



PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN UMAG

12.-21.7.2019.

Daily News

#ATPUMAG #30ATPUMAG

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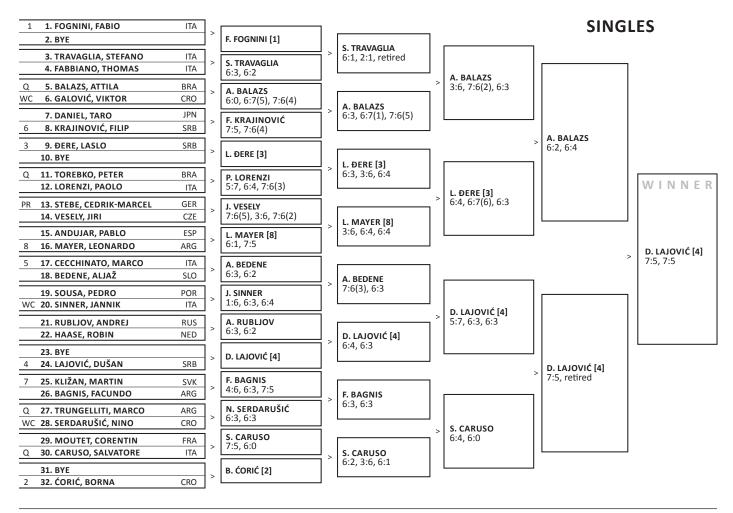


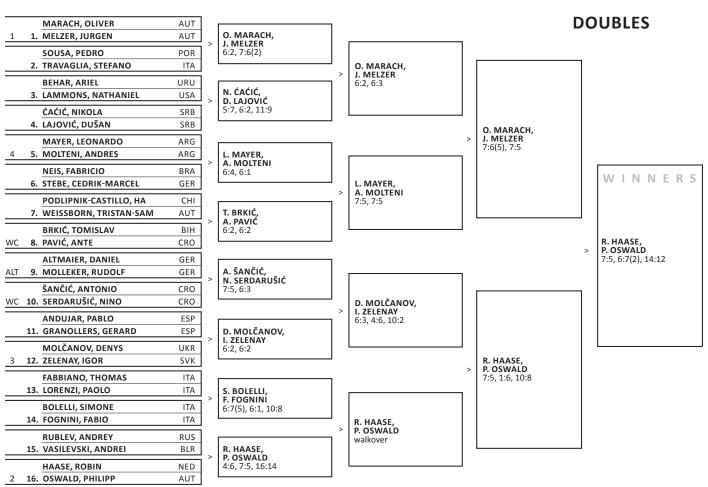
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Lawrence Frankopan

The director's view

Goran Ivanišević



The legend's view

THE FINALS WERE AMAZING, SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

It was an amazing final match, perhaps the best I've seen in Umag, at least in the four years I've been involved here. I was quite surprised at the level, how well Attila played, most importantly because he has played so many matches. He stayed consistent the whole time. Dusan got a bit lucky breaking back in the first set, but it was pretty awesome stuff, and the level was very, very high.

Now the 30th edition is behind us, and we will immediately start thinking about the next one. And I am serious about it. I'll give my team literally 24 hours, a bit of a holiday. They are all tired, an amazing job was done here. This is what we live for, and when we're rewarded with a final like this one, we're all extremely happy.

I am a big fan of Dusan's, he's a really great guy. I like him as a tennis player, but also because he is always pleasant. We're happy and very proud that he said we are one of the best 250 tournaments out there. I certainly believe it, and I ask-what's not to like here? Players like what they see here, they enjoy the whole experience, but we will try to be even better, and I can promise that. Preparations for next year are already underway, and it's going to be a complicated year for us. Our tournament will be held simultaneously to the Olympics and some other ATP tournaments, so we will have to put

in some extra effort. We're already excited about next year.

We are aware that we will have to be creative and aggressive, to come out and try to have an interesting field. It's complicated, but there is a way. We were in a similar situation four years ago, so we have experience and we know what we have to do. It will be a challenge.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all the fans who came to watch the matches on-site, as well as all tennis fans who followed our tournament. Every year, we try to make this tournament as fan-friendly as possible, and it seems we succeeded. So many people showed their appreciation, mentioning that our tournament has improved again. That's very important to us, knowing that we're moving in the right direction, and it gives us extra motivation to make it even better next year. So come visit us again and join us in enjoying this great sport!

IT WAS EXCITING AND INTERESTING

In the finals, we watched an exciting match between two players who, considering the way they played, most deserved to end up in the finals. Dusan Lajovic was my favourite, and he fulfilled my expectations in the end. It was dramatic, it was interesting, with plenty of reversals that always give that extra spice to matches, and so the audience got even more involved.

Balazs could have won the first set, but Lajovic took it, and in the second it looked like Lajovic would wrap it up quickly, but the Hungarian got back in the game.

It was a good tournament and a good ending. I like Lajovic as a player, and this year he's taken the step forward he was missing. I followed him before as well, I knew how he played, but he never entered the finals at an ATP tournament until this season. However, it was a big step forward when he reached the finals in Monte Carlo, not just in terms of a jump in his rankings, but for his confidence as well, because he saw he could reach very good results against the strongest of competition. He came to Umag prepared, in good shape, and he won the tournament. But the year isn't over yet, and now he has a good chance to improve his ranking. I'm happy for him because he's a great lad, he comes to Umag often and he really tries hard.

I'm satisfied with how the tournament went. There were plenty of good matches, and the fact that low-ranking players played the main roles doesn't change anything – their tennis was very good. Balazs and Caruso went a long way from the qualifications, and I expected more from Fabio Fognini, but not so much from Borna, because after a long break from playing and training, it's not easy to come back, and he had problems with his neck again before the match. All in all, the tournament was excellent, the crowds were great, I think it fulfilled expectations.

A new edition awaits us next year, and even though it will be during the Olympics, I think it won't be as big of a challenge or a problem as they're saying. Umag always finds its own players, its own story. Not everyone will be playing at the Olympics, although it's clear the best Croatian players won't be in Umag next year. Despite this, there are sure to be some interesting names and good players, and I'm optimistic. We've just celebrated our 30th anniversary, enjoyed an excellent tournament, and I think it'll be just as good next year.

PREVIOUS FINALS

1990.

Goran Prpić (CRO) Goran Ivanišević (CRO) 6:3, 4:6, 6:4

1991.

Dmitrij Poljakov (UKR) Javier Sanchez (ESP) 6:4, 6:4

1992.

Thomas Muster (AUT) Franco Davin (ARG) 6:1, 4:6, 6:4

1993.

Thomas Muster (AUT) Alberto Berasetegui (ESP) 7:5, 3:6, 6:3

1994.

Alberto Berasategui (ESP) Karol Kučer (SVK) 6:2, 6:4

1995.

Thomas Muster (AUT) Carlos Costa (ESP) 3:6, 7:6 (5), 6:4

1996

Carlos Moya (ESP) Felix Mantilla (ESP) 6:0, 7:6 (4)

1997

Felix Mantilla (ESP) Sergi Bruguera (ESP) 6:3, 7:5

1998.

Bogdan Ulihrach (CZE) Magnus Norman (SWE) 6:3, 7:6 (4)

1999.

Magnus Norman (SWE) Jeff Tarango (SAD) 6:2, 6:4

2000.

Marcelo Rios (CHI) Mariano Puerta (ARG) 7:6 (1), 4:6, 6:3

2001

Carlos Moya (ESP) Jerome Golmard (FRA) 6:4, 3:6, 7:5

2002.

Carlos Moya (ESP) David Ferrer (ESP) 6:2, 6:3

2003.

Carlos Moya (ESP) Filippo Volandri (ITA) 6:4, 3:6, 7:5



THE UMAG ATP TOURNAMENT HAS A NEW WINNER

LAJOVIC STOPS BALAZS TO WIN HIS FIRST CAREER TITLE

The Hungarian qualifier's run of wins was stopped in the finals of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open thanks to Serbian tennis player Dusan Lajovic. In the decisive battle for the title, the fourth seed won with 7:5; 7:5, winning both his first ATP title and becoming the first Serbian player to win in Umag. His previous best result was entering the finals in Monte Carlo in April of this year.

While he had strength, Balazs was a match for his much higher-ranked opponent, and was actually on the verge of winning the first set with a lead of 5:3. However, he never reached set point, and Lajovic turned the tables with a four game run.

Lajovic thus repeated the scenario from his semi-final match against Italian player Caruso, when he was also losing 3:5.

"I turned it around at the last moment, similar to the day before. At first, I didn't know how to deal with his game, but I knew he would stiffen up at 5:4 when he was serving for the set. My goal was to stay firm and not give him a single point. I started playing well after the first set," said Lajovic. "It's clear he wasn't in top form, because he began to shorten his points from the baseline and avoid long volleys. He made some completely illogical shots, but that's how it goes, when you start to fall apart

€90,390 goes to the winner

The tournament winner, aside from 250 points for the rankings, also won the grand cash prize, which amounted this year to €90,390. The finalist will have to settle for roughly half this amount – €48,870.

The total prize fund amounted to €586,140, which is a new record for the Plava Laguna Croatia Open.

physically, you fall apart mentally as well."

In the second leg, Lajovic made it to break point first and led 4:1, but the Hungarian briefly managed to come back and tie the set at 4:4. Serving to stay in the match, Balazs lost one more game, and that was the end. However, he will be leaving Umag satisfied with the result of his career. Just like Lajovic, who has won his first title.

"It will take some time to truly realise that I've won the tournament. When I won the last point, it didn't feel like it was over. I don't have







time to celebrate, recover and let the emotions settle, because I'm off to a tournament in Gstaad. I always enjoy playing in Umag. Plenty of 250 tournaments have trouble with finances, audience pull and organisation, but here you see none of that."

On Monday morning, Balazs will be

ranked around 140th in the singles rankings, which will be his highest career ranking. Despite his defeat in the finals, he will be leaving satisfied:

"I knew Dusan would play very well, that he would be motivated and fresher than me. It was tied, but he was better," stated Balazs. When asked how this result would change his goals, he added: "They've already changed. Now I can think about direct entry to the Australian Open, and for that I'll have to be among the top 100. As I don't have any points to defend until next year, I believe it might happen."

VIP TENNIS TOURNAMENT

SVIGIR AND KLOBUCAREVIC WIN

THE TITLE

The traditional VIP Tennis Tournament title, played on the courts of the Umag Tennis Academy, was taken by Mihovil Svigir (Jet Set and Playboy magazines) and Tomislav Klobucarevic (director of Messer Croatia). This is Svigir's second year in a row in first place at this competition.

They bested Marko Ljubicic and Bruno Iljkic in the final match.

Third place went to Mate Matic and Ivan Curkovic, while the fourth-place pair was Sinisa Djuranovic and Robert Kohorst.



2004.

Guillermo Canas (ARG) Filippo Volandri (ITA) 7:5, 6:3

2005.

Guillermo Coria (ARG) Carlos Moya (ESP) 6:2, 4:6, 6:2

2006.

Stanislas Wawrinka (SWI) Novak Đoković (SRB) 6:6 ret.

2007

Carlos Moya (ESP) Andrej Pavel (ROU) 6:4, 6:2

2008.

Fernando Verdasco (ESP) Igor Andrejev (RUS) 6:2, 7:6 (2)

2009

Nikolaj Davidenko (RUS) Juan Carlos Ferrero (ESP) 6:3, 6:0

2010.

Juan Carlos Ferrero (ESP) Potito Starace (ITA) 6:4, 6:4

2011.

Alexander Dolgopolov (UKR) Marin Čilić (CRO) 6:4, 3:6, 6:3

2012.

Marin Čilić (CRO) Marcel Granollers (ESP) 6:4, 6:2

2013.

Tommy Robredo (ESP) Fabio Fognini (ITA) 6:0, 6:3

2014.

Pablo Cuevas (URU) Tommy Robredo (ESP) 6:3, 6:4

2015.

Dominic Thiem (AUT) Joao Sousa (POR) 6:4, 6:1

2016

Fabio Fognini (ITA) Andrej Martin (SVK) 6:4, 6:1

2017.

Andrej Rubljov (RUS) Paolo Lorenzi (ITA) 6:4, 6:2

2018.

Marco Cecchinato (ITA) Guido Pella (ARG) 6:2, 7:6(4) TOURNAMENT SPONSORS: FRANCK

BARISTA CONTEST

Franck coffee was once again a key part of this year's Plava Laguna Croatia Open: every day at the press centre started with coffee, but the location at the Social Arena was especially popular. We don't need to mention how popular a brand Franck is in the region, but this time we had the opportunity to see another interesting event – the regional Franck Barista competition. Visitors to the tournament watched the contest with undisguised interest, and also had the opportunity to learn some well-kept professional coffee secrets.



PL LOUNGE

HAPPINESS COCKTAIL IS ALWAYS A GOOD CHOICE

You would have been hard-pressed to find a visitor at the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag who doesn't like a good cocktail, and fortunately the path to refreshment was a short one. Happiness Cocktail was always a good choice, especially when the temperatures began to rise. Have you tried it?





THE SUN IS NO PROBLEM!

Caps are an essential part of every outdoor tennis tournament, especially in the summer months, and the Umag tournament was no exception. Plava Laguna took care of everyone who forgot to bring their own by giving away lovely caps to visitors. It was a hit – not only were they fashionable, they served a purpose as well. Hats off to the idea! Water refreshment was provided by Kala.

SUP(ER) TENNIS ON WATER CHALLENGE

YOU CAN PLAY TENNIS ON WATER TOO

The unusual court for the SUP(er) Tennis Tournament drew great interest this year as well. Competitors played with racquets and balls like in ordinary tennis, but while standing on stand-up paddleboards instead of a stable surface. The sponsor of SUP(er) Tennis was insurance company Triglav, which also prepared special gifts for competitors. Professional tennis players also tried their hand a few times, and some of them were even fairly successful. But none of them managed to come close to this year's record, when two players kept the ball above the water for an unbelievable 498-hit volley.





TAKE OFF WITH EMIRATES!

Umag doesn't have an airport, but it does have stewardesses! Of course, this is thanks to Emirates Airlines, one of the best airlines in the world (and the best according to many), which was one of this year's gold sponsors of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag. Much to the audience's satisfaction, a thousand caps were given away at the entrances to the central stadium, ideal for the Umag sun.

NO SUCH THING AS TOO MANY KISSES!

Podravka, a gold sponsor of the tournament, was present in many organisational segments of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open. The Podravka point at the Taste Istria zone was well visited throughout the week, and the company from Koprivnica also sponsored the Kiss Cam. No such thing as too many kisses!







ATP VIP TRANSFER SERVICE 24H A DAY

Throughout the tournament, players and partners had constant access to VIP transfer service by official cars between their accommodation and the ATP zone, as well as between the airports and Umag upon arrival to and departure from the tournament.



LIFE IS BETTER WITH A FAN IN HAND

Visitors to the final match at Goran Ivanisevic Stadium were given fans on Sunday evening by the hostesses, which was another lovely gesture from the organiser. According to personal taste, guests had a choice between white, blue or black fans, any of which was more than welcome to keep the temperature under control. What a relief from the heat! Fans were given by tournament's gold sponsor, PBZ.





ISTRIA GOURMET FESTIVAL: BADI RESTAURANT

A PLACE TO ENJOY WORLD-CLASS CUISINE

One of the most visited places at the Taste Istria zone was, unsurprisingly, the Badi Restaurant point. The restaurant is one of the top names as far as concerns refined flavours and world-class food, and an obligatory destination for the hedonist at heart.

Badi Restaurant is the proud bearer of a Michelin recommendation and a member of the prestigious Jeunes Restaurateurs association. Their famous quality and professionalism have made Badi one of the 100 top restaurants in Croatia and won them recognition from foreign

organisations and online portals. In cooperation with Electrolux, they prepared numerous fish specialities for visitors, such as marinated rockfish tartare with mint, baby onion and red pepper, as well as others that guests couldn't help but enjoy. For those who want to repeat the experience after the tournament, the restaurant is located halfway between Umag and Novigrad, in Lovrečica.



WHAT THEY'VE SAID ABOUT US



ATP Croatia Open is surely an event that has, over its 30-year history, grown well and reached the level of globally-recognized, extremely well structured and organized sports events. The teams that initiated, organized and managed all the 29 previous editions can testify they had the vision and the required organizational courage and nerve. What sets ATP Umag apart is the fact that the event has a strong tourism and lifestyle dimension, and is one of the most important gatherings of both business and social elites. Congratulations to ATP Umag, wishing them another 30 editions.

Denis Ivosevic, director of the Istria Tourist Board



30 YEARS

Fifth final for player from Qualifying in 2019

When Attila Balazs reached the Umag finals, it marked the fifth occasion this season that player who started the tournament playing in the Qualifying event grabbed the spot in the final. It happened in New York (Brayden Schnur), Delray Beach (Daniel Evans), Budapest (Filip Krajinovic) and Estoril (Pablo Cuevas, who was lucky loser and not the qualifier). Neither of four mentioned player won the title.



WINE TASTING

PRESIDENT OF CROATIA DELIVERS AWARD FOR ATP WINE OF THE YEAR TO VERALDA WINERY FROM BRTONIGLA

The award for ATP wine of the year went to Veralda Winery from Brtonigla and their Teran rosé, as chosen by guests at the Hidden Charms of Istrian Wine.

At the ceremony for this prestigious award, the trophy was given by Croatian President Kolinda Grabar Kitarovic, who also congratulated Luciano Visintin, the owner of Veralda Winery, for this great recognition. "I would like to thank everyone who voted for this wine, I'm very excited to have won the award. I'm

especially satisfied because our winery won an award for a wine I discovered myself—Teran rosé. This is a truly great promotion for local wines," said Visintin, who has won the ATP wine of the year award once before in 2013 for his 2012 rosé. At the end of the awards ceremony, the president toasted with the event's host, sommelier Emil Perdec, president of the Croatian Sommelier Club Franko Lukež, and of course with the winner of this year's Hidden Charms of Istrian Wine.

"This tournament is yet another indicator that sport draws guests, and that modern tourists are looking for more than just sea and sun. I'm exceptionally pleased that the number of guests and hotel stays is increasing here in Umag thanks to this tournament, among other things," said President Grabar Kitarovic, who emphasised that Umag is a beautiful tourist destination. The Hidden Charms of Istrian Wine is an important event presenting the best local wines that has been held



for eight years in a row as a part of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag. This year, every day from Monday through Saturday, three wineries presented their creations. In the final round, aside from Veralda Winery's sparkling wine, the competition included Kozlović aged Malvasia, Tomaz young Malvasia, Cattunar Winery's Kappi aged Teran, Kabola Merlot, and Novacco Sauvignon Blanc.



Photography by Pixsell

The photographs you've had the opportunity to see in nine issues of the Daily News, as well as on www.croatiaopen. hr, are the work of Igor Kralj and Goran Stanzl, brilliant photojournalists from Pixsell agency, with the aid of outside tournament collaborators Neven Jurjak and Manuel Paljuh. This is one of them!

ATP 250



PLAVA LAGUNA 12.-21.7.2019.

SINCE 1990

































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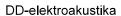




































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MEDIJSKI POKROVITELJI









SAMSUNG





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