

Jerez revisited for Spanish showdown

Jerez plays host to the second round of the 2008 championship this weekend with the battle for MotoGP supremacy more competitive than ever.

The Circuito de Jerez is arguably the most frequented track on the MotoGP calendar, used not only as a venue for this weekend's annual Spanish GP, but also as a preferred off-season test facility.

February's IRTA test was held in mixed weather conditions but nevertheless all 18 MotoGP riders amassed a combined total of nearly 3,000 laps, 13,000 kilometres or 111 race distances between them over three days, offering teams and manufacturers important data ahead of the race proper.

Jerez has been a permanent part of the MotoGP calendar since 1987 and holds its 22nd



premier class event this weekend. It is one of three Spanish circuits on the calendar, but is the only one to hold the 'Spanish GP' title. Jerez was one of the more difficult races for Bridgestone in 2007, and marked the only race of the season in which a Bridgestone-shod rider did not secure a podium finish. Toni Elias was the highest-placed Bridgestone rider in fourth for Honda Gresini.

Tyre talk

Shinji Aoki Assistant Manager, Race Tyre Development

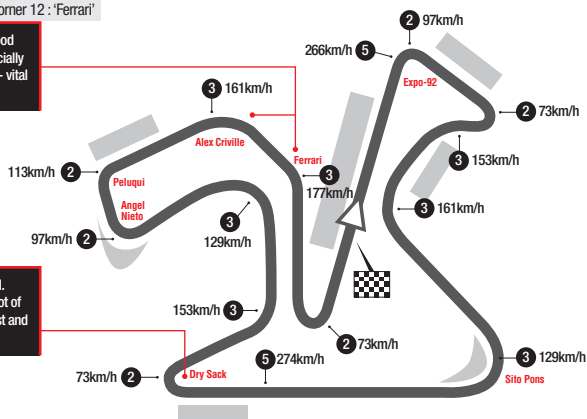
“ Jerez is a circuit that we know very well from tests and races so we have a lot of data at our disposal, but that certainly does not mean it will be a straight-forward weekend. Usually the teams will arrive with a good idea of their bike set-up which allows us to begin immediately on Friday with tyre evaluation. We spent the winter focussing on improving the grip levels for our tyres, something that is an ongoing development, and we were able to find a good direction for the Jerez circuit. The track temperatures will be warmer than what we faced in Qatar - we expect between 30 and 40 degrees Celsius - so we will run soft to medium level of compounds. The circuit does not have a long straight and has a variety of slow to fast corners, which puts a real emphasis on high grip front and rear tyres. We will have some new specification race and qualifying tyres which we hope will offer our teams enhanced performance, but we should expect the competition to be very close like in Qatar with many riders on podium pace. ”



SPAIN Circuito de Jerez

Corner 11: 'Alex Criville' - Corner 12: 'Ferrari'

High lean angles demand good edge grip and stability, especially towards the end of the race - vital for a good lap time.



Corner 6: 'Dry Sack'

Hard braking from top speed. The front tyre has to take a lot of pressure here, and at the first and last corners

All speed and gear information taken from 2007



Riding perspective

Valentino Rossi Fiat Yamaha Team

“ Obviously Qatar didn't turn out quite as we hoped but we took away a lot of positives from the weekend. We saw how competitive both our bike and the Bridgestone tyres are, and this is very exciting for the season ahead. We did some excellent work at the Jerez test in February and I was able to have great fun riding the bike, so now I'm really looking forward to going to race there. It's a great track to ride on, it's quite technical and it usually seems to suit our bike quite well. We know we have a big job facing us, especially after the result of Qatar, so we will be aiming to make the most of the few hours of practice time that we have available to us to refine our package. Jerez is a great track for me and I have had some wonderful races there in the past, including a brilliant win last year, and I always enjoy racing there a lot. It will be nice to return to a 'normal' racing schedule, even if I enjoyed the night racing in Qatar, and I have always felt very at home racing in Spain. Most importantly, there's always a fantastic atmosphere in Jerez with the fans coming from all over Spain; it's like one big crazy party! ”

Circuit information

First race	1987
GPs held	21
Laps	27 (MotoGP) 26 (250cc) 23 (125cc)
Race distance	119.421 km / 74.196 miles (MotoGP)
Track length	4.423 km / 2.748 miles
Track width	11m
Longest straight	0.600 km / 0.373 miles
Corners	13 (8 right, 5 left)

Circuit records

Pole position	1m39.064s (160.732 km/h)
	Loris Capirossi (Ducati, 2006)
Race lap	1m40.596s (158.284km/h)
	Valentino Rossi (Yamaha, 2005)
Race time	45m43.156s (156.723 km/h)
	Valentino Rossi (Yamaha, 2005)
MotoGP Wins	5 (Valentino Rossi 2001-03, 05, 07)
2007 Winner	Valentino Rossi (Yamaha)

Event schedule Local time

FRIDAY 28 MARCH	SATURDAY 29 MARCH	SUNDAY 30 MARCH
09:00-09:45 125cc Free Practice 1	09:00-09:45 125cc Free Practice 2	08:40-09:00 125cc Warm Up
10:00-11:00 MotoGP Free Practice 1	10:00-11:00 MotoGP Free Practice 3	09:10-09:30 250cc Warm Up
11:15-12:15 250cc Free Practice 1	11:15-12:15 250cc Free Practice 2	09:40-10:05 MotoGP Warm Up
13:10-13:40 125cc Qualifying Practice 1	13:10-13:40 125cc Qualifying Practice 2	11:00 125cc Race (23 laps)
13:55-14:55 MotoGP Free Practice 2	13:55-14:55 MotoGP Qualifying Practice	12:15 250cc Race (26 laps)
15:10-15:55 250cc Qualifying Practice 1	15:10-15:55 250cc Qualifying Practice 2	14:00 MotoGP Race (27 laps)

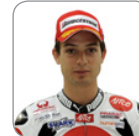
Alice Team

MACHINE Ducati Desmosedici GP8 Sat **WEB** www.aliceteam.com



Toni Elias Bike number 24

DOB: 26 March 1983 **Nationality:** Spanish **GP Debut:** Spain 2005 (MotoGP), Japan 2002 (250cc), Spain 1999 (125cc) **GP Starts:** 128 (45 in MotoGP, 48 in 250cc, 35 in 125cc) **Wins:** 10 (1 in MotoGP, 7 in 250cc, 2 in 125cc) **Poles:** 9 (5 in 250cc, 4 in 125cc) **Best MotoGP Championship:** 9th (2006 with Honda)



Sylvain Guintoli Bike number 50

DOB: 24 June 1982 **Nationality:** French **GP Debut:** Czech Republic 2002 (MotoGP), Japan 2001 (250cc) **GP Starts:** 100 (20 in MotoGP, 80 in 250cc) **Wins:** 0 (Best result 15th in MotoGP, 3rd in 250cc, Assen 2003) **Poles:** 0 **Best MotoGP Championship:** 16th (2007 with Yamaha)

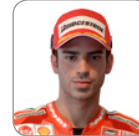
Ducati Corse

MACHINE Ducati Desmosedici GP8 **WEB** www.ducati.com



Casey Stoner Bike number 1

DOB: 16 October 1985 **Nationality:** Australian **GP Debut:** Spain 2006 (MotoGP), Japan 2002 (250cc), Britain 2001 (125cc) **GP Starts:** 96 (35 in MotoGP, 31 in 250cc, 30 in 125cc) **Wins:** 18 (11 in MotoGP, 5 in 250cc, 2 in 125cc) **Poles:** 10 (6 in MotoGP, 2 in 250cc, 2 in 125cc) **Best MotoGP Championship:** 1st (2007 with Ducati)

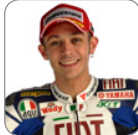


Marco Melandri Bike number 33

DOB: 7 August 1982 **Nationality:** Italian **GP Debut:** Japan 2003 (MotoGP), South Africa 2000 (250cc), Czech Republic 1997 (125cc) **GP Starts:** 156 (80 in MotoGP, 47 in 250cc, 29 in 125cc) **Wins:** 22 (5 in MotoGP, 10 in 250cc, 7 in 125cc) **Poles:** 9 (3 in 250cc, 6 in 125cc) **Best MotoGP Championship:** 2nd (2005 with Honda)

Fiat Yamaha Team

MACHINE Yamaha YZR-M1 **WEB** www.yamaha-racing.com



Valentino Rossi Bike number 46

DOB: 16 February 1979 **Nationality:** Italian **GP Debut:** South Africa 2000 (500cc), Japan 1998 (250cc), Malaysia 1996 (125cc) **GP Starts:** 193 (133 in MotoGP/500cc, 30 in 250cc, 30 in 125cc) **Wins:** 88 (62 in MotoGP/500cc, 14 in 250cc, 12 in 125cc) **Poles:** 49 (39 in MotoGP/500cc, 5 in 250cc, 5 in 125cc) **Best MotoGP Championship:** 1st (2001*-03 with Honda, 2004-05 with Yamaha)

Six teams, five different manufacturers and 11 riders line up for the 2008 season equipped with Bridgestone tyres

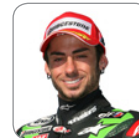
Kawasaki Racing Team

MACHINE Kawasaki Ninja ZX-RR **WEB** www.kawasaki-motogp.com



Anthony West Bike number 13

DOB: 17 July 1981 **Nationality:** Australian **GP Debut:** South Africa 2001 (500cc), Malaysia 1999 (250cc), Australia 1998 (125cc) **GP Starts:** 119 (26 in MotoGP/500cc, 92 in 250cc, 1 in 125cc) **Wins:** 1 (1 in 250cc) **Poles:** 0 **Best MotoGP Championship:** 15th (2007 with Kawasaki)

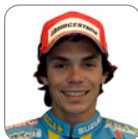


John Hopkins Bike number 21

DOB: 22 May 1983 **Nationality:** Anglo-American **GP Debut:** Japan 2002 (MotoGP) **GP Starts:** 97 (97 in MotoGP) **Wins:** 0 (Best result 2nd in MotoGP, Brno 2007) **Poles:** 1 (1 in MotoGP) **Best MotoGP Championship:** 4th (2007 with Suzuki)

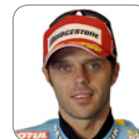
Rizla Suzuki MotoGP

MACHINE Suzuki GSV-R **WEB** www.rizla-suzuki-motogp.co.uk



Chris Vermeulen Bike number 7

DOB: 19 June 1982 **Nationality:** Australian **GP Debut:** Australia 2005 (MotoGP) **GP Starts:** 38 (38 in MotoGP) **Wins:** 1 (1 in MotoGP) **Poles:** 3 (3 in MotoGP) **Best MotoGP Championship:** 6th (2007 with Suzuki)



Loris Capirossi Bike number 65

DOB: 4 April 1973 **Nationality:** Italian **GP Debut:** Australia 1995 (500cc), Japan 1992 (250cc), Japan 1990 (125cc) **GP Starts:** 267 (156 in MotoGP/500cc, 84 in 250cc, 27 in 125cc) **Wins:** 29 (9 in MotoGP/500cc, 12 in 250cc, 8 in 125cc) **Poles:** 41 (13 in MotoGP/500cc, 23 in 250cc, 5 in 125cc) **Best MotoGP Championship:** 3rd (2006 with Ducati)

San Carlo Honda Gresini

MACHINE Honda RC212V **WEB** www.gresiniracing.com



Alex de Angelis Bike number 15

DOB: 26 February 1984 **Nationality:** San Marinese **GP Debut:** Qatar 2008 (MotoGP), South Africa 2004 (250cc), Imola 1999 (125cc) **GP Starts:** 131 (1 in MotoGP, 65 in 250cc, 65 in 125cc) **Wins:** 1 (1 in 250cc) **Poles:** 0 **Best MotoGP Championship:** n/a



Shinya Nakano Bike number 56

DOB: 10 October 1977 **Nationality:** Japanese **GP Debut:** Japan 2001 (500cc), Japan 1998 (250cc) **GP Starts:** 132 (98 in MotoGP/500cc, 34 in 250cc) **Wins:** 6 (6 in 250cc) **Poles:** 5 (5 in 250cc) **Best MotoGP Championship:** 5th (2001* with Yamaha)

* Indicates 500cc class

Back to front for Toni Elias

Toni Elias was the highest-placed rider using Bridgestone tyres in last season's Spanish GP with an impressive fourth place for Honda Gresini. It was to be one of three top four places for the Spanish rider in his first year using Bridgestone tyres, but his individual riding style has demanded an equally unique approach to Bridgestone's tyre development.

"Toni is great to work with," says Manager of Race Tyre Development, Tohru Ubukata, "He allows us to explore different areas of MotoGP tyre development to other riders and this has been an exciting technical challenge for us. His riding style is very unique, quite aggressive on the brakes into

the corners and it is fascinating to watch. This heavy braking shifts his demands from the rear tyre to the front, so he prefers a strong front usually with a softer rear. What works for Toni normally

does not work for other riders, but we always try to provide each team and rider with tyres that best fit the character of their package. It is an absolute pleasure to work with Toni because he is always polite and grateful for our efforts."

Elias himself also takes pride from his results in

What works for Toni normally does not work for other riders, but we always try to provide each team and rider with tyres that best fit the character of their package.

2007 and has been pleased with how Bridgestone has catered for his needs.

"As a Spanish rider, Jerez is an important race for me, so it was an honour for me to be the top

Bridgestone rider last year," he says. "I am quite a small rider and I do not weigh so much, so I find it much harder to get the tyres up to temperature. My riding style also uses the tyres differently, but Bridgestone listens to my comments and works hard to supply me with tyres that better suit me and allow me to ride as I like. I have developed a really good relationship with the Bridgestone guys and enjoy working with them."



Last year's race



2007 STARTING GRID

1	D Pedrosa Repsol Honda Team : 1m39.402s : M Pole+
2	V Rossi Fiat Yamaha Team : 1m39.453s : M 0.051s
3	C Checa Honda LCR : 1m39.460s : M 0.058
4	C Edwards Fiat Yamaha Team : 1m39.486s : M 0.084
5	C Stoner Ducati Corse : 1m39.524s : B 0.122
6	J Hopkins Rizla Suzuki MotoGP : 1m39.625s : B 0.223
7	S Nakano Konica Minolta Honda : 1m39.632s : M 0.230
8	T Elias Honda Gresini : 1m39.660s : B 0.258
9	M Melandri Honda Gresini : 1m39.722s : B 0.320
10	K Roberts Jr Team Roberts : 1m39.727s : M 0.325
11	N Hayden Repsol Honda Team : 1m39.834s : M 0.432
12	R de Puniet Kawasaki Racing Team : 1m39.883s : B 0.481
13	A Barros Pramac d'Antin : 1m40.196s : B 0.794
14	C Vermeulen Rizla Suzuki MotoGP : 1m40.328s : B 0.926
15	L Capirossi Ducati Corse : 1m40.391s : B 0.989
16	O Jacque Kawasaki Racing Team : 1m40.405s : B 1.003
17	M Tamada Dunlop Yamaha Tech 3 : 1m40.617s : D 1.215
18	A Hofmann Pramac d'Antin : 1m40.710s : B 1.308
19	K Akiyoshi Rizla Suzuki MotoGP : 1m41.202s : B 1.800
20	S Guintoli Dunlop Yamaha Tech 3 : 1m41.219s : D 1.817

2007 SPAIN - JEREZ STATISTICS

Round	2
Date	25 March 2007
Race distance	119.421 km / 74.196 miles
Weather	Dry
Temperature	31°C (Track), 19°C (Ambient)
Humidity	20%
Fastest lap	Valentino Rossi 1m40.905s : M

2007 RACE RESULTS

1	V Rossi Fiat Yamaha Team : M 45m53.340s
2	D Pedrosa Repsol Honda Team : M +1.246s
3	C Edwards Fiat Yamaha Team : M +2.701
4	T Elias Honda Gresini : B +4.351
5	C Stoner Ducati Corse : B +4.993
6	C Checa Honda LCR : M +10.000
7	N Hayden Repsol Honda Team : M +14.146
8	M Melandri Honda Gresini : B +19.969
9	C Vermeulen Rizla Suzuki MotoGP : B +24.786
10	S Nakano Konica Minolta Honda : M +24.955
11	A Barros Pramac d'Antin : B +25.008
12	L Capirossi Ducati Corse : B +25.852
13	R De Puniet Kawasaki Racing Team : B +26.445
14	M Tamada Dunlop Yamaha Tech 3 : D +36.653
15	S Guintoli Dunlop Yamaha Tech 3 : D +36.744
16	K Roberts Jr Team Roberts : M +48.911
17	K Akiyoshi Rizla Suzuki MotoGP : B +50.784
18	O Jacque Kawasaki Racing Team : B +1'00.901
19	J Hopkins Rizla Suzuki MotoGP : B +1'03.371
	A Hofmann Pramac d'Antin : B Excluded

B : Bridgestone M : Michelin D : Dunlop

BRIDGESTONE Motorsport

Team news

West aims for Spanish step

Kawasaki's Anthony West is eager to erase the difficulties of Qatar and make steady in-roads with his confidence aboard his Ninja ZX-RR. "My main aim is essentially to raise my game," he says. "I need to have more faith in the bike and the set up, especially when it comes to turning it in to the corner. This is a weak spot for me, of sorts. Still, I'm really looking forward to the race. I really want to prove myself and I'm hoping this is where I can start doing that."

Suzuki playing catch-up, says Vermeulen

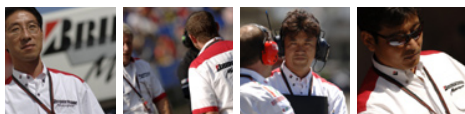
Suzuki rider Chris Vermeulen is hoping for a trouble-free start to his Jerez weekend after a difficult opening race to 2008. "We need to get out there and start work straight away," says the Australian. "After the disappointment of Qatar we are playing catch-up a bit! I enjoy the Jerez circuit and we made some important developments towards the end of the test there last month, so we need to continue from where we left off. I will certainly be going for it!"

Suppo hails Stoner's incredible form

Ducati's MotoGP Project Director Livio Suppo believes that Casey Stoner's fine form will continue in Jerez: "Last year Jerez was one of the most difficult races for Casey," he says, "but during both tests here in November and February he managed to improve his performance a lot and ended up very fast in both sessions. He is in incredible form, as he showed in the first GP in Qatar. His confidence in the bike and tyres is definitely even higher than it was a year ago so I think that at Jerez he can also be amongst the frontrunners."

2002-08 Cumulative statistics

- 101 Grands Prix
- 1 World Championship
- 21 Victories
- 20 Pole positions
- 58 Podiums (in 39 GPs)
- 63 Front Row starts (in 46 GPs)
- 3577 Championship Points



Casey Stoner's Qatar win was the 21st MotoGP victory on Bridgestone tyres

Fast fact

Loris Capirossi's victory at Jerez aboard his Bridgestone-shod Ducati back in 2006 was the first ever victory on European soil for a rider on Bridgestone tyres.



Capirossi took Jerez victory honours for Ducati and Bridgestone in 2006



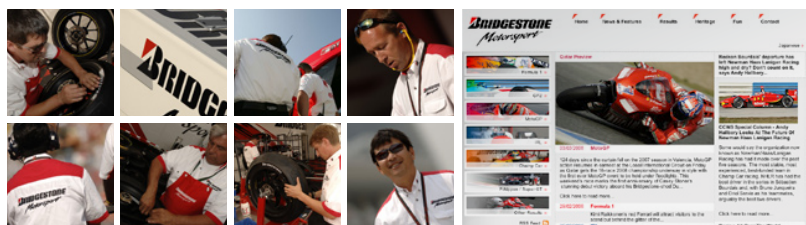
Bridgestone gathered useful data during round one of the 2008 MotoGP season

Fast fact

Only 20 of the previous 21 GPs to have been raced at Jerez have held the 'Spanish Grand Prix' title. The second ever event to be at the track, back in 1988, was actually the 'Portuguese Grand Prix' and immediately followed that year's Spanish race which was held at Jarama.

2008 MotoGP championship classification

* 2008 MotoGP rookie		2008	QAT 09/03/08	SPA 30/03/08	POR 13/04/08	CHI 04/05/08	FRA 18/05/08	ITA 01/06/08	CAT 08/06/08	GB 22/06/08	HOL 28/06/08	GER 13/07/08	USA 20/07/08	CZE 17/08/08	RSM 31/08/08	IND 14/09/08	JPN 28/09/08	AUS 05/10/08	MAL 19/10/08	VAL 26/10/08
POS. / RIDER	POINTS	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
1 Casey Stoner	25	25	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
2 Jorge Lorenzo *	20	20	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
3 Daniel Pedrosa	16	16	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
4 Andrea Dovizioso *	13	13	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
5 Valentino Rossi	11	11	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
6 James Toseland *	10	10	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
7 Colin Edwards	9	9	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
8 Loris Capirossi	8	8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
9 Randy de Puniet	7	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
10 Nicky Hayden	6	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
11 Marco Melandri	5	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
12 John Hopkins	4	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
13 Shinya Nakano	3	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
14 Toni Elias	2	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
15 Sylvain Guintoli	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
16 Alex de Angelis *	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
17 Chris Vermeulen	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
18 Anthony West	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	



www.bridgestonemotorsport.com

Bridgestone Motorsport is an online window onto all of Bridgestone's motorsport activities from MotoGP, Formula One, GP2 Series, as well as US and Japanese racing championships. The site features news, race reports and interviews with riders, drivers and key personnel. Look out, too, for competitions and downloads including The Challenge, an online magazine available in PDF format.

Bridgestone MotoGP archive

YEAR	TEAMS AND RIDERS	POINTS	RACES	CHAMPIONSHIP	WINS	POLES	PODIUMS
2002	Kanemoto Racing J.vd Goorbergh Proton Team KR N.Aoki, J.McWilliams	182	16	12th (Aoki)	0 (Best finish: 5th)	1 (1x McWilliams)	0
2003	Pramac Honda M.Tamada Proton Team KR N.Aoki, J.McWilliams	133	16	11th (Tamada)	0 (Best finish: 3rd)	0	1
2004	Camel Honda M.Tamada, Kawasaki Racing A.Hofmann, S.Nakano Suzuki MotoGP J.Hopkins, K.Roberts Jr	373	16	6th (Tamada)	2 (Tamada)	4 (1x Roberts Jr 3x Tamada)	4
2005	Ducati Corse L.Capirossi, C.Checa Kawasaki Racing A.Hofmann S.Nakano, O.Jacque (6 races) Suzuki MotoGP J.Hopkins, K.Roberts Jr	571	17	6th (Capirossi)	2 (Capirossi)	3 (3x Capirossi)	8
2006	Ducati Corse L.Capirossi, S.Gibernau, A.Hofmann (3 races), T.Bayliss (1 race) Kawasaki Racing R.de Puniet, S.Nakano Rizla Suzuki MotoGP J.Hopkins, C.Vermeulen	695	17	3rd (Capirossi)	4 (x3 Capirossi x1 Bayliss)	6 (2x Capirossi 2x Vermeulen 1x Hopkins 1x Gibernau)	11
2007	Ducati Corse L.Capirossi, C.Stoner Honda Gresini T.Elias, M.Melandri Rizla Suzuki MotoGP J.Hopkins, C.Vermeulen Pramac d'Antin A.Barros, A.Hofmann, C.Davies (3 races) Kawasaki Racing R.de Puniet, A.West, O.Jacque (4 races)	1563	18	1st (Stoner)	12 (x10 Stoner x1 Vermeulen x1 Capirossi)	6 (x5 Stoner x1 Vermeulen)	33
2008	Alice Team Toni Elias, Sylvain Guintoli Ducati Corse Casey Stoner, Marco Melandri Fiat Yamaha Team Valentino Rossi Kawasaki Racing Team Anthony West, John Hopkins Rizla Suzuki MotoGP Chris Vermeulen, Loris Capirossi San Carlo Honda Gresini Alex de Angelis, Shinya Nakano	59	1	1st (Stoner)	1 (Stoner)	0	1