



# Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag Umag, Croatia 21 July — 27 July 2024 | EURO 579,320 | Clay



**Main Draw Singles** 

1		1	RUBLEV, Andrey		A. Rublev 1									
2			Вуе				7							
3			UGO CARABELLI, Cami	ilo ARG					1					
4	w	IC .	MIKRUT, Luka	CRO										
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5			SHEVCHENKO, Alexand				٦							
6			MAROZSAN, Fabian	HUN										
7			MONTEIRO, Thiago	BRA										
8		7	MACHAC, Tomas	CZE									1	
9		4	CERUNDOLO, Franciso	co ARG	F. Cerundolo 4		7							
10			Вуе						1					
11	Q		COUACAUD, Enzo	FRA										
12	w	C	DODIG, Matej	CRO										
13	w	C	POLJICAK, Mili	CRO			_							
14			SONEGO, Lorenzo	ITA										
15			MULLER, Alexandre	FRA					_					
16		8	ARNALDI, Matteo	ITA										
17		5	DARDERI, Luciano	ITA										
18	SI	E	AJDUKOVIC, Duje	CRO			1							
19			MENSIK, Jakub	CZE										
20			POPYRIN, Alexei	AUS										
21			VAN ASSCHE, Luca	FRA							Ţ			
22			FOGNINI, Fabio	ITA			7							
23			Вуе		H. Rune 3				]					
24		3	RUNE, Holger	DEN										
25		6	NAVONE, Mariano	ARG									J	
26			COBOLLI, Flavio	ITA			7							
27	0		MISOLIC, Filip	AUT					1					
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32		2	MUSETTI, Lorenzo	ITA										
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€6	6,215	5	Round of 32	0 pt	Round of 16 € 10,165		Quarte € 17,510		Sel € 30,220	mifinals 100 pt	<b>Final</b> € 51,400	165 pt	Winner € 88,125	250 pt
			aantanco	•		•	I		•	Withdrawals	1		I	
Alexa	andı	re Mulle	r, 102	Seeded Players	Ranl		Alternates	Lucky Lose	3	winniawals		Redi	rements/W.O.	
Gerr	ATP Supervisor 1 Rublev, Andrey Gerry Armstrong 2 Musetti, Loren			120 <b>16</b>										
Rele	ase			3 Rune, Holger 4 Cerundolo, Fr	17 ancisco 33									
				5 Darderi, Lucia 6 Navone, Maria	no 35	1								
	7 Machac, Tom			as 38										
	8 Arnaldi, Matte				u <b>39</b>	1								





#### Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag

Umag, Croatia

21 July — 27 July 2024 | EURO 579,320 | Clay



#### ORDER OF PLAY - SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2024

	GORAN IVANISEVIC STADION	STUDENAC ARENA	COURT 1
	Starts At 4:30 PM	Starts At 4:30 PM	Starts At 5:00 PM
1.	QUALIFYING FINAL [Alt] Guido <b>ANDREOZZI</b> (ARG) VS [5] Chun-Hsin <b>TSENG</b> (TPE)	QUALIFYING FINAL [3] Marco <b>TRUNGELLITI</b> (ARG) VS [7] Henrique <b>ROCHA</b> (POR)	QUALIFYING FINAL Renzo <b>OLIVO</b> (ARG) VS Enzo <b>COUACAUD</b> (FRA)
	Not Before 6:30 PM	Not Before 6:00 PM	Followed By
2.	Alexandre <b>MULLER</b> (FRA) VS [8] Matteo <b>ARNALDI</b> (ITA)	[3] Nicolas <b>BARRIENTOS</b> (COL) Francisco <b>CABRAL</b> (POR) Vs Roman <b>JEBAVY</b> (CZE) Tomas <b>MACHAC</b> (CZE)	QUALIFYING FINAL Filip <b>MISOLIC</b> (AUT) VS David <b>JORDA SANCHIS</b> (ESP)
	Not Before 9:00 PM	Followed By	
3.	Camilo <b>UGO CARABELLI</b> (ARG) VS [WC] Luka <b>MIKRUT</b> (CRO)		
Т	Durnament Director:	ANY MATCH ON ANY COURT MAY BE MOVED FFICIALLY CALLED FROM THE PLAYERS' LOUI	ATP Supervisor(s):

07/20/2024 9:49:33 PM

Tomislav Poljak

Released:

MATCHES WILL BE OFFICIALLY CALLED FROM THE PLAYERS' LOUNGE & LOCKER-ROOM

Doubles Alternate Sign-in Deadline: 5:30 PM

Gerry Armstrong

Referee(s):

Mila Mandl

Tour Manager:

Diego Pedraza Novak



# Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag Umag, Croatia 21 July — 27 July 2024 | EURO 579,320 | Clay



#### **Qualifying Singles**

1		1	KOVALIK, Jozef SVK	F. Misolic	
2			MISOLIC, Filip AUT	64 67 <sup>6</sup> 63	
3			JORDA SANCHIS, David ESF	D. Jorda Sanchis	
4		7	HARDT, Nick DOM	76 <sup>3</sup> 57 76 <sup>5</sup>	
5	Alt		SERDARUSIC, Nino CRO	G. Andreozzi	
6	Alt		ANDREOZZI, Guido ARC	64 64	
7	WC		ZMAK, Deni CRG	C. Tseng 4	
8		4	TSENG, Chun-Hsin TPE	62 64	
9		2	TRUNGELLITI, Marco ARC	M. Trungelliti 2	
10	wc		PECOTIC, Matija CRO	63 63	
11		8	PIROS, Zsombor HUN	H. Rocha 6	
12		6	ROCHA, Henrique POF	61 76 <sup>4</sup>	
13		3	ROCA BATALLA, Oriol ESF	R. Olivo	
14			OLIVO, Renzo ARC	63 57 61	
15			COUACAUD, Enzo FRA	E. Couacaud	
16		5	FARIA, Jaime POF	60 46 62	
L					

Qual	ifying Round 1		Qualifying Round	2	Qualifier		
€ 1,695		0 pt €	3,105	7 pt € 0	13 pt		
Last direct acceptance	Seeded Players		Alternates/Lucky Losers	Withdrawals	Retirements/W.O.		
Olivo, Renzo 329 ATP Supervisor	Player 1 Kovalik, Jozef	Rank <b>102</b>	N. Serdarusic (Alt) G. Andreozzi (Alt)				
Gerry Armstrong Released 07/20/2024 21:49:31	<ol> <li>Trungeliti, Marco</li> <li>Roca Batalla, Oriol</li> <li>Tseng, Chun-Hsin</li> <li>Faria, Jaime</li> <li>Rocha, Henrique</li> <li>Hardt, Nick</li> <li>Piros, Zsombor</li> </ol>	151 154 155 170 182 191 196					





#### "Dear tennis fans,

On behalf of the Management Board of the Tournament, we welcome you to the 34th Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag. We hope you enjoy the tournament just as much as we have enjoyed preparing it. Apart from the well-known tennis stars who we will introduce in the following pages, we are also proud to once again host so many young Croatian tennis hopefuls here in Umag, and it brings us great joy to ensure that they have a platform to promote themselves, as well as a chance to play against some of the world's greats. Alongside the sports programme, we have also made sure to organise entertainment that both the local audiences and the guests from abroad staying in Umag and its surroundings will love. We are proud to announce our renewed cooperation with excellent Istrian wineries, who are offering indigenous Istrian wines, and we are providing top-quality delicacies in the gourmet zone. We hope you have an unforgettable experience and lots of fun in the following ten days. Be in the stands on the Goran Invanišević Stadium cheering on your favourites, taste the best of Istria in the Taste Istria Zone, and dance your heart out in the Dance Arena. The Management Board of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag wishes you all the best!"



Arlen Brozić, Management Board Director



"Umag has been the proud host of the world-renowned sports and entertainment event, the ATP Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, for 34 years. As a destination, Umag is increasingly known for tennis and fun, thanks to the high-quality tennis matches and a wonderful gastronomy and entertainment programme offered by the tournament. However, ATP Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag is more than just tennis, food and fun. It is a brand with a solid foundation which has turned Umag into one of the most sought-after tourist destinations, where each visitor can feel like a part of the brand, thanks to the efforts and contributions from everyone who participates in its organisation.

I am proud to be the mayor of a town which draws an ever-increasing number of visitors year after year, through the tournament, as well as various other events. Whoever has had the chance to experience the magic of the tournament took home some unique memories which are, after all, what keeps motivating them to return to Umag."

Vili Bassanese, Mayor of the Town of Umag

"The fact that the ATP Croatia Open has been organised on a very professional level and brought to life in the form of such a large event for over 30 years, shows that this most significant sporting event in Croatia has reached the global level of the best organised events in the world. This quality is evident in the very reputation of the Umag tournament in the world of tennis.

Once again, we will get to see some stars playing in the Umag tournament, from the very highest ranks of global tennis, and it is well-known that tennis players also love this tournament because of the excellent atmosphere surrounding it. What makes ATP Umag so special is the fact that this event has a strong tourism and lifestyle dimension, and it is one of the most significant meeting places for business and social elite. During the tournament, you can taste the best that Istria, as one of Europe's finest gourmet destinations, has to offer. The fact that you can get all this in one spot makes this event a must!"



Denis Ivošević, Director of the Istria Tourist Board

#### **DAILY NEWS**



"Sporting events are an important part of the overall tourism offer in Croatia, especially when we are talking about active and sports tourism, some of the main reasons why visitors choose Croatian destinations. This is why we are so glad that the Croatian National Tourist Board is once again partnering with Croatia Open Umag, a globally-renowned and attractive event which is known as a top-quality tennis tournament, as well as an event which has the important task of keeping the Croatian sports tradition alive.

Excellent professional athletes, tennis stars, a wonderful atmosphere, and all of the accompanying entertainment events are what makes Umag so attractive to visitors from all over the world. Moreover, it also carries numerous promotional benefits, leading to strengthening the profile of Umag, Istria, and Croatia in general, and since it takes place during the peak season, it contributes significantly to the overall experience of visitors to Istria.

I would like to thank the tournament organisers for their more than three decades of contributions to the positioning and reputation of Croatia as a desirable and safe tourist destination, a country capable of successfully hosting the largest sporting events. This is confirmed by the fact that over 1 million viewers annually follow the tournament on TV, and there are also those who watch the matches live, creating unforgettable memories. We are certain that the positive impact of the oldest tennis tournament in Croatia will continue, and that the tournament itself will remain a wonderful example of how to organise a top-notch sporting event for years to come."

Kristjan Staničić,

Director of the Croatian National Tourist Board

"Dear tennis fans, we proudly and happily welcome you to the newest edition of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag. This years' tournament will take place from 19 to 27 July, and the clay courts at the Stella Maris resort in Umag will once again be the battleground for excellent tennis players. This year, we have prepared an amazing list of world-renowned tennis players, led by Andrey Rublev, one of the finest players today. Ever since the first ATP tournament in Umag in 1990, Stella Maris has hosted the very best Italian players, but this year will be truly special. The Plava Laguna Croatia Open will host the current Davis Cup champions – Lorenzo Musetti, Matteo Arnaldi and Lorenzo Sonego! And let's not forget about the Croatian players who we will have the pleasure to watch this year.

Plava Laguna, as a tourism company behind the ATP tournament, shows how to successfully integrate sports into the tourism offer. Good planning and organisation of sporting events can significantly contribute to the development of tourism and the promotion of a destination. Bringing sports and tourism together, we ensure that the tournament visitors enjoy a full experience of our destination, with excellent accommodation, friendly hosts, top-quality food and entertainment. We want our visitors to feel welcome in our accommodation units, as well as in the entire ATP zone. The ATP tournament is an important part of the history of Umag and Plava Laguna. Plava Laguna has been continuously investing significant funds into sports infrastructure, resulting in the launch of the Plava Laguna Sport brand last year. Our destinations, sports capitals of Croatia, are a testament to our dedication to the development of sports and tourism.

Last year's Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag had a record number of visitors, which shows that the interest of tennis fans is in-

creasing year after year. This year, we are in for some unforgettable moments, amazing matches, and an opportunity to enjoy the extraordinary skills and talent of global tennis stars.

Enjoy the 34th Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag tournament. See you in the stands!"

#### Dragan Pujas

President of the Management Board at Plava Laguna and Chairman of the Organising Committee of Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag.





#### **DAILY NEWS**

"Even during the year of the Olympic Games, the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag tennis tournament has gathered some of the world's finest players, as evident in the roster of players, led by two former champions (Andrey Rublev and Stanislav Wawrinka), and the amazing Italian players Lorenzo Musetti, Matteo Arnaldi, and Lorenzo Sonego. We are particularly pleased that this tournament is an opportunity for young Croatian players, and the top name among them this year is Dino Prižmić.

This tournament isn't known only for sports, but it also forms an important part of the tourism industry in Croatia thanks to much additional content on offer, from entertainment to gastronomy, which means that our visitors can experience Croatia fully as a country of sports, as well as a tourism destination where all guests are sure to find something to suit their tastes. By combining sports and tourism, this tournament also contributes to achieving strategic goals of Croatian tourism, which is why it enjoys a strong support from the Government of the Republic of Croatia every year.

Keeping the tradition alive and vibrant for 34 years, and proving its quality year after year through an excellent roster of players, as well as an amazing programme and a high number of visitors, ensures the success of all parties included in organising this tournament. This is why I would like to congratulate everyone, and I'm certain that this year we will once again enjoy excellent matches and all of the beauty that Umag and Istria have to offer.

Year after year, Umag has been proving itself as the perfect destination for European and global manifestations, the most important of which is, of course, the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag tournament.

The Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag tournament has been organised in Umag since 1990 and it has made this town a distinguished destination world-wide, making it our most valuable brand today.

Matches streaming across the globe, numerous accredited journalists reporting daily from Umag, excellent tennis matches – this is only a part of what Umag receives from this exquisite sporting event.

What makes the Umag tournament truly special is the added value to the sporting event – the Umag Music Nights and the gourmet zone, with an amazing offer of indigenous Istrian wines. A rich music programme rounds the story up perfectly, and it is no wonder that we have been recording an ever-increasing number of visitors every year, visitors who come here particularly to visit these events, and many people plan their holidays around the dates of the tournament.

This is a time when Umag becomes the hub of business life, as well as the place to be for everyone who is anyone in the public and political sphere of Croatia and the region.

We are proud that Umag has been hosting a tournament of this magnitude for 34 years, promoting not only the town, but also Istria and entire Croatia, and proving that a combination of a good destination, amazing service, and tennis infrastructure in our town fulfils the highest criteria."



Milovan Popović,

# Energija koja pokreće Hrvatsku

HEP Više od struje

# UNFORGETTABLE TENNIS MOMENTS IN UMAG: PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN UMAG PROMISES ANOTHER MAGNIFICENT SPECTACLE

Just before the start of the tennis spectacle at the ATP Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, on 28 June, the Infobip campus in Zagreb hosted a press conference presenting the roster of players who will be competing at this year's 34th annual tournament. This amazing roster of players guarantees an exciting tournament, while visitors will also be able to enjoy an exquisite gourmet offer, and some relaxation at various concerts in the evening hours following the matches. Some of the most famous tennis names at this year's tournament are Lorenzo Musetti, who played in the semi-finals at Wimbledon, Russian Andrey Rublev, currently holding sixth place in the ATP rankings, and title defender Alexei Popyrin.

"The fact that the sixth best player in the world, Andrey Rublev, and one of the world's finest young players, Holger Rune, decided to join us means that we have two players that any tournament of our level would gladly host. However, the strength of the 34th Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag is in the quality range we are presenting today. Five players among the top 30 in the world, 12 in the top 50, as well as two of the best players under 19 (Jakub Menšik and Dino Prižmić), guarantee that this year's tournament will once again offer amazing tennis matches," said tournament Director Tomislav Poljak.

The Umag tournament has repeatedly shown that it regularly acknowledges young tennis hopefuls, such as Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner. This year, Croatian players Dino Prižmić and Jakub Menšik have a chance to prove themselves. "Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag tells a new, exciting story every year. Sometimes it might not be a story we expected, but magic happens, like it did last year with Wawrinka and his emotional road to the finals. This may be the strongest roster we've had in the last few years. I know we are in for amazing matches, and I can't wait for the tournament to begin. See you soon in Umag," said Goran Ivanišević.

The Umag tournament is more than an important sporting event – it's a fantastic way to promote tourism. The tournament is organised and sponsored by Plava Laguna, whose Management Board President Dragan Pujas said: "This year, Plava Laguna has increased its investment in the tournament. Through its organisation we are showing everyone how to structure an event at the highest level, and that we are a reliable partner and host of sporting events. Moreover, by organising this tournament on such a high level, we are contributing to the development and promotion of our destination, which is the most important aspect for us."

Government officials have also recognised the importance of this tournament for promoting Istria and Croatia. Tomislav Družak, State Secretary from the Ministry of Tourism and Sport said: "We are truly pleased to be a part of one of the most long-standing sporting events in the Republic of Croatia, whose importance for promoting Croatia as a tourism and sporting destination is outstanding. For ten days Umag will become Croatia's sporting and social hub, offering a rich sports programme and amazing entertainment. In the last 8 years, the Croatian government has quadrupled investments in sports, and it will continue investing in events promoting Croatia as a country of sports and tourism."

Director of the Strategic Projects Department at the Croatian National Tourist Board, Ivana Curić Čabraja, shared his sentiments, adding: "In line with the global reputation of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, and given that this is the oldest tennis tournament in Croatia, the National Tourist Board is once again a proud partner and friend of the tournament. We can say that what our country is bestknown on a global level are tourism and sports accomplishments, and the Umag tournament is an excellent example of an event which brings about an air of competition, fan excitement, and some extra promotion for tourism in Umag, Istria, and entire Croatia." Mayor of Umag, Vili Bassanese, stated: "This tournament is more than just tennis, food, and entertainment. It is a brand with a solid foundation which has turned Umag into one of the most sought-after tourist destinations, where each visitor can feel like a part of the brand, thanks to the efforts and contributions from everyone who participates in its organisation. I am proud to be the mayor of a town which draws an ever-increasing number of visitors year after year, through the tournament, as well as various other events. Whoever has had the chance to experience the magic of the tournament took home some unique memories which are, after all, what keeps motivating them to return to Umag."

Another returning partner is Infobip, who hosted the press conference. A Chatbot was created for the tournament, covering all the information that visitors might need. Alongside the main event, the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, the professional programme now also includes the Umag ITF M15, a tournament which forms part of the ITF World Tennis Tour, and it will take place from 6 to 14 July. This tournament is a chance for young players to win their first ATP points, and it is followed by Road to Umag powered by Podravka, which will once again provide Croatian players with a chance to win an invitation to the Umag tournament.



PLAVA LAGUNA OPENUMAG 250 CROATIA 19.-27.07.2024.

#### ITF M15 TOURNAMENT AS AN OVERTURE TO THE PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN



Traditionally, the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag ATP tournament is the central sporting event of the summer in this Istrian town, and this season it adds another sporting event – the ITF M15 – a chance for young players to win the first ATP points of their careers.

This year's 34th annual Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag ATP tournament is once again the perfect opportunity to see some of the most successful players in action. Visitors of this tennis spectacle will get the chance to watch Andrey Rublev, currently holding sixth place in the ATP rankings, four members of the Italian national team – Lorenzo Musseti who reached semi-finals at this year's Wimbledon, as well as Matteo Arlandi, Luciano Darderi, and Lorenzo Sonego. Last year's champion, Alexei Popyrin, has returned to Umag to try and defend his title, and the tournament will also see Jakub Menšik, Holger Rune, and many others. Croatian fans will particularly cheer on the only Croatian representative in the tournament – Dino Prižmić.

Organisers wanted to make this tournament even more attractive, so they decided to include another tournament counting towards points at the ATP rankings. This is the Umag ITF M15 tournament, part of the ITF World Tennis Tour. This tournament is a chance for young players to win the first ATP points of their careers, and this move proves that Umag is the perfect stepping stone for young players, helping them join the true professionals.

Many Croatian players who went on to have an amazing career got their first opportunities at tennis courts here in Umag. Some of them were Ivan Ljubičić, Marin Čilić, and Borna Čorić. The main stage of this ATP tournament was also where some non-Croatian players had big breaks at the start of their careers, such as Rafael Nadal and Novak Đoković, while Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner are just two of the new generation players who achieved excellent results in Umag in the early stages of their careers. Thanks to the new ITF M15 tournament, there will be even more opportunities for young players this year!

"This July, Umag will be fully dedicated to tennis, and the competitions will cover diverse categories – from amateurs, to young players wanting to make a name for themselves, and players at the highest level, who can achieve great things. This made Umag even more of a global player, and I am confident that our young players will make the most of the opportunities that this ITF M15 tournament offers them," said Tomislav Poljak, Director of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag tournament.



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### ROAD TO UMAG BY PODRAVKA: DENI ŽMAK WINS BOTH INVITATIONS



This year's popular tournament series Road to Umag by Podravka, awarding the most successful players invitations to the Plava Laguna Croatia Open, had a new format this season. Two competitions were held, first for doubles, and then for singles, which proved to be very successful. Our players loved the new format, and the biggest winner was, of course, Deni Žmak.

He won both competitions! First, teaming up with Karlo Kajin, he won the doubles tournament held in June in Karlovac, and a month later, just before the start of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open, he won the singles tournament in Umag. This means that he received two invitations – one for the main doubles tournament, and one for the qualifiers in the singles tournament.

In the final match of the Umag tournament he won 6:4, 6:4 against Matija Pecotić. During his triumphant run in this tournament, Žmak lost only one set, in the semi-final match against Kajin. This makes him the third champion in this tournament series out of a total of four seasons, since Pecotić won the invitation twice, in 2021 and 2022. Last year's invitation to the qualifiers for the Plava Laguna Croatia Open went to Jerko Brkić.

This is the third time that 35-year-old Deni Žmak is attempting to qualify for the main tournament in an ATP tournament. In Umag in 2013, he lost in the first, and in Zagreb in 2008 in the second round of the qualifiers. He is currently unranked in the ATP rankings, as he played his last professional tournament in the singles competition in 2022 at the Istrian riviera. A few days ago, he reached the semi-finals of the ITF World Tennis Tour in Umag with Kajin.





# TASTE OF SUMMER In CROATIA



6



# **UMAG MUSIC NIGHTS: A MUST-SEE MUSIC SPECTACLE**



Umag Music Nights, the music programme at the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, will once again be the best place to have an amazing summer time, with over 100 hours of top-quality music. The warm July nights and its seaside location will only enhance the already amazing experience enjoyed by over 100,000 visitors every year.

Every evening, following the exciting tennis matches, you can enjoy concerts by some of the greatest names from the local music scene, and performances by famous DJs in the Dance Arena right next to the Goran Ivanišević Stadium, and the opening night is reserved for one of the most famous Croatian musicians and songwriters, Petar Grašo. "I'm looking forward to seeing everyone. I promise you an amazing concert full of love and good energy, just like concerts should be," said Grašo.

On Sunday, Istrian cover band Night Express, known for their distinctive stage performances, takes over the stage, while the following day Umag plays host to the Mambo Kings from the neighbouring Slovenia.

Tuesday is reserved for one of the oldest bands on the local rock scene, Prljavo Kazalište. The audience is in for a real treat with their timeless classics such as Heroj ulice, Mojoj majci, and Crno-bijeli svijet. The eccentric Italian DJ Gianluca Vacchi, known for his videos on Instagram where he dances his heart out, returns to the ATP on Wednesday to try and outperform his spectacular performance from 2019, and the same vibes are continuing the following day, with one of the most sought-after names at the club scene, Italian duo DJs From Mars.

Friday is reserved for Dalmatino, a group which started a revolution in Dalmatian pop music, and which is still breaking records for sold out concerts after two decades.

The conclusion of the Umag Music Nights brings performances by Vida Loca, regular guests at clubs in Italy, Formentera, and Malta, who will get the party started before Inna, Romanian pop singer whose single Hot took the very top of the Billboard Hot Dance Airplay chart.



# **GOURMET – TASTE ISTRIA ZONE**



Through its rich and diverse music programme, the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag once again affirms its reputation as the perfect combination of sports and entertainment, and the concerts are free for all visitors.

Alongside the exciting tennis programme at the 34th Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, the Taste Istria Zone is another essential location for all foodies and wine-lovers. Istria is a world-renowned wine region, producing award-winning wines, and our visitors will have the chance to taste some of the finest local wines in the Zone.

Wine enthusiasts will be able to taste indigenous Istrian varieties, such as malvasia, moscato, and teran. The diverse wine offer is sure to delight even the pickiest palates, and it is provided by local wineries Fiore, Benčić, Cattunar, Brič, Coronica, CUJ, Franković, Prelac, Tomaz, Ravalico, Vina Zigante, Geržinić, Deklić, Degras.



The zone will also offer other interactive activities for visitors, such as the "Hidden charm of Istrian wine" tastings, celebrating its 10th birthday this year. The tastings take place every evening from Sunday (21 July) to Friday (26 July). They are the brainchild of the Croatian Sommelier Club and its president, Franko Lukež, and they highlight a certain topic every day. The top five wines will be in the running for the title of the 2024 ATP wine.

Everyone knows that alcohol goes best with some good food, which will be offered to our visitors in food trucks. Just like wine, the emphasis will be on home-made local delicacies with a modern twist. Food trucks available to visitors are Poluotok, Munchy, Manjada by Palagius, Street Food by Lukas, Ema, and Ferdinand.

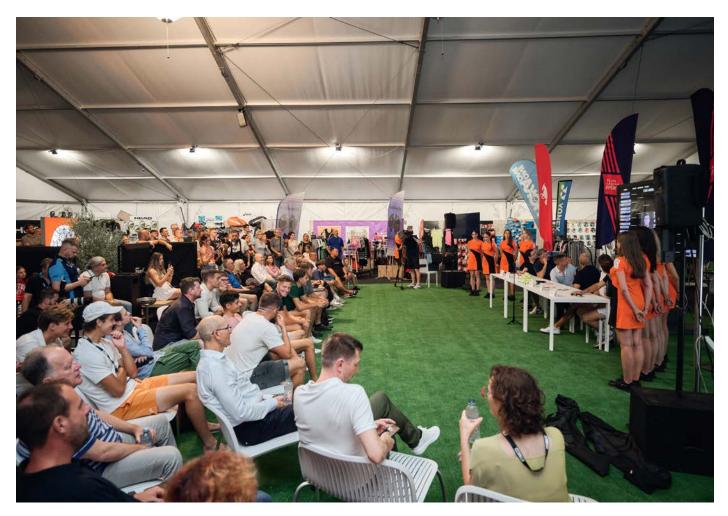
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#### **DAILY NEWS**

# **UMAG DRAW INCLUDES WORLD'S LEADING TENNIS PLAYERS AND BIG TALENTS**



The main draw of the 34th Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag ATP tournament includes several cream-of-thecrop players, as well as some who could secure their spots very soon, as well as a few experienced masters of this sport, who have already won large tournaments and held top places in the ATP rankings.

Their names were in the drawing lots held on Friday at the Social Arena, and the entire process was headed by long-standing main umpire of the tournament, Gerry Armstrong. The top of the draw, as announced, is reserved for the world's eighth ranked player, Russian Andrey Rublev, who will be spared at the start of the tournament, just like the remaining three top-seeded players. He might face Luka Mikrut in the second round, if the Croatian 20-year-old player defeats Argentinian Camilo Ugo Carabelli.

The main tournament will see at least four Croatian players, and only one of them will face a seeded player in the first round. This player is Duje Ajduković, who entered the tournament as a so-called special exception because he was unable to play qualifications for Umag due to advancing to the semi-finals of the ATP tournament in Bastad, Sweden. At Stella Maris, his first-round match will be against Italy's Luciano Darderi (fifth seed).

The rest of the Croatian players received invitations to the tournament: the previously mentioned Luka Mikrut, the 18-year-old Matej Dodig who will face a qualified player in the first round, and Mili Poljičak, who will play his first match against the Italian Lorenzo Sonego. Mili has had an amazing overture before the tournament as he won a tournament from the ITF World Tennis Tour calendar a week ago.

The second seed is Italy's Lorenzo Musetti, the third is Denmark's Holger Rune, and the fourth is the Argentinian Francisco Cerundolo. Title defender Alexei Popyrin (Australia) is not one of the top seeded players, and neither are two of the past champions of this tournament, Fabio Fognini (Italy) and Dušan Lajović (Serbia). The main tournament starts on Sunday, 21 July, and the finale will take place on Saturday, 27 July.



# TOMISLAV POLJAK, TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR AMAZING TENNIS AWAITS YOU IN UMAG



Before the start of the main tournament of the 34th Plava Laguna Croatia Open, I must say I am truly pleased with the work done by the entire team in the past months. This work resulted in a roster and draw which makes this year's tournament one of the strongest in the past ten years.

It is never easy to prepare a tournament in a year of the Olympics, but the fact that this year's Games are taking place in Europe and on clay courts have made it easier for us to bring these amazing players. Alongside Andrey Rublev, the other seeded players, and not just them, have chosen Umag as the ideal tournament to prepare for the Olympics in Paris. With everything Umag has to offer, and most importantly the friendly atmosphere, full stands, and amazing hospitality of Plava Laguna, players can feel like they're home.

As far as favourites go, this year seems to be quite challenging for making any predictions. Will the ever-changing and challenging conditions of Stella Maris favour Rublev's speed, Rune's intensity, or Musetti's charm, or will one of the up-and-coming players, such as Luciano Darderi, Mariano Navone, Matteo Arnaldi, Flavio Cobolli or, maybe a bit more established, Francesco Cerundolo go all the way – who can tell?

What we know for sure is that Stella Maris will give us some amazing tennis matches in the next 7 days. It is impossible not to have at least a bit of anxiety when scheduling the first days of the tournament. The Goran Ivanišević Stadium isn't the only place to witness amazing matches - great duels will also be played at the Studenac Arena, as well as Court 1. This is why we are inviting all tennis fans to join us on day 1 and enjoy the magic presented by 11 players from the global Top 50. See you at Stella Maris!

#### **COLUMN BY GORAN IVANIŠEVIĆ**

# ANOTHER AMAZING TOURNAMENT, WITHOUT A DOUBT



The draw for this year's Plava Laguna Croatia Open tournament showed us what we already knew. Once again, Umag will be the place to see some amazing tennis. We have announced some of the world's big tennis names, several young players who will, I'm sure, become world's big tennis names, as well as some former winners of the tournament. One of them, Stan Wawrinka, unfortunately had to cancel, which we were sad to hear as we know the type of player he is, but we are sure to have a great tournament nevertheless.

I am happy that we will get to see four Croatian players. Duje Ajduković entered our tournament somewhat unexpectedly as a "special exception" after advancing to the semi-finals of Bastad, which was amazing news. None of the four players is older than 23, which means that this is an opportunity for our players to prove themselves on a big stage, as we are expecting a lot from them in the coming seasons. If we were to include Dino Prižmić, who played in the quarter-finals last year but is now absent due to injury, in this group, I think I can safely say that these are all players to watch for in the coming years.

First one to see some action is Luka Mikrut. He faces against Camilo Ugo Carabelli, who ranks a lot higher than him, but Luka certainly has his shot in this match. We've seen him play some amazing tennis these past few months, and if he continues in this vein, he might as well win. It wouldn't be a sensation.

Duje Ajduković had the worst luck at the draw, as he is to face a seeded player, while Matej Dodig and Mili Poljičak will definitely do their best to get as far as possible. Matej is improving constantly, and Mili has had amazing results in the ITF World Tennis Tour tournaments and will surely want to prove himself to the local audience.

Just like in previous seasons, we will get to see players who are global stars, as well as those who are yet to become stars. This is what has always made this tournament special. This year, this list may be longer than before, I'd say that we had never had these many players with a genuine chance to win the title. Rublev, Musetti, Rune... certainly top this list because of their accomplishments, but players who are less-known to the local audience might pose a formidable threat. Navone, Cobolli, and Darderi are the best among them, but we shouldn't forget Menšik, Machac, and the defender of the title Popyrin...

## NO CROATIAN PLAYERS IN THE DECISIVE ROUND, LUKA MIKRUT PLAYS ON SUNDAY

None of the three Croatian players managed to place in the decisive round of the qualifiers for the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, after they were all eliminated in the first round, with no sets won.

Nino Serdarušić lost 4:6, 4:6 to the Argentinian Guido Andreozzi, in what was a match between two players drawn into the qualifiers at the last minute as replacements. Nino lost his serve at an early stage in both sets and he won no break points, but everything could have changed had he taken advantage of 0-40 and another break point when Andreozzi was serving for the match at 5:4.

Matija Pecotić also lost to an Argentinian player, Marco Trungelitti (6:3, 6:3), although he started out well enough and had two break advantages in the first set. Deni Žmak, winner of the Road to Umag tournament, was defeated 6:2, 6:4 by Taiwanese Chun-Hsin Tseng, who saved two break points when he was serving for the match at 5:4.

The main tournament kicks off on Sunday, 21 July, when a Croatian representative, the 20-year-old Luka Mikrut, hits the court. In the first round, he will face the Argentinian Camilo Ugo Carabelli, whose career best is the current 96th place in the ATP rankings.



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