

**Lemaire, Christophe: Born: From: France**

From France and rode there successfully. From 2003 to 2012 he rode 24 G1 winners there alone, as well as nine in Britain, five in Japan, two in the U.S., one in the UAE and one in Australia - the Melbourne Cup. From 2009 to 2013, he occupied one of the most prestigious positions in world racing - as first jockey to the Aga Khan. But, when that contract was not renewed (His Highness reverted to the previous incumbent, Christophe Soumillon, at the end of 2013), Lemaire found his fortunes in free-fall.

Just when Lemaire needed a break, one came along. For the previous 13 years, he had ridden on a regular winter stint in Japan on a temporary three-month license. At the end of 2014, [he was offered a full-time license by the Japan Racing Association]. "It was a great opportunity and adventure to move to Japan, and experience another culture, for my family, with which my wife Barbara was in full agreement, especially as I had no real prospect of a contract with top owners in France."

Lemaire and his family quickly adapted to life in racing-mad Japan, and very soon he became a superstar there. He finished fourth in the JRA championship in 2015, second the following year, and has been champion every year since. And he has excelled in the biggest races. His Japanese G1 total stands at 35, eight of them in 2020.