad start from his fifth place grid position to finish the first lap in twelfth place.

■ **Mika Kallio** has had some excellent results at Valencia in the smaller classes; he won the 125cc race in 2005, was second in the same class in 2006 and won the 250cc race in 2007. In the 250cc race last year he was battling for the win on the last lap when he crashed and then re-started to finish eleventh.



■ Yamaha wild-card rider **Ben Spies** will be making his fourth appearance in a MotoGP race. Last year he made three MotoGP starts on a Suzuki with the following results; at the British GP he finished 14th, at Laguna Seca he was 8th and at the wet Indianapolis GP he finished the top Suzuki rider in 6th after qualifying 5th on the grid.

250cc facts & figures

■ Valencia has not been one of **Hiroshi Aoyama's** most successful circuits: in 2004 he was disqualified for his bike being under the weight limit, in 2005 he finished sixth, in 2006 he crashed after qualifying on pole, in 2007 he was tenth, and last year he had his best ever result in Valencia finishing fifth.

■ **Marco Simoncelli's** victory last year at Valencia was the first time he had finished in the top ten at the circuit in the 250cc class. If Simoncelli should clinch the 250cc world title it will be a repeat of his championship win of 2008, when he won the title without scoring points at the opening two races of the year.



Hiroshi Aoyama favourite for world title in Valencia

Following his victory in Malaysia, Hiroshi Aoyama has a 21 point advantage in the 250cc world championship standings, making him strong favourite to take the world title at the final race of the year in Valencia. Marco Simoncelli is the only other rider with a possibility of taking the world title and for him to do so he would need to win in Valencia with Aoyama finishing no higher than 12th.



Title deciders at Valencia

Since Valencia became the final race of the year in 2002 there have been six previous occasions (across all three Grand Prix classes) when the world title has been decided at the event:

MotoGP class:

2006 – Valentino Rossi (Yamaha) had an eight point advantage over Nicky Hayden (Honda) arriving at Valencia for the final race of the year. Rossi looked all set to take the title after qualifying on pole with Hayden down in fifth place on the grid. However Hayden made a great start and was up to second behind Troy Bayliss after just 3 laps. Meanwhile Rossi had made a less convincing start to the race and was in seventh on the fifth lap when he crashed and re-started in last place. Although he managed to fight his way through to 13th by the flag, Hayden did enough by finishing third to win the title. This is the only occasion that a rider going into the final race at Valencia leading the Championship classification has failed to take the title.

250cc class:

2003 – Starting the race at Valencia, Manuel Poggiali (Aprilia) had a seven point advantage over Roberto Rolfo (Honda). Rolfo was never in the hunt and Poggiali cruised to a comfortable third place finish to become 250cc world champion in his first season in the class.

2006 – Jorge Lorenzo (Aprilia) had a thirteen point advantage over Andrea Dovizioso (Honda) arriving at Valencia for the final event of the year. He did enough by finishing fourth to clinch the title, with Dovizioso finishing seventh after he had been leading Lorenzo early in the race.

125cc class:

2002 – Manuel Poggiali (Gilera) had a chance of taking the title at the final race of the year at Valencia; he had an eight-point deficit to Arnaud Vincent (Aprilia). However, Vincent finished second to become the first French rider to win the 125cc world title.

2005 – Mika Kallio (KTM) needed to win the race at Valencia to take the title with Thomas Luthi (Honda) finishing lower than 13th. Although Kallio did as required in winning the race, Honda rider Luthi took the title by cruising home for a ninth place finish.

2007 – Gabor Talmacsi (Aprilia) had a ten-point advantage over team-mate Hector Faubel at the start of the Valencia race. The two riders took the top two places on the grid and Faubel won a fantastic race in which the top five riders crossed the line covered by less than a second; however Talmacsi did enough to take the title by finishing second.

#18 Gran Premio Generali de la Comunitat Valenciana

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■ **Hector Barbera** has had three podium finishes at the Valencia GP; two during his time competing in the 125cc class, including a win in 2004, and a third place finish in the 250cc race in 2006. He missed the race last year due to injuries suffered in a crash at the Japanese Grand Prix. Barbera is the only rider, other than championship leader Aoyama, to score points in every 250cc GP race so far in 2009.

■ Valencia is the circuit where **Hector Faubel** has had his best GP results; he won the 125cc GP in both 2006 and 2007 and last year he finished sixth in the 250cc race – his best result of 2008.

■ **Roberto Locatelli** won the 125cc race at Valencia in 2000 on his way to winning the world title. His fourth place finish last year in Valencia equalled his best result of 2008.

■ **Alvaro Bautista** crashed out of the 250cc race two years ago on lap 21 when in second place and last year he finished third. Valencia is the only one of the three Spanish circuits where he has not had a GP victory.

125cc facts & figures

■ **Julian Simon** has not had much success at the Valencia circuit, his sixth place finish in the 250cc GP there in 2007 is his best result from seven starts at the circuit. Last year he led the race the 250cc GP in the early stages before his KTM began losing power before eventually retiring on lap 20. Simon has won five of the last eight races including back-to-back wins at the last two. If he wins in Valencia he will become the first rider to take three successive victories in the 125cc class since **Alvaro Bautista** in 2006.

■ At the Malaysian Grand Prix, **Bradley Smith** clinched second place in the final 125cc World Champions classification. This is the best performance by a British rider in any of the solo classes of Grand Prix racing since Barry Sheene was second to **Kenny Roberts** in the 1978 500cc title chase. It is also the best finish in the 125cc class by a British rider since **Chas Mortimer** was second to **Kent Andersson** in the 1973 world championship.

■ **Simone Corsi** won the 125cc race at Valencia last year – one of his four wins of 2008.

■ **Nico Terol** was second last year at Valencia, just one tenth of a second behind the winner Corsi.

MotoGP racing numbers

4006 – With his third place finish at Sepang, Valentino Rossi has now accumulated a points' total of 4006 during his Grand Prix career – the first rider to pass the 4000 point milestone in Grand Prix racing.

986 – Following his win in Malaysia, Casey Stoner has accumulated 986 points during his career in the MotoGP class. If he finished either first or second in Valencia he will become the 17th rider to pass the milestone of 1000 points in the premier-class of Grand Prix racing.

299 – Loris Capirossi is scheduled to make his 299th Grand Prix start at the Valencia Grand Prix.

24 – Spanish riders have started from pole on twenty four occasions across the three classes in 2009. From these 24 pole position starts by Spanish riders only two have been converted into race wins – Simon in Germany and Lorenzo in Portugal.

13 – Aprilia have taken thirteen victories already this year in the 125cc class. A victory in Valencia and they will equal the record for most wins by a manufacturer in the 125cc class in a single season that Aprilia themselves achieved in 2007.

11 – This year will be the eleventh Valencian GP, which has been held every year since the first visit in 1999.

8 – This will be the eighth successive year that the Ricardo Tormo - Comunidad Valenciana circuit has hosted the final race of the season.

4 – Since the introduction of the four-stroke MotoGP formula in 2002, Honda have been the most successful manufacturer at Valencia with four victories. Ducati riders have had two MotoGP wins and Yamaha one.

4 – Dani Pedrosa is the most successful rider at the Valencia circuit with four wins; twice in the 250cc class and once each in the 125cc and MotoGP classes.

4 – Reaching the end of the third year of the 800cc capacity limit in MotoGP, only four riders have competed in all 52 races since the regulation was introduced at the start of the 2007 season: Chris Vermeulen, Colin Edwards, Randy de Puniet and Valentino Rossi.

