

Valentino Rossi



- ▶ **Born:** February 16, 1979, *Urbino, Italy*. First jumps on bike at age two
- ▶ **1997:** Wins first world title, in 125cc class, on *Aprilia* bike
- ▶ **1999:** Wins **250cc** championship in only second season in class
- ▶ **2001:** World champion in 500cc class for *Honda*, winning 11 races
- ▶ **2002:** World champion in newly created *MotoGP* class – using powerful four-stroke 989cc engines
- ▶ **2003-05:** Moves to Yamaha, retaining title for next three years
- ▶ **2006:** Could claim eighth World Championship in final race in Valencia
- ▶ **2007:** Stays with Yamaha as MotoGP enters new era of 800cc racing