

Beat: Sports

## The Best Franco Morbidelli Team Marc VDS 2017 World Champion Moto2

### Moto2 Morbidelli World Champion 2017

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**USPA NEWS** - Franco Morbidelli (born 4 December 1994 in Rome) is an Italian motorcycle racer. He was the European Superstock 600 champion in 2013. Morbidelli's father is Italian, but his mother is Brazilian. He won the 2017 Moto2 World Championship with EG 0,0 Marc VDS after his closest championship contender Thomas Lüthi was declared unfit for the Malaysian GP following a crash at qualifying. Moto2 leader Franco Morbidelli to graduate to MotoGP with Marc VDS. Moto2 championship leader Franco Morbidelli will move up to MotoGP next season with the Marc VDS team. Morbidelli, who won four of the opening five races of the season, had been linked to a graduation to the top class, with Pramac Ducati and an expanded LCR Honda team believed to be among his options.

Instead he will ride for Marc VDS after team boss Michael Bartholemy confirmed that Morbidelli will remain with the Belgian outfit next season as he steps up to MotoGP.

Marc VDS rider Franco Morbidelli has been crowned the 2017 Moto2 champion

Morbidelli, who qualified on pole position despite a crash of his own in yesterday's qualifying session, was going into today's race with a 29-point lead, only needing to stay clear of his Swiss rival in order to take the crown with one race remaining.

Luthi crashed out during qualifying, fracturing his left ankle in the process and meaning that not only was he forced to miss today's race but could also have put his MotoGP debut in doubt, due to jump onto the Marc VDS Honda as Morbidelli's 2018 teammate in two weeks' time at Valencia for the first time.

Franco Morbidelli will step up to the premier MotoGP category in 2018, after agreeing a contract extension with Team Estrella Galicia 0,0 Marc VDS.

Morbidelli, today is World Champion of the Moto2 with an early race in the past has made a fantastic season by doing very few mistakes and always getting the most out of all races. Will remain with Team Estrella Galicia 0,0 Marc VDS for a further two years. The agreement reached also includes an option for a third year, should the Italian wish to continue with the team for the 2020 MotoGP season.

Morbidelli made his debut for Team Estrella Galicia 0,0 Marc VDS in 2016, Moto2 World Championship.

Valentino Rossi talks about Morbidelli: Morbidelli dominated, I'm proud of him

In 2018, Franco will join the Doctor in MotoGP: "he'll be competitive and I'll have him as a rival, but our relationship won't change"

Franco Morbidelli has brought Italy a world title, something it had not seen for many years. Simoncelli won the intermediate class, the 250 back then, in 2008 while the year after Valentino triumphed in MotoGP.

'Morbido', has broken the fast in Malaysia, also giving Rossi his first title "as teacher", seeing as he is a rider with the VR46 Riders Academy

"I'm really happy and very proud of Franco - commented the Doctor - He deserved this title because this year he was at a higher level than everyone else. He won 8 races, which means he dominated the season"<sup>[2]</sup>.

Morbidelli will compete in MotoGP next year and so may become a new rival for Valentino.

"If I go like I did today I definitely might find him under my feet! - he jokes about his 7th place finish at Sepang - All joking aside, I think he can be competitive in MotoGP too. It's true, we'll be rivals, we'll speak less about technical matters but I don't think our relationship will change to much, there won't be any big problems"<sup>[2]</sup>.

Franco Morbidelli: 3rd - 2017 Moto2 World Champion

"This is an incredible feeling and now the reality is sinking in after the race. I am so happy for myself but also sorry for Tom Lüthi who could not race today. However I have done a great season with fantastic support from my team even though we suffered some down days. I wanted to make a good race today and get on the podium on the day we secured the championship."<sup>[2]</sup>

With the title pressure lifted Morbidelli rode to a safe third place in the race to claim his 11th podium in a superb season of racing. Those 11 podiums have included eight victories in the 17 races so far with just the final GP of the season at Valencia remaining.

On the slow down lap Morbidelli - wearing a "Franky Says Relax"™ championship shirt - celebrated his win trackside with the team, who were joined by nine times World Champion Valentino Rossi.

Morbidelli, 22, is the first Italian rider to win the intermediate class championship since 2008 when Marco Simoncelli won the 250cc title and the second Moto2 Champion for Team Estrella Galicia 0,0 Marc VDS after Tito Rabat's 2014 title.

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