PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN UMAG 12.-21.7.2019.



PARTY PROGRAMME

ORDER OF PLAY

GORAN IVANIŠEVIĆ STADIUM GRANDSTAND		COURT 1	COURT 2	11:00	
16:30 Marco Trungelliti (ARG) vs. Nino Serdarušić (CRO) Not before 19:00 Andrej Rubljov (RUS) vs. Robin Haase (NED) followed by Taro Daniel (JPN) vs. Filip Krajinović (SRB)	16:00 Martin Kližan (SVK) vs. Facundo Bagnis (ARG) followed by Attila Balázs (HUN) vs. Viktor Galović (CRO) followed by T. Fabbiano (ITA) / P. Lorenzi (ITA) vs. S. Bolelli (ITA) / F. Fognini (ITA) followed by Corentin Moutet (FRA) vs. Salvatore Caruso (ITA)	16:00 Peter Torebko (GER) vs. Paolo Lorenzi (ITA) followed by Pablo Andújar (ESP) vs. Leonardo Mayer (ARG) followed by O. Marach (AUT) / J. Melzer (AUT) vs. P. Sousa (POR) / S. Travaglia (ITA)	16:00 Stefano Travaglia (ITA) vs. Thomas Fabbiano (ITA) <i>followed by</i> A. Behar (URU) / N. Lammons (USA) vs. N. Ćaćić (SRB) D. Lajović (SRB)	Kids' Week 17:00-18:00 SUPer drive polygon 18:00-19:00 SUPer Mini Tennis ISTRIA GOURMET FESTIVAL Wine tasting – aged Teran UMAG PARTY NIGHTS Queen Tribute Band	

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



Daily News

1	1. FOGNINI, FABIO 2. BYE	ITA	>	F. FOGNINI [1]]		MAIN DRAW
	3. TRAVAGLIA, STEFANO 4. FABBIANO, THOMAS	ITA ITA	>		>		SINGLES
Q WC	5. BALAZS, ATTILA 6. GALOVIĆ, VIKTOR	BRA CRO	>		ĺ	>	
6	7. DANIEL, TARO 8. KRAJINOVIĆ, FILIP	JPN SRB	>] >		
3	9. ĐERE, LASLO 10. BYE	SRB	>	L. ĐERE [3]		, ,	
	11. TOREBKO, PETER 12. LORENZI, PAOLO	BRA ITA	>] >		
	13. STEBE, CEDRIK-MARCEL 14. VESELY, JIRI	GER CZE	>	J. VESELY 7:6(5), 3:6, 7:6(2)]		
-	15. ANDUJAR, PABLO 16. MAYER, LEONARDO	ESP ARG	>]		>
-	17. CECCHINATO, MARCO 18. BEDENE, ALJAŽ	ITA SLO	>	A. BEDENE 6:3, 6:2]	,	
	19. SOUSA, PEDRO 20. SINNER, JANNIK	POR ITA	>	J. SINNER 1:6, 6:3, 6:4			
	21. RUBLJOV, ANDREJ 22. HAASE, ROBIN	RUS NED	>],	,	
	23. BYE 24. LAJOVIĆ, DUŠAN	SRB	>	D. LAJOVIĆ [4]			
	25. KLIŽAN, MARTIN 26. BAGNIS, FACUNDO	SVK ARG	>		 >		
	27. TRUNGELLITI, MARCO 28. SERDARUŠIĆ, NINO	ARG CRO	>				
	29. MOUTET, CORENTIN 30. CARUSO, SALVATORE	FRA ITA	>]		
	31. BYE 32. ĆORIĆ, BORNA	CRO	>	B. ĆORIĆ [2]			

	ITA
2. RAZBORŠEK, NIK	SLO
3. ZEKIĆ, MILJAN	SRB
4. ROBREDO, TOMMY	ESP
5. MOLLEKER, RUDOLF	GER
6. ORNAGO, FABRIZIO	ITA
7. KALENDER, ADMIR	CRO
8. BALAZS, ATTILA	HUN
9. BALDI, FILIPPO	ITA
10. TOREBKO, PETER	GER
11. ALTMAIER, DANIEL	GER
12. BERLOCQ, CARLOS	ARG
13. TRUNGELLITI, MARCO	ARG
14. ŽURBIN, ALEKSANDR	RUS
15. BARRANCO COSANO, JAVIER	ESP
16. NAPOLITANO, STEFANO	ITA
	4. ROBREDO, TOMMY 5. MOLLEKER, RUDOLF 6. ORNAGO, FABRIZIO 7. KALENDER, ADMIR 8. BALAZS, ATTILA 9. BALDI, FILIPPO 10. TOREBKO, PETER 11. ALTMAIER, DANIEL 12. BERLOCQ, CARLOS 13. TRUNGELLITI, MARCO 14. ŽURBIN, ALEKSANDR 15. BARRANCO COSANO, JAVIER

] >	S. CARUSO [1]	1		QUA
	S. CARUSO [1] 6:3, 6:2		S. CARUSO [1]	SIN
>	T. ROBREDO [5] 6:2, 6:3		5:7, 6:4, 6:3	
}	R. MOLLEKER [2] 6:7(3), 7:5, 6:2]	A. BALAZS [8]	
>	A. BALAZS [8] 6:0, 6:3]	6:2, 6:4	
>	P. TOREBKO 7:6(4), 6:3]	Р. ТОПЕВКО	
>	D. ALTMAIER 6:2, 6:4]	6:3, 7:5	
}	M. TRUNGELLITI [4] 7:5, 7:5] >	M. TRUNGELLITI [4]	1
>	S. NAPOLITANO 7:6(1), 3:6, 6:2]	6:7(4), 6:2, 6:3	
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4				4.



GLES





Lawrence Frankopan

The director's view

WE'VE SEEN HOW UNPREDICTABLE TENNIS CAN BE

We lost the defending champion in the first round, but that's tennis. It's unpredictable, and that makes things more exciting. We saw in the Wimbledon finals that anything can happen. Two championship points were not enough.

Surely, we are sad, because Marco Cecchinato is one of the nicest guys in the Tour. But it was a good thing for Slovenian fans and for the region. And we mustn't forget, Aljaz played very, very well, and he might be playing well the entire week. We know something about tennis, and we kind of understand what happened here.

After the draw, comments that Cecchinato might have big problems were no coincidence, despite his being the defending champ and a great player. This proved to be a good assessment.

Aljaz has been on the Tour for some time now, he knows the Tour inside out, there is nothing he can't do, and he's had some great victories over the years. Looking at the draw, there are great players throughout. This is a very strong draw and it is quite exciting.

Tomorrow is a new day, the remaining matches in the first round will be played, and we can expect many more great moves and big surprises. Croatian players will be starting, who found out their opponents on Monday when players were placed in the brackets after the qualifiers.

This is great a opportunity for both. This is the only big tennis tournament in Croatia and is the best opportunity for them to show what they can do. We're glad to have given them the wild cards, and we feel strongly that they deserved it. We hope they'll do something special.

Both are good players, we had solid reasons for showing them our trust. Nino got the chance last year and he played a very good match. When he got his first wild card for the tournament, he didn't win a set, but last year he showed that he could play against a player in the top fifty, and he wasn't far from victory. Viktor, on the other hand, has plenty of experience with ATP Challenger, he has played plenty of matches against players ranked like his opponent on Tuesday, Attila Balazs, so that will surely help him.

Goran Ivanišević



The legend's view

UMAG IS SO HIGHLY REGARDED

In my tennis career, I have visited every continent, played at nearly all the tournaments, at some multiple times or at least once, and I can say that I've seen a great deal from a perspective that audiences don't see. Television can't portray this, and only a few reports offer insight into what happens "behind the scenes". But it is only players who can tell you about what they actually experience at tournaments.

And how does Umag stand? I'm not saying this because it's a Croatian tournament, nor because we're here now, but it's truly a great event for the players, and it's no surprise everyone holds it in such high regard. It's no coincidence either, because you can't trick players into saying one thing if they think another. If they're unsatisfied, there's no escape, and if they're satisfied, you don't have to convince them. They'll say it out loud. I don't know if anyone has ever said anything bad at a press conference in Umag. I suppose they don't have a reason to, because this isn't a tournament like all the others. The matches don't start early, you have a chance to sleep in and still train well or play a match in the evening. The transfer service is perfect: if you say you need a car at a particular time, a driver will be waiting. The food is exceptional and free of charge, and many don't know that isn't the case at all tournaments.

It might look like a little thing, but it isn't. This shows that the tournament takes care of its players, and they won't forget that. It's rare for players to have this kind of treatment at an ATP 250 tournament. The Croatia Open has won plenty of awards, and no one is giving them away for free. Every year the organization team tries to do something different, to offer something it hasn't before. In the rest area for players, there's a board with various activities players can sign up for if they like, the tournament also has some promotional activities they can participate in, so there's quite a lot of choice and it creates a great picture of the tournament. Maybe it has even spoiled players in some way, because we're all human, and the more you give the more they want, but it still leaves a great impression. The sea is literally a few metres from the stadium, the accommodation is fantastic, the atmosphere is exceptional. Players recognise that and praise the tournament. It's not easy to reach that status, you need years and years of investment and even more effort and good will, but it all pays off in the end.

Daily News

BORNA CORIC RECOVERS FROM INJURY

UMAG IS MY FAVOURITE TOURNAMENT

After two years, Borna Coric is back in Umag, and he will be playing a new match after four years. The year before last, he was supposed to be one of the main favourites for the title, but he cancelled just beforehand due to a neck injury. His last appearance at Stella Maris was back in 2015.

"I'm happy to be here again. This is my favourite tournament, I had my first ATP win in Umag and I feel at home here," he said at the press conference.

This season, he will begin the competition as the 14th player in the world, which is his highest ranking since his first appearance in Umag. His participation had been in question as he cancelled his appearance at Wimbledon due to injury, but he has been training for a few days in Umag and he feels well.

"Everything is alright now. I rested for 18 days, and for the past three or four days I've been gradually increasing my training load. I'll be playing a sparring match at full intensity on Tuesday, but I expect everything to be fine," said Borna. He had suffered a stomach muscle injury which had supposedly prevented him from playing entirely, and as this was a core muscle, it made the injury even more uncomfortable. Borna's first appearance against an as-of-yet unknown opponent will most likely be on Thursday evening. As one of the top four seeds, he will have the privilege of being free during the first round, so he will see action only in the eighth-finals. His opponent will be either Frenchman Corentin Moutet or Italian Salvatore Caruso, and he says he will try to collect as much information as possible.

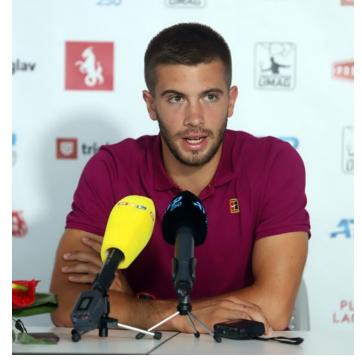
"Moutet has a good season behind him, and I know he plays fairly well on clay. However, I haven't watched him much, so if I manage, I'll go watch his match. If not, I'll send my coach to see what I'll have to look out for."

He's not worried about what might come afterwards:

"I don't look much forward when matches are concerned. If I happen to find something out, fine, if not, I'll think about it when it becomes pressing. I've made that mistake a few times, so now I'm only intere**sted in what's right in front of me."** Of course, Borna made sure to watch the Wimbledon finals on Sunday, and he was full of praise for both players.

"It was what you'd expect from

Novak Djokovic, but it's fascinating how Federer plays at 38. On the one hand, that kind of tennis is inspiring to us all, but it's depressing on the other because we aren't on that level," says Borna.



AS OF THIS WEEK, ITALIAN FABIO FOGNINI IS THE NINTH-RANKED PLAYER IN THE WORLD THE TOUGH PART IS STILL BEFORE ME

The top seed in this year's Croatia Open, Italian Fabio Fognini, restored his best-ever placement in the

ATP singles rankings in his career. After Wimbledon, he climbed from 10th to 9th place, and he will begin



his appearance at the tournament he won in 2016 at this ranking.

"I'm happy, of course. I didn't play my best tennis during the first three months, and then, at the first big event in Europe, I had the chance to win a big tournament. I did it in Monte Carlo, and then the expectations and goals changed for me. Now I'm in 9th place, but at the same time I know that a tough second half of the season is ahead of me. It will be a great challenge, as there is currently no big gap between 8th and 15th place. Young players are coming up, Medvedev, Khachanov, Bautista Agut, Coric... and all have the same goal," said Fognini.

Now that you're among the top ten, what's your next goal?

"My goal is to stay in the top 10. I know it's going to be tough to stay there. So many players are playing well. First of all, I have to

stay healthy."

Italian tennis has a brilliant tradition, but in recent months, you've managed some things that no Italian has done in the past thirty years. How does that make you feel? "It's a special feeling for sure. It's a good achievement. There are only eight players in the world better than me."

And what do you expect in Umag? Goran Ivanisevic said a Fognini-Coric final would be a dream come true for the tournament.

"I always enjoy playing here. I also always play well here, it's a really nice tournament.

What can I say? It certainly would be really big for me, but I have to be honest. I stopped after Wimbledon and started practising in the middle of last week. So I need some time to get into my best form, and that's why it's going to be tough," said Fognini.

THE MAIN PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN TOURNAMENT BEGINS

BRILLIANT BEDENE DETHRONES DEFENDING CHAMP



Last year, Italian Marco Cecchinato won the title, but this year he didn't even make it past the first hurdle. To stop him was Slovenian Aljaz Bedene, who played a brilliant match and went on to the eighth-finals with a result of 6:3, 6:2. He continued his excellent tradition in his matches against Cecchinato, against whom he has won three times out of three at ATP tournaments. When you add another four victories in just as many ATP Challenger matches, it becomes clear the Slovenian's game has something that doesn't suit the skilled Italian. Another thing: in all seven matches, Bedene won without losing a set!

"This is definitely a great victory. Umag is a home tournament for me, even though it's not in Slovenia, because we don't have this level of competition in Slovenia, and Slovenian fans are happy to come here. I tried to make some great moments for them and I managed to do so. I showed I can play good tennis, and I couldn't have wished for a better start to the tournament," said Bedene.

Since first coming to Umag in 2011, Bedene hasn't missed a season at the Croatia Open. With the way he was playing on Monday, it's quite possible he might reach or even exceed his best result so far, when he reached the quarter-finals in 2013. In other first round matches, young, talented Italian player Jannik Sinner overcame Joao Sousa from Portugal (1:6, 6:3, 6:4), meaning he will be Bedene's next opponent. Czech Jiri Vesely broke opponent Cedric-Marcel Stebe after three hours and five minutes (7:6, 3:6, 7:6), even though he had the opportunity to finish the job earlier when he led the third set 5:1.

Qualifying rounds also ended on Monday, and the most interesting and most dramatic match was between Spaniard Tommy Robredo and Italian Salvatore Caruso. Caruso took the match (5:7, 6:4, 6:3), which was full of ups and downs on both sides. For example, in the second set, Caruso had two chances to lead at 5:0, after which Robredo turned the tables with three break points at 4:5. The Spanish player's loss means four former champions will not be competing in the main tournament: Robredo won the title at Stella Maris in 2013.

The programme will continue on Tuesday with the addition of two Croatian players, who have learned the names of their opponents. Viktor Galovic will be playing against Hungarian Attila Balazs, and Nino Serdarusic against Argentinian Marco Trungelitti.

A STUNNING 20-HIT VOLLEY FOR HORVAT AND MOUTET AT SUP(ER) TENNIS

Tennis players Roko Horvat and Corentin Moutet showed you can also play tennis on water. The Croat and the Frenchman tried to keep their balance for a good half hour on stand-up paddleboards, and had a great time doing so.

With the support of fans, Horvat and Moutet managed a volley with 20 consecutive hits. But this wasn't enough to beat last year's tournament record, which is held by the Slovenes. They managed to keep the ball above the water for an amazing 242 consecutive hits. This tradition opened the SUP(er) Tennis Tournament as a part of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, which is played with classic tennis balls and racquets, while the players are standing on stand-up paddleboards instead of on a solid surface. The sponsor of SUP(er) Tennis is Slovenian insurance company Triglav, which also prepared gifts for these brave tennis players.



OSCAR'S CORNER

VESELY THROUGH AFTER BIG BATTLE

German Cedrik-Marceel Stebe and Jiri Vesely from the Czech Republic played the first match of the 30th Plava Laguna Croatia Open. It was Vesely who prevailed after more than three hours and great match played on the Grandstand, by winning 7:6, 3:6, 7:6. So it will be Vesely who will continue his campaign in the round of 16. On the centre court I would underline the match between the defending champion Marco Cecchinato and Aljaz Bedene, who comes to Umag every year. Italian Cecchinato wasn't able to proceed to the next round, as Bedene won by 6:3, 6:2, proving once again



how great player he is. He might win some more matches in the upcoming rounds.

writes: Oscar Visintin



WINE TASTING

YOUNG MALVASIA FROM TOMAZ WINERY IS THE FIRST WINE TASTING FINALIST

The 30th anniversary edition of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag continued with its tradition of wine tastings under the name "The Hidden Charms of Istrian Wines". The first evening featured young Malvasia, presented by Frankovic, Benvenuti and Tomaz wineries.

Mario Frankovic from Frankovic Winery participated at the tournament tasting for the first time. "Although we're a relatively young winery, we've grown gradually, and our vineyards currently cover 12 hectares, mostly at the Santa Lucia locality. Half of this area is Malvasia," said Frankovic. Aside from tasting world-class wines, visitors had the opportunity to hear some interesting facts from famous sommelier Emil Perdec. "Delicious, young Malvasia is a true winner for every winemaker. It's exceptionally refreshing and pairs wonderfully with Mediterranean cuisine," noted Perdec.

At the end of the tasting, all three wines were rated by the audience, with the most points going to the young Malvasia from Motovun winery Tomaz, who thus entered the final ATP Wine selection for 2019. "We often describe Malvasia



as our princess, the most elegant and the most beautiful," concluded Claudio Tomaz, last year's laureate of the Hidden Charms of Istrian Wine. Tomorrow will see a tasting of aged Teran at 9PM in the Taste Istria zone. The ATP Wine of the Year will be announced on the last day of the tournament, as chosen by audiences, and the award will be delivered by the president of Croatia.



The ITF Wheelchair Tennis Croatia Open Umag by HEP is one of more than 150 tournaments in the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Tour series, which will be held for the first time this year as a part of the Umag ATP tournament from 18 to 21 July. Sixteen players from six countries (Croatia, Italy, Hungary, Israel, Austria and Greece) will be competing. The initiative for this tournament came from Croatian electric company HEP and Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag executive board director Arlen Brozic. As a part of the 'Aces for Charity' fundraiser, it was decided that funds would be donated to the Croatian Wheelchair Tennis Federation.

The Croatian Wheelchair Tennis Federation believe this kind of tournament, being a part of the ATP Tournament, is the perfect example of integra-

THE FIRST WHEELCHAIR TENNIS CROATIA OPEN UMAG THE FIRST WHEELCHAIR TENNIS TOURNAMENT IN UMAG

ting people with disabilities into society as equal members. This kind of tournament also contributes highly to the visibility and popularisation of wheelchair tennis in Croatia, and it is hoped to inspire as many people with disabilities as possible – especially youth – to become active in sport.

"I'm very pleased and honoured to have the opportunity to play at this kind of tournament. I've been following the ATP Tournament in Umag since I was young, and I honestly never dreamed that I would be playing here and sharing the dressing room with tennis greats like Coric, Fognini and

others. I'm hoping for the best result possible as the tournament counts for points towards the Paralympic Games, and it's my dream and my goal to be the first Croatian



wheelchair tennis player to compete at the Paralympic Games," said Anto Joskić.

Wheelchair tennis is one of the most developed, fastest-growing sports for people with disabilities in the world. It features the same rules as tennis for people without physical disabilities, except for one difference: the ball can bounce twice. We are hoping for good results for our Croatian players, especially our best wheelchair tennis player Anto Joskić and experienced player Dražen Mikšić. The tournament favourites are reigning champion Josef Riegler from Austria and secondand third-place holders Guy Sasson from Israel and Giorgos Lazaridis from Greece.

"Thanks to the ATP tournament in Umag and to HEP, who decided to support us by sponsoring this tournament which is extremely important to us. It allows Croatian wheelchair tennis players to compete at a tournament in Croatia, to gain valuable experience, and to win points towards international rankings," said Ivan Karačić, president of the Croatian Wheelchair Tennis Federation.



As a part of the "Aces for Charity" fundraiser, sponsored by HEP, 80 kuna will be donated for each ace during the tournament. Last year, 343 aces were turned into 27,440 kuna, which were donated to the ITF Wheelchair Tennis tournament, which will be played this week in Umag.



KIDS WEEK:

SERDARUSIC THRILLS YOUNG TENNIS PLAYERS

The guest of the first event this week at the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag Kids' Week was Croatian tennis player Nino Serdarusic, whose appearance thrilled the young tennis players in attendance.

Serdarusic exchanged a few volleys with them at the court next to the Grandstand and taught them the secrets to professional tennis. After playing, they took a picture together, and Serdarusic also signed a few autographs. After a good warm-up, there was a contest in hitting a target drawn on the court with valuable prizes from Babolat. Young tennis hopefuls from all over Europe showed off their great skills, and the audience awarded them with a thunderous round of applause.

More than 50 young tennis players will be participating in Kids' Week every day, and their number is constantly growing.



WHAT THEY'VE SAID ABOUT US



Dear friends of tennis,

Our favorite sports event is celebrating its 30th edition this year. To us, the event is more than tennis. It is a part of tradition of Umag as a city of sports, but also a city that pioneers trends, raising the bar in excellence and quality in all its segments. The tournament in Umag is a blend of sports, gastronomy and entertainment. Also, it is one of the longest enduring sports events in Croatia that have made a crucial contribution to the international affirmation of Umag and the whole of Croatia as a tourism and sports destination. Over the years, the tournament has grown and become a leader in changing trends and a model for other tournaments. In the tournament's 30th edition, our guests will once again enjoy not only sports, but the wonders of Istria, our gastronomy and the exemplary service we have prepared. I would like to thank all the partners that have supported us so far, and invite you to be with us for the tournament's 30th edition ...

Neven Staver, President of the Organizing Committee and Board Chairman

30 years



Seven "Number Ones" in Umag

Among all the competitors in Umag there were seven who reached the top spot in the ATP Singles Rankings at some point of their careers. Serbian Novak Djokovic, currently ranked as Nr. 1, is among them. This elite list consists of Spaniard Rafael Nadal (played in Umag once), Novak Djokovic (4 occasions), Spaniard Juan Carlos Ferrero (6), Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten (3), Spaniard Carlos Moyá (14), Chilean Marcelo Rios (2) and Austrian Thomas Muster (3).



