

# FIFA Ballon d'Or nominees

Lionel Messi could reach yet another landmark in a superb season if he becomes the first player to win FIFA's World Player award for a fourth time



**Lionel Messi, Argentina**      *Age: 25    Debut: 2004*

*Club:* **Barcelona**      *Position:* **Forward**

*Award history:* Winner – 2009, 2010, 2011

*Style:* Compact, quick, skilful, elusive; arguably among best footballers of all time

*2012:* 82 goals to date, chasing Gerd Muller's 40-year record – now Barcelona's all-time leading scorer



**Cristiano Ronaldo, Portugal**      *Age: 27    Debut: 2002*

*Club:* **Real Madrid**      *Position:* **Forward**

*Award history:* Winner – 2008, 2nd – 2007, 2009, 2011

*Style:* Attacking force, ability to torment best defences with dribbling runs and stunning free kicks

*2012:* Wins first La Liga title with Real – reaches semi-finals of both Euro 2012 and Champions League



**Andres Iniesta, Spain**      *Age: 28    Debut: 2002*

*Club:* **Barcelona**      *Position:* **Central midfield**

*Award history:* 2nd – 2010

*Style:* Exceptional ability to balance creativity with vision and tactics – superb understanding of game

*2012:* Named player of tournament as Spain wins second consecutive European Championship