

Rossi leaves Yamaha

MotoGP world champion Valentino Rossi is to join Italian manufacturer Ducati, ending a six-year “love affair” with Yamaha



■ **1979:** Born February 16 in Urbino, Italy

■ **1997:** One year after his first Grand Prix, Rossi wins 125cc world championship with **Aprilia**

■ **1999:** Wins 250cc world title

■ **2000:** Joins **Honda**, wins 500cc world championship in 2001

■ **2002-03:** Wins **MotoGP** world championship in its first two seasons

■ **2004-05:** Switches to **Yamaha**, retains title for next two seasons

■ **2007:** Tax evasion probe results in €35 million tax bill

■ **2008-09:** Vow to stick with Yamaha is rewarded by two more MotoGP world titles

■ **August 2010:** Announces he will leave Yamaha for new challenge