

## 10 Best Real Madrid Players Of All Time

Los Blancos have been, currently are, and will continue to be the Gold Standard in club football.

Despite other clubs being taken over by shady, massive global investment firms and having cash reserves the size of a small country, Real Madrid remain on top of the club football landscape.

They've had plenty of famous names wear their colors.

And today, we'll look at 10 of their best.

Vámonos!

### **Number 10, Iker Casillas.**

Born in Madrid, Casillas came up through the club's youth system to become their most decorated goalkeeper of all time.

Never an imposing or eccentric keeper, Casillas was more of a quiet and reliable workhorse.

He was between the posts 510 times for Real Madrid and collected 167 caps for the national team.

At the 2010 World Cup, which Spain won, he was named as the tournament's best keeper, naturally.

Casillas was made captain of the club in 2010 and is widely regarded as one of the best to play the position ever.

### **Number 9, Emilio Butragueño.**

Now here's a name you can drop to show your Real Madrid credentials.

A silky-smooth striker whose finishing was clinical, Butragueño also scored 26 times in his 69 international appearances for his country.

Butragueño contributed massively to Madrid's 6 La Liga titles during his career, as well as 2 UEFA Cup wins.

Although, he never managed to win the Champions League with Los Blancos, which is honestly hard not to do given the team's history in the competition.

### **Number 8, Francisco Gento.**

'Paco' Gento played on the left wing during one of the club's many golden eras.

And who couldn't love a player named Paco!

He made his senior debut in 1953 and made 427 appearances for Los Blancos, whilst scoring 127 times.

Gento is seen as one of the best Spanish players of his era and was known for being a pacy winger and an excellent crosser of the ball.

In his playing career, he won the La Liga title an incredible 12 times with Madrid and also collected 6 European Cups.

### **Number 7, Luis Figo.**

Figo was so hated after his transfer from rivals Barcelona, that Barca fans threw a pig's head at him during the 2002 El Clasico.

Seems like a rational response, right?

In his day, the Portuguese midfielder could pass and move three steps ahead of his opponents and teammates in front of him benefited greatly from his creativity.

He made 164 appearances for Los Blancos, scoring 38 times, won La Liga titles twice as well as the Champions League in the 2001-02 season.

Figo was the recipient of the Ballon d'Or in 2000 and was also named FIFA World Player of the Year in 2001.

So yeah, he was decent.

### **Number 6, Karim Benzema.**

The current captain at Real Madrid joined in 2009 after beginning his career at his hometown club.

Since joining, he has played over 400 times and scored 228 goals at the Bernabeu.

It's rare that Madrid has a non-Spanish captain, but that's how much they love Benzema. He's a quiet superstar and exactly what a team needs when it's full of egos.

Benzema is a clinical finisher, yet unselfish.

So far, he has won La Liga 4 times, the Champions League 5 times, and the Ballon d'Or in 2022 with more success to come for sure.

### **Number 5, Zinedine Zidane.**

In terms of overall service to the club, Zinedine Zidane would have to be at the top, not that he's gotten the faith and praise from the team's board.

A key player, if not THE key player, during the *Galacticos* era of the early to mid-2000's Zidane was regarded as the best midfielder in a generation.

Zizou joined Madrid in the summer of 2001 for around €77.5 million (give or take at this point), a then record fee.

He hit the ground running and scored the most iconic goal in Champions League history during the 2002 Final win against Bayer Leverkusen.

Zidane only came away with one La Liga and Champions League title from his time at Los Blancos, which is underwhelming given the playing depth they had in those years, but Zidane was not to blame.

As a manager at Real Madrid, he led the club to a pair of league titles as well as a hat trick of Champions League wins.

But of course, that wasn't enough for the Board.

#### **Number 4, Sergio Ramos.**

Originally a youth team player at coastal side Sevilla, Ramos would be transferred to Real Madrid in 2005 for €27 million, a record fee at the time in Spain for a defender.

Ramos made 469 appearances for Real and scored 72 times, which is quite a lot of goals when you consider he was a center back!

He was known for a style of play that could best be described as a school bully who would turn on the waterworks when caught by the principal.

Before joining PSG in 2021, Ramos left Madrid with 5 La Liga titles and 4 Champions League winner's medals.

#### **Number 3, Raul.**

When fans think of dominant strikers that scored copious amounts of goals, this man is unfairly overlooked.

Raúl González Blanco was born in Madrid but started off in the youth teams of La Cadiz and Atletico Madrid.

He played 16 seasons upfront, made 550 appearances and scored on 228 occasions.

Raul was a quiet and faithful servant to the club and seemingly ended up on the scoresheet as a default setting.

*El Capitan's* last touch of the ball in a Real Madrid shirt scored a goal.

#### **Number 2, Alfredo di Stefano.**

Born in Buenos Aries, the *Saeta rubia*, or "Blond Arrow" is the club's most recognized name.

He played for 11 seasons after leaving Argentina and scored 216 goals in 282 games - quite the ratio!

With Los Blancos, he won 8 La Liga titles and 5 European Cups as well as the Ballon d'Or twice.

Powerful, balanced, and decisive with the ball at his feet, di Stefano could play almost anywhere on the pitch, but loved running at bumbling defenders.

Despite the deep footballing and cultural divisions within Spain, he was loved by fans all over the country, which is quite a feat.

### **Number 1, Cristiano Ronaldo.**

Controversially, we are naming 'Penaldo' as the greatest player of all time to wear the famous white jersey of Real Madrid.

Football fans the world over knew it would only be a matter of time before he would make the move to Madrid.

And they were right, as Ronaldo would sign for Los Blancos in 2009 from Manchester United for a then record fee of €94 million.

His contract during this period contained a buyout clause of a mediocre €1 billion.

Quite a lot of money for a temperamental penalty taker.

Amazingly, Ronaldo would exceed expectations in Spain and score 311 goals in 292 games.

He would win a pair of league titles at the Bernabeu, and come away with 4 Champions League winners' medals.

Ronaldo won 4 Ballon d'Or trophies during his time in Madrid (5 overall) and likely made the club hundreds of millions in shirt sales.

So, there you go.

Did we leave anyone off the list?

Were you disappointed to not see Royston Drenthe, Eden Hazard or Jonathan Woodgate?

Let us know in the comments below and remember to subscribe to our channel.

Peace!

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