



Badel, Alexis

Age: 28. Alexis Badel hails from a racing tradition, his mother being trainer Myriam Bollack-Badel and his father, former jockey Alain Badel. He was France's Champion Apprentice in 2007 and broke into the top 10 in the premiership in just his second year riding with 60 winners. Badel's first Group race win came aboard Norse King in the October, 2013 Prix du Conseil de Paris. He was appointed as the second retained rider for The Aga Khan behind Christophe Soumillon at the beginning of the 2015 racing season and went on to record his most successful season to date with 104 wins (seventh in the French Championship). He debuted at Sha Tin with two mounts on 11 December, 2016. His first Hong Kong winner was Supreme Profit on 27 December, 2016 and he ended that maiden two-month stint with seven wins. He returned in the 2017/18 season, landing 14 wins. He secured a first G1 win aboard Nonza in the August, 2018 Prix Jean Romanet at Deauville. **Honours:** France's Champion Apprentice (2007). **Hong Kong Career Wins (as of 26 November):** 26



Barzalona, Mickael

Age: 27. Mickael Barzalona was born in Avignon, France, a grandson of Corsican trainer Christian Barzalona and nephew of former Flat and Jumps jockey Armand Barzalona. He began his career with France's standout trainer, Andre Fabre, with whom he is still associated, and is Godolphin's number one rider in France. A precocious sensation, he enjoyed a stunning Dubai Carnival in 2011, at age 19, winning major races for the Godolphin operation, and that momentum took him to a famous English Derby win in June of that year aboard Pour Moi for Fabre and Coolmore. He then headed to Hong Kong for a short stint in 2011/12, notching one winner from 42 rides. Barzalona won the 2012 G1 Dubai World Cup aboard Monterosso and the 2017 Breeders' Cup Turf on Talismanic. The latest of his 13 G1 wins came on Kitesurf in the 2018 Prix Vermeille. **Hong Kong wins:** 1



Boudot, Pierre-Charles

Age: 26. Boudot won his second French champion jockey title in 2016 with a then European record of 300 wins that season. He was a distant runner-up to record-breaking Christophe Soumillon in 2017 (305 - 209) and is locked in a tight battle with that rival for this year's title. His father, the late Marc Boudot, was a trainer in central France. He attended the jockeys' school at Govieux before joining the inimitable Andre Fabre as an apprentice. He notched his first win in April, 2009 and his maiden G1 triumph was atop Gallante in the 2014 Grand Prix de Paris. He won the 2014 G1 Prix Rothschild and the following year's G1 Prix Jacques le Marois and G1 Sun Chariot Stakes on Esoterique. Boudot rode in Hong Kong on a short contract in early 2018 and in Japan for two months at the end of 2014, based at Ritto with trainer Yasutoshi Ikee. He has more than 1200 career wins and the most recent of his 12 G1 wins came on One Master in this year's Prix de la Foret. **Honours:** France's champion jockey (2015 [tied with Christophe Soumillon] & 2016). **Hong Kong wins (as of 26 November):** 5



Bowman, Hugh

Age: 38. The 2017 LONGINES World's Best Jockey award recipient, Bowman boasts an outstanding career record of 87 G1 victories among more than 2,000 wins since his debut ride on Naturalised in 1999. He has been champion jockey in Sydney four times. He has been the most prolific G1-winning jockey in Australia for each of the past three seasons. He has a record of 28 wins from 29 rides on the champion mare Winx, notably an incredible four wins in the Cox Plate. In Hong Kong, he has won the QEII Cup, Hong Kong Derby, Hong Kong Gold Cup and Champions & Chater Cup with Werther, and the 2017 G1 Chairman's Sprint Prize on Lucky Bubbles. This season he has already notched six top-level wins. **Honours:** Sydney champion jockey (2008/09, 2011/12, 2014/15, 2016/17); LONGINES World's Best Jockey (2017); LONGINES IJC (2016). **Hong Kong wins:** 26



Buick, William

Age: 30. Norwegian-born Buick was joint champion apprentice in Britain in 2008 and rode his first G1 win on Lahaleeb in the E P Taylor Stakes the following year. He was appointed stable jockey to John Gosden in 2010 and the partnership started with a bang as he rode Dar Re Mi to win the G1 Dubai Sheema Classic. In late 2014, he began his association with Sheikh Mohammed's Godolphin operation, primarily riding for trainer Charlie Appleby. This partnership quickly proved fruitful as he took the G1 Dubai World Cup the following March on Prince Bishop. His list of 50 G1 wins includes four on star sprinter Dream Ahead, as well as the Dubai World Cup (2015 Prince Bishop), and nine in 2018 featuring the QEII Cup on Pakistan Star, the Derby at Epsom aboard Masar and last month's Mile Championship on Stelvio. **Hong Kong wins (as of 26 November):** 1



Callan, Neil

Age: 40. Irishman Neil Callan finished runner-up in the British jockeys' championship in 2005 (151 wins) and 2007 (170 wins). After a fruitless start as an apprentice in Ireland with Kevin Prendergast he moved to Britain and forged successful partnerships with trainers Karl Burke, Kevin Ryan and Michael Jarvis. He first rode in Hong Kong on a short contract in the 2010/11 season and has since established a reputation as a tough competitor. His first full Hong Kong season, 2014/15, yielded 47 wins and fifth place in the jockeys' premiership and he equalled that tally when finishing third in 2016/17. His big race wins include the 2015 Hong Kong Classic Mile on Beauty Only. **Honours:** UK Champion Apprentice (1999). **Hong Kong wins (as of 26 November):** 217



Castellano, Javier

Age: 41. Javier Castellano was inducted into the American National Museum Racing Hall of Fame in 2017. The native of Venezuela is a four-time Eclipse award winner for North America's top jockey and 12 times leading rider on the New York Racing Association circuit. He has ridden 108 Group 1 winners including 10 Breeders' Cup victories. He won consecutive races, at Belmont Park on 21 October, to give him his 5,000th career victory in North America. He set the record for earnings in one year when his mounts won US\$28.1 million in 2015. He began his career in Venezuela in 1996, before moving to the United States a year later and riding his first winner at Calder in Florida. He won the Preakness Stakes in 2006 and 2017 and the Breeders' Cup Classic and Travers Stakes in 2004. He won this year's Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf on Bulletin and the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile on City Of Light. **Honours:** Eclipse award winner in North America four years straight from 2013; 2017 Hall of Fame inductee; 10-time Breeders' Cup winner; more than 5,000 career winners of more than US\$300 million. **Hong Kong wins:** 0



Chadwick, Matthew

Age: 28. A graduate of Hong Kong's Apprentice Jockeys' School, Matthew Chadwick went to Australia for his apprentice training and rode a four-timer at Lismore Racecourse at age 17. Indentured to the Tony Cruz stable upon his return to Hong Kong, he was champion apprentice in 2008/09. He earned a full jockey's licence in January, 2010. His first Group race winner was Egyptian Ra in the HKG3 National Day Cup (2009). He became the first homegrown rider to win a HKIR contest when clinching the G1 Hong Kong Cup on California Memory in 2011. He rode his first Hong Kong four-timer at Sha Tin on 22 June, 2014. **Honours:** Hong Kong Champion Apprentice (2008/09); Shergar Cup Silver Saddle winner (2012). **HKIR wins (2):** LONGINES Hong Kong Cup (2011 & 2012 California Memory) **Hong Kong wins (as of 26 November):** 338



Clipperton, Sam

Age: 24. Sam Clipperton enjoyed G2 successes with the elite Godolphin operation before relocating to Hong Kong for the 2016/17 season. He finished that campaign with 40 wins to place joint-fourth in the premiership. He competed in equestrianism and also some rodeo before discovering horse racing as a teenager. He left school at 15 and joined the stable of eight-time Sydney champion jockey and Hall of Famer Ron Quinton. In 2014 he became the first rider since Bobby El-Issa 20 years earlier to win the Sydney apprentice title twice in succession. He notched a first G1 win in March 2016 atop Peeping in the Coolmore Classic for Quinton. **Honours:** Two-time Sydney Champion Apprentice (2012/13, 2013/14). **Hong Kong wins (as of 26 November):** 62



De Sousa, Silvestre

Age: 37. One of 10 children, Brazilian ace Silvestre de Sousa first sat on a horse at age 18 and within two years he was champion apprentice in Sao Paulo. He moved to Europe at age 22 and was employed as a work rider for Dermot Weld. In 2004, dispirited after two years without a ride in public, De Sousa moved to England and teamed up with North Yorkshire trainer Dandy Nicholls. His first British win was achieved aboard Sonic Anthem at Southwell on 1 January, 2006. Riding mainly for lesser trainers, often on longshots, he established his reputation on the northern circuit and in 2010 he rode his first century. With trainer Mark Johnston's support he finished runner-up in the 2011 British champion jockey race. He was retained by Godolphin from 2012 to 2014, during which time his haul included the G1 Dubai World Cup on African Story. Riding freelance in 2015, he achieved 132 wins to claim the British champion jockey title and repeated in 2017 (155 wins) and again in 2018 (148 wins). De Sousa has notched an admirable 16 winners in each of his two previous short winter stints in Hong Kong (2015/16 and 2016/17) and is currently based in Hong Kong. **Honours:** British Champion Jockey (2015, 2017 & 2018). **Hong Kong wins (as of 26 November):** 37



Demuro, Mirco

Age: 39. Italy's five-time champion jockey hails from a family of jockeys. In early 2015, he and Christophe Lemaire became the first overseas riders granted full-time licences to ride under the JRA. Of his 38 career G1 wins, 25 have been achieved in Japan including this year's Osaka Hai on Suave Richard. His most famous victory came atop the Japanese raider Victoire Pisa in the 2011 Dubai World Cup. He notched 12 wins during his first short-term Hong Kong contract in the 2013/14 season, including the 2014 Stewards' Cup on Blazing Speed. He has also won the Japanese Derby (2003 Neo Universe, 2015 Duramente), Japan Cup (2008 Screen Hero), Arima Kinen (2010 Victoire Pisa), Tenno Sho Autumn (2012 Eishin Flash) and Takarazuka Kinen (2017 Satono Crown). **Honours:** 5x Italy's Champion Jockey. **Hong Kong wins (as of 26 November):** 22



Doyle, James

Age: 30. James Doyle has emerged in recent seasons as an accomplished big-race jockey with his 28 career G1 wins achieved in the past seven seasons. His first G1 came in the 2012 Dubai Duty Free on Cityscape for trainer Roger Charlton. The following year he partnered Charlton's Al Kazeem for G1 wins in the Tattersalls Gold Cup, Prince of Wales's Stakes and Eclipse Stakes. He was first-choice rider for Prince Khalid Abdullah in 2014 and partnered Europe's champion miler Kingman to four G1 wins (Irish 2,000 Guineas, St James's Palace Stakes, Sussex Stakes and Prix Jacques le Marois). He also partnered with Noble Mission, the great Frankel's brother, to win three G1s. He has been connected to the Godolphin operation since 2014. His seven G1 wins in 2018 include Sea Of Class in the Irish Oaks and Yorkshire Oaks, and Poet's Word in the Prince Of Wales's Stakes and King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes. **Hong Kong career wins (as of 26 November):** 0



Heffernan, Seamus

Age: 46. Seamie Heffernan worked for Jim Bolger and was crowned joint champion apprentice in 1994 alongside Daragh O'Donoghue, prior to joining Aidan O'Brien in 1996. He has been an important cog in the Ballydoyle machine down the years, filling the understudy role to Mick Kinane, Kieren Fallon, Jamie Spencer, Johnny Murtagh and Ryan Moore. He has partnered some big names to G1 wins, including Minding, Cape Blanco, So You Think, Imagine and Highland Reel. Among his nine European classics are three Irish Derbys. He took his tally to 30 G1 scores with his win on Lancaster Bomber in the Tattersalls Gold Cup earlier this year. He rode at the 2017 HKIR after an 11-year absence. **Honours:** Ireland's champion apprentice (1994). **Hong Kong wins:** 0



Ho, Vincent

Age: 28. HKJC Apprentice Jockey School graduate Vincent Ho racked up 44 wins as a young rider in New Zealand under the tutelage of leading trainer Lance O'Sullivan. He made an impressive start to his Hong Kong career with 10 wins in his first season in 2009/10, including a trio of wins he achieved on only his fourth race day in Hong Kong. He sealed the 2010/11 Champion Apprentice title with 39 wins. Ho reached the graduation benchmark on 1 October, 2012, by claiming his 70th win in Hong Kong on board Castle Hero. **Honours:** Hong Kong Champion Apprentice (2010/11); Best Freelance Jockey Award (2014/15). **Hong Kong wins (as of 26 November):** 227



Iwata, Yasunari

Age: 43. Yasunari Iwata transitioned from the regional NAR circuit to the JRA in Japan in 2006. He has already ridden more than 1,300 winners to date, taking his career total wins to over 4,300. He also won the World Super Jockeys Series as an NAR jockey in 2005. He has won each Japanese classic race at least once and has no less than 34 G1/JPN G1 victories, including the Japan Cup three times on Admire Moon (2007), Buena Vista (2011) and Gentildonna (2012). He was the first NAR rider to win a classic when steering Delta Blues to victory in the G1 Kikuka Sho (Japanese St Leger) in 2004, and two years later created history when Delta Blues became the first Japanese horse to win the G1 Melbourne Cup. He added to his G1 haul with Rainbow Line in the 2018 Tenno Sho (Spring). **Honours:** JRA Champion Jockey (2011 & 2012). **HKIR wins (2):** Hong Kong Sprint (2012 & 2013 Lord Kanaloa). **Hong Kong wins (as of 26 November):** 2



Kawada, Yuga

Age: 33. Yuga Kawada's great-grandfather was a jockey and his grandfather and father are both horse trainers, all plying their trade in the regional NAR racing circuit. The rider gained his JRA jockey licence in 2004 and has amassed more than 1,200 JRA winners. He has no less than 12 G1 wins, and he is just one of eight riders in JRA history to have won all five classic races – the Satsuki Sho (2000 Guineas) on Captain Thule in 2008, the Oka Sho (1000 Guineas) on Harp Star in 2014, the Tokyo Yushun (Derby) on Makahiki in 2016, the Yushun Himba (Oaks) on Gentildonna in 2012 and the Kikuka Sho (St Leger) on Big Week in 2010. He has also been associated with horses like Maurice, Lovely Day, and most recently Fine Needle. Kawada is a two-time JRA Award winner for the jockey with the highest winning percentage, achieving the feat in 2013 and 2014. Other notable wins: Takarazuka Kinen (2015 Lovely Day), Yasuda Kinen (2015 Maurice, 2017 Satono Aladdin), Queen Elizabeth II Cup (2014 Lachesis), Takamatsunomiya Kinen (2018 Fine Needle), Sprinters Stakes (2018 Fine Needle). **Hong Kong Career Wins:** 0



Keane, Colin

Age: 24. Born in County Meath, Colin Keane is the son of trainer Gerry Keane and has emerged as a star of the Irish racing scene since riding his first winner, No Trimmings, for his father at Dundalk on 10 December, 2010. He teamed with trainer Ger Lyons in 2014 and was Ireland's champion apprentice with 54 wins, the second highest tally in history behind Joseph O'Brien's record of 57. After running second in the overall championship in 2015, he was crowned Ireland's outright champion in 2017 with 100 wins. This season he was second in the premiership with 82 wins. He secured a first G1 victory atop Laganore in the 2017 Premio Lydia Tesio. **Honours:** Ireland's Champion Jockey (2017); Ireland's Champion Apprentice (2014). **Hong Kong wins:** No previous rides.



Lemaire, Christophe

Age: 39. Christophe Lemaire has enjoyed a stellar year in 2018 with wonder filly Almond Eye, the pair winning Japan's Fillies' Triple Crown and the G1 Japan Cup together. He leapt to prominence in 2004 thanks to his partnership with the brilliant French champion filly Divine Proportions and two years later he rode the crack mare Pride to win the G1 Champion Stakes and G1 Hong Kong Cup. Other top class winners in those days include Stacelita, Makfi, Flotilla and Elusive Wave, while Dunaden carried him to a Melbourne Cup win in 2011. His first Japanese major came a few years earlier aboard Heart's Cry in the 2005 Arima Kinen and the duo took the 2006 Dubai Sheema Classic. Star mare Vodka's Japan Cup is also among his 64 G1 wins to date. In early 2015 he and Mirco Demuro became the first overseas riders to be granted full-time jockey licences in Japan. In November 2016, he equalled the record of Yutaka Take for most wins at a single Japanese meeting with eight victories. **Honours:** JRA champion jockey (2017); LONGINES IJC winner (2009 [DH]) **HKIR wins (1):** Hong Kong Cup (2006 Pride). **Hong Kong wins (as of 26 November):** 5



Leung, Derek

Age: 29. Derek Leung's career highlight is his 2017 LONGINES Hong Kong Mile victory aboard Beauty Generation. A product of Hong Kong's Apprentice Jockeys' School, he cut his teeth in New Zealand under trainer Lance O'Sullivan. He was assigned as apprentice jockey to Paul O'Sullivan's stable upon his return to Hong Kong. Leung reached the graduation benchmark after his 70th win on board Star Of Fame on 1 June, 2011. He reached a personal best total of 33 wins in the 2015/16 season and received the Tony Cruz Award in 2016/17 and 2017/18 as the leading home-grown rider. **HKIR wins (1):** Hong Kong Mile (2017 Beauty Generation). **Honours:** Asian Young Guns Challenge winner (2010); Tony Cruz Award winner (2017 and 2018). **Hong Kong wins (as of 26 November):** 263



Lordan, Wayne

Age: 36. Wayne Lordan, the son of amateur rider Pat Lordan, started out as an apprentice to Thomond O'Mara and was runner-up in Ireland's 2001 apprentice championship. He notched a major milestone with a first G1 win atop Sole Power in the 2010 Nunthorpe Stakes. He had to wait three years for a follow-up and that came thanks to Sudirman in the 2013 Phoenix Stakes. In 2014 he partnered Europe's champion sprinter Slade Power to G1 wins in the Diamond Jubilee Stakes and July Cup and the following season he was in the irons for the Coolmore-owned Legatissimo's wins in the G1 Nassau Stakes and G1 Matron Stakes. Lordan scored his first Classic win in 2017 on the Aidan O'Brien-trained Winter in the 1,000 Guineas and landed a second Matron Stakes that year on Hydrangea for the Ballydoyle team. Lordan gained a ninth career G1 win when the Joseph O'Brien-trained Iridessa landed this year's Fillies' Mile and he teamed with the Gai Waterhouse and Adrian Bott-trained Vinicunca to win the G3 Maribyrnong Plate at Flemington during the recent Spring Carnival. **Hong Kong wins:** 0



McDonald, James

Age: 26. James McDonald made a big impression in Hong Kong on his LONGINES IJC debut when still a teenager back in 2011, finishing runner-up to Frankie Dettoni. He returned the following May and partnered Xtension to victory in the 2012 G1 Champions Mile at Sha Tin. Champion Apprentice in his homeland, he went on to claim the Premiership there twice, in 2008/09 and latterly with a New Zealand record tally of 207 for the 2010/11 season. In 2012 he won a first New Zealand Derby. He clinched his first Sydney Premiership in July, 2014. He was appointed Godolphin's number one rider in Australia in March 2015 but lost that role when in December 2016 he was disqualified for 18 months due to a breach of betting rules. He returned to race-riding in May 2018. **Honours:** Two-time Sydney champion jockey (2013/14, 2015/16); two-time New Zealand champion jockey (2008/09, 2010/11). **Hong Kong wins (as of 26 November):** 5



Moore, Ryan

Age: 35. Ryan Moore is a two-time winner of the LONGINES IJC. He is the outstanding international rider of recent years and was the first recipient of the LONGINES World's Best Jockey Award as a result of 15 G1 wins in 2014. He won that accolade again in 2016. Moore hails from a racing family. His first win came for his trainer father, Gary Moore, on Mersey Beat over hurdles at Towcester in May, 2000. His first professional Flat win came on Marwell's Kiss at Lingfield in January, 2002. He notched a first G1 aboard Notnowcato in the 2006 Juddmonte International Stakes at York and he has since taken his G1-winning tally to 119 in 11 different countries. Moore has won many of the world's foremost races including three of the four LONGINES HKIR, the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, English Derby, Japan Cup, Breeders' Cup Turf, Cox Plate and Melbourne Cup. **Honours:** British Champion Jockey (2006, 2008, 2009); British Champion Apprentice (2003); LONGINES IJC winner (2009 [shared] & 2010); LONGINES World's Best Jockey Award winner (2014 & 2016). **HKIR wins (5):** Hong Kong Cup (2010 Snow Fairy, 2016 Maurice), Hong Kong Vase (2015, 2017 Highland Reel), Hong Kong Mile (2015 Maurice). **Hong Kong wins (as of 26 November):** 30



Moreira, Joao

Age: 34. Brazilian Joao Moreira notched more than 1000 wins in South America. He relocated to Singapore in 2009 and dominated the Singapore circuit for four years. He moved to Hong Kong in October, 2013 and has been champion jockey for three seasons with record-breaking win totals (145, 168 and 170). **Honours:** Three-time Hong Kong Champion Jockey (2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17); LONGINES IJC winner (2012); Japan's World All-Star Jockeys winner (2015); four-time Singapore Champion Jockey (2010, 2011, 2012, 2013); two-time Brazilian Eclipse Award winner (2006/07, 2007/08); fastest 100 in a Hong Kong season (22 February, 2017); Hong Kong record for most wins in a season (170 in 2016/17); most wins in a Hong Kong race day (eight: 5 March, 2017); Singapore record for most wins in a season (206 in 2012); eight wins from eight rides at Kranji (6 September, 2013); eight wins in a day at Cidade Jardim (March, 2006). **HKIR wins (4):** LONGINES Hong Kong Mile (2014 Able Friend), LONGINES Hong Kong Cup (2014 Designs On Rome), LONGINES Hong Kong Sprint (2015 Peniaphobia), LONGINES Hong Kong Vase (2016 Satono Crown). **Hong Kong wins (as of 26 November):** 772



Mosse, Gerald

Age: 51. Frenchman Gerald Mosse's distinguished career began in 1983 and in his early days he was associated with Patrick Biancone and Francois Boutin. He partnered Boutin's sensational juvenile, Arazi, through the summer of 1992. Mosse has ridden more than 50 G1 wins in Europe and no less than 65 G1 winners all told, and he was the Aga Khan's principal rider from 1993 to 2001. His career highlight remains his Arc triumph on Saumarez in 1990 although in 2010 he became the first French rider to win the Melbourne Cup, on Americain. He has also won all the French classics and all classic races among his impressive haul in Hong Kong. He is the all-time winning-most jockey at the Hong Kong International Races. **HKIR wins (8):** Hong Kong Cup (1991 River Verdon, 1999 Jim And Tonic), Hong Kong Mile (1998 Jim And Tonic, 2011 Beauty Flash), Hong Kong Sprint (2002 All Thrills Too, 2007 Sacred Kingdom), Hong Kong Vase (2009 Daryakana, 2012 Red Cadeaux). **Hong Kong wins (as of 26 November):** 659



Murphy, Oisin

Age: 22. Oisin Murphy is Qatar Racing's retained rider in Europe. The Killarney native is a graduate of the Irish pony racing circuit. Schooled in riding by his uncle, the Cheltenham Gold Cup-winning jockey Jim Culloty, Murphy worked summer holidays for trainers Tommy Stack and Aidan O'Brien. He was apprenticed to Andrew Balding in October 2012 and had his first race ride in May 2013 when already 18. He ended his first season (2013) with 41 wins, including a four-timer on Ayr Gold Cup day that featured the historic sprint handicap itself. Murphy impressed in winter stints in Australia and the UAE before riding on a short contract in Hong Kong in the winter of 2016/17, which brought four wins. His G1 breakthrough came in October, 2017 on Aclain in the Prix de la Foret and two weeks later he took the G1 E P Taylor Stakes on Blond Me. He has nine G1 wins this year, including four on Roaring Lion. **Honours:** UK Champion Apprentice (2014) **Hong Kong career wins (as of November 26):** 5



O'Brien, Donnacha

Age: 20. Donnacha O'Brien is a blueblood in every sense of the word as the son of top Irish trainer Aidan and brother to former champion rider and now Melbourne Cup-winning handler Joseph. His riding career began in 2014 and his first win came at Dundalk that September on Quartz, trained by his father. A month later, he took out the Irish Cesarewitch on El Salvador. His first Group race win was on Order Of St George in the G3 Irish St Leger Trial in 2016. He won his first G1 that same year on Intricately in the Moyglare Stud Stakes and followed up in the same race in 2017 on Happily. He was crowned Ireland's champion jockey in 2018 with 111 wins and also won eight G1s including the 2,000 Guineas on Saxon Warrior. **Honours:** Ireland's Champion jockey (2018); Ireland's champion apprentice (2016). **Hong Kong wins:** 0



Purton, Zac

Age: 35. Zac Purton is Hong Kong's current Champion Jockey. Having ended Douglas Whyte's 13-season dominance with his first Hong Kong jockeys' championship in 2013/14 (112 wins), in 2017/18 he halted Joao Moreira's title streak at three. His second championship was a remarkable effort as he chased down Moreira to take the lead for the first time that term on June 10, 2018. Five weeks later, at season's end, he had outpointed Moreira 136-134 with a win strike rate of 21% to the Brazilian's 20%. Purton started his career in Brisbane and was an apprentice sensation, winning the premiership there in 2003. Purton moved to Hong Kong in September, 2007. His many major wins include the King's Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot in 2012. **Honours:** Hong Kong Champion Jockey (2013/14, 2017/18); Brisbane Champion Jockey (2003 - when still an apprentice); LONGINES IJC (2017); World Super Jockeys Series (Japan) winner (2012). **HKIR wins (6):** Hong Kong Mile (2012 Ambitious Dragon, 2016 Beauty Only). Hong Kong Vase (2013 Dominant), Hong Kong Sprint (2014 and 2016 Aerovelocity), Hong Kong Cup (2017 Time Warp). **Hong Kong Wins (as of 26 November):** 886



Rispoli, Umberto

Age: 29. Italian jockey Umberto Rispoli commenced his apprenticeship in 2005 and graduated to the senior ranks in 2010. He is a two-time Champion Jockey in Italy. In winning his first Italian title, in 2009, he rode 245 winners and so smashed the longstanding previous record of 229. Rispoli, who has also ridden in Japan, notched six wins in his first Hong Kong season in 2011/12, crowned by G1 QEII Cup success on the Japanese galloper Rulership. After moving to trainer Mikel Delzangles in France, he took a further G1 atop Molly Malone in the Prix du Cadran. Rispoli has since returned to Hong Kong on short-term licences. He broke a leg three meetings into his 2016/17 winter contract but was back in action within two and a half months and ended the term with 15 wins. **Honours:** Italian Champion Jockey (2009 & 2010).

Hong Kong wins (as of 26 November): 100



Schofield, Chad

Age: 24. Chad Schofield spent four years (2002-2006) of his youth living in Hong Kong where his father, the South African jockey Glyn Schofield, was contracted to ride. His family relocated to Australia and Schofield commenced his own riding career in Sydney in the 2010/11 season. He moved to Melbourne in 2012 to ride for the powerful David Hayes stable. His first G1 win was a major, the 2013 Cox Plate on Shamus Award. He and his father made history in 2014 as the first father and son to compete against each other in the Melbourne Cup and at Sha Tin on 14 February, 2016 they became the first in Hong Kong to ride against each other. He rode Singapore Sling to win the Hong Kong Classic Cup in 2018. **Honours:** Sydney Champion Apprentice (2011/12); Melbourne Champion Apprentice (2012/13). **Hong Kong wins (as of 26 November):** 114



Take, Yutaka

Age: 49. **Background:** Take is the son of famed jockey Kunihiro Take and is a living legend in Japan, with more than 4,000 wins in his homeland and overseas. He has been champion jockey in Japan 18 times and was the first jockey to ride eight winners in a day in Japan, a feat achieved in December 2002. He became the first Japanese jockey to win a G1 race in Europe when Ski Paradise captured the 1994 Prix du Moulin. In 2000 he spent time riding in the US and in 2001 he was based with trainer John Hammond in France. His 110 G1 wins include four Japan Cups with Special Week (1999), Deep Impact (2006), Rose Kingdom (2010) and Kitasan Black (2016). His overseas achievements include the Hong Kong Cup (2015 A Shin Hikari) and Hong Kong Vase (2001 Stay Gold). In winning the G3 Sirius Stakes in October, 2015 he became the first rider to win 300 JRA Graded races in Japan. **Honours:** JRA champion jockey (x18); IJC winner (2004 [DH]); eight wins on a JRA race day. **HKIR wins (2):** Hong Kong Vase (2001 Stay Gold), Hong Kong Cup (2015 A Shin Hikari). **Hong Kong wins (as of 26 November):** 4



Teetan, Karis

Age: 28. Mauritian rider Karis Teetan arrived in Hong Kong in August, 2013. After entering the South African Jockey Academy at the age of 14 Teetan went on to be crowned Champion South African Apprentice in 2008. He graduated in 2009 with 147 wins to his credit. Teetan passed the 100-win mark in every season as a senior jockey in South Africa. He has recorded five Group 1 wins, with his inaugural success at the top level being in his native Mauritius on 24 November, 2008, aboard Halo Hunter. Teetan notched an impressive 50 wins in his first Hong Kong season and has partnered to victory two of Hong Kong's all-time heroes, Able Friend and Designs On Rome. **Honours:** South African Champion Apprentice (2008). **Hong Kong wins (as of 26 November):** 247



Van Niekerk, Grant

Age: 27. Grant Van Niekerk had never sat on a horse, nor had he followed horseracing, before he entered the South African Jockey Academy in January, 2007. Based at the Academy's Milnerton campus in Cape Town, his first race ride was aboard Combat Leader at Clairwood on 11 June, 2008 and the same horse became his first winner at the same track two weeks later. The emerging talent was the Western Cape Champion Apprentice in 2010/11 and became a fully-fledged jockey on 11 February, 2012. When he opted to accept a short-term contract to ride in Hong Kong from the start of the 2018/19 season he was the leading jockey in South Africa for the term, based on prize money won. Van Niekerk has 10 G1 wins to his credit including a memorable trio in 2018 on the crack filly Oh Susanna. His first elite success was achieved aboard Inara in the 2015 Paddock Stakes, one of five G1 wins for that partnership. He has accrued more than 700 wins in his career so far, including 100 victories last term at a strike rate of 19.9%. Van Niekerk, a lightweight jockey who can ride at 114lb, represented his country at the 2016 South African International Jockeys' Challenge. **Hong Kong Career Wins (as of 26 November):** 11



Walker, Michael

Age: 34. Kiwi Michael Walker began working for trainer Allan Sharrock in New Zealand at age 11 and had his first race ride, aboard the Gifted Shifta, in 1999 at age 15. His 131 wins in his debut season saw him capture the apprentice and outright champion jockey titles. He was New Zealand's champion three times before a brief move to Melbourne, Australia in 2004, but he has admitted to a wild lifestyle in those early years. In May 2008 he was injured badly in a pig-hunting accident - he fell 70m off a cliff while carrying a pig on his back. He returned to Australia in 2010 and has enjoyed success in tandem with trainer David Hayes. Walker has 22 G1 wins among more than 1,800 career wins. He won the G1 Doomben Cup earlier this year on Comin' Through. His major wins also include the New Zealand Derby and the Caulfield Guineas. **Hong Kong wins (as of 26 November):** 2



Whyte, Douglas

Age: 46. Douglas Whyte was born in Durban, South Africa, hence his nickname "The Durban Demon". He was champion jockey in Hong Kong for 13 consecutive seasons, losing his title to Zac Purton in 2013/14. Whyte first sat on a horse at age two and developed his skills riding in the countryside with his late father, himself a former jockey. A South African Jockey Academy graduate, in 1996 he rode weekends in Singapore and Malaysia and undertook a short contract in Hong Kong at the start of the 1996/97 season. He returned for the 1997/98 season and made Hong Kong his home. He is the only jockey ever to reach 1,000 wins in Hong Kong, and his tally of 114 wins in 2005/06 stood as a record until Joao Moreira surpassed it in 2014/15. He holds the records for overall career wins (1,804) in Hong Kong and most career prize money won (over HK\$1.5 billion). **Honours:** Hong Kong Champion Jockey (13 consecutive seasons from 2000/01 to 2012/13); LONGINES IJC winner (2002, 2007, 2008); World Super Jockeys Series (Japan) winner (2004). **HKIR wins (3):** LONGINES Hong Kong Cup (2013 Akeed Mofeed), LONGINES Hong Kong Mile (2013 Glorious Days), Hong Kong Vase (1998 Indigenous). **Hong Kong wins (as of 26 November):** 1,804