



PLAVA LAGUNA OPEN **UMAG**
CROATIA 24.-30.7.2023.

DAILY NEWS

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ARNALDI AND PIROS PASS THROUGH TO THE SECOND ROUND BEFORE THE RAIN HITS



MAIN DRAW SINGLES



STATUS	NAT		
1	CZE	LEHECKA, Jiri	J. LEHECKA [1]
2		BYE	
3	AUT	THIEM, Dominic	D. THIEM
4	Q	ARG BAGNIS, Facundo	64 75
5	CRO	CILIC, Marin	F. COBOLLI
6	Q	ITA COBOLLI, Flavio	64 63
7	Q	NED DE JONG, Jesper	M. ARNALDI [7]
8	7	ITA ARNALDI, Matteo	63 62
9	3	AUT OFNER, Sebastian	S. OFNER [3]
10		BYE	
11	AUS	POPYRIN, Alexei	A. POPYRIN
12	FRA	BONZI, Benjamin	64 75
13	WC	CRO AJDUKOVIC, Duje	D. PRIZMIC
14	WC	CRO PRIZMIC, Dino	61 62
15	HUN	PIROS, Zsombor	Z. PIROS
16	5	AUS O'CONNELL, Christopher	63 64
17	6	SUI WAWRINKA, Stan	
18	Q	AUT MISOLIC, Filip	
19	SUI	HUESLER, Marc-Andrea	
20	ARG	CORIA, Federico	
21	JPN	DANIEL, Taro	T. DANIEL
22	WC	ESP LANDALUCE, Martin	16 75 62
23		BYE	
24	4	ESP CARBALLES BAENA, Roberto	R. CARBALLES BAENA [4]
25	8	ESP RAMOS-VINOLAS, Albert	
26	ESP	MUNAR, Jaume	
27	HUN	MAROZSAN, Fabian	
28	ARG	CERUNDOLO, Juan Manuel	
29	ITA	CECCHINATO, Marco	
30		SHEVCHENKO, Alexander	
31		BYE	
32	2	ITA SONEGO, Lorenzo	L. SONEGO [2]

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	GORAN IVANIŠEVIĆ STADION	GRANDSTAND	COURT 1	COURT 2	COURT 4
	Matches Start At 4:00 pm	Matches Start At 4:30 pm	Matches Start At 4:30 pm	Matches Start At 4:30 pm	Matches Start At 4:30 pm
1	Marco CECCHINATO (ITA) vs. Aleksandr ŠEVČENKO	Fabian MAROZSAN (HUN) vs. Juan Manuel CERUNDOLO (ARG)	Albert RAMOS-VINOLAS (ESP) vs. Jaume MUNAR (ESP)	N. Sriram BALAJI (IND) Jeevan NEDUNCHEZHIAN (IND) vs. Sadio DOUMBIA (FRA) Fabien REBOUL (FRA)	Francisco CABRAL (POR) Rafael MATOS (BRA) vs. Albano OLIVETTI (FRA) David VEGA HERNANDEZ (ESP)
	Not Before 5:00 pm	Not Before 5:00 pm	Not Before 5:00 pm	followed by:	followed by:
2	Stan WAWRINKA (SUI) vs. Filip MISOLIC (AUT)	Sebastian OFNER (AUT) vs. Alexei POPYRIN (AUS)	Marc-Andrea HUESLER (SUI) vs. Federico CORIA (ARG)	Gonzalo ESCOBAR (ECU) Aleksandr NEDOVJESOV (KAZ) vs. Ariel BEHAR (URU) Adam PAVLASEK (CZE)	Sander ARENDS (NED) David PEL (NED) vs. Marcelo DEMOLINER (BRA) Philipp OSWALD (AUT)
	followed by:	followed by:	followed by:		
3	Dino PRIZMIĆ (CRO) vs. Zsombor PIROS (HUN)	Flavio COBOLLI (ITA) vs. Matteo ARNALDI (ITA)	Blaž ROLA (SLO) Nino SERDARUŠIĆ (CRO) vs. Marco BORTOLOTTI (ITA) Sem VERBEEK (NED)		
	Not Before 9:00 pm				
4	Jiri LEHEČKA (CZE) vs. Dominic THIEM (AUT)				

STATUS	NAT.	MAIN DRAW DOUBLES	
1	ITA	BOLELLI, Simone VAVASSORI, Andrea	S. BOLELLI A. VAVASSORI [1] 64 61
2	KAZ	GOLUBEV, Andrey UKR MOLCHANOV, Denys	
3	MON	ARNEODO, Romain AUT WEISSBORN, Sam	R. JEBAVY J. LEHECKA 64 76(4)
4	CZE	JEBAVY, Roman LEHECKA, Jiri	
5	3	POR CABRAL, Francisco BRA MATOS, Rafael	
6	FRA	OLIVETTI, Albano ESP VEGA HERNANDEZ, David	
7	NED	ARENDS, Sander PEL, David	
8	BRA	DEMOLINER, Marcelo AUT OSWALD, Philipp	
9	WC	SLO ROLA, Blaz CRO SERDARUSIC, Nino	
10	ITA	BORTOLOTTI, Marco NED VERBEEK, Sem	
11	ECU	ESCOBAR, Gonzalo KAZ NEDOVYESOV, Aleksandr	
12	4	URU BEHAR, Ariel CZE PAVLASEK, Adam	
13	WC	CRO BABIC, Zvonimir CRO MIKRUT, Luka	N. BARRIENTOS G. DURAN 62 61
14	COL	BARRIENTOS, Nicolas ARG DURAN, Guillermo	
15	IND	BALAJI, N.Sriram IND NEDUNCHEZHIAN, Jeevan	
16	2	FRA DOUMBIA, Sadio FRA REBOUL, Fabien	

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UMAG 22.7. **JELENA ROZGA** 23.7. **MAMBO KINGS** 24.7. **LET 3**

25.7. **CRVENA JABUKA** 26.7. **VIDA LOCA** 27.7. **FEDDE LE GRAND**

28.7. **NERVO** 29.7. **LUDOVICA PAGANI** **RESIDENT DJ ANTONIO PREN**

PLAVA LAGUNA CROATIA OPEN **UMAG** **ATP 250** OFFICIAL EVENT

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I ALWAYS PLAY WELL IN CROATIA, AND UMAG IS ONE OF MY FAVOURITE TOURNAMENTS

Dino Prižmić, 17-year-old Croatian player, found out who he will be facing in the second round of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, as both players achieve something they will remember for the rest of their lives. Both Prižmić and Zsombor Piros from Hungary took their first ever ATP tournament victories at the Stella Maris. Prižmić did it on Monday after defeating fellow Croatian Duje Ajduković, while Piros' victory came a day later, after he won 6:3, 6:4 against Australia's Christopher O'Connell, sixth-seeded player.

"It feels awesome. By the way, Umag is one of my favourite ATP tournaments, although I haven't played here a lot yet. I hope it changes in the future. I feel great here, and there's lot of Hungarian fans who provide some extra inspiration and help me", said Piros after his victory.

This is his second time in Umag, after losing at the start of the qualifying tournament in 2018. His situation has proved to be much better now, as this 23-year-old Hungarian player, currently ranked 124th in the world, kept his serve, and in both sets he only needed a single break point to win against the 68th ranked player.

This wasn't the first time Piros was successful in Croatia this season. He won the ATP Challenger in Split in April, going a step further than last year, when he played in the finals of the same tournament. It is interesting to note that last year, he had to forfeit the final

match to none other than O'Connell, and this year he defeated the same opponent in the semi-finals.

"There are some countries where I play better than in others, Croatia must be one of the former", said the Hungarian player, who has already climbed about 50 places on the ATP rankings, and he might get into the top 100 very soon.

His next opponent will be Dino Prižmić, whom he knows well.

"He's quite a bit younger than me. He is tremendously talented. I played against him three years ago, I think, when he was 14 or 15. He made a lot of progress in the meantime, and he is capable of achieving good results in Challenger tournaments. Looking at our ATP rankings, one might say that I have the upper hand, but I wouldn't go that far. This will be a great battle, and I hope I get the chance to play at central court in front of a lot of fans," said Piros.



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ARNALDI AND PIROS PASS THROUGH TO THE SECOND ROUND BEFORE THE RAIN HITS

Due to inclement weather, the programme of the second day at the Plava Laguna Croatia Open did not go according to plan. We managed to squeeze in some three hours of play, but then the storm hit, accompanied by heavy rainfall, so the matches were interrupted and they will continue on Wednesday.

Two players managed to secure their spots in the second round before the rain started. These were Italian Matteo Arnaldi and Hungarian Zsombor Piros, who won their respective matches without a lost set. Arnaldi defeated Dutch qualifier Jesper de Jong 6:3, 6:2, while Piros defeated Australian Christopher O'Connell, sixth-seeded contender, 6:3, 6:4.

Arnaldi was successful after only an hour and 33 minutes, once again showing all of his progress. When the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag was happening last year, he was the 232th player in the world, and this year he is one of the seeded players. For a player who up until recently only played ATP Challengers it is very impressive to see what he has accomplished, this spring alone. In Barcelona (ATP 500), he made it through the qualifying tournament and the first round of the main tournament, and the next week he played the ATP Masters 1000 tournament in Madrid, where he once again made it through the qualifying

tournament and got to the third round. He made it to the second round at the same type of competition in Rome, as well as at French Open in Roland Garros.

However, we can't talk about his successes without mentioning a very important detail from Madrid – the player whom he defeated in the first round. It was Norway's Casper Ruud, at the time the fourth ranked player in the world. He defeated him 6:3, 6:4, his biggest professional victory yet.

This week, he holds the 76th spot in the ATP rankings, only slightly below his best ranking so far (72). In the second round, he faces another player who came through the qualifiers, only this time it's his fellow Italian – Flavio Cobolli.

The Wednesday programme will be particularly packed, as the remaining first round matches have to be competed, and four second round matches played. The day kicks off at 4 p.m. at central court, when the match between Marco Cecchinato and Alexander Shevchenko continues (current result 3:5). Stan Wawrinka and Filip Misolic face off sometime after 5 p.m., followed by Dino Prižmić and Zsombor Piros. After 9 p.m. Jiří Lehečka faces Dominic Thiem.

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PHOTOS: MEDITERRANEAN SCALLOPS (MAJA DANICA PEČANIĆ); KULEN (MAJA DANICA PEČANIĆ)



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TOMISLAV POLJAK, TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

IT'S TRUE, IT TAKES A YEAR TO PREPARE FOR A TOURNAMENT



I am often asked why I always say that preparations for the next tournament start the day after the final match of the current one, and whether this is really true or am I exaggerating a bit. This is the best place to set the record straight – it's the honest truth. Anyone who's organised any annual event, and not just a sporting one, knows this very well. When it comes to Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, I'd say that the Plava Laguna team, who works year-round on organising this tournament, can describe it best.

Players, preparation, negotiations... Not all of these have to happen right away, but some of them happen even before the process starts!

It is well known, and we have said this and pointed it out many times, as our media statements show, that we work on long-term strategies. We invest in young players, so, for us, the "Dino Prižmić project" didn't start last year when we awarded him his first invitation to the main tournament, but 7 or 8 years ago! We placed him on the court to face Andre Agassi and we've believed in him since he was a little boy. Today, we're delighted to see how he is becoming a fantastic player.

You don't achieve this within a year, this is a much longer process, it lasts as long as it's necessary.

When it comes to operational matters, such as negotiations with players, we can safely say that a part of it starts at US Open, a month after the tournament ends. We start analysing who is free, who might fit us into their schedule, and as the year goes on, the negotiations intensify. They are the most intense during the first quarter of the year that the tournament is happening in.

Other preparations, also related to players, are finalised in the last month or two before the tournament. These are things like accommodation, arrival, transportation, everything that makes it easier for players to arrive and stay with us. In any case, there are many details to take care of, and the Plava Laguna team is excellent at it all. Years of experience have a lot to do with it, so working on this tournament is always a true pleasure. This pleasure becomes even greater when players tell us they feel fantastic here!

COLUMN BY GORAN IVANIŠEVIĆ

MATTEO ARNALDI AS A HIDDEN GEM



On Tuesday we got to see about three hours of tennis – fewer than we wanted, but you can't control these things. The rain prevented us from keeping to the schedule, so we will get to see matches played in four courts on Wednesday. Also, there will be four matches played on central court, which will definitely be exciting, as every match brings something special.

When it comes to the matches played or started on Tuesday, I was somewhat surprised to see Zsombor Piros win against Christopher O'Connell. However, I can't say that it was a complete shock, regardless of the difference in their rankings, because he has already proven to be a good player. I didn't get the chance to see Arnaldi and De Jong, but I've known for a while what the Italian is capable of. Cecchinato is losing 3:5 to Shevchenko, which doesn't surprise me, and Marozsan is close to winning.

However, I would like to point Arnaldi out to our spectators. I've seen him a few times this year already, he is making great progress and I like him. For me, he is one of those hidden gems who could achieve a lot, meaning that I wouldn't be surprised to see him in the final match.

He may not be one of the favourites, as the seventh-seeded player, and he is still relatively unknown, but it wouldn't be the first time that a player like that rises to the very top in Umag.

From what I saw this spring, he is definitely capable of it. His results on clay courts are good, especially given that he achieved those in big tournaments, where he made it through qualifying rounds. He defeated Casper Ruud in Madrid, and scored a few more victories against good players, so none of this was accidental.

He is still not the topic of conversations here, or at least not the main topic, so he could definitely surprise everyone and show how good of a player he really is. Wednesday is reserved for some excellent matches – just look at the central court. Of course, the most important one for us is Dino Prižmić, who can definitely make it to the quarter-finals, regardless of the fact that Piros is ranked higher. I already talked about Thiem and Lehečka, and I want to invite everyone to watch Stan Wawrinka. I would always pay to see his matches; his one-handed backhand may be the finest in the history of tennis. Anyone in the mood for some good tennis should join us.

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THE SECRET LOVE OF LORENZO SONEGO

The Social Media Team of the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag spent some time with Italian player Lorenzo Sonego, who revealed he had another great love besides tennis – music. He said that his favourite genre is reggaeton and that he recently released a new song, “Cielo Aperto”. His song “Un Solo Secondo”, which he released in cooperation with a friend, has been streamed over 1 million times on Spotify.



T-SHIRTS, CAPS, TOWELS, BAGS AND BALLS – THE BEST TOURNAMENT SOUVENIRS

If you'd like to keep a special memento to remind you of the unforgettable moments at the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag, simply visit the official gift shop of the tournament, located by the Welcome Office. You will find a wide selection of souvenirs for adults and children, including T-shirts, hats, caps, and tennis balls in various sizes. Everything you need to ask your favourite players for an autograph. No better gift from Umag for your loved ones! See you at the gift shop.





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THE PLEASURE OF MODERN INTERPRETATIONS OF TRADITIONAL ISTRIAN CUISINE IN FOOD TRUCKS AT THE TASTE ISTRIA ZONE

Visitors to the 33rd Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag won't want to miss the Taste Istria zone, with flavours and aromas of Istria in a modern interpretation offered in urban food trucks.

One of them is Poluotok, whose founders local to Umag take advantage of all of the secrets of Istrian cuisine passed down to them by their grandparents to give their delicacies that little something extra. They prepare burgers with interesting names of Veli Jože, Salvore and Nostromo, as well as hot dogs with Istrian sausage, such as Jure Grando, Poluotok and Original.

Another contender is the Pula restaurant by the name of Hook & Cook, specialising in modern street food

with freshly caught Istrian fish. They offer tuna cheeseburgers, prawnillas (tortillas made with Adriatic prawns), the popular fish & chips, as well as crispy French fries.

The Munchy truck is there to share some surprising flavour combinations, such as their speciality – the FRAP (deep fried wrap), a delicious and crispy stuffed home-made tortilla. It comes in three flavours – Mediterranean with prosciutto, chicken and vegetarian. Another novelty comes in the form of Mediterranean katsu with shrimp, as well as a chicken and vegan katsu.

The Manjada by Palagius food truck from Novigrad offers amazing pizza as once prepared by the old nonnas,

guaranteeing authentic aromas and childhood flavours. They have a thicker dough, and come in five types: Margarita, Istriana, Frutti di Mare, Pistachio Mortadella, and the timeless classic – Nonna's Pizza. Grill fans will be able to enjoy the dishes prepared by Fredi's Grill food truck.

For visitors with a sweet tooth, there's the Pri Suncu truck offering artisanal gelato, prepared by owner Nina Šarić following the traditional Italian recipe. We recommend Almond Honey, Bailey's, Mango Sorbet, as well as the popsicles which come in two types – classic flavours of mango, strawberry and raspberry with white chocolate, as well as exclusive cocktail flavours of Gin Tonic, Aperol Spritz and Mojito.

Alongside this amazing food offer, the Umag tournament's Taste Istria zone also has a wine selection prepared by renowned Istrian wineries, whose countless international awards and recognitions contribute to strengthening Istria's image as a wine region.

All visitors who wish to learn more about Istrian varieties can participate in wine tastings titled "The hidden charm of Istrian wines". The Taste Istria zone is frequently visited by the players themselves, as well as the stars of the party programme, as they don't want to miss the chance to enjoy some Istrian delicacies.



CRVENA JABUKA DELIGHTS ALL GENERATIONS WITH THEIR GREATEST HITS



One of the most famous regional bands once again showed why they are so popular.

The band whose songs were the soundtrack to many love and coming of age stories, the beloved Crvena Jabuka, played some of their biggest hits to the crowd gathered at the Umag Music Nights, delighting them and stirring the emotions of the crowd.

AGED TERAN WINE WAS THE TOPIC OF LAST NIGHT'S TASTING AT THE HIDDEN CHARM OF ISTRIAN WINE

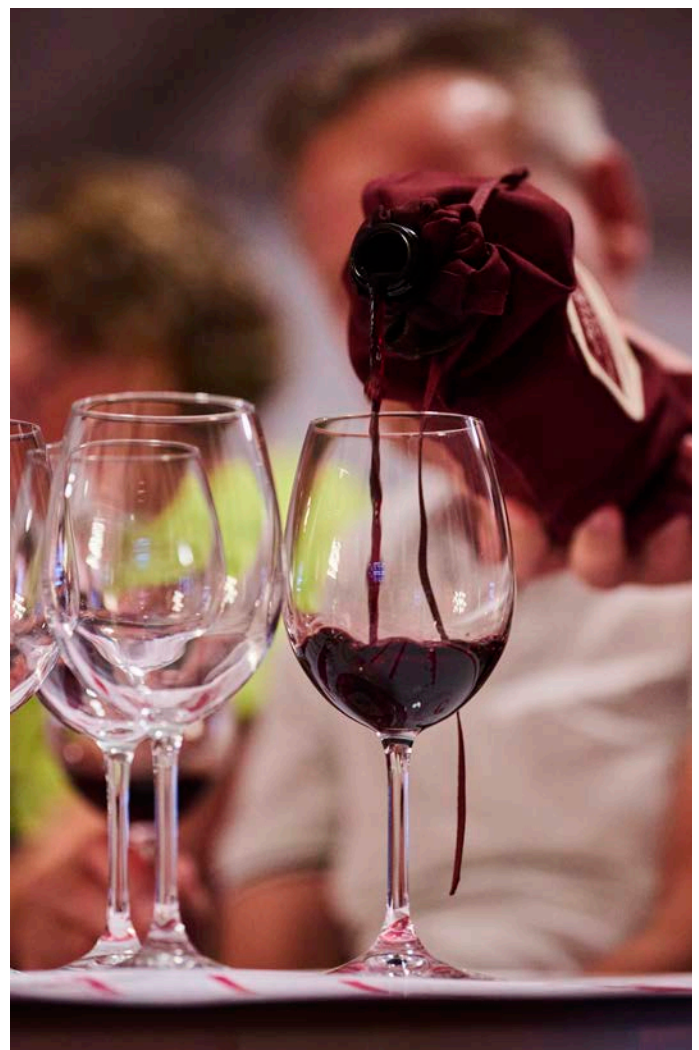
The second night of the "Hidden charm of Istrian wine" was dedicated to aged teran, and the Geržinić, CUJ and Vina Zigante wineries presented their wines.

As many wine lovers enjoyed a blind tasting, the sommelier from the Croatian Sommelier Club, Lucija Matijević, told them more about the specific characteristics of this old Istrian variety.

"Many visitors were there to see the face-off between three wineries – Vina Zigante from Kostanjica, Vina Geržinić from Ohnići and the

local representative, Vina CUJ from Umag. The battle was very close because all three of the wines were very good and in their finest shape, but in the end the victory went to sample B, the favourite of the perfectionist audience", said Emil Perdec, Plava Laguna's sommelier and regional commissioner of the Croatian Sommelier Club for Istria.

Tastings, designed as a certain homage to Istrian wines, continue tonight at 9 p.m., and the topic is aged refosco.



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