

PLAVA LAGUNA OPENUMAG CROATIA 19.-27.07.2024.

DAILY NEWS

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WE ARE IN FOR AN AMAZING FINALE!







Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag Umag, Croatia

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



Main Draw Singles



	Round of 32	Round of 16	Qua	arterfinals	Semi	ifinals	F	-inal	Wi	nner
€ 6,215	0 pt	€ 10,165 25 p	t € 17,510	50 pt	€ 30,220	100 pt	€ 51,400	165 pt	€ 88,125	250 pt

Last direct acceptance			
Alexandre Muller, 102 ATP Supervisor			
Gerry Armstrong Released 07/26/2024 22:29:46			

Seeded Players				
	Player	Rank		
1	Rublev, Andrey	8		
2	Musetti, Lorenzo	16		
3	Rune, Holger	17		
4	Cerundolo, Francisco	33		
5	Darderi, Luciano	35		
6	Navone, Mariano	36		
7	Machac, Tomas	38		
8	Arnaldi, Matteo	39		

Alternates/Lucky Losers	Withdrawals	Retirements/W.O.
C. Tseng (LL)	H. Rune (Left Wrist)	

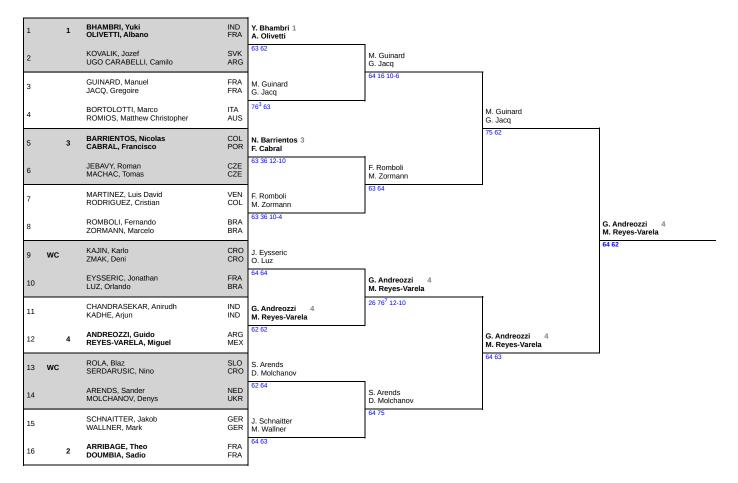


Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag Umag, Croatia

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



Main Draw Doubles



Round of 16	Quarterfinals	Semifinals	Final	Winner
€ 3,160 0 pt	€ 5,370 45 pt	€ 9,600 90 pt	€ 16,380 150 pt	€ 30,610 250 pt

Last direct acceptance
Chandrasekar / Kadhe 221
ATP Supervisor
Gerry Armstrong
Released
07/26/2024 22:29:46

Seeded Teams						
	Team					
	1	Bhambri / Olivetti	100			
	2	Arribage / Doumbia	114			
	3	Barrientos / Cabral	121			
	4	Andreozzi / Reyes-Varela	140			

Alternates/Lucky Losers Withdrawals Retirements/W.O.



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



ORDER OF PLAY - SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2024

	Starts At 8:00 PM	Starts At 4:00 PM		
	SINGLES FINAL			
1.	[4] Francisco CERUNDOLO (ARG) vs [2] Lorenzo MUSETTI (ITA)	Sung-Bong HAN (KOR) vs Sang-Ho OH (KOR)		

Tournament Director:

Tomislav Poljak

Released:

07/26/2024 10:29:48 PM

ANY MATCH ON ANY COURT MAY BE MOVED MATCHES WILL BE OFFICIALLY CALLED FROM THE PLAYERS' LOUNGE & LOCKER-ROOM

ATP Supervisor(s):

Gerry Armstrong

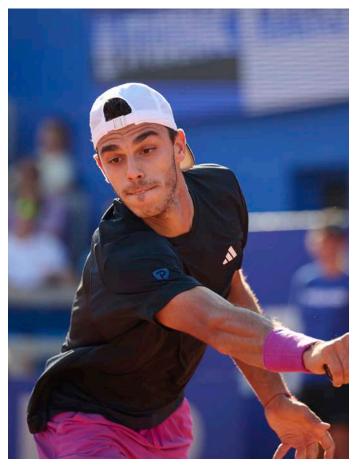
Referee(s):

Mila Mandl

Tour Manager:

Diego Pedraza Novak







MUSETTI COMFORTABLY DEFEATS MENŠIK, CERUNDOLO BESTS FIRST-SEEDED PLAYER

The final match of the 34th Plava Laguna Croatia Open on Saturday at 8 p.m. will be played by Italian Lorenzo Musetti and Argentinian Francisco Cerundolo. This is the outcome of the semi-final matches played on Friday, where Musetti was very convincing against Czech player Jakub Menšik (6:4, 6:1), while Cerundolo defeated the first-seeded player, Russian Andrey Rublev, 7:6 (6), 6:4.

Musetti's amazing performance showed that he is in top shape. This was his fourth semi-final match in a row, and if he wins the title he will repeat his career-best ranking (15th place). He would also be the fourth Italian to win the Umag ATP tournament.

"I think I may have played my best match of the tournament today," said the 22-year-old Italian, whose only lost serve was the one when he was leading 3:2 in the first set, and he only lost two more games by the end of the match. In the second set, the 18-year-old Menšik won only three points when his opponent was serving.

In the final match, he faces Francisco Cerundolo, the Argentinian player who played a difficult match against Andrey Rublev on Friday. His victory against the Russian player prevented that the final match in Umag is played between the first - and second-seeded player for the 4th time in a row.

"Of course I'm happy with the result. It's been over a year since I played in the finals. If you want to win against someone from the top 10 (note: Rublev holds the 9th place in the rankings), your game must be good in all aspects, and mine was," said Cerundolo.

The last game was particularly thrilling, when Rublev missed five break points, and the Argentinian took advantage of the fifth match point.

"I served great up until that point, and then I had to rely on second serves in that game. I was very nervous during the final game, but it all ended well," said Cerundolo, who is playing in Umag for the first time. This is his ninth victory against top 10 players.

In the final match in the doubles tournament, Argentinian Guido Andreozzi and Mexican Miguel Reyes-Varela defeated the French duo of Manuel Guinard and Gregoire Jacq (6:4, 6:2). This is their first title playing together, and this was the first time that the Argentinian made it into the final match at an ATP tournament (he has 36 titles at ATP Challengers). This was the second ATP title in doubles for Reyes-Varela.

GORAN IVANIŠEVIĆ AND ANTO JOSKIĆ SPEND TIME WITH YOUNG TENNIS FANS AT THE PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN UMAG

Tennis is a sport that builds discipline, motor skills and a team spirit from the earliest age, and it is particularly important for children who can learn important life lessons through playing and competing. This year, the Kids Week by Podravka held throughout the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag brought lots of joy and sports activities for the youngest tennis fans. Children had the chance to play against some of their biggest idols over five days.

Our young player Mili Poljičak joined this year's first Kids Week, spending time with around thirty little ones from Umag and other Istrian towns. Next day, on Monday, the girls and boys played against Italian player Fabio Fognini and Columbian Cristian Rodríguez. The third day of the Kids Week brought together last year's doubles champions, Croatian player Nino Serdarušić and Slovenian Blaž Rola. On Wednesday, the kids got to meet Karlo, the ball launching robot. Karlo the Robot amazed the little ones, and enabled them to practise their precision and technique. Alongside the tennis robot, the kids also enjoyed playing against Deni Žmak, Karlo Kajin and Duje Ajduković. Ajduković also gave the little ones some useful advice: "In tennis, it's important to train and be persistent."

Thursday was the final day of the Kids Week during the Umag tournament, and the kids were joined at the court by legendary player Goran Ivanišević and Croatia's best wheelchair player Anto Joskić.



In the afternoon, Joskić played his first match at this year's ITF Wheelchair Croatia Open Umag by HEP, which he has organised for five years in a row with invaluable support from Hrvatska elektroprivreda. This didn't stop him from joining Goran in meeting the young tennis fans and sharing some advice, motivating them to do sports, and to become sports stars someday.







OFENZIVA BREAK:

VLADIMIR JOVANOVSKI

This year's last Ofenziva Break at the Plava Laguna Croatia Open welcomed Vladimir Jovanoski, CEO of the Croatian Tennis Association.

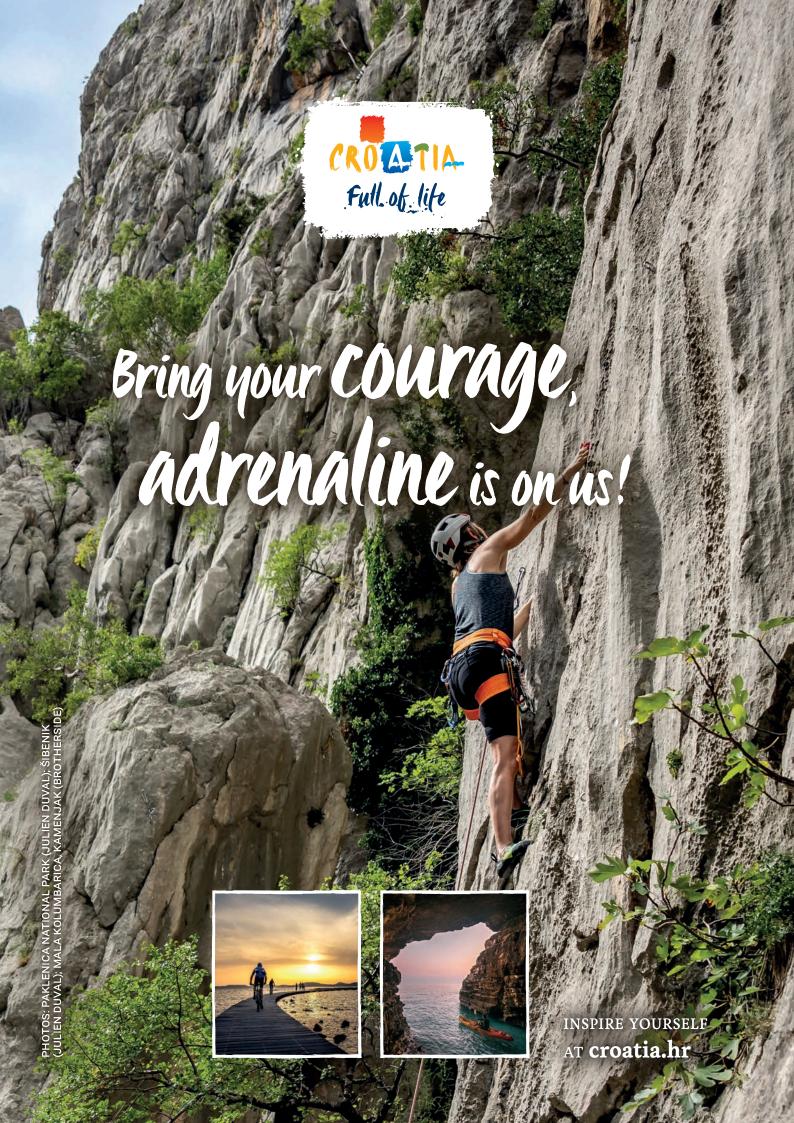
Jovanoski shared the details of his position, his opinions regarding the state of Croatian tennis, and his expectations from the Olympic Games in Paris.

"Unfortunately, we won't be able to repeat our success because Čilić is injured so he and Dodig are missing the Games. However, I expect Mektić and Pavić to defend their title. Vekić showed she was in great shape in Wimbledon, and that she can play against anyone. She's also doing mixed doubles with Pavić, and they are also contenders for the medal," he said.

The final quiz was also held, this time testing knowledge about the quarter-finals of this year's Croatia Open.

Once again, the top three results received valuable prizes.





GET 10% OFF WHEN PAYING WITH VISA AT THE ATP PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN UMAG MERCH STORE

We're almost at the end of the 34th ATP Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag tournament, which gave us lots of exciting sports moments this year.

Visitors can purchase official outfits from the tennis tournament as a wonderful memento to remind them of the great sports moments, and if they pay with a Visa card, they can get 10% off.

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FROM POLJIČAK TO IVANIŠEVIĆ: KIDS WEEK BY PODRAVKA IN UMAG CONNECTS KIDS WITH THEIR TENNIS IDOLS

Tennis is a sport that builds discipline, motor skills and a team spirit from the earliest age, and it is particularly important for children who can learn important life lessons through playing and competing. This year, the Kids Week by Podravka held throughout the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag brought lots of joy and sports activities for the youngest tennis fans. Children had the chance to play against some of their biggest idols over five days.

Our young player Mili Poljičak joined this year's first Kids Week, spending time with around thirty little ones from Umag and other Istrian towns. The children showed their skills with a racket to Poljičak, and amazed everyone with their talent and enthusiasm.

Next day, on Monday, the girls and boys played against Italian player Fabio Fognini and Columbian Cristian Rodríguez. These amazing athletes played doubles against the kids, creating some unforgettable memories to last a lifetime.

The third day of the Kids Week brought last year's doubles champions, Croatian player Nino Serdarušić and Slovenian Blaž Rola. The children warmed up, competed in groups and perfected their techniques with the help of the coaches, and the game against Serdarušić and Rola was a truly special experience for the little players.

On Wednesday, the kids got to meet Karlo, the ball launching robot. Karlo the Robot amazed the little ones, and enabled them to practise their precision and technique. Alongside the tennis robot, the kids also enjoyed playing against Deni Žmak, Karlo Kajin and Duje Ajduković. Ajduković shared some useful advice with the little ones:

"In tennis, it's important to train and be persistent."

Thursday was the final day of the Kids Week during the Umag tournament, and the kids were joined at the court by legendary player Goran Ivanišević and Croatia's best wheelchair player Anto Joskić, who gave them a day full of tennis and fun.



The Kids Week by Podravka at the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag proves how important it is to invest in the future of tennis through working with children. These days enabled the little ones to learn from tennis greats, acquire new skills and enjoy a game which inspires them. Thanks to unforgettable moments spent with their idols, these young players can continue dreaming big, and maybe become sport stars themselves someday.







TASTE OF SUMMER IN CROATIA







TRIGLAVTON RACE AT THE PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN UMAG DELIGHTS KIDS

Promoting healthy lifestyles and sportsmanship through recreational running and socialising, the Triglavton race at the ATP tournament in Umag brings unforgettable fun to the little ones.

More than 30 children, girls and boys of various ages, ran their first TRIGLAVTON 200, 400 and 600 metres races today.

This year's 34th Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag was once again sponsored by Triglav osiguranje, who organised a children's race at the Stella Maris resort track.

"Our story here in Umag wouldn't be the same without involving the kids. This has been a wonderful sports-filled week that we brought to an end with this successful children's race. Although this was the first TRIGLAVTON we've organised, we're really happy with the turnout and interest shown by the parents and the children. Initiatives such as this one show that there is a need for recreation, as well as for promoting positive influences on health. We at Triglav try our best to aim all of our activities at supporting local communities in which we are active, and a systemic promotion of sport and sportsmanship is one of the core values of our business culture. Given that winning wasn't the main goal of this race, we'd like to thank everyone involved - the children for running, and their parents and passers-by for cheering them on," said Andrea Husain Orlić, Public Relations and Marketing Manager at Triglav osiguranje d.d.

In a relaxed setting and with plenty of good fun, the race which was held at the promenade right by the "Goran Ivanišević" stadium, included young runners aged 3 to 11, and so that everyone gets an equal chance, there were three races, in categories from 3 to 5, 5 to 7 and 7 to 11 years of age.

The race was primarily about having fun, but also about motivating the little ones to keep healthy life habits and develop them through recreation and sport. The fun and the sport made this race the perfect place to socialise, and all of the kids who participated in the race went home with a participation certificate and some presents.





DALMATINO ENSURES A GREAT ATMOSPHERE ON THE SIXTH DAY OF THE TOURNAMENT

After the thrilling evening matches, the excellent party programme continued for the sixth day in a row, when Dalmatino took to the stage. Winners of 2002 Porin entertained the audience with their greatest hits. Their career began with the debut album "Cukar i sol", and with time they became one of the most popular Dalmatian bands. The audience sang the lyrics from their most popular songs "Dajem ti rič", "Ditelina s četiri lista" and "Cvit od kamena" from the tops of their lungs.

We're excited for tonight, when the stage is reserved for Vida Loca & Inna.







MANY PUBLIC FIGURES MAKE IT TO THE GALA CEREMONY OF THE PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN UMAG

Hotel Coral Plava Laguna once again hosted the gala ceremony, a tournament tradition, before the very end of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag. The beautiful evening under the stars by the hotel pool welcomed honoured guests, including sponsors, partners and friends of the Umag tournament. More than 400 guests came to support the region's most distinguished tournament, sponsored and organised by the Plava Laguna hotel company.

The guest list included President of the Management Board at Plava Laguna, Dragan Pujas, former Minister of Tourism and Sport, Nikolina Brnjac, Mayor of the Town of Umag, Vili Bassanese, President of the Management Board of Zagrebačka pivovara, Miroslav Holjevac, Director of the Umag Tourist Board, Mi-

lovan Popović, President of the Management Board of Hrvatski Telekom, Nataša Rapaić, President of the Management Board of Studenac, Michał Wojciech Seńczuk, President of the Management Board of Triglav osiguranje Vilma Učeta Duzlevska, Management Board member of HEP, Petar Sprčić, CEO of Unikomerc Automobili President of the Management Board of Unikomerc, Ivan Milek, Sales Manager of Unikomerc Automobili, Alen Miholić, President of Subaru Italy, Nicola Torregiani, Co-ordinator of Subaru SE Europe, Vladimir Dimitrov, Area Sales Manager Subaru for Croatia and Slovenia, Vladimir Crnečki, and Chairwoman of the Executive Committee of Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, Arlen Brozić.

The gorgeous setting accompanied with beautiful decorations was comple-

mented by the performance of the Kvarner trio, The Mystic Rose Ensemble, Guests relaxed with exquisite wines and gourmet delicacies as they enjoyed themselves into the night.



















THE GRAND FINALE OF THE HIDDEN CHARM OF ISTRIAN WINE: ZIGANTE WINERY'S TERAN TAKES THE WIN

Our wine story at this year's 34th tournament came to an end, and the final evening was reserved for the grand finale, and announcing the winner of the 2024 ATP wine title. Once again, the tasting was hosted by sommelier Lucija Matijević, who shared her knowledge of wines in a simple way understandable to all.

The final evening included all of the winning wines from previous days, which means that the visitors got to taste five different wines. The wines' labels remained unknown until the very end. The daily winner for fresh Malvasia was the Coronica, the best aged Teran was by

Zigante wines, while the best sparkling wine came from the Roxanich winery. Another wine by Zigante was a daily winner, the Sauvignon Blanc. The fifth category was the aged Malvasia, and the best one was the one from the Rossi winery.

After tasting all of the five varieties that ended up in the finals, we were in for the grand finale. The aged Teran by Zigante won by a landslide, followed by the fresh Malvasia Coronica. The bronze medal went to the Roxanich sparkling wine, while the Sauvignon Blanc and aged Malvasia got the final two spots.







TOMISLAV POLJAK, TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

THIS WAS OUR FINAL YEAR WITH LINE JUDGES



This year was special in many ways, and one of them is the fact that we are saying farewell to a part of the tournament which used to be indispensable. Unfortunately, rules are about to change in 2025, and the ATP Tour is changing dramatically. Of course, I'm talking about the line judges. This is the last year that the ATP Tour is played in front of line judges, as starting next year we are introducing the ELC (Electronic Line Calling), which becomes mandatory on all levels of ATP tournaments as of 1 January. and this includes the ATP 250, which we belong to, as well as all court types.

This means that the judges who will handle these systems will be present in Umag, but we won't see them at the courts. As someone who began their career in Umag as a line judge in 2006, and has been friends with numerous judges who are still here or who were with us throughout the years, I'd like to thank them all. As I told them at our first meeting this year – it feels like a wake.

I think they did an amazing job this year. Very few of their calls were overruled and I congratulate them. I thank them for their effort, it was honestly fantastic. Some of them will remain in Umag in seasons to come, in case of system failures and other things that will need to be taken care of, but we won't have such a big pool of judges anymore.

I'd like to note that this won't be a classic challenge system as the one we have now, which is very interesting to the audiences as the players shout out and raise their arm. This will no longer happen as there will be no more line judges. The system will shout "out", and the cameras will be covering all lines. We have yet to see which technical service provider we will be cooperating with. It will be particularly interesting to see how this will work on clay courts, as the ball leaves a trace there. The machine's decision will be final.

Once again, I extend my gratitude to all of our judges, and I wish them luck in the final, to finish their work as it befits their quality. Starting with 2025, we'll see what these machines can do, but now let's have our final match on Saturday with our line judges, just like in previous years. The 35th Plava Laguna Croatia Open will be the beginning of a new era.

COLUMN BY GORAN IVANIŠEVIĆ

I CAN'T PICK A FAVOURITE FOR THE FINAL MATCH, THEY ARE BOTH FANTASTIC



I wasn't surprised with the outcomes of the semi-final matches. This is precisely how I expected them to go because, as I've been saying for a while, Rublev hasn't been playing as well as he is expected to, despite his obvious quality. It's evident that his self-confidence is lacking, he's playing "in bursts", and he can't get away with that when facing opponents playing at the highest level. He was constantly behind in his match against Cerundolo, and in the tie break, when it was the most important, he played the worst two points: a return and a double fault.

Maybe I was a bit surprised with how easily Musetti won against Menšik. He played an amazing match, leaving his opponent with no chances to show what he can do. The Czech player could be very good, and for a player who has yet to celebrate his 19th birthday, he's played so many high level matches. This was simply too much for him. In any case, the tournament is ending with the best possible final match, for sure.

It's a final where I can't pick a favourite. Everything is possible, and I'd say their chances to win are similar. Musetti is filled with self-confidence, which is an amazing transformation. Only two months ago he played the

ATP Challenger in Turin, which helped him gain confidence after a few victories, and then he started to link fantastic results. In Roland Garros he had a 2:1 lead against Novak Đoković, after which he played the semi-finals on grass in Stuttgart, the final match at the Queen's, the semi-finals at Wimbledon, all amazing results.

If he plays like he did in the semi-finals, he's the favourite, but can he repeat such a match? Cerundolo has something to say in that. I consider him a very good player, not just on clay courts, he has diversity and he knows it all. He also had a 2:1 lead over Đoković at Roland Garros, a great situation, but Novak is Novak... So, we have a final match which will be played by two amazing players, in great shape.

I should also mention the atmosphere, which is getting better and better. It started during the qualifier matches, where we already had so many spectators, and the only day that was a bit slow, so to say, was Sunday because people weren't aware that that was when the main round of the tournament was starting. But every day the crowds were getting bigger, the stands more filled out, and the semi-final and final matches sold out.



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