

### MotoGP facts & figures

■ **Jorge Lorenzo** won the 250cc race at Sepang four years ago and in 2007 finished third to clinch his second world title. In 2008, at his first race at Sepang on a MotoGP machine, he crashed out on lap twelve whilst in sixth place. Last year Lorenzo had problems with his bike before the start of the race which resulted in him leaving pit lane late and consequently he had to start from the back of the grid. A great start had him up to eighth by the end of the first lap and he went on to finish fourth.

■ **Dani Pedrosa** had two victories in the smaller classes at Sepang; in 2003 he won the 125cc race to clinch his first world title and in 2004 he won the 250cc race. He finished third in the MotoGP race in 2006 after a nasty crash during practice. In 2007 he was the first Michelin rider across the line in third, after qualifying on pole. Two years ago he was on pole again at Sepang and led the race for the first ten laps, before eventually finishing second. He finished second again last year in Malaysia - his first ever wet weather MotoGP podium.

■ **Casey Stoner's** victory in the MotoGP race at Sepang in 2007 gave him the record of being the only rider to win in all three Grand Prix classes at the Malaysian circuit. In 2008 in Malaysia he finished sixth in the MotoGP race, struggling with a broken scaphoid. Last year at Sepang, Stoner dominated the race to win by almost 15 seconds. Stoner has never had a pole position at Sepang in any class of GP racing. After winning the last two races, Stoner will be going for three successive wins for the first time since he won at Donington, Assen and Sachsenring in 2008.

■ **Andrea Dovizioso** twice finished on the podium at Sepang in the smaller classes; he was second in the 125cc race in 2004 to clinch the world title and was second in the 250cc race in 2006. In 2008 he was third at the Malaysian GP - his only podium finish in his debut year riding a MotoGP machine. Last year he crashed out on lap fifteen after making his way up to third from 11th place on the grid.

■ **Valentino Rossi** has a tremendous record in Malaysia, having finished on the podium eight times from his ten premier-class starts at Sepang, which includes five victories. Last year he clinched the MotoGP world title at Sepang by finished third after starting from pole but getting a bad start and ending the first lap down in tenth.

### Twenty years of Grand Prix racing in Malaysia

This year it will be the 20th motorcycle Grand Prix event to be held in Malaysia. The first Malaysian Grand Prix was held in 1991 and has taken place every year since, with three different venues having been used; Shah Alam, Johor and Sepang. Below is a reminder of the notable highlights of the previous Grand Prix events in Malaysia.

**1991/Shah Alam** - The first Malaysian Grand Prix saw a debut win in the premier-class for John Kocinski riding a Yamaha. Italian riders dominated the smaller classes with Luca Cadalora (Honda) winning the 250cc race and Loris Capirossi (Honda) in the 125cc class.

**1992/Shah Alam** - Mick Doohan (Honda) won the 500cc race, which was stopped and restarted when it started to rain, from great rival Wayne Rainey. Alex Criville finished third - the first 500cc podium by a Spanish rider. Luca Cadalora repeated his victory of the previous year in the 250cc class, while the 125cc race was won by Alessandro Gramigni on his way to becoming the first rider to win a world title riding an Aprilia.

**1993/Shah Alam** - Wayne Rainey (Yamaha) scored a clear start-to-finish victory in the 500cc race from Daryl Beattie and Kevin Schwantz. There was controversy in the 250cc race when six riders were adjudged to have jumped the start and given a one minute penalty with the final result being the first ever all Japanese podium in the 250cc class with Nobuatsu Aoki (Honda) scoring his only Grand Prix victory from Tetsuya Harada and Tadayuki Okada. Dirk Raudies (Honda) took the honours in the 125cc class and was to become the 1993 world champion.

**1994/Shah Alam** - Mick Doohan took a comfortable victory on his way to winning the first of his five world titles. Max Biaggi (Aprilia) scored the first of four successive victories in the 250cc class.

**1995/Shah Alam** - Mick Doohan took his third victory in Malaysia, this time from fellow Australian Daryl Beattie. Garry McCoy had his first ever Grand Prix victory in the 125cc class for which he was awarded half points due to the race being stopped after twelve laps when it started to rain.

**1996/Shah Alam** - Luca Cadalora won the opening 500cc race of the year on his debut, riding a Honda prepared by Erv Kanemoto, after Tadayuki Okada had claimed pole position on the debut of the V-twin Honda 500cc two-stroke.

**1997/Shah Alam** - This was the seventh and final visit to the Shah Alam circuit and both Mick Doohan and Max Biaggi (now riding a Honda) won for the fourth time in their respective classes. Valentino Rossi (Aprilia) won the 125cc race on his way to taking his first world title.

**1998/Johor** - The one and only visit by the Grand Prix riders to the Johor circuit resulted in another victory for Mick Doohan on his way to the last of his five world titles.

**1999/Sepang** - On the first visit to the Sepang circuit Kenny Roberts Jnr won on his debut riding the factory Suzuki. Loris Capirossi started the defence of his 250cc title with a narrow victory from Tohru Ukawa. Masao Azuma won the 125cc race riding a Honda shod with Bridgestone tyres.

**2000/Sepang** - Kenny Roberts repeated his victory of the previous year on his way to becoming the 500cc world champion. The 250cc class was a battle between Yamaha team-mates Shinya Nakano and Olivier Jacque, with Nakano taking the win.

**2001/Sepang** - Valentino Rossi (Honda) won the last 500cc race to be held at the Sepang circuit. Daijiri Kato (Honda) took the victory in the 250cc class to clinch the world title.

**2002/Sepang** - Max Biaggi, riding a Yamaha, won the first race at Sepang for the four-stroke MotoGP era, from great rival Valentino Rossi.

**2003/Sepang** - Valentino Rossi (Honda) won the MotoGP race to clinch his third premier-class title. Spanish riders dominated the smaller classes with Toni Elias (Aprilia) winning the 250cc race and Dani Pedrosa (Honda) winning in the 125cc class to take his first world title at the age of 18.

**2004/Sepang** - Valentino Rossi repeated the victory of the previous year but this time on a Yamaha. Having moved up to the 250cc class, Dani Pedrosa won for the second successive year at Sepang. Andrea Dovizioso clinched the world title by finishing second in the 125cc race behind Casey Stoner, who scored the first ever Grand Prix victory for KTM.

**2005/Sepang** - Loris Capirossi won the race with team-mate Carlos Checa finishing third - the first time that Ducati had two riders on a MotoGP podium. Valentino Rossi finished second to clinch his fifth world title in the premier-class. Casey Stoner (Aprilia) won the 250cc race after championship leader Dani Pedrosa had crashed on lap 2. Thomas Luthi (Honda) took the win in the 125cc class by just two thousandths of a second from Mika Kallio.

**2006/Sepang** - Valentino Rossi took the MotoGP victory after a race long battle with Loris Capirossi. The grid positions had been decided by the times in the free-practice sessions after torrential rain had flooded the circuit, causing the MotoGP qualifying session to be cancelled. The smaller classes were both won by Spanish riders who would become world champions in 2006; Jorge Lorenzo (Aprilia) in the 250cc class and Alvaro Bautista (Aprilia) in the 125cc class.

**2007/Sepang** - The dominant rider of the first year under the 800cc capacity rule, Casey Stoner (Ducati), won for the tenth time in 2007. Gabor Talmacsi (Aprilia) won the 125cc race on his way to becoming the first Hungarian rider ever to win a world title in Grand Prix motorcycle racing.

**2008/Sepang** - Valentino Rossi won for the fifth time at Sepang from Honda riders Dani Pedrosa and Andrea Dovizioso, who finished on the podium for the first time since moving up to the MotoGP class. Alvaro Bautista (Aprilia) won the 250cc race, but a third place finish for Marco Simoncelli (Gilera) was enough for him to clinch the world title. Gabor Talmacsi repeated his victory of the previous year; this was the last time Talmacsi stood on the top step of a GP podium.

**2009/Sepang** - Casey Stoner won the MotoGP race last year in Malaysia, which was delayed by over 30 minutes due to heavy rain falling, as riders assembled on the grid. The race was run in wet conditions, with the riders lapping around 12 seconds off the lap record. Valentino Rossi finished third to clinch his ninth world title and seventh in the premier-class. The two smaller classes were won by riders who would take their respective world titles in 2009 - Hiroshi Aoyama (Honda) and Julian Simon (Aprilia).

## #15 Shell Advance Malaysian Motorcycle Grand Prix

Sepang

■ **Ben Spies** has never previously raced at Sepang; however he did take part in both of the pre-season tests at the Malaysian circuit.

■ **Nicky Hayden** has yet to finish on the podium at the Sepang circuit, but has finished fourth on five occasions. His fifth place finish last year at the Malaysian Grand Prix was one of the best results of his first season on the factory Ducati.

■ **Randy de Puniet's** fourth place finish at Sepang in 2007, when riding for Kawasaki, equals his best ever dry weather result in the MotoGP class. Two years ago he finished tenth at Sepang whilst suffering from a wrist injury and last year he had a highside crash on just the second lap.

■ **Marco Simoncelli** finished third at Sepang in 2008 to clinch the 250cc world title. He was third again last year, just losing out to Hector Barbera in a battle for second, with the two riders being so close across the line they were given the same race time.

■ **Marco Melandri** finished second at the Malaysian Grand Prix in 2007 riding a Honda: this was the last time he has stood on a Grand Prix podium in a dry weather race. In 2008 riding the Ducati, he finished just outside the points at the Malaysian GP in sixteenth place and last year he finished eighth after qualifying down in fifteenth place on the grid.

■ Sepang has been one of **Colin Edwards'** least successful tracks and his 8th place finish in 2008 is his best finish from seven starts at the circuit. Edwards' had his best result of the year at the last race at Motegi, finishing in fifth place.

■ **Loris Capirossi** has had considerable success at Sepang, having won the 250cc race on the first visit to the circuit in 1999, finishing second in the 500cc race in 2001 after qualifying on pole, winning the MotoGP race in 2005 from pole and finishing second in 2006 after a race long battle with Rossi. Last year he finished ninth after being optimistic of a good result having qualified in fifth place on the grid.

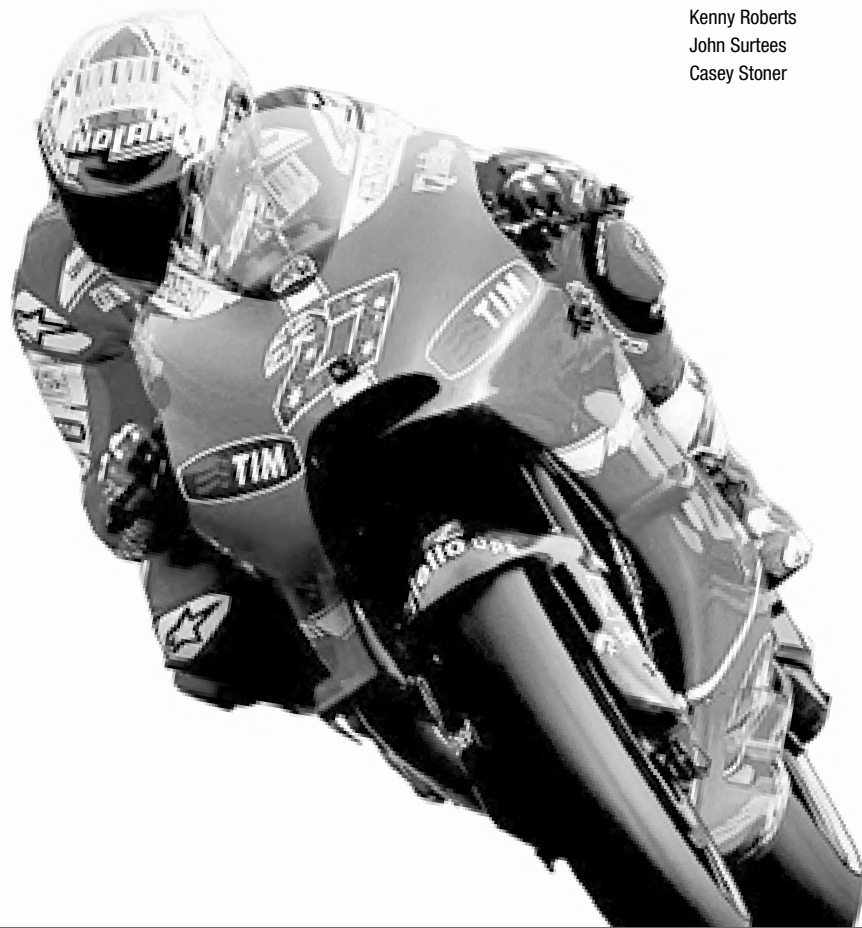
■ **Alex Espargaro** finished 11th last year at Sepang in his first wet weather MotoGP race.

### Casey Stoner levels with all-time greats

Casey Stoner's second win of the year at the Japanese Grand Prix, was his 22nd MotoGP victory. As shown in the following table, this is the same number of wins as three all-time greats of racing; Geoff Duke and John Surtees, who both won the 500cc world title on four occasions, and three times world champion Kenny Roberts.

#### RIDERS WITH MOST WINS IN MOTOGP/500CC CLASS

.....	78. 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
	Casey Stoner



### Jorge Lorenzo set to take MotoGP title at Sepang

With a 69-point lead at the head of the MotoGP World Championship standings following his fourth place in Japan, Jorge Lorenzo is in a position to clinch the title with a good result at Sepang. Only the injured Dani Pedrosa can stop Lorenzo taking the title in Malaysia and the following scenarios would give Lorenzo the world title:

- \_\_\_\_\_ If Pedrosa does not take part in the Grand Prix then Lorenzo must finish in ninth place or better.
- \_\_\_\_\_ If Lorenzo wins the race and Pedrosa does not finish second
- \_\_\_\_\_ If Lorenzo is second and Pedrosa finishes no higher than fourth.
- \_\_\_\_\_ If Lorenzo is third and Pedrosa finishes no higher than seventh.
- \_\_\_\_\_ If Lorenzo is fourth and Pedrosa finishes no higher than tenth.
- \_\_\_\_\_ If Lorenzo is lower than fourth then he must finish a least seven places in front of Pedrosa.

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Sepang

■ **Alvaro Bautista** did the clean sweep in the 125cc race at Sepang in his world championship winning year of 2006 – he won the race with a new lap record, after qualifying on pole position. In 2008 he set a new lap record in the 250cc class on his way to winning the race. Last year he crashed out of the 250cc race at Sepang on lap six.

■ **Hector Barbera** finished second last year in the 250cc class at the Malaysian GP, just having the advantage in a photo finish with Simoncelli. He did not race in Malaysia in 2008 due to injuries suffered in a crash at the Japanese Grand Prix.

■ **Hiroshi Aoyama** has an excellent record in the 250cc class at Sepang; he qualified on pole and finished fifth in 2005; he won the race from pole in 2007 riding a KTM and was second in 2008 after again qualifying on pole. Last year riding a Honda, he qualified on pole for the 250cc GP at Sepang, won the race and set a new lap record.

■ **Mika Kallio** has finished on the podium three times at Sepang, all in the 125cc class, the last of which was a second place in 2006.

### Moto2 facts & figures

■ **Toni Elias** finished on the podium at Sepang in each of the three years he competed in the 250cc class, including a win in 2003 from pole position.

■ **Julian Simon**, who won the 125cc race last year at the Malaysian Grand Prix, has finished second at the last four successive Moto2 races. If he has the same result in Malaysia, it will equal the longest ever sequence of successive second place finishes in the intermediate-class of Grand Prix racing, which was achieved by **Carlos Cardus** in 1991.

■ **Andrea Iannone's** eighth place finish in the 125cc race last year is his best result at the Sepang circuit. Two years ago at Sepang, he finished tenth after starting on pole for the first time in his GP career after grid positions had been decided on Friday times, due to rain falling throughout Saturday's qualifying session.



## Toni Elias could become first Moto2 world champion in Malaysia

**T**oni Elias has an eighty-one point advantage at the head of the Moto2 championship standings following his victory in Japan and he can clinch the title at Sepang. Only Julian Simon can stop Elias taking the title in Malaysia, and the following scenarios would give Elias the world title:

If Simon wins the race, then Elias needs to finish 2nd.

If Simon is second, then Elias needs to finish either first or third.

If Simon is third, then Elias needs to finish sixth or better.

If Simon is fourth, then Elias needs to finish ninth or better.

If Simon is fifth or worse the Elias needs to finish no more than six places behind him.

If Simon finishes tenth or lower then Elias is world champion without scoring any points.



## Spain poised to take three world titles

**T**he success of the Spanish riders in Grand Prix racing this year means it is likely that all three world championships will be taken by riders from Spain. Following the Japanese Grand Prix, it is certain that both the MotoGP and Moto2 titles will be taken by Spanish riders, whilst in the 125cc class there is still an outside chance that Bradley Smith could still take the title, but it is more likely to go to one of the three Spanish riders ahead of Smith in the championship standings.

If all three titles are taken by Spanish riders, it will only be the third time in the 62-year history of motorcycle Grand Prix racing that the 125cc, intermediate-class and premier-class have been won by riders of the same nation. The two other occasions when riders from the same nation have taken 125cc, 250cc/Moto2, 500cc/MotoGP titles in the same year are:

**1975** - Italy: 125cc – Paolo Pileri, 250cc – Walter Villa, 500cc – Giacomo Agostini

**1950** - Italy: 125cc – Bruno Ruffo, 250cc – Dario Ambrosini, 500cc – Umberto Masetti

In addition to those two occasions listed above, there have been other years when a single nation has taken three world titles in the solo classes, but this has been in years when there have been more than three classes that have been up for grabs. The occasions when this has happened are listed below, together with the combination of titles won:

**1989** - Spain: 80cc – Manuel Herreros, 125cc – Alex Criville, 250cc – Sito Pons

**1988** - Spain: 80cc – Jorge Martinez, 125cc – Jorge Martinez, 250cc – Sito Pons

**1976** - Italy: 125cc – Pierpaolo Bianchi, 250cc – Walter Villa, 350cc – Walter Villa

**1967** – Great Britain: 125cc – Bill Ivy, 250cc – Mike Hailwood, 350cc – Mike Hailwood

**1965** – Great Britain: 50cc - Ralph Bryans, 250cc – Phil Read, 500cc – Mike Hailwood

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■ **Karel Abraham's** third place finish in Japan is just the second podium in the intermediate-class of Grand Prix racing by a Czech rider. The only other Czech rider to have had a podium in the intermediate-class is Frantisek Stastny, who finished third in the 250cc class at the Finnish Grand Prix in 1966.

■ **Alex de Angelis** scored his best result so far in 2010 at the Japanese Grand Prix, finishing in fourth place. De Angelis has twice finished on the podium at Sepang when competing in the 250cc class; second in 2005 and third in 2006.

■ **Thomas Luthi** won the 125cc race at Sepang in 2005 on his way to taking the world title.

■ **Fonsi Nieto** finished on the podium at Sepang on three occasions when competing in the 250cc class, including a victory in 2002 when he also qualified on pole and set a new lap record.

■ **Gabor Talmacsi** has won the 125cc race at Sepang in both 2007 and 2008.

### 125cc facts & figures

■ None of the riders currently competing in the 125cc class have previously won a GP race in Malaysia.

■ **Nico Terol's** fifth place finish last year at the Malaysian Grand Prix is his best result from four starts at the Sepang circuit.

■ **Marc Marquez** has not had any luck at Sepang in his two years competing in Grand Prix racing; in 2008 he missed the race after crashing in the first free practice session and injuring his leg. Last year he qualified on pole, but retired on lap thirteen with mechanical problems.

■ **Pol Espargaro** finished third last year at Sepang after qualifying down in eleventh place on the grid.

■ **Bradley Smith** has the best record of any of the current 125cc riders at the Sepang circuit; he finished second in 2008 behind Talmacsi and last year he set the fastest lap of the race on his way to finishing second to Simon.

■ **Alberto Moncayo's** fifth place finish in Japan is his best result so far in his debut season as a full-time Grand Prix rider.

### Grand Prix racing numbers

**31** – Thirty one GP victories for Spain so far this year is the highest number of wins that Spanish riders have taken in a single season of racing. Only Great Britain have had more Grand Prix wins in a single season. Great Britain's record for number of wins by riders from a single nation in one season stands at 37, which was achieved in 1967.

**23** – Spanish riders have won the last twenty-three 125cc Grand Prix races. The last non-Spanish winner in the 125cc class was Andrea Iannone at the Catalan Grand Prix last year. This is the longest sequence of successive 125cc GP wins by one nation in the 62 years history of Grand Prix racing.

**10** – The victory by Marc Marquez at the Japanese GP was the tenth victory of the year in the 125cc class by Derbi riders. This is the highest number of wins achieved in a single season by Derbi in the 125cc class.

**9** – At the Japanese Grand Prix, Marc Marquez started from pole for the ninth time in 2010. This equals the record for the most poles in a single season in the 125cc class previously achieved by Roberto Locatelli in 2000 and Mattia Pasini in 2007.

**5** – Valentino Rossi is the most successful rider at the Sepang circuit with five premier-class victories – two on Honda and three on Yamaha.

**4** – Since the four-stroke MotoGP formula was introduced in 2002, Yamaha have been the most successful manufacturer with four victories at Sepang, Ducati have won three times and Honda just once, in 2003.

