



# PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN UMAG 12-21,7,2019.

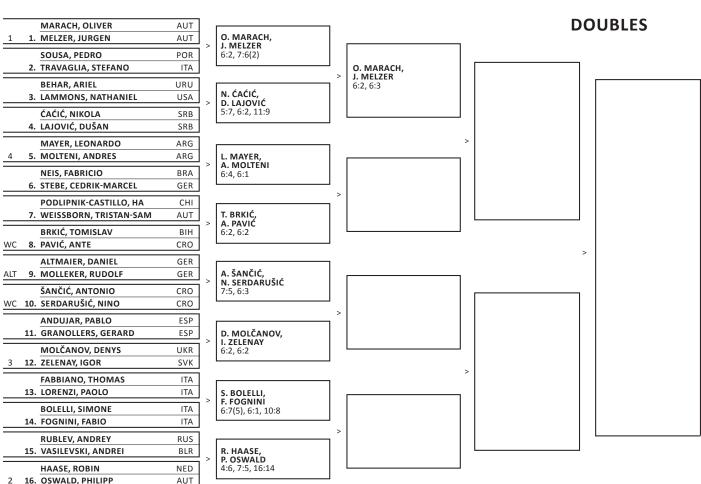
#ATPUMAG #30ATPUMAG OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ATP TOURNAMENT • No 5 • 18.07.2019.

**ORDER OF PLAY PARTY PROGRAMME** 9:00 **GORAN IVANISEVIC STADIUM TEREN 1 GRANDSTAND** Stars Open 17:30 16:00 Andrey Rublev (RUS) vs. Facundo Bagnis (ARG) vs. L. Mayer (ARG) / A. Molteni (ARG) vs. Nike Invitational Dusan Lajovic (SRB) Nino Serdarusic (CRO) T. Brkic (BIH) / A. Pavic (CRO) 16:30 not before 20:00 followed by Wheelchair Croatia Open S. Bolelli (ITA) / F. Fognini (ITA) vs. Salvatore Caruso (ITA) vs. Borna Coric (CRO) R.Haase (NED) / P.Oswald (AUT) 23:00 Salvatore Ganacci followed by Aljaz Bedene (SLO) vs. A. Sancic (CRO) / N. Serdarusic (CRO) vs. **ISTRIA GOURMET** Jannik Sinner (ITA) D. Molchanov (UKR) / I. Zelenay (SVK) **FESTIVAL & MUSIC** 21:00 Wine tastings: young Sauvignon Blanc

Tickets are available on the official website www.croatiaopen.hr. FREE ENTRY TO THE PARTY PROGRAM.









#### Lawrence Frankopan

The director's view

#### Goran Ivanišević



The legend's view

#### WE ARE SAD, BUT THAT'S TENNIS

We're understandably very sad and quite disappointed. But, most importantly, we hope Fabio is doing well, that he recovers and gets ready for Hamburg and the US Open. He told me what happened, and as he's a great sportsman, I know he tried as hard as he could.

tried to make an effort to play, but the good thing is that the tournament isn't based around one player. We have lots of very good players and we will move on. Borna will play his first match on Thursday, and we can expect a great encounter in another second-round match between Dusan Lajovic and Andrey Rublev. Croatian fans will now turn their heads towards Nino Serdarusic as well, after his excellent performance in the opening round. The draw is tough, and Argentinean Bagnis is surely not to be underestimated, but if the home crowd stands behind Nino, it might help him produce another great performance.

It's great that he came here, he

Again, this is a testimony to our organisation: we never put all our eggs in one basket. We still have so many great players, and we'll enjoy watching them. Many of them are in great form, improving their rankings, and that shows how good they are today. Surely, Fabio was a big favourite here, and it's obviously disappointing not only for us, but for him

as well. That's tennis.

There is another thing I would like to underline. We have both players and fans from many countries. This is very important for us and for the tournament, because this event has a very strong connection with tourism. This isn't the only year we have seen big support coming from Hungarian, Slovenian, Austrian, Czech, Slovakian and other fans. For example, Attila Balasz, a qualifier who saved seven match points against Viktor Galovic on Tuesday, must have felt like he was playing at home in Hungary today.

We have so many countries right next door, and it is understandable that many people come to spend their holidays here. Many of them love tennis, and having the opportunity to cheer for their favourite players from their home country is just perfect. It's great that loads of people are here, to show their support for players from their home countries. We feel that this is the Olympics of tennis.

# THANK YOU PATRICK FOR COMING

It took us a long time to wear Patrick down, to convince him to come, but he's finally here after six years. I would like to thank him for coming, but I would also like to thank him both in my own name and in the name of all Croats for the 2001 match. I very much wanted to organise this exhibition, because Patrick and I have been good friends since our playing days. He's a brilliant person, always ready to go the extra mile.

We've spent a lot of time together in the past 24 hours, we had some obligations together, and he's the same as he ever was. I told him, "Careful, this is my stadium," and he answered, "I've got my own in Brisbane, and just so you know, mine's bigger."

Many people have told me in the past few days that they remember the finals and that they watched it many times, especially the last set. I actually haven't, in fact I've watched other finals more, because when I watch my own I think I'm going to lose every time. Of course, I'm aware how much my triumph at Wimbledon meant, and not only to me. I'd like to thank everyone once more for their support, for the time when I was an active tennis player as well.

That victory at Wimbledon has come of age now, it's been a full 18 years. It isn't easy to lose in such a big final match, but hey, Patrick has two US Open titles of his own, so I'm sure he's fine. I have my Wimbledon and no one can ever take that from me.

I've already said it, but I'll say it again: this was the cherry on top. I waited for a match with Patrick Rafter for a long time – years – and I think it was a great thing to do. This was my last exhibition in Umag, my last match of this kind. I'd like to thank everyone for coming, I'm sure they enjoyed themselves watching a match between two players who surely aren't in as good a shape as they were when they were pros, but did their best to remind people of their greatest days.

Let's move on now to matches for points. On Thursday, we'll find out what Borna Coric can do, and I'm sure many can hardly wait to see him in action. He has a lot of good results, he's improved his game significantly since audiences last saw him in Umag, and it's no coincidence he's come here placed so high in the rankings.

Of course, we all know this isn't his limit. People will also be watching Nino Serdarusic carefully, because after such a good first match, it would be great if he did it again and won another.



GORAN IVANISEVIC PLAYS PATRICK RAFTER 18 YEARS LATER

# A BIG NIGHT FOR TENNIS LEGENDS

They played in the Wimbledon finals 18 years ago, but tonight they fulfilled all expectations at the Grandstand in Stella Maris! Goran Ivanisevic and Patrick Rafter showed in their exhibition match that the two tennis legends can still play, and even though Goran

warned that he might not match up to his opponent due to a leg injury, this wasn't the case.

It was a night where we could once again enjoy the tennis mastery of two players who have left a deep trace on the history of tennis, and the win went to the Croatian player





(6:4; 6:4), just like in the finals at the All England Club in 2001. Of course, the result wasn't the priority, but they played seriously, although often with smiles on their faces, as this was a match that was first and foremost intended to allow people to enjoy great tennis.

And there was plenty of that indeed – the audience had good reason to

applaud aces, great volleys, rallies from the baseline...

"It's his own fault for not coming a few days earlier instead of on Tuesday," Ivanisevic commented laconically on the outcome, alluding to Rafter's jet lag and his trip from Australia, which lasted 30 hours. At any case, it was another great night to remember in Umag!









#### **WINE TASTING**

# KABOLA WINERY HAS THE BEST MERLOT

After young Malvasia and aged Teran, the third evening of the Hidden Charms of Istrian Wines saw a tasting of Merlot. Merlot is an important international variety of grape and one of the most widely grown in the world, and it was interesting

to taste Merlot from Istria. Fiore Winery from Umag, Poleti Winery and Kabola Winery presented their wines, and as always, the Taste Istria zone was packed.

The victory in this fascinating, tight competition was taken by Kabola



Winery with its 2015 Merlot. On Sunday, the best wine of this year's ATP will be chosen, and the award will be delivered by Croatian President Kolinda Grabar Kitarovic.



**UMAG PARTY NIGHTS** 

#### POPULAR QUEEN REAL TRIBUTE BAND ROCKS DANCE ARENA



The timeless hits and dance moves of Freddie Mercury filled the Umag Dance Arena thanks to the members of the Queen Real Tribute Band.

Thrilled fans had the opportunity to enjoy the biggest hits of one of the most influential bands of all time. "The Show Must Go On", "We Will Rock You", "Bohemian Rhapsody", "I Want To Break Free" and "We Are The Champions" are just a few of

the mega-hits of legendary Queen that got the audience moving at the 30th anniversary edition of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag. Frontman Ivan Ristanovic and other band members won over the audience by replicating the repertoire, appearance and performance style of the real Queen. This is the biggest European Queen tribute band, and they have toured the world over throughout the past ten years.

**UMAG PARTY NIGHTS** 

## DANCE ARENA ENJOYED THE W&W

It was another hot night at the Dance Arena – the party is always on when W&W is in the house. We've seen that Umag loves this kind of programme in previous years, and the audience's roaring applause right at the start showed that they expect nothing but the best. Frequent guests at Croatian clubs and festivals, W&W didn't disappoint this time either, and the Party Programme's choice of the performer proved to be yet another hit. The programme began at 1AM and brought tons of fun to those present at the Dance Arena. Party Nights will continue tonight,

with Salvatore Ganacci bringing great vibes to the audience.





# INJURY STOPS FOGNINI RIGHT AT THE START

Already in the second round, the Croatia Open has been left without its top seed and ninth-placed tennis player in the world, after Italian Fabio Fognini forfeited due to injury. As one of the top four seeds, he was free during the first round, joining the action only in the eighth-finals. However he didn't last long: fellow Italian Stefano Travaglia was leading 6:1; 2:1 when Fognini decided enough was enough.

"Firstly, I'm sorry for the tournament. I was the top seed and I had to forfeit. On Sunday afternoon I began to notice a problem with swollen tendons, I don't know why. On Tuesday in the doubles match I couldn't move like I usually can, and today it simply wasn't working, it didn't make sense to risk it. I'm not happy about it, and I know the audience isn't either. It's a problem with both of my legs," said Fognini.

From the very start, the former ATP tournament winner (2016) couldn't stand up to Travaglia, who reached his highest career ranking at 100th place just a month ago. Fognini proved to be injured, so Travaglia will be moving on to the quarter-finals without much trouble. He will be met there by excellent Hungarian qualifier Attila Balazs, who will enjoy a helpful rest day before Friday. After saving seven match points against Viktor Galovic and winning in a tie-break

in the third set, he saw a similar scenario against sixth-seeded Filip Krajinovic. The Serbian player was serving for match point at 6:5 in the third set, but Balazs managed to come back and win the tie-break. Also in the upper half of the brackets, third-seeded Laslo Djere had an early break point in the third set (0:2), but managed to turn the tables with a run of five games. He will be playing against Argentinian Leonard Mayer in the quarter-finals.

In pairs competition, we must note a new success by Ante Pavic and Tomislav Brkic, a doubles duo from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, who handily beat Chilean Podlipnik-Castillo and Austrian Weissborn with 6:2; 6:2. On Sunday, they won at the ATP Challenger in Perugia and a tournament on the same level in Milan two weeks before, so Ante has come quite close to his highest career doubles ranking of 113th place from April of this year. He is currently ranked 121st, which means that he could see his highest ranking ever next Monday. Likewise, this would mean another Croat among the top 100 (there are currently four).

"In the past month, we've won two ATP Challengers, so we've come to Umag with eight wins in a row. Today was the best-played match of them all. Everything clicked, and I have to say that the seed worked



out for us. That made our job a bit easier, but we made the best of the opportunity," said Pavic.

At the end of the day, another two Croatian players entered the doubles quarter-final: Antonio Sancic and Nino Serdarusic took advantage of Filip Krajinovic's forfeit, scoring a valuable win against German alternates Altmaier and Molleker.

#### **OSCAR'S CORNER**

#### WE'VE TRAVELLED BACK IN TIME

The topic of the day was the exhibition match between two greats, brilliant Croat Goran Ivanisevic and Australian Patrick Rafter, who played once again 18 years after their legendary 2001 Wimbledon final.

This match ensured visitors an unforgettable spectacle, and the players succeeded in reminding the audience of unforgettable moments full of emotion, taking all of us back to the past.

On the Grandstand, two Italian representatives, Fabio Fognini and Stefano Travaglia, began an interesting match, however it soon became clear that it was a bad day



for Fognini, former tournament winner, who decided to abandon the match. Unfortunately, this means we've lost our top tournament seed, however we will have a chance to see Stefano move on to the first third ATP tournament round of his career.

writes: Oscar Visintin





## A WIDE SELECTION OF OFFICIAL

#### **SOUVENIRS**

If you're searching for the perfect gift, look no further: official Plava Laguna Croatia Open souvenirs are the ideal choice! The shop located right beside the Welcome Office offers a wide selection of men's, women's and kids' t-shirts, as well as caps with the official tournament logo.

Caps in several colours are a great idea when watching the matches, as well as after the tournament; the same goes for straw hats, which are also available. The entire assortment is made from the highest quality materials.

Aside from clothing items, you can also find many more interesting ideas at the official shop. For example, tennis balls in normal size, as well as extra-large ones perfect for collecting autographs. A large towel is a detail that will turn heads on the beach, and in case of bad weather, you can keep dry with an umbrella, also featuring the tournament logo.









KIDS WEEK:

#### KIDS WISH BEDENE A HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Slovenian tennis player Aljaz Bedene was happy to socialise with young tennis players as part of Kids' Week, which has been organising fun educational activities for kids for the third day in a row. A few dozen boys and girls happily greeted their idol on the court preparing him a pleasant surprise.

In his first match, Bedene played with boys

from Germany, and in his second he was joined by young player Jessica from Germany and the Lorkovic brothers. Aljaz then had to return to his training, but he couldn't leave without taking a few selfies with the little ones. As his birthday is on Thursday, he received lovely birthday wishes in advance.

The programme went on to target practice led by Stribor, after which Babolat distributed valuable prizes.

The first prize was won by eightyear-old Karolinka from the Czech Republic.

Kids' Week is held every workday during the 30th Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, and all kids interested in tennis can take part. Today (11:00) Goran Ivanisevic will take part.

#### WHAT THEY'VE SAID ABOUT US



This year, Croatia was once again the host of a sports event that has become a symbol of Umag, contributes to a growing tourism offer in Istria, and has great promotional importance for the whole country. The gathered global tennis elite and the many guests enjoyed the excellent matches and the varied additional offer, which is why this tennis tournament is a great example of how to give tourists an attractive reason to come here. We are proud partners of the tournament that gives its many participants and guests an opportunity to experience Croatia in an authentic way and leave with a desire to come again.

**Kristjan Staničić,** Minister of Tourism





30 YEARS



#### May, August, July

Croatia Open has been held in July for some time now, but it was not the case during the first couple of years. Inaugural event, as well as the next one in 1991, were conducted in May. Next five editions, from 1992 to 1996, were held in August and from 1997 Croatia Open is played exclusively during the month of July.

STARS OPEN BEGINS ON THURSDAY

#### **FAMOUS FACES WITH A TENNIS RACQUET**

This year, a grand total of seven tournaments will be held during the Plava Laguna Croatia Open in Umag. One of them is the Stars Open, which begins on Thursday.

"The idea was to create a recreational ambience that would add to the programme of this beautiful ATP tournament. I think it will be interesting thanks to many friends

and celebrities from all spheres of society who love to both watch and play tennis. This is a great place to hold this kind of tournament, and we hope it will become a tradition," said Silvio Maric, former Croatian national football team member and one of the founders of this competition. The drawing of pairs took place at

the Social Arena on Wednesday for

both categories (singles and doubles), and now everything is ready for the tournament to begin. Matches will be held on courts 6 and 7, "as long as there's daylight", as Maric said, and perhaps on some of the neighbouring courts if needed.



ITF WHEELCHAIR TENNIS CROATIA OPEN UMAG BY HEP

#### **EVERYTHING IS READY FOR THE PREMIERE**

Wheelchair tennis is one of the most developed, fastest-growing

sports in the world for people with disabilities, and during the next few

days, audiences in Umag will have the opportunity to see some of the best players in action. They will all participate in the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Croatia Open Tournament by HEP, the premiere edition of which begins this Thursday.

"It all began last year when I took part at a 'Sports Talk' round table, after which Arlen Brozic, director of the tournament's executive board, and our sponsor HEP suggested we hold this tournament," said Anto Joskic, the best Croatian wheelchair tennis player and a participant at the tournament. "The tournament counts for points towards the Paralympics, and it's my great desire to be the first Croat in wheelchair

tennis to qualify," he added. Ten players will participate, and the competition will be held on the Umag Academy courts during the first phase; the final phase will be at the Grandstand at Stella Maris. The Croatian Wheelchair Tennis Federation believe this kind of tournament, being a part of the ATP Tournament, is the perfect example of integrating people with disabilities into society as equal members.

UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF A CHEF FROM MICHELIN-RECOMMENDED BADI RESTAURANT

### ANDREY RUBLEV BECOMES A CHEF FOR A DAY

Russian tennis player Andrey Rublev had been busy today at Badi's stand at the Taste Istria zone. An experienced chef from Badi restaurant welcomed him there and put him to work in the restaurant kitchen, which is a proud bearer of a Michelin recommendation and member



of the prestigious Jeunes Restaurateurs association. The winner of the 2017 Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag used an Electrolux cooker to prepare a delicious fish dish consisting of shrimp, creamed peas with sprouts and caviar, and a few other secret ingredients.

Rublev had a free day on Wednesday after beating last year's semi-finalist Robin Haase at the start of the tournament with a score of 6:3; 6:2. He will go head-to-head with fourth-seeded Dusan Lajovic on Thursday.



# JANNIK AND BORNA DISCOVER A NEW DIMENSION OF TENNIS

Triglav Insurance has once again prepared a fun sporting challenge for all visitors this year at Stella Maris, at which tennis players have tried their hand too. Although they are professional tennis players, Jannik Sinner and Borna Devald tried out this new dimension

of tennis for the first time in Umag. With lots of laughs and a few dips in the sea, Jannik and Borna tried to master tennis on the water for a half hour, and had a great time doing so. This competition is open daily to all visitors of the Umag ATP tournament.

NIKE INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

#### THE FUTURE IS BEFORE THEM!

On Thursday and Friday, German Marc Majdanzic, Russian Maksim Zhukov, Argentinian Nicolas Eli and Croat Dino Prizmic will play matches at the Nike Invitational Tournament, a competition that brought together four talented players with potentially bright tennis futures. Nike, the official clothing and footwear sponsor for the Plava Laguna Croatia Open, has made it possible for the four to stay in Umag and train with the "big boys" like Australian veteran Patrick Rafter and a few other players participating in the main tournament. There's no doubt this experience will help them in their junior careers (and beyond). For the fifth year in a row, Nike is sponsoring the ATP tournament in Umag, which is the only tournament besides Doha to have its staff clothed by Nike.

#### ATP 250



# PLAVA LAGUNA 12.-21.7.2019.

**SINCE 1990** 



































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AP LIJOVIĆ BANKO CAM ČATIĆ GRADNJA DULY **DENO STOLARSKI OBRT DEMARCHI** D.D. ELEKTROAKUSTIKA EKO SERVIS MATIĆ ELMA ELEKTROMEHANIKA TERLEVIĆ GRADNJA UMAG INTERAUTO D.O.O. INGINSPEKT KAIROS KAPITEL LIGHT ON **MAGISTRION** METALUM OSOJNICA RI KLIMA **PROTECTION** SECURITAS HRVATSKA SERVIS OMEGA D.O.O. TEP METAL VALLIS ŽIKOVIĆ D.O.O.

























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SAMSUNG











# PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPENUMAG 12.-21.7.2019.

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