

FIFA Ballon d'Or nominees 2013

After an injury hit season, Lionel Messi will face tough competition from Europe's best if he is to claim a fifth Ballon d'Or – Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo is the favourite to win in Zurich on January 13

Lionel Messi *ARG*



Age: 26 Debut: 2004

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

Won record fourth consecutive Ballon d'Or in 2012 with over 50% of final vote

2013: Sixth **La Liga** title with Barcelona. Closing in on becoming all-time highest scorer in Champions League

Franck Ribery *FRA*



Age: 30 Debut: 2003

Club: **Bayern Munich**
Position: **Winger**

First player nominated from team other than Barcelona or Real Madrid since 2009

2013: Won **Bundesliga**, **Champions League** and **German Cup** in stellar treble-winning season for Bayern

Cristiano Ronaldo *POR*



Age: 28 Debut: 2002

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

Won Ballon d'Or in 2008 while at Manchester Utd. Runner-up to Messi in 2009, 2011, 2012

2013: Maintained top goalscoring form – scored hat-trick against Sweden to send Portugal to **World Cup**