



PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN **UMAG**

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PLAVA LAGUNA





**Lawrence
Frankopan**

Pogled direktora

PRIPREME ZA 30. ROĐENDAN KREĆU ODMAH

Iza nas je još jedan Plava Laguna Croatia Open, Marco Cecchinato upisao se na listu pobjednika, ali vjerujem da će svima koji su bili s nama kroz proteklih deset dana još puno više lijepih uspomena ostati u trajnom sjećanju.

Uvjeran sam da je i ovoga puta Umag ponudio lepezu emocija i doživljaja za svakoga jer to je ono što želimo, da svatko sa sobom kući ponese nezaboravne trenutke i zbog njih se poželi vratiti dogodine na naš turnir.

Što se tenisa tiče, gledali smo puno dobrih mečeva, puno napetih dvoboja i gotovo je svaki meč bio velika borba, a kada sve to završi time da u finalu imaš tenisače od kojih je jedan igrao ovogodišnje polufinale Roland Garrosa, a drugi u Wimbledonu pobijedio Marina Čilića, godinu nakon što je igrao finale Wimbledonu, onda ne bismo smjeli biti nezadovoljni. Ovo je finale koje bih volio gledati i da je na nekom drugom turniru.

Svaka čast Marcu na pobjedi, ovo mu je prvi nastup na turniru sa zemljanom podlogom nakon polufinala u Parizu i odmah je otišao do kraja čime je dokazao da je u sjajnoj formi. Guido je, pak, imao niz dobrih mečeva proteklog tjedna, ali nakon što je u 2. kolu preživio Bedenea, odnosno set i dvostruki break zaostatka, oslobodio se i sve mu je išlo za rukom.

U organizaciji turnira visoko smo postavili letvicu, ali to kao da je naš DNK, a osim sjajnih ljudi koji rukovode svim razinama turnira, moram odati priznanje i ljudima iza pozornice. Možda zvuči kao floskula, no u našem je slučaj momčadski rad doista temelj svega. Skoro 400 ljudi je uključeno u funkcioniranje turnira kroz ovih deset dana, i svaki od njih zaslužuje iskrene čestitike i zahvalnost. Od hostesa do vozača koji su na neki način i moji junaci jer njihov posao često nezasluženo prođe neprimijećen. Sljedeća godina će biti 30. obljetnica turnira i siguran sam da ćemo vas zadiviti, makar to činimo svake godine.

Znam da je publiku ponekad teško zadovoljiti, međutim iskreno vjerujem da imamo sjajan turnir, sretan sam sa svim aspektima, ali težimo savršenstvu i uvijek smatram da se još mogu pomaknuti granice. Uostalom, već sam s Davorom Lukšićem i Ronaldom Korotajem razgovarao o tome, načeli smo temu o sljedećem izdanju i naše pripreme za 30. rođendan kreću praktički već danas. Vidimo se dogodine!

**Goran
Ivanišević**



Pogled legende

IZ UMAGA MEĐU TOP 25 NA SVIJETU

Prije tri mjeseca Marco Cecchinato bio je jedva u sto najboljih na svijetu, a nakon Umaga će imati svoj najbolji renking u karijeri i biti u Top 25 na ATP ljestvici. Fascinantno je taj skok, ali, evo, lijepo što ga je baš rezultat u Umagu katapultirao do najboljeg renkinga u životu.

Najviše je za to, naravno, zaslužan plasman u polufinale Roland Garrosa, međutim i poslije je Talijan nastavio u dobroj formi i tko zna kako će ići dalje, ali eto dobio je dobar razlog da i on pamti Umag po nečem posebnom.

Pokazao je kako uspjeh u Roland Garrosu nije slučajna, kako neki misle, odnosno da mu se tamo poklopilo. Jedino te stablo može poklopiti, ali ne i polufinale na Grand Slam turniru i pogotovo ako još pri tome dobiješ Novaka Đokovića. Cecchinato je odličan igrač, a koliko god stoji daleko iza osnovne linije svejedno ide po poen, nije da samo čeka da suparnik pogriješi. Nema bombu od servisa, ali stavlja prvi servis u teren, Drži lopticu u igri, pogađa forhend i taj jednoručni bekhend... Jednostavno, odličan tenisač.

Guido Pella je imao jako dobar turnir također, solidan je igrač, nema puno oscilacija, igra svoje i uzme što mu se nudi, a ovdje je to bilo finale. Za više je Cecchinato bio prejak.

Stigli smo tako do kraja turnira koji je i ovoga puta ponudio puno toga dobrog. Recimo, u ovom slučaju ponudio je Ninu Serdarušića koji je odigrao jako dobar meč protiv Maximiliana Marterera, 49. na svijetu i pokazao da može igrati na ovakvoj razini turnira, protiv najboljih igrača. Nedostaje mu još samo renking da tu bude stalno, ali ne sumnjam u njega, dobro radi i trenira i uskoro će nadam se doći u Top 100, a onda su mu otvorena vrata. Sljedeće godine ga opet očekujem u Umagu, ali bez da mu treba pozivnica.

Vidjeli smo u Umagu i ove godine jako puno dobrih mečeva, puno ljudi na tribinama, jer u usporedbi s drugim turnirima iz ranga ATP 250 gdje ima ljudi samo ako dođu najbolji ili Federer i Nadal, u Umagu je uvijek puno kroz cijeli tjedan. Tako da moramo biti sretni i njegovati to što imamo jer u Hrvatskoj nemamo bolje. Znam da su kod nas apetiti veliki, ali za 30. turnir ćemo opet nešto iskemijati i izvući nekog zeca iz šešira.

DOSADAŠNJA FINALA

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 Berasetegui (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

Talijanski tenisač nadigrao Argentinca Guida Pellu u finalu Plava Laguna Croatia Opena te ostvario još jedan veliki trenutak u svojoj karijeri, uz polufinale Roland Garrosa i osvajanje turnira u Budimpešti

MARCO CECCHINATO POBJEDNIK 29. IZDANJA UMAŠKOG TURNIRA

Marco Cecchinato podigao je veliki plavi pehar namijenjen pobjedniku Plava Laguna Croatia Opena nakon pobjede u finalu nad Guidom Pellom sa 6:2, 7:6 (4).

Tenisač sa Sicilije postao je tako tek drugi Talijan koji se može pohvaliti titulom jedinog hrvatskog ATP turnira budući da je prije njega to pošlo za rukom jedino njegovom sunarodnjaku Fabiju Fogniniju. Zanimljivo, samo nekoliko sati prije jučerašnjeg finala, Fognini je osvojio turnir u Bastadu, tako da je Cecchinato u Umagu zao-kružio perfektu talijansku tenisku nedjelju.

- **Bio je ovo sjajan tjedan za mene i presretan sam što iz Umaga odlazim s trofejom. Ovo je uspjeh cijelog mog stožera, a ovog puta bih posebno želio istaknuti svoju zaručnicu koja je uvijek tu uz mene** - rekao je 25-godišnji Talijan koji je iz ruku predsjednika Uprave Plave Lagune Nevena Stavera primio pobjednički ček.

Pobjednički pehar Cecchinatu predala

je Predsjednica RH Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, koja je iz prvog reda tribina uživala u 29. umaškom finalu, a među uglednim gostima bili su i ministar turizma Gari Cappelli, predsjednik Slovačke Andrej Kiska, guverner HNB-a Boris Vujčić, predsjednik Grupacije Lukšić Hrvatska Davor Luksic, kao i brojni predstavnici partnera i sponzora. Za Cecchinata, koji je zablistao nedavno na Roland Garrosu plasmanom u polufinale (pobijedio Novaka Đokovića i Davida Goffina), ovo je druga titula u karijeri. Jedina prethodna došla je u Budimpešti, također na zemljanoj podlozi, ranije ove godine. S novih 250 bodova iz Umaga, Talijan će od ponedjeljka na novoj ATP listi ostvariti najbolji renking karijere - 22. mjesto.

- **Jako sam sretan kontinuitetom forme nakon Roland Garrosa i što sam nakon polufinala tamo na prvom sljedećem zemljanom turniru osvojio titulu. Osjećam se sjajno, igram odlično, napredujem na rang-listi, doista je fantastičan**

tjedan iza mene u Umagu - dodao je Cecchinato.

U finalu je dokazao vrhunsku formu, a nakon što je u dugačkom prvom gemu (18 poena) spasio dvije break-lopte zagospodario je terenom. Pogađao je bekhendom što je htio, kratkim loptama lomio suparnika i napravio dva breaka koja su mu donijela prvi set. U drugom je u petom gemu izgubio servis i dao Pelli šansu za povratak, međutim u osmom gemu je sve vratio u egal te onda odigrao sjajan tie-break osvojivši prva četiri poena iz čega Argentinac nije bilo povratka.

- **Želio bih igrati ovako svaki tjedan, to bi bilo idealno. No, da bih to uspio moram nastaviti naporno raditi svaki dan. Sada je ulazak u Top 20 jako blizu, a vjerujem da ću uspjeti proći tu granicu jer u narednom razdoblju nemam puno bodova za braniti tako da sve što učinim značit će korak naprijed.**

Guido Pella i iz trećeg je finala u karijeri (Kitzbühel 2017, Rio de Janeiro





2016) ostao bez konačne nagrade, ali utjehu može naći u činjenici da će napredovati za 15 mjesta, odnosno do 57. pozicije na ATP listi.

- Marco je ovog puta bio predobar. Igrao sam dobro, ali nije bilo dovoljno... No, planiram se vratiti u Umag, volim ovaj turnir, grad, plaže, sve mi se sviđa. Ako ću imati šansu, vratit ću se - rekao je Argentinac makar nije mogao sakriti razočaranje što je još jednom ostao za korak prekratak. - Htio sam pobijediti, meni finale nije dovoljno. Kad ne pobijedite, teško je imati dobre osjećaje, čak i kad ste finalist. Ovo je moje treće finale, ali i dalje ne mogu osvojiti turnir, zašto bih bio sretan? Došao sam pobijediti, igrao sam dobro, ali ne mogu osvojiti. Ne osjećam se zadovoljno uopće, on je igrao bolje, ali nisam sretan.

Tradicionalni vatromet koji je uslijedio neposredno nakon dodjela nagrada pobjedniku i finalistu spustio je zastor na 29. izdanje, još jedno uspješno izdanje Plava Laguna Croatia Opena. I jedva čekamo sljedeće jer dogodne se slavi veliki jubilej - 30 godina ATP turnira u Umagu.

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 Dolgoplov (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



VINSKE DEGUSTACIJE

Kuša i piše: Antonija Mandić



ISTRIA GOURMET FESTIVAL PREDSJEDNICA URUČILA NAGRADU ZA ATP VINO GODINE VINARIJI TOMAZ



S najvećim brojem glasova, posjetitelji ovogodišnjih Skrivenih čari istarskih vina, odlučili su titulom ATP vina godine nagraditi odležanu malvaziju vinarije Tomaz.

Na svečanoj dodjeli nagrade, pobjedničku statuu uručila je predsjednica Kolinda Grabar Kitarović koja je čestitala vlasniku vinarije Claudiu Tomazu. "Iznimna mi je čast što je publika odabrala moje vino, kao i što mi je nagradu uručila predsjednica baš kao i prije dvije godine kad je pobijedio moj teran", kazao je Tomaz. S predsjednicom je kao gost na dodjelu došao i slovački predsjednik Andrej Kiska koji je pohvalio hrvatska vina.

"Volim piti vino, a jučer sam dobio priliku kušati hrvatska vina. Jako mi je drago što je malvazija pobjednik, to je izvrsno vino, jako je važno izgraditi mu dobru reputaciju i dati ga nama, Slovacima", kazao je Kiska. Predsjednica je za kraj svečane dodjele nazdravila sa slovačkim predsjednikom, pobjednikom ovogodišnjih Skrivenih čari istarskih vina i suprugom Jakovom.

"Sjajno je u Umagu večeras, veselim se dobrom tenisu. Ovo je ogroman sportski događaj i velika turistička promocija Umaga, ali i cijele Istre i cijele Hrvatske", kazala je Grabar Kitarović dodajući da nema favorita u finalu te da će navijati za oba tenisača.

Skrivene čari istarskih vina postale su nezaobilazan i jedan od omiljenih događaja na ATP turniru, a na njima se predstavljaju najcjenjenija lokalna vina. Ove godine, svakog dana od ponedjeljka do subote, predstavljale su se tri vinarije, a u finalu su se uz odležanu malvaziju Tomaz našli i svježa malvazija vinarije Veraldi, odležani teran vinarije Benvenuti, pjenušac Vina Zigante, cabernet sauvignon vinarije Degrassi i crvena kupaža vinarije Kozlović.



PLESNI RITMOVI ZUCCHERO CELEBRATION BANDA ZATVORILI JOŠ JEDNO IZVRSNO IZDANJE ATP-JA



“What a Wonderful World” pjesma je kojom Goran Griff sasvim prikladno već godinama zatvara umaški ATP turnir. Deset uzbudljivih dana teniskih mečeva, deset koncerata regionalnih i stranih zvijezda i mnogobrojni punktovi s najfinijom hranom i najboljim istarskim vinima, uistinu su nam još jednom priuštili doživljaj za pamćenje. Nakon dodjele pobjedničkog trofeja Marcu Cecchinatu i spektakularnog vatrometa, gledatelji su se sa stadiona Gorana Ivaniševića preselili u Dance Arenu gdje se Griffu na pozornici



pridružio Zucchero Celebration band. Nizali su najveće hitove talijanskog pjevača i omogućili nam da se od 29. Plava Laguna Croatia Opena Umag oprostimo u plesnim ritmovima i s osmjehom na licu.

EMIRATES TROJE SRETNIKA ODVEO U FINALE

Troje sretnika koji su u subotu gledali polufinalni meč između Marca Cecchinata i Marca Trunggellitija, zahvaljujući zračnoj kompaniji Emirates, uživalo je sinoć i u finalu gdje se Cecchinato za titulu prvaka Umaga borio protiv Guida Pelle. Nakon što je savladao imenjaka Trunggellitija rezultatom 6:2, 6:1, Cecchinato se potpisao na tri loptice od kojih je jedna imala poseban znak na sebi i bacio ih u publiku. Sretnici koji su

ulovili loptice s potpisom dobili su dvije ulaznice za finalni meč, dok je loptica s posebnim znakom jednom gledatelju donijela dvije ulaznice i upoznavanje pobjednika 29. Plava

Laguna Croatia Opena Umag. Emirates je ponosni sponzor turnira i premier partner ATP World Toura. Cijeli turnir stoga je u subotu bio u znaku kompanije. Stjuardese Emirates

dijelile su gledateljima polufinalnih mečeva kape s logom kompanije, a vrhunac dana uvijek je “Emirates Ball Flight” igra u kojoj Emirates dijeli vrijedne nagrade.



INA U FINALU ATP-JA GLEDATELJE ČASTILA POKLON BONOVI

Dok su Marco Cecchinato i Guido Pella jučer u finalu ATP turnira kratko odmarali između setova, INA je obradovala četiri sretna gledatelja u

publici. Moderator je publiku pozvao da zavire pod svoja sjedala jer je ispod četiri nasumično odabrane stolice INA ostavila vrijedan poklon

bon. Sretni dobitnici nisu mogli sakriti osmijeh s lica, a INA je i svim ostalim gledateljima podijelila šešire i lepeze sa svojim logotipom.



JANEZ KOCIJANČIČ Predsjednik Europskog olimpijskog odbora na umaškom finalu

UMAG JE NAJJAČI TURNIR U OVOM DIJELU EUROPE

Jedan od vrlo čestih gostiju u maškog

ATP turnir je i aktualni predsjednik Europskog olimpijskog odbora (EOO) Janez Kocijančič iz Slovenije. Iako je njegov primarni sport skijanje (potpredsjednik je Međunarodne skijaške federacije), tenis mu je jedna od omiljenih rekreativnih aktivnosti, a dolazak na Plava Laguna Croatia Open također dugogodišnja navika. - Mislim da sam deset ili više puta

dolazio na ATP turnir u Umag i skoro da se su osjećam kao domaći - rekao je Kocijančič koji je u društvu unuka i kolege iz HOO-a, kao i EOO-a, Zlatka Mateše pratio sinoćnje finale.

- Umag doživljam kao vrlo ugledan i jaki turnir koji je kroz svoju povijest od skoro 30 godina imao velike pobjednike. Tu sam gledao, recimo, Carlosa Moyu, Novaka Đokovića i još mnoge druge sjajne igrače. Umag je sigurno najjači turnir u ovom dijelu Europe.

Kocijančič je naglasio kako je Umag

pokazatelj uspješne sinergije sporta, turizma i gospodarstva.

- Svi veliki sportski događaji su i turistička promocija i grada i države, a ATP Umag ima adute kao što su lokacija i ljetni termin te ih jako dobro koristi. Unatoč konkurenciji, koja uvijek tjera na još veću kvalitetu, Umag ima svoje mjesto na teniskoj karti.

Baš kao i brojni slovenski turisti, slovenski tenisači, poput Aljaža Bedenea, redoviti su gosti umaškog turnira,



međutim nikako da u Umagu dođu do značajnijeg rezultata.

- Sport je puno puta i stvar sreće. Hrvatska je u tenisu puno ispred Slovenije, uostalom i navijam za Čilića, Čorića na velikim turnirima, kao i ostale tenisače iz okruženja, poput Đokovića - rekao je Kocijančič.



Sjaj u tami.

HEP

Više od struje



#ATPUMAG: VIŠE OD 500 VAŠIH FOTKI NA INSTAGRAM WALLU

“Kako zabavan tjedan u Umagu! Ne hvalim često turnire, ali ovaj to zaslužuje”, napisao je ispod fotografije na Instagramu britanski tenisač Dominic Inglot i zahvalio se organizaciji i to na hrvatskom. Hashtag #atpumag koristile su još stotine posjetitelja turnira, uključujući i tenisače, a njihovi postovi prikazivali su se na velikom Instagram wallu u Social Areni. Više od 500 fotografija s terena, koncerata, restorana u Gourmet zoni i mnogih drugih događaja u sklopu turnira, nosilo je službeni hashtag. ATP Umag ove je godine tijekom trajanja turnira imao i više od 80 Facebook objava, preko 60 objava na Instagramu i više od 150 “storyja” te stotinjak “tvitova”. Svakodnevno

smo se javljali live na Facebooku s “Razgovora o sportu”, mečeva, koncerata i mnogih drugih aktivnosti, a naše su objave imale doseg od više od milijun ljudi.



#ATPUMAG: MORE THAN 500 OF YOUR PHOTOS ON THE INSTAGRAM WALL

“What a fun week in Umag! Don’t often give props to tournaments but this one deserves it!” UK tennis player Dominic Inglot captioned his photo on Instagram and then thanked the organizers – in Croatian. The hashtag #atpumag has been used by hundreds of tournament visitors, tennis players included, and their posts were shown on the large Instagram wall at the Social Arena. More than 500 photos taken on tennis courts, during concerts, in restaurants at

the Gourmet Zone, and at many other events, had the official hashtag. This year, the ATP tournament in Umag also clocked up more than 80 Facebook posts, over 60 Instagram posts, as well as more than 150 Instagram Stories and a hundred or so tweets. We also did daily reports via Facebook Live from our Talking about Sports events, various matches, concerts and many other events and activities, and our posts have had a reach of over a million people.



OSCAROV KUTAK OSCAR'S CORNER

NAKON ODLIČNOG MEČA, CECCHINATO PODIGAO PLAVI PEHAR

Marco Cecchinato pobjednik je 29. Plava Laguna Croatia Opena Umag i time nastavlja nizati odlične rezultate od početka ove godine. Od danas je na 22. mjestu najboljih tenisača svijeta. Nadajmo se da ćemo ga još gledati u Umagu, moguće i sljedeće godine, na velikoj 30. godišnjici umaškoga turnira. Sjajna igra i Guida Pellea kojega je cijeloga tjedna bilo užitak gledati, pogotovo u finalu kada je dao sve od sebe u utrci za pobjedu. Nastavi li tako, pobjeda neće izostati. Nadajmo se da će na velikoj obljetnici biti i velika imena hrvatskoga tenisa te da nakon dugo godina na pobjedničkom postolju bude i hrvatski predstavnik.



CECCHINATO LIFTS THE BLUE TROPHY AFTER AN EXCELLENT MATCH

Marco Cecchinato is the winner of the 29th Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag. He has thus continued his excellent run which started earlier this year. As of today, he is also no. 22 in the ATP Rankings. Let us hope we will see him again in Umag, possibly even next year, for the tournament's big 30th anniversary. Guido Pella once again played well. He was a joy to watch all week long, especially in the final match, when he gave his all in the race for the title. If he continues playing like this, there will be no shortage of wins. Let us hope we will see some great Croatian names at the big anniversary and that, after so many years, we will have another Croatian representative on the winning podium.

piše /writes: Oscar Visintin



MARCO CECCHINATO, ANCORA UN TRIONFO ITALIANO

Marco Cecchinato vola alto e conquista la 29. edizione del 'Plava Laguna ATP Croatia Open Umag'. Dopo Fabio Fognini (vincitore nel 2016) e Paolo Lorenzi (bloccato a un solo passo dal trionfo dodici mesi or sono dalle imprese del lucky loser Andrey Rublev), il giocatore palermitano arriva fino in fondo al torneo istriano e si regala una nuova grande serata sulla terra rossa del campo centrale 'Goran

Ivanišević Stadium'. Cecchinato, opposto all'argentino Guido Pella, ha così coronato una settimana di prestazioni in continua crescita sui campi del complesso Stella Maris. L'italiano, unica delle prime cinque teste di serie a essere arrivato fino alle semifinali e un solo set concesso in quattro partite, affrontava l'argentino Guido Pella (già compagno di Lorenzi nel doppio).

Il palermitano parte subito in quarta senza esitazioni e, dopo aver tenuto il servizio nell'interminabile game iniziale (8'), trova il primo break portandosi sul 3-1. Nel gioco successivo annulla un'opportunità per il controbreak al mancino sudamericano e poi non perde più un colpo fino al secondo break per chiudere il primo set sul 6-2 in 37'. Più equilibrato il secondo set e andamento senza particolari sussulti fino al 2-2, quando Pella riesce a strappare il servizio a Cecchinato alla quinta palla break per poi salire fino al 4-2. Buona, tuttavia, la reazione del palermitano che tiene il servizio successivo e trova subito il controbreak, impattando sul 4-4



PELLA: "HO APPREZZATO MOLTO UMAGO, MA NON POSSO ESSERE FELICE"

Guido Pella: "Nessuna chiave di lettura – esordisce il giocatore argentino, piuttosto deluso e di poche parole in sala stampa – Non ho vinto e perciò non posso essere felice: io ero venuto qui per vincere. Tuttavia, ho apprezzato molto Umago: il sole, la città, l'organizzazione. In futuro vorrei tornare".

FINALE

CAMPO CENTRALE – STADIUM GORAN IVANIŠEVIĆ

[3] Marco Cecchinato (ITA) b Guido Pella (ARG) 6-2 7-6 (4)

e confermandosi a zero per il 5-4. L'argentino tiene comunque botta e porta Cecchinato al tie break che, tuttavia, trova l'italiano concentra-

tissimo: parziale d 4-0, Pella si illude risalendo fino al 4-3 ma poi Cecchinato allunga nuovamente per chiudere sul 7-4 dopo un'ora e 39' di gioco.

CECCHINATO: "GRAZIE A TUTTI PER IL SOSTEGNO. SPERO DI RITORNARE L'ANNO PROSSIMO"

"Credo di poter parlare in italiano – il suo esordio, accolto da un boato del pubblico – Ringrazio tutti per il

sostegno, ho percepito tantissimo calore da parte vostra. Complimenti a Guido e al suo team: peccato per oggi, scusami...".

Poi ha proseguito, prima di ricevere il trofeo: "Grazie al mio team, al mio tecnico, alla mia famiglia e a tutti voi. Una dedica speciale alla mia fidanzata e grazie all'organizzazione per l'ospitalità: alle

ragazze, al direttore, agli arbitri, ai raccattapalle e agli sponsor. Spero di ritornare l'anno prossimo".

"Il sogno continua – gioisce – Sono emozionato: il mio secondo titolo ATP, frutto di un'evoluzione continua. Tornavo sulla terra dopo Parigi e avevo addosso tanta pressione, ma ero anche determinato. Questa sera sapevo di dover alzare ulteriormente il livello contro uno dei migliori giocatori sulla terra rossa. Ma ero ben preparato e sapevo bene cosa

fare". "Il tennis è strano, avrei potuto anche uscire al primo turno e, invece, adesso sono qui a festeggiare. Da domani sarò numero 22 al mondo, orgoglioso come non mai. Dopo il Roland Garros potevo accontentarmi; invece, sono venuto a Umago molto concentrato e convinto che il lavoro paga sempre. Adesso mi aspetta Amburgo per chiudere gli impegni sulla terra rossa, ma sono convinto di poter fare molto bene anche sul cemento. L'ho già dimostrato".



Anche questo è Umago!

IMPRESSUM

Glavni urednik: Tomislav Poljak | Naklada: 350 komada | Tisak: Primacomm d.o.o.

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**Lawrence
Frankopan**

The director's view

PLANNING FOR 30TH BIRTHDAY START NOW

Another Plava Laguna Croatia Open is over, Marco Cecchinato has joined the company of our champions, and I am confident that everyone who has been with us for the past ten days will have even more pleasant memories to take home.

I am sure Umag has once again been successful in providing everyone here with an array of emotions and experiences, since that is what we strive to do. We want everyone to go home with lasting memories that will make them come back to our tournament the following year.

As far as tennis is concerned, we have seen a lot of great matches and intense duels, and nearly every match was a huge battle. Ultimately, when you get a final starring the guy who played semifinals at Roland Garros and the player who beat Marin Čilić at Wimbledon just one year after Čilić's appearance in the final there, there is no room for discontent.

Kudos to Marco for winning. This was his first appearance on clay after his semifinal match in Paris, and he instantly went on to claim the title, thus showing us that he was in excellent form. Guido also played a number of great matches last week; after battling past Bedene in the second round and coming back from being a set and two breaks down, he let go and everything started going his way.

As for the organization, we have set the bar really high, this is our DNA. Apart from the wonderful people running all the segments of the tournament, I also have to acknowledge the people behind the scenes. In our case, teamwork is truly the foundation of everything. Nearly 400 people have been involved in the running of the tournament over the past ten days, and each and every one of them deserves our praise and thanks, from the hostesses to the drivers, who are also heroes of mine in a way, as their work often goes unnoticed.

Next year, we will be celebrating the tournament's 30th anniversary and I am confident that you will be dazzled once again, even though we do it year after year. I know that tennis fans are sometimes hard to please, but I truly believe we have an excellent tournament. I am happy with all its aspects but we strive for perfection and I always think there are more boundaries that we could push. Our preparations for the 30th birthday practically start today. See you next year!

**Goran
Ivanišević**



The legend's view

FROM UMAG TO THE TOP 25 IN THE WORLD

Three months ago, Marco Cecchinato was barely in the Top 100 in the ATP Rankings, and now, after Umag, he is going to have his career-best ranking and join the Top 25. That is a fascinating leap that he has made. What's more, it is great that his result in Umag is what has propelled him to his best ranking ever.

Of course, a lot of it is down to his semifinal run at Roland Garros, but even after Paris, he continued playing well. Nobody knows how things will go from here, but at least now he has a good reason to remember Umag.

He has shown that his success at Roland Garros was no fluke, as some believed he had been lucky and his stars had aligned. You can align stars all day long but that will not get you into Grand Slam semifinals, especially if you have to beat Novak Đoković to get there. Cecchinato is an excellent player, his serve is no bomb but he puts it in there, keeps the ball in the game, hits his forehands, and that one-handed backhand of his... Simply put, an excellent player.

Guido Pella has also had a great run. He is a solid player, and his form does not oscillate much. He plays his game and takes whatever is on offer, and this time around, it was the final.

We have thus arrived at the end of the tournament, which has once

again offered so much. For instance, we had Nino Serdarušić, who played a great match against the no. 49 in the world, Maximilian Marterer, showing us he could play at this level. The only thing that he lacks now is the ranking. But I have no doubts he will soon join the Top 100 and then all doors will be open to him. He works hard and trains well, and I expect him in Umag next year as well, but without the wild card needed.

We have also seen a lot of good matches and scores of people in the stands. Compared to other ATP 250 tournaments, where people come only if the top tennis players, or even Federer and Nadal, show up, the stands in Umag are packed all week long. That is why we need to be content and cherish the thing that we have, as this is as good as it gets in Croatia. I know expectations here are huge but don't worry, for the 30th edition we will once again come up with something great and pull a rabbit or two out of our collective hat.

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 Berasetegui (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 Italian tennis player has overcome Argentina's Guido Pella in the final of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open, thus achieving another tremendous success in his career, alongside the semifinals at Roland Garros and winning the title in Budapest

MARCO CECCHINATO WINS THE 29TH EDITION OF THE TOURNAMENT IN UMAG

Marco Cecchinato lifted the big blue trophy intended for the winner of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open after defeating Guido Pella 6:2, 7:6 (4) in the tournament's final.

The Sicilian-born tennis player has thus become the second Italian with the title from Croatia's only ATP tournament, the first one being his compatriot Fabio Fognini. Interestingly enough, just hours prior to yesterday's final in Umag, Fognini claimed the title in Bastad, Sweden, which means that Cecchinato's win has completed this perfect Italian Sunday.

- This was a great week for me and I am thrilled to be leaving Umag with a trophy. This success is down to my whole team, but this time I would like to single out my fiancé who is always by my side – said the 25-year-old Italian after receiving the

winner's check from the President of the Management Board of Plava Laguna, Neven Staver.

Cecchinato received the trophy from the President of the Republic of Croatia, Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, who had enjoyed the 29th Umag final from the front row in the stands. Other prominent guests included Croatia's Minister of Tourism Gari Cappelli, President of Slovakia Andrej Kiska, Governor of the Croatian National Bank Boris Vujčić, President of the Luksic Group Croatia Davor Luksic, and the representatives of the event's numerous partners and sponsors. This is the second ATP title for Cecchinato, who recently excelled at Roland Garros by advancing to the semifinals (and beating Novak Đoković and David Goffin on the way). He claimed his other title earlier this year in Budapest, also on clay.

With 250 new points from Umag, the Italian will post his career-highest ranking on Monday – no. 22 in the ATP Rankings.

- I am really pleased with the continuity of my form following Roland Garros and the fact that after reaching the semifinals in Paris, I won the very next tournament on clay. I am feeling great, I am playing great, and I am going up in the rankings. This has been a truly fantastic week for me in Umag - added Cecchinato.

In his last match here, he showed excellent form, and after saving two break points in a long first game (18 points), he took over the reins of the match. His backhand hit whatever he wanted and his short balls chipped at his opponent. Eventually, he broke Pella twice to win the first set. In the second set, he lost his serve in the fifth game, giving his opponent

a chance to come back into the match; however, he leveled the result in the eighth game and then played a fantastic tiebreaker, winning the first four points and making it impossible for the Argentinian to make a comeback.

- I wish I could play like this every week. That would be perfect. But to do that, I have to continue working hard every single day. I am now close to entering the Top 20 and I believe I will cross that barrier soon. I don't have many points to defend in the coming period, which means that everything I achieve will be another step forward.

Guido Pella has missed out on a title for the third time in his career (his previous finals include Kitzbühel in 2017 and Rio de Janeiro in 2016) but he can find comfort in the fact that he will be going up by 15 places in the ATP Rankings, to no. 57.

- Marco was too good this time. I played well but it simply wasn't enough... I do, however, plan to be





back in Umag. I love this tournament, the city, its beaches, everything. If I get the chance, I will definitely be back – said the Argentinian, unable to hide his disappointment after once again falling short.

- I wanted to win, being in the final isn't enough. When you fail to win, it's difficult to feel good about yourself, even if you're in the final. This was my third final but I still couldn't win the tournament, so why should I feel happy. I came here to win, I played well, but I couldn't claim the title. I don't feel pleased at all. He played better, but I'm still not happy with myself.

The traditional firework display, which came immediately after the award ceremony, lowered the curtain of the 29th tournament, another successful edition of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open. We can hardly wait for the next year's tournament as we will be celebrating a big anniversary – 30 years of the ATP tournament in Umag.

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 Dolgoplov (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



WINE TASTINGS

Tasted and written by: Antonija Mandić



ISTRIA GOURMET FESTIVAL HEAD OF STATE PRESENTS TOMAZ WINERY WITH ATP OF THE YEAR AWARD



president toasted with the Slovak president, the winner of this year's Hidden Charms of the Istrian Wines event, and her husband Jakov.

"I am having a great time in Umag this evening and looking forward to some fantastic tennis. This is a huge sporting event and a big tourism promotion for not just Umag but Istria and Croatia as well," Grabar Kitarović said, adding that she had no favorites in the final and would root for both tennis players.

The Hidden Charms of the Istrian Wines wine tasting events showcase the most prestigious local wines. They have become an integral part of the ATP tournament and one of its most popular events. This year, every day from Monday until Saturday, three wineries showcased their top wines. Alongside the winning Tomaz aged malvasia, the finalists of the ATP Wine of the Year competition included Veraldi's fresh malvasia, Benvenuti's aged teran, a sparkling wine by Vina Zigante, a cabernet sauvignon by Degrassi and Kozlović's red coupage.

The visitors of this year's Hidden Charms of the Istrian Wines wine tasting events had awarded the most points to the aged malvasia by Tomaz Winery, thus crowning it ATP Wine of the Year. At the award ceremony, the owner of the winery, Claudio Tomaz, received the winner's trophy from the hands of the Croatian President Kolinda Grabar Kitarović who also congratulated him on his feat.

"I am extremely honored that the visitors have chosen my wine as the wine of the year, and that I have received the award from the president herself, just like two years ago, when one of my terans won," Tomaz said. The head of state was joined by her Slovak counterpart Andrej Kiska, who complimented Croatian wines.

"I like wine and yesterday I had the opportunity to taste some Croatian wines. I am glad a malvasia won the award as it's an excellent wine. It is now important to build its reputation and hand it over to us Slovaks," Kiska added. At the end of the award ceremony, the Croatian



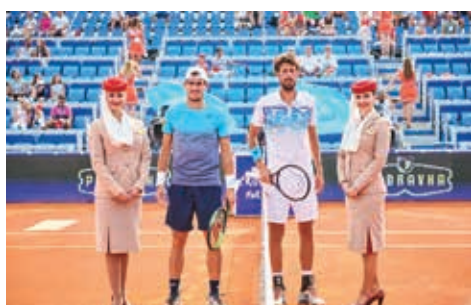
ENGLISH

DANCE RHYTHMS BY ZUCCHERO CELEBRATION CLOSE ANOTHER EXCELLENT TOURNAMENT



For years, What a Wonderful World has been the song with which Goran Griff has been, quite appropriately, closing the ATP tournament in Umag. These ten exciting days, filled with tennis matches, ten concerts by various regional and international stars, and numerous stands with the finest food and the best Istrian wines, have once again given us something to remember. After watching Marco Cecchinato being presented with

the winner's trophy and enjoying a spectacular firework display, the spectators moved from the Goran Ivanišević Stadium to the Dance Arena, where Griff was joined onstage by the Zucchero Celebration band. They played the biggest hits of the famous Italian singer, allowing us to say goodbye to the 29th edition of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag while dancing and with smiles on our faces.



On Saturday, three lucky people who had watched the semifinal match between Marco Cecchinato and Mar-

co Trungelliti got the chance to enjoy last night's singles final starring Cecchinato and Guido Pella, thanks to Emirates Airline.

EMIRATES TAKES THREE LUCKY PERSONS TO THE FINAL MATCH

specially marked, and threw them into the stands. The lucky persons who caught the balls got two tickets to the final, while that special ball brought its new owner two tickets to the final match and a Meet the Champion of the 29th Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag. Emirates is the proud sponsor of the tournament

and Premier partner of the ATP World Tour. On Saturday, it was Emirates day. Emirates' cabin crew gave away hats with the company's logo to the spectators of the two semifinal matches, and the highlight of the day was the Emirates Ball Flight, a game in which Emirates gave away valuable prizes.

INA TREATS SPECTATORS TO GIFT VOUCHERS IN THE FINAL OF THE ATP TOURNAMENT

Yesterday, in the singles final of the ATP tournament, while Marco Cecchinato and Guido Pella were briefly resting between sets, INA made four lucky

spectators very happy. The moderator asked the spectators to look under their seats as INA had left valuable gift vouchers under four of them, all

randomly selected. The lucky winners could not hide their smiles, while INA gifted the other spectators with hats and fans carrying its logo.



JANEZ KOCIJANČIČ President of the European Olympic Committees at the final in Umag

UMAG IS THE STRONGEST TOURNAMENT IN THIS PART OF EUROPE

One of the more frequent guests of the ATP tournament in Umag is the current President of the European Olympic Committees (EOC) Janez Kocijančič of Slovenia. Even though his main sport is skiing (he is the Vice President of the International Ski Federation), playing tennis is one of his favorite recreational activities and coming to the Plava Laguna Croatia Open a longtime habit.

- I believe I've been to the ATP tournament in Umag ten or more times, and I almost feel as one of the locals - said Kocijančič, who followed yesterday's final in the company of his grandchildren and Zlatko Mate-

ša, his colleague from the Croatian Olympic Committee and the EOC. - Umag is a renowned, strong tournament, which has had many great champions over its nearly 30-year history. This is where I have watched Carlos Moya, Novak Đoković and many other great tennis players play. Umag must be the strongest tournament in this part of Europe. Kocijančič also stressed that Umag was a benchmark for the successful synergy of sports, tourism and the economy.

- All the great sporting events serve as tourism promotion of the city and the country. The ATP tournament

in Umag has the advantages of a great location and summer dates, and is making great use of them. Despite the competition, which constantly drives you to be better, Umag has cemented its place on the tennis map. Just like numerous Slovenian tourists, Slovenian tennis players, such as Aljaž Bedene, are regular guests of the tournament in Umag; however, they have yet to achieve a significant result here.



- Oftentimes, sports is about being lucky as well. Croatia is much better at tennis than Slovenia. Besides, I root for Čilić and Ćorić at major tournaments, as well as for many other tennis players from the region, such as Đoković - concluded Kocijančič.



PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN UMAG

13.-22.7.2018.



NASLOVNI SPONZOR

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