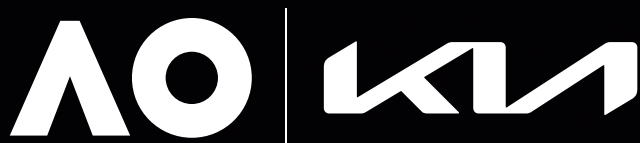


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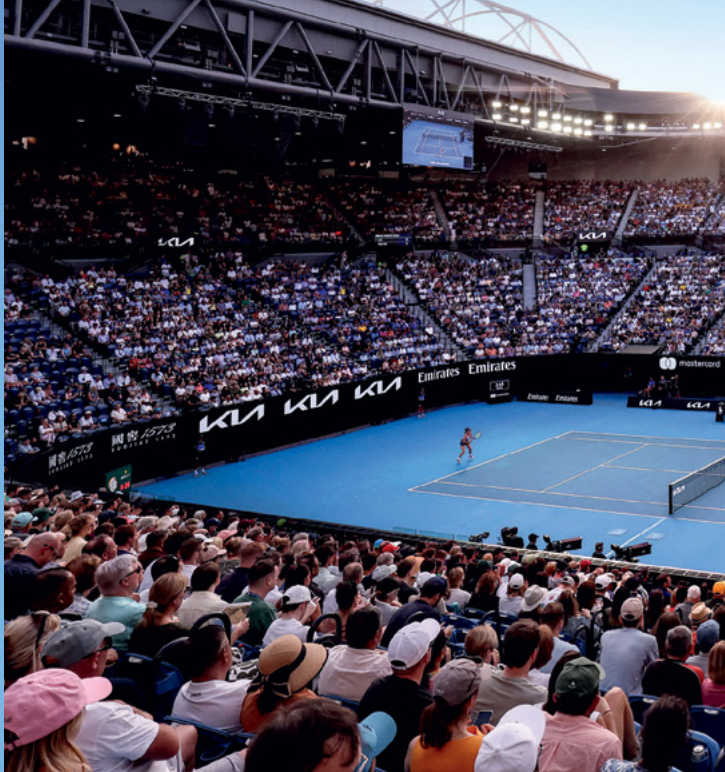
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**AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2026**  
Official Program

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## Victorian Premier

> It's my absolute pleasure to welcome you to Australian Open 2026.

The AO is a part of summer in Victoria, when the best tennis players in the world come to compete at Melbourne Park.

Last year's event smashed attendance records, with more than 1.2 million fans coming out to cheer on the stars of the court and enjoy everything the precinct has to offer. Millions more tuned in, showcasing this incredible event – and our state – to a global audience.

And I know this year will be even better.

My Labor Government is proud to support this event – and proud to have invested nearly \$1 billion to ensure the AO remains at Melbourne Park until 2046.

Because the AO is about more than world-class tennis and entertainment. It supports local jobs and local businesses, injecting more than \$565 million into our economy.

To everyone visiting Victoria: enjoy your stay. Check out our restaurants and bars – and enjoy a ride in our brand-new Metro Tunnel. Make your AO experience even better by getting out into regional Victoria. From Phillip Island and the Mornington Peninsula, to our incredible regional cities of Bendigo, Ballarat and Geelong, there's so much to see and do.

Finally, thank you so much to everyone who works so hard to bring the AO to life.

Congratulations to the organisers, team members and ballkids on what I know will be another incredible year.

Enjoy this spectacular event – and enjoy your time in Victoria.

**Hon Jacinta Allan MP**  
Member for Bendigo East  
Premier of Victoria



## Prime Minister

> Welcome to Melbourne Park, on the banks of the beautiful Yarra in the heart of one of the world's great sporting cities.

Every summer, tennis fans across our nation and around the world turn to Melbourne and the Australian Open, captivated by the Grand Slam action on these iconic courts.

Last year, more than a million people flocked to the Australian Open, bringing the tournament's trademark carnival atmosphere to the entire city.

In 2026, I know you will again find Melbourne at its best: the passion and energy of a sport-loving crowd, the great food and family fun on offer around Melbourne Park and so much more to see and do in the city when your time at the tennis is over.

The Australian Open showcases the best of Australia to the world and it brings the world's best to Australia. Whether we are cheering on local talent or applauding international champions, it's a thrill to watch these superstars in action.

I hope you get to see some unforgettable tennis and have the chance to enjoy all of what Melbourne has to offer.

**The Hon Anthony Albanese MP**  
Prime Minister of Australia



**Australian Government**

# MELBOURNE



AO



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## Kia

> As a new season of tennis begins, we at Kia warmly welcome you to Australian Open 2026 and to three weeks that capture the imagination of fans around the world.

Since 2002, grounded in the belief that sport unites people, inspires excellence, and fuels innovation, our partnership with the Australian Open has blossomed thanks to a steadfast commitment to a shared purpose and vision. As we celebrate our 25th year as the Major Partner, we are delighted and deeply honoured to share this occasion with the most passionate sports fans on the planet.

For Australian Open 2026, we present our campaign message, “Move Different”. In harmony with the Australian Open’s “Hits Different” brand platform, it expresses Kia’s spirit of being progressive, bold, simple, and responsible in everything that we do. Throughout Melbourne Park – from the stands and fan zones to our brand content across the grounds – you will find immersive and inclusive experiences that deepen your connection to the game and to fellow fans.

From the players and coaches, ballkids and officials, to families and first-time visitors alike, this spirit embraces everyone who helps make the AO what it is. Whether you are stepping onto the court, following a favourite from the stands, or watching a new rivalry unfold, Kia welcomes you to share the moments that remind us why we love this sport – the rallies, the comebacks, and the sportsmanship that endures beyond the match point.

We are also proud to support the tournament’s continuing shift to cleaner mobility. Following last year’s milestone of transforming the entire Kia courtesy fleet into eco-friendly models, Australian Open 2026 will again be driven by a fully eco-friendly fleet of 120 electrified vehicles (EVs and HEVs). This sustained effort reflects Kia’s dedication to sustainable mobility and to a better future for sport.

For the last quarter of a century, Kia has been honoured to serve as a dedicated partner of the Australian Open, which shares our forward-looking mindset and commitment to the future – and we hope you experience the best of both tennis and Kia here in Melbourne.

With sincere gratitude to the players, fans, Tennis Australia, and the many people behind the scenes who bring this event to life, we wish you an unforgettable three weeks at this year’s Australian Open.

**Ho Sung Song**  
President and CEO  
Kia Corporation



## Tennis Australia

> Welcome to Australian Open 2026, where we’re delighted to see the vibrant and diverse tennis world converge for the season-opening Grand Slam.

Whether you’re a pro chasing major glory, a fan cheering on world-class athletes, or simply love tennis in all its forms, we’re thrilled to have you here at Melbourne Park.

A sense of connection is strengthened this year through the AO 1 Point Slam driven by Kia, which engaged clubs nationwide and gave amateur players the chance to compete against pros for a \$1 million prize in an Opening Week showdown.

It’s one of many innovations shaping a tournament that continues to grow as a festival of sport, entertainment and culture. After welcoming more than 1.2 million fans in 2025, we’re excited to unveil our reimagined precinct for 2026.

Melbourne Park has literally hit new heights, from the soaring Highline connecting to the Courtside Bar, to the new double-storey Grand Slam Oval – offering elevated views, more shade and the perfect spots to soak up the AO’s electric atmosphere.

With iconic dining experiences, family fun and world-class entertainment alongside the tennis, it’s a summer extravaganza offering something for everyone.

It reflects our vision for a sport that welcomes everyone. Celebrations of culture and diversity are central to the AO, alongside community initiatives that extend our impact beyond the court. Through our official charity, the Australian Tennis Foundation, we’re determined to give every child, regardless of circumstance, the chance to experience the sport.

Many will feel inspired to pick up a racquet during AO 2026. As fans cheer on defending champions Madison Keys and Jannik Sinner, world No.1s Aryna Sabalenka and Carlos Alcaraz, top Aussie Alex de Minaur and so many others, a deeper theme runs through everything we do: the joy of being together.

Because at its heart, the AO is about connection – between players and fans, across generations, and throughout every corner of our tennis community. And we’re so glad you’re here to be part of it.

**Chris Harrop**  
Chair, Tennis Australia



**NEW**  
**SEASON.**  
**NEW**  
**STORIES.**  
**SAME**  
**ELECTRIC**  
**STAGE.**

As the tennis world descends on Melbourne, the chase for glory ignites again. Superstars return to the scene of career-defining triumphs with fresh milestones in sight. Records will be tested, legends challenged and the next generation ready to rise. With drama on the court and spectacles beyond it, AO 2026 promises to hit harder, shine brighter and thrill like never before ...



## **BIG NAMES. BIGGER BATTLES**

From 'next big thing' to 'the big thing', Jannik Sinner (left) has cemented his place among the greats with back-to-back Australian Open triumphs. With his major breakthrough in 2024 – sealing a maiden Grand Slam title with a come-from-behind win over Daniil Medvedev – he became the first Italian to lift a singles trophy in Melbourne. A year later, victory over Alexander Zverev saw Sinner join Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal as only the third man this century to defend his debut Grand Slam crown. An epic rivalry with Carlos Alcaraz has since taken centre stage, the pair trading both major titles and the world No.1 ranking throughout 2025. As the competition sharpens for the two-time defending champion, so too does the quality. Bring on the bigger battles at AO 2026.

## **WHERE FORM MEETS FIRE**

Armed with an explosive all-court game, supreme athleticism and unshakeable ambition, Madison Keys (right) had long been tipped as a future Grand Slam champion. And yet somehow the American, who contested her only other major final at the US Open in 2017, had always fallen short. How that changed at AO 2025. Bringing the confidence of a lead-in title in Adelaide, Keys found her spark in her 46th Grand Slam appearance. "I just kept telling myself, 'Be brave,'" said Keys after outclassing three major winners – Elena Rybakina, Iga Swiatek and two-time defending champion Aryna Sabalenka – in her life-changing campaign. At age 29, the first-time major winner had sage advice for players holding similar dreams. "At some point it's really just kind of letting go of the stress of, 'Will I ever win [a Grand Slam]?',", she said. "If you put yourself in that position enough times, then usually good things happen."





## A LEGEND LIVES ON

Astonishing history has accompanied Novak Djokovic's epic Australian Open story. At age 20, he became Serbia's first Grand Slam singles champion with his 2008 triumph. Four years later, he outlasted Rafael Nadal in a five-hour, 53-minute battle – still the longest Grand Slam final in history. His seventh title in 2019 took him past Roy Emerson as the most prolific AO men's champion. Now a 10-time winner, Djokovic could claim an all-time record 25th major title in 2026. At 38, he also has the chance to become the oldest AO champion, surpassing Ken Rosewall's 1972 record. Entering his 21st main-draw campaign in Melbourne, Djokovic's drive is undiminished. "Whether I win or lose, I always leave my heart on the court," he commented after a 430th major match win – another record – in 2025. "Grand Slams are the pillars of our sport."



## HAPPY SLAM ENERGY

Few players embody the spirit of the "Happy Slam" quite like Aryna Sabalenka. The world No.1's infectious energy, ready smile and fearless power make her one of the Australian Open's most magnetic stars. Her breakthrough AO 2023 triumph – followed by a successful title defence in 2024 – turned Rod Laver Arena into her personal playground, as intense competitive energy combined with pure joy. Denied a three-peat title in the pulsating 2025 final, Sabalenka returns with positivity from other Melbourne milestones – including her streak of 20 straight match wins at this event. Less measurable, but arguably more powerful, is her sense of belonging at Melbourne Park. "I feel like I'm coming home to my home Slam," she beamed last year. "I go there, and I feel like people screaming my name, they support me. I have goosebumps every time they scream, 'Let's go Aryna'. It's incredible to feel that support here."



## HEART AND HUSTLE

From the moment he made his AO main-draw debut as an 18-year-old wildcard in 2017, Alex de Minaur has showcased his trademark fight. Ranked No.301 and facing experienced world No.87 Gerald Melzer, the local favourite saved a match point to claim a 5-7 6-3 2-6 7-6(2) 6-1 win. "[It was] one of the best atmospheres I've ever felt and, of course, a dream come true," De Minaur has since recalled. In 2025, the top-10 mainstay launched his best season with a maiden AO quarterfinal. Could his renowned speed and tenacity take him to even greater heights this year? "Every time I come here to the Australian Open, I feel like I'm a better version of what I was the year before," he noted last year. "I've learnt so much. I'm playing with a lot more confidence. I'm doing all the right things."



## SUPERHERO STATUS

Competing with power, athleticism and fearlessness, Coco Gauff – the 2023 US Open and 2025 Roland Garros champion – unquestionably has the weapons to add to her major collection in Melbourne. In her debut AO match in 2020, the 15-year-old stunned prolific former No.1 Venus Williams. Gauff, a semifinalist in 2024, also has wins over major stars Naomi Osaka and Emma Raducanu on her Australian Open record. The 21-year-old channels her courage and intelligence into important causes, using her platform to champion social justice, education and mental health. It's only fitting then that Gauff's AO 2025 costume was inspired by superheroes. "I'm a huge Marvel fan and a lot of the female superheroes have cool cutouts on their outfits, so that's what I wanted to do," said Gauff of the New Balance creation. With experience adding to her superpowers, Gauff's next great mission may well unfold at AO 2026.

## NEW NAMES, NO LIMITS

Never mind that Joao Fonseca was yet to contest the main draw of a major. At AO 2025, the then-18-year-old powered through qualifying, then whipped fans into a frenzy by stunning No.9 seed Andrey Rublev in straight sets – his first win over a top-10 opponent and his maiden match victory at a major. "Of course, my expectations are bigger now," said Fonseca, who later fell to Lorenzo Sonego in the first five-set match of his career. "I want more and more." From outside the top 100 a year ago, the dazzling Brazilian is now a top-30 fixture and already a two-time champion on the ATP Tour. The possibilities seem endless in his Melbourne Park return.





## TEEN TAKEOVERS

Tomorrow's stars love to make their mark in Melbourne Park. At age 16, Mirra Andreieva stunned three-time Grand Slam finalist and world No.6 Ons Jabeur – her long-time idol – en route to the final 16 at AO 2024. Backing up in 2025, the teenager again reached the Australian Open's second week. Fellow teen Learner Tien, an AO 2025 qualifier, edged three-time men's finalist Daniil Medvedev in a four-hour, 49-minute five-setter in the 2025 second round. At age 19, he was the youngest American man since Pete Sampras in 1990 to progress so far at Melbourne Park. "I was just trying to treat it like any other match I ever played," said Tien, who went on to reach the fourth round. With poise beyond their years and belief that knows no boundaries, these teens remind us that the future isn't simply coming, but already here.



## MEMORABLE MOMENTS

Amid all the hours of court time at a Grand Slam, it can take just one instant to be etched in time. For Alexander Zverev at AO 2025, that moment arrived mid-rally when a feather drifted into his line of sight. Locked in an intense quarterfinal battle with Tommy Paul, Zverev was momentarily rattled as the interruption halted play. The image of the bemused German – feather in hand – spread quickly across social media, capturing the fine line between control and chaos in perfect focus. It was pure theatre, showing how sporting fortunes can change in seconds. And even after Zverev went on to reach a third major final, and his first in Melbourne, it was among the most enduring images of his career-best campaign.

## THE COURTSIDE CLUB

It's not only the players who take centre stage at the Australian Open. Hollywood stars, chart-topping musicians, influential politicians, sporting legends, homegrown icons – and even royalty – have all taken in the action at Rod Laver Arena. Among the famous guests in 2025, supermodel Tyra Banks (above right) lit up the AO Inspirational Series and turned the Walk of Champions into her own catwalk before the women's semifinals. Meanwhile, actor and martial-arts legend Jackie Chan (above) toured the player gym with Lleyton Hewitt and crossed paths with players including Zverev, Sabalenka and Jelena Ostapenko behind the scenes. Alongside actor Liam Hemsworth (above) and other A-listers, a captivated Chan later took a seat courtside for the men's final.

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## THE COMEBACK CHARGE

On her way to a second Australian Open triumph five years ago, Naomi Osaka famously rescued a butterfly from the court. Since that time, the former world No.1 has become a mother to daughter Shai – now two – and steadily worked her way back towards top form. At the recent US Open, she stunned Coco Gauff to reach her first Grand Slam semifinal since AO 2021. “I learned I loved tennis way more than I thought I did and I learned that I actually really love challenges,” Osaka, now 28, said of her growth in recent years. The Japanese star will perhaps recall that butterfly – a symbol of transformation and rebirth – as she aims to build on the comeback in her Melbourne Park return. Alongside New York, she noted last year, this city holds “the best memories of my career”.



## OLD-SCHOOL STYLE

Fashion is always front and centre of the season-opening Grand Slam. The new year can bring new looks, new brands and some – such as Andrey Rublev, Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova and Donna Vekic – flaunt their own clothing ranges. For Destanee Aiava at AO 2025, it was all about old-school style. The Australian scoured the internet for outfits that Serena Williams, Maria Sharapova, Ana Ivanovic and Caroline Wozniacki made famous in earlier Grand Slam campaigns “I just really wanted to wear the dresses I saw growing up,” said Aiava, who won through qualifying and saved two match points against Greet Minnen to win her first main-draw match at a major. “Luckily I got to wear all of them because I kept winning ... it was really special. I was really happy that people noticed what I was wearing.”



AO



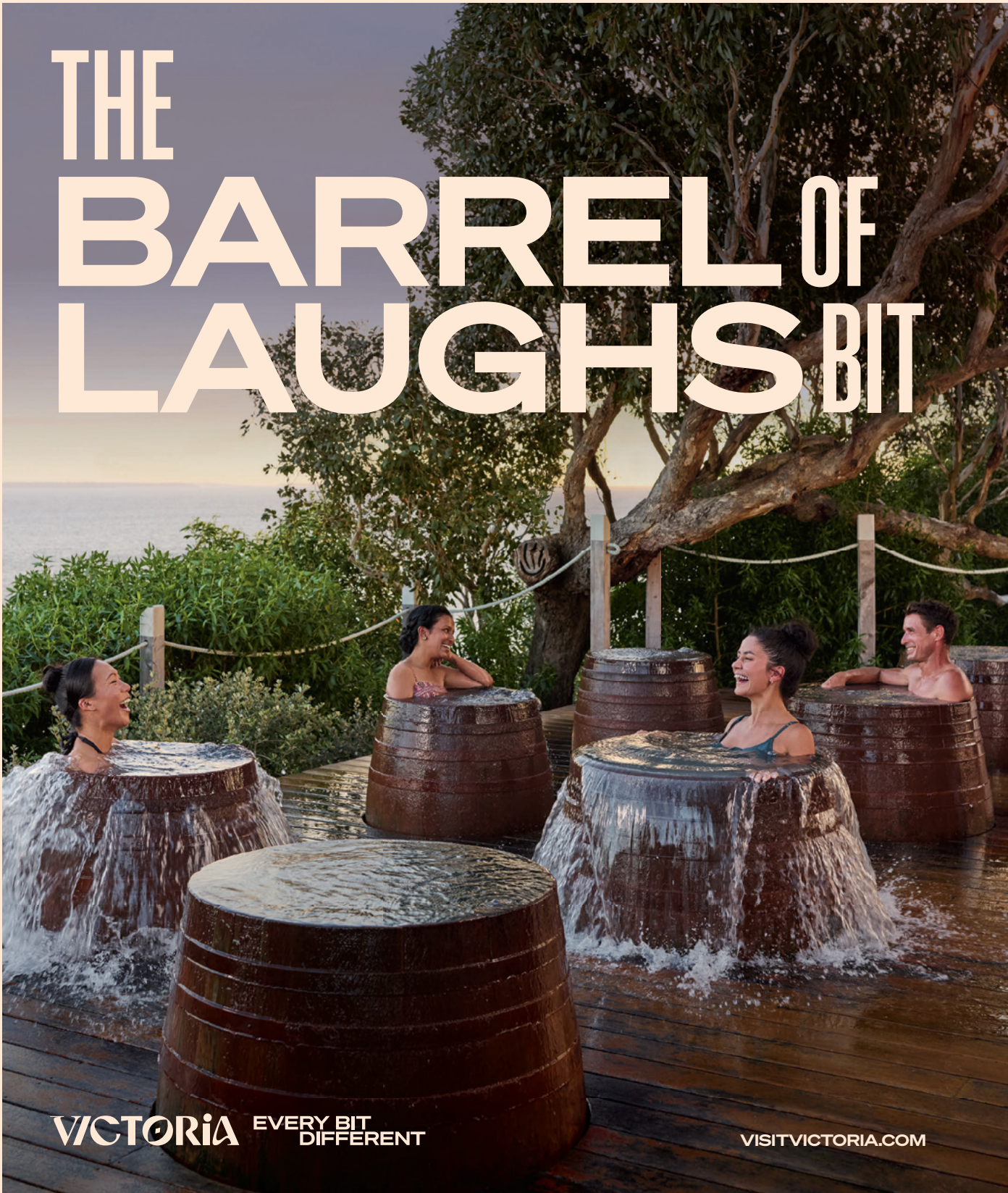
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RIVALRIES

# RAISING

As rivals renew their fight for supremacy at Melbourne Park, the sport's biggest names are elevating their game to keep a host of hungry new contenders at bay in a bold new era for the sport.

BY TUMAINI CARAYOL

**D**uring the early days of the clay court season in April 2019, a sleepy lower-level tennis tournament in the tiny Spanish city of Villena unexpectedly captured the start of a new golden era. The event played host to an unranked 15-year-old player named Carlos Alcaraz, who appeared on the drawsheet of an ATP Challenger event for the first time. Alcaraz was a student at the Ferrero Tennis Academy, the tournament venue, and he had received a wildcard into the main draw.

The competition represented an opportunity for the Spaniard to test his strength against the many seasoned, durable players on the Challenger Tour. Instead, he found himself up against another unproven teenage wildcard in the first round. In front of just a few dozen spectators, Alcaraz and his 17-year-old opponent, Jannik Sinner, battled for nearly two hours before Alcaraz secured his first Challenger win in three tight sets.

# THE BAR



**ALL-TIME CLASSIC:** Carlos Alcaraz saved match points against Jannik Sinner in a thrilling Roland Garros final.

Seven years since that fateful first encounter, those two players stand at the pinnacle of their sport. Alcaraz and Sinner return to the Australian Open as the two best players in the world having spent the past year reshaping men's tennis in their images. After more than a decade of the men's big three - Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer - dominating the tour, it was reasonable to assume that a transitional period was upon men's tennis and it might take a fair amount of time for the sport to uncover its next legendary rivalry. However, in no time at all, another potentially legendary rivalry has taken hold of the sport.

While Sinner's prodigious shot-making talents always seemed to put him on the path to greatness, the 24-year-old Italian's rise over the past two seasons has been remarkable. He has built such a well-rounded baseline game - his serve, return, forehand, backhand and movement are among the most effective in the world. He pairs his preternatural talent with incredible composure under pressure and an insatiable thirst for improvement.

It took Sinner some time to evolve into the champion he is today, but Alcaraz seemed to have arrived on the tour fully formed, already boasting such



**SPECIAL TWO:** Alcaraz and Sinner shared Slam spoils in an astonishing 2025 season.

a complete and varied game from the beginning. Not only is Alcaraz one of the most skilful players the sport has seen, he is one of its most astonishing athletes. He also boasts immense offensive weaponry, including a nuclear forehand and improved first serve.

Together, Alcaraz and Sinner have spent the past two years wreaking havoc on men's tennis and they will only continue to improve. The two players have combined to win the past eight Grand Slam titles and in 2025 they became the first male players in history to square off in three consecutive major finals in a calendar year, which they did in the Roland Garros, Wimbledon and US Open deciders. They continue to push each other to greater heights, each contest forcing them back onto the practice court in search of new ideas to outsmart the other.

Still at such early stages in their careers, Sinner and Alcaraz have already produced a stream of instant classic matches. That series of brilliant encounters eventually made way for their masterpiece in the Roland Garros 2025 final, where Alcaraz pulled off one of the greatest comebacks in the history of sport, somehow recovering from two sets down, and later triple championship point down, to defend his title. There are bound to be many more to come.



## SUPREMACY AT STAKE

While Alcaraz and Sinner established their dominance in the men's game, two special players set the bar in the stratosphere on the women's tour. Ever since she took control of the WTA Tour in the uncertain aftermath of Ash Barty's shock retirement in March 2022, it has been clear that Iga Swiatek would become one of the greatest players of her generation.

The Pole has dominated clay courts like few others in the history of the sport, winning four Roland Garros titles at just 24 years old, but she continues to show her greatness on all terrains. In 2025, Swiatek pulled off the one achievement she did not always believe she was capable of, winning Wimbledon on grass, her least favourite surface, for the first time. She clinched her sixth Grand Slam title with a startling performance that underlined her ability to ascend to levels that no other player could even dream of reaching, eviscerating Amanda Anisimova 6-0 6-0 in the final.

For a fleeting period, few players could consistently stand up to Swiatek's greatness, but her success has animated the rest of the field. Nobody has been more inspired by Swiatek than Aryna Sabalenka, whose desperation to catch up to Swiatek galvanised her own career. Now a four-time Grand Slam champion with two titles and a final in the past three years at the Australian Open, the 27-year-old reached three Grand Slam finals in 2025 before winning the US Open.

Once known for her tendency to obliterate every tennis ball with minimal strategy and few thoughts, Sabalenka has evolved like few before her. She has worked herself into a versatile, intelligent player with so many more options in her game, freely employing drop shots, net forays, slices and angles alongside her vicious baseline aggression to keep her opponents at bay. From her temperamental, turbulent play in her youth, Sabalenka has become a consistent competitor capable of finding a path to victory almost every time she enters the court.

In the process, the rivalry between



**SLAM STARS:** Aryna Sabalenka, Coco Gauff and Iga Swiatek added to their major collections in 2025.

Swiatek and Sabalenka has flourished, leading the way at the top of the sport. For the many classic battles they have already fought, however, Swiatek and Sabalenka have incredibly never faced each other in a Grand Slam final. Last year's Australian Open was their nearest miss, with Swiatek holding a match point against Madison Keys before the American recovered to defeat both Swiatek and Sabalenka in two spectacular three-set matches for her first major title.

This year may prove to be the year that the two best players in the world finally duel with a Slam title on the line.

## BRINK OF BRILLIANCE

Although Sabalenka and Swiatek lead the charge, women's tennis today is defined by the strength and competitiveness at the top of the game. The rest of the elite players are hellbent on ensuring that Swiatek and Sabalenka do not completely shut them out.

After Keys' heroics at the Australian Open last year, Coco Gauff underlined her own brilliance by taking Sabalenka down in a dramatic three-set final at Roland Garros to win her second Grand Slam title. Anisimova, one of the most destructive shotmakers of her generation, enjoyed her long-awaited breakthrough as she reached finals at Wimbledon and the US Open and showed she could outwit any opponent on any day. Elena Rybakina can catch fire at any moment, which she demonstrated with a flawless run to the WTA Finals title in Riyadh for her biggest title since Wimbledon 2022. Other talented players such as Mirra Andreeva and Jessica Pegula can defeat anyone in the world on their day.

On the men's tour, it is not yet clear who will prove Alcaraz and Sinner with such difficulties.



**CLOSING IN:** Amanda Anisimova has made fast gains.



**POTENTIAL DISRUPTOR:** Top-10 star Jack Draper.

## EXPERIENCE v YOUTH

The rest of the field's attempts to close the gap on the two remarkable players at the top of the sport will be the most significant storyline this year. By reaching the semifinals of all four Grand Slams last year, Novak Djokovic solidified his status as the third-best men's player in the world.

But at age 38 after so many years on the tour, competing for a major title has never been tougher. In 2025, Djokovic's body simply wasn't resilient enough to handle the physicality of the sport, particularly in the final rounds of majors while navigating best-of-five-set matches. Still, he continues to fight for the greatest achievement of his peerless career - a 25th Grand Slam title, and has no intention of retiring anytime soon.

Many years ago, Djokovic's unlikely emergence as the third contender behind Nadal and Federer changed the course of men's tennis.

It remains to be seen if history will repeat itself and another can seriously upset the dominance of Sinner and Alcaraz in 2026. While the older '90s-born players, such as Alexander Zverev and Daniil Medvedev, try to impose themselves against the leaders, all eyes will be on a selection of younger players who took steps forward in 2025.

Ben Shelton will attempt to kick on from a top-10 year and his first

appearance at the ATP Finals, while Jack Draper will aim to find his way back to the top five after a left forearm injury scuppered his chances of building on his first ATP Masters title at Indian Wells. Arthur Fils, the 21-year-old Frenchman, seemed to be on the verge of bursting into the sport's top echelons before he suffered a stress fracture in his back at Roland Garros that limited him to just one tournament for the rest of the year.

There are even younger players to come. With so much enthusiasm surrounding him, particularly from the supremely passionate Brazil fans that follow him wherever he goes, the 19-year-old Joao Fonseca finished his first full ATP season ranked No. 24 after a spectacular title run in Basel.

Learner Tien, also 19, enjoyed his own dramatic finish to a breakthrough year as he won his first title in Metz. Jakub Mensik, still just 20, captured a surprise ATP Masters 1000 title over his idol, Djokovic, at the Miami Open. All three will look to make their mark at the very top of the game this year.

A similar mixture of wily veterans and talented young players will try to pounce on the WTA Tour. After narrowly missing out on qualifying for the WTA Finals, the prodigious 18-year-old Andreeva will be out to ensure that nobody gets in her way this year. At just 19, Canada's Victoria Mboko spent much of the 2025 season terrorising the ITF World Tennis Tour before taking her talents to the top of the sport with a fairytale triumph on home soil at the WTA 1000 event in Montreal.

While Australia's Maya Joint continues her calm, assured rise at 19 years old, tennis is also thriving in new territories. At 20 years old, Alexandra Eala established herself as a top-50 player following a whirlwind first year on the tour, breaking down barriers and spurred on by the passionate, vocal Filipino fans. Janice Tjen of Indonesia, whose game is clearly inspired by Ash Barty's, also looks set for the season of her life as the 23-year-old continues her rapid transition from the US college system. Both Southeast Asian players will receive fierce support at the Grand Slam of the Asia-Pacific.



**RENEWED FORCE:** Belinda Bencic and Naomi Osaka.

## COMEBACK CHARGE

Elsewhere, after ample on-court challenges before and after giving birth to her daughter, Shai, in 2023, four-time major winner Naomi Osaka showed she is still capable of competing for big titles as she put together a rousing semifinal run at the US Open last year. Twice a champion at the Australian Open, the 28-year-old will look to convert that into another inspired run on her return to Melbourne. Belinda Bencic, the Tokyo 2020 Olympic gold medallist and Osaka's contemporary, has also put herself in the conversation after an incredible comeback from maternity leave in 2025, which began with a run to the AO fourth round.

This is a wonderful time for professional tennis, as a select few players consistently achieve great things while intensely focused challengers aim to halt their momentum.

There are ambitious young players desperate to join them at the top of the sport, resilient veterans that have proven their worth for many years and impressive breakthrough performers from territories without significant histories in tennis.

Meanwhile, as that first meeting between two future titans at a small tournament in Villena showed all those years ago, another legend could emerge from anywhere and at any time. **AO**

**Tumaini Carayol is the tennis correspondent for *The Guardian* newspaper in the United Kingdom. Also an avid player, he has been covering the sport for 15 years.**

# AO



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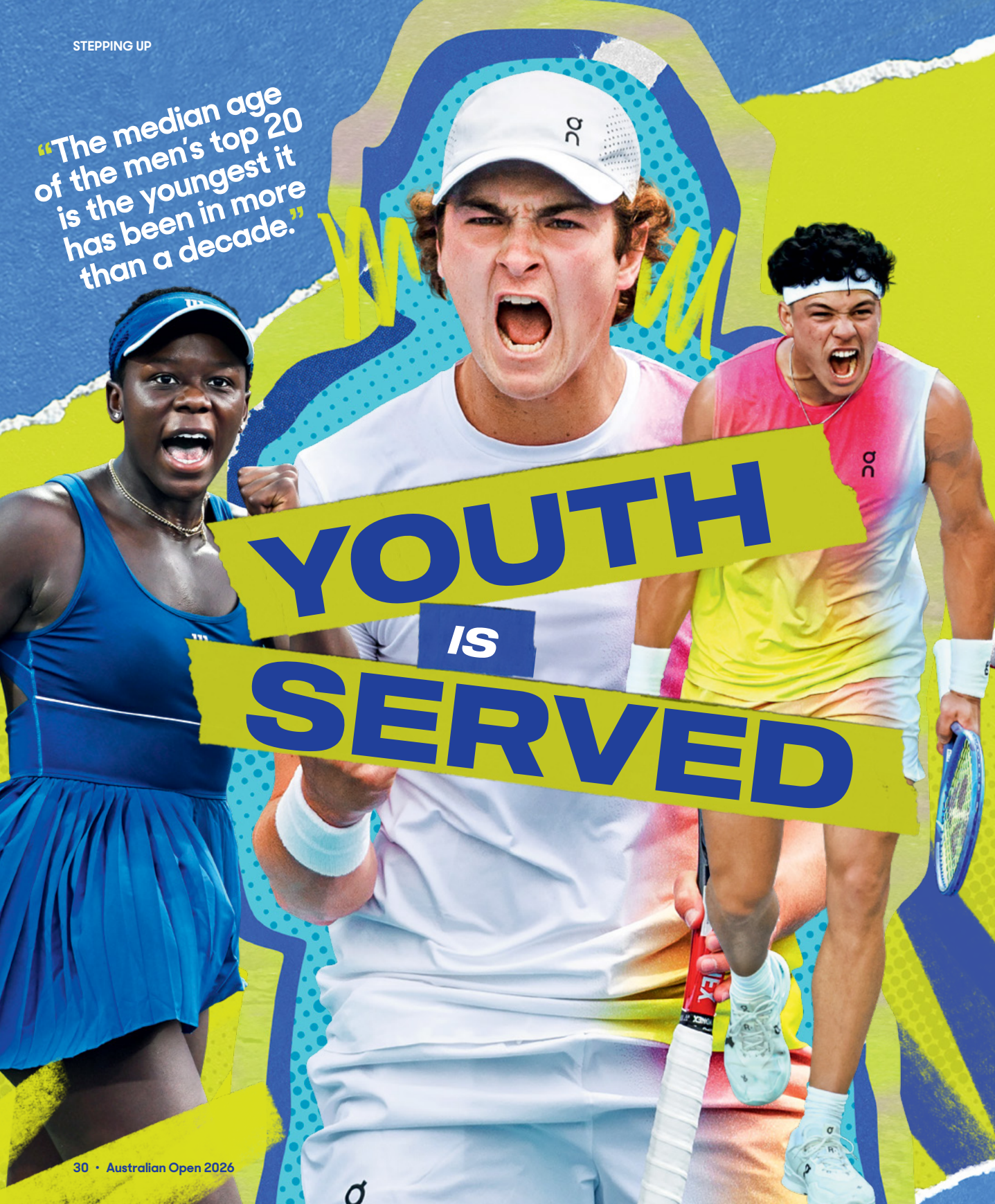
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“The median age of the men’s top 20 is the youngest it has been in more than a decade.”



# YOUTH IS SERVED

Younger, faster, bolder. As Ben Shelton builds on some early Grand Slam milestones, fast-rising stars including Victoria Mboko, Joao Fonseca and Mirra Andreeva also bring speed, power and personality to the sport. Fuelled by energy, flair and fearless ambition, they're part of a Next-Gen wave set to continue the tennis takeover at AO 2026.

BY JON WERTHEIM



**N**ovak Djokovic sometimes has to laugh. He looks around the locker room and it's not so much that he feels the generation as it grabs him by the

collar. He's doing what so many men of his age would do. He FaceTimes his kids and asks them about their days at school. He looks in the mirror and sees some gentle creasing and those annoying flecks of grey in his beard and face, a reminder that time is a one-way street. He stretches and watches his diet and tends to a body that is veering in on age 40 and already more than 20 years into an intensely physical career.

Then he looks out and sees ... kids. A sea of them. Tethered to their phones. Speaking in slang he doesn't always get. Referencing bands and memes and the latest TikTok trend that seldom resonate. Most of these whippersnappers are closer in age to Djokovic's own kids - 11-year-old Stefan and Tara, age eight - than they are to him. Some were born in the year 2005, his first full-time season on the tennis circuit. And yet, these are his colleagues, the guys - we're reluctant to say *men* - who appear on the other side of the net, whom he is obliged to try and beat.

Djokovic prides himself on youthful vigour and his ability to outwit time. Thanks largely to his kids, he tries his best to keep a finger on the pulse of pop culture. And yet, there are only so many bridges and pathways to humans half his age. He laughs when asked about the age discrepancies. "They keep me young!" he says with a smile. Often, he finds refuge in the locker room talking to his opponents' coaches. Some were his contemporaries as players, who understand his references and relate to him as a peer. Other coaches are younger than he is.

Let's make this clear right now: Djokovic is largely to blame for this fate. As the kids say, he can't stop, he won't stop. In his 39th rotation around the sun, he remains a formidable player - a semifinalist at all four

**NEXT WAVE:** Victoria Mboko, Joao Fonseca, Ben Shelton, Alexandra Eala, Mirra Andreeva and Learner Tien bring form and momentum into AO 2026.



of the Grand Slams in 2025. Even playing an abbreviated schedule, he remains a habitué of the world's top 10.

At last year's Australian Open - an event he has won 10 (!) times - he defeated Carlos Alcaraz and reached the semifinals before (damn you, Father Time) he was felled by injury. Even now, Djokovic is not playing tennis for nostalgia. He's not grovelling for glory. He's not hanging on for the gold watch or celebratory cake, as others eyeing retirement might. No, he's playing to win and add to his haul of 24 Grand Slams, stubbornly refusing to act his age.

But the rest of the field is to blame for this generation gap as well.

Not long ago, professional tennis seemed like an ageing workforce. The actuarial tables of the past said players turned professional as teenagers, peaked in their mid-20s and hit their proverbial sell-by date around age 30. Suddenly, that was being mocked. Late bloomers - or so we thought - were all the rage. Player after player hit the big 3-0 with no discernible decline in performance.

Each member of the Big Three - Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, and Djokovic - all won major singles titles north of age 35. In fact, in the year 2020, there was only one major winner in men's tennis (Dominic Thiem) under age 30. In many draws, there were more players in their 30s than players in their 20s. In fact, "30 is the new 20," may as well have been the



**MASTER & APPRENTICE:** Jakub Mensik beat longtime idol Novak Djokovic to win the Miami Masters last year.

slogan of the ATP Tour, uttered, as it was, so many times.

And while not quite as extreme, this was essentially the case on the women's side as well. Mothers returned from maternity leave and won major titles. Thirty was just another number. In the Australian Open 2017 final, 35-year-old Serena Williams beat her 36-year-old sister Venus. The year before the Williams v Williams final, Germany's Angelique Kerber won the AO title at age 28. The year *after* the Williams v Williams final, Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark won at age 27.

The conventional wisdom was that, at the highest level, the sport had simply become too physical for the kids. For

decades, teenagers ruled the tennis roost. (To wit: Martina Hingis won the Australian Open title for the *third* time in 1999 when she was 18; in the '90s, Monica Seles won the Aussie Open title three times as a teenager as well, among the *eight* major titles she took before turning 20.)

But then came power players armed with power racquets, embroidered with power strings. And the thinking was: only a body of full physical maturity could handle the demands of the modern sport. Only full emotional maturity could handle the off-court rigours, including travel. Only full cardio and conditioning could withstand seven potentially long matches under potentially brutal conditions. So it was that teenagers became as commonplace as wooden racquets and canvas shoes. From the "greying of the field" to the bleaching of the field.

But now the pendulum has whip-sawed in the other direction. Training has caught up to the reality of modern-day tennis. And so it is, the age of entry has plummeted.

Alcaraz turned 22 in May. In Australia, the Spaniard is attempting to win his *seventh* career major and complete the career Slam, a trajectory and pace well beyond that of any of the Big Three. The player most likely to thwart him - two-time champion Jannik Sinner - will attempt to win his fifth major. He doesn't turn 25 until August.

## NEXT IN LINE

They've already toppled stars, lifted trophies and inspired fans from Melbourne to Montreal. Meet the Next-Gen contenders ready to build on their glowing early records at AO 2026.

### Mirra Andreeva

At just 15, Andreeva caught the eye of Australian tennis fans as the resilient runner-up in a marathon AO 2023 girls' final. Since that gruelling three-hour, 18-minute defeat to her good friend Alina Korneeva, the teenager has rocketed up the ranks - peaking at world No.5 in July 2025, collecting three WTA titles, and earning a silver medal (in doubles, alongside Diana Shnaider) at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

### Victoria Mboko

Mboko's breakout season was one for the ages. The Canadian wildcard stunned the tennis world at the WTA 1000 tournament in Montreal, defeating four former Grand Slam champions to claim a maiden WTA title at age 18. Ranked as low as No.337 last January, she soared into the top 25 with a remarkable 58-14 win-loss record in the 2025 season, earning a reputation for fearless comebacks along the way.

Ageless Djokovic notwithstanding, the next most likely champ might well be Ben Shelton of the United States, who is 23 and doesn't turn 24 until October. The median age of the top 20 is the youngest it has been in more than a decade. That includes Jakub Mensik of the Czech Republic who won the prestigious Miami Open at the wizened age of 19. And the blazing French prospect, Arthur Fils, who is all of 21.

And there are similar trends in the women's. Not since that 2017 final in Melbourne has a WTA player in her 30s won a Grand Slam. (Last year's

Australian Open champion, Madison Keys, turned 30 a few weeks after her triumph.) The active player with the most majors, Iga Swiatek, is only 24. That's the same age as Amanda Anisimova, who has reached the finals of two straight majors. Coco Gauff, who won her second career major in 2025, is all of 21.

And then there are the teenagers, back and better than ever. Mirra Andreeva is a stalwart in the top 10, so much so she is often (and unironically) referred to as a veteran. She is 18. Which makes her a year younger than Fonseca of Brazil, already in the top 50 and divined by everyone in the tennis salon as a star on the rise. Not that he was the only teenager to beat a veteran at AO 2025.

Learner Tien, who had just turned 19, delivered in the other seismic Week 1 upset, qualifying for the main draw and then reaching the fourth round. Alexandra Eala of the Philippines was 19 last year when she beat Keys and Swiatek en route to reaching the Miami semifinals. Victoria Mboko of Canada was 18 when she beat Sonia Kenin, Gauff, Elena Rybakina and finally Naomi Osaka - former major champs, all - to win the title in Montreal.

The data is irrefutable. The "why" - *why* has the field reversed course and gotten younger - is less clear. Ask a dozen experts to cite the main reason for this "age reversal", and you get at least a dozen different responses.

For one, young players today are adapting and adopting their training to meet the realities of a modern game. They have changed their approach, spending more time in the gym and on the track - building core strength and conditioning - and less time on the court.

Iva Jovic, an American who just turned 18 and has already pierced the WTA's top 40, began her conditioning and strength building at age 11. She will go days without picking up a racquet, working instead, she says, on becoming a better all-round athlete.



#### Maya Joint

In 2024, at just 17 and ranked outside the top 400, Joint (above left) defeated five higher-ranked opponents to become the youngest Australian woman to win an ITF title at the Burnie International. She kicked off 2025 in similar fashion, defeating three top-100 players en route to a semifinal finish at the Hobart International, before going on to win two WTA 250 titles to finish the year as Australia's top-ranked woman.

#### Iva Jovic

If her junior career is any indication, Iva Jovic (above right) will soon be a household name. The Californian reached a combined junior ranking of world No.2 and captured two Grand Slam girls' doubles titles - the Australian Open and Wimbledon - in 2024. Jovic, who turned 18 in December, carried that promise onto the WTA Tour. She cracked the world's top 50 after lifting her first trophy at pro level in Guadalajara and finished 2025 ranked No.35.



#### Tereza Valentova

Poised to follow in the footsteps of a long line of decorated Czech champions, Valentova (above) made headlines by sweeping the girls' singles and doubles titles at Roland Garros in 2024, building on her US Open girls' singles final at age 16 the previous year. Now 18, Valentova - known affectionately as 'Tery' - reached her first WTA final in Osaka last year. Backed by a maturity and clear competitive steel, a bright future surely awaits.

**Learner Tien**

Tien may not boast the fastest serve or strongest forehand on tour, but what the lefty lacks in power, he atones for with class, poise and creativity. That flair was on full display at Australian Open 2025, where the qualifier stunned Daniil Medvedev in a five-set epic. The 19-year-old is guided by former AO finalist Michael Chang – a fitting mentor for the game’s next great craftsman.

**Joao Fonseca**

One could be forgiven for thinking Brazil’s football team was in town, such were the queues outside Fonseca’s matches at Australian Open 2025. The teenage sensation earned a maiden win over a top-10 player in his Grand Slam debut, stunning world No.9 Andrey Rublev in straight sets. The sky’s the limit for the fiery all-rounder.

**Jakub Mensik**

Mensik announced himself at the Miami Masters last year, with a run that grew more impressive by the day. With his signature backhand down the line, the Czech toppled Jack Draper, Arthur Fils, Taylor Fritz and childhood idol Novak Djokovic to claim his first ATP title. The AO 2022 boys’ runner-up, Mensik counts the Australian Open as his favourite tournament.

**Alexander Bublik**

Bublik’s AO 2023 boys’ title looks even more impressive in hindsight, given the teenager (right) defeated Fonseca and Tien on his way to the crown. Despite an off-season interrupted by injury and illness, the 19-year-old bounced back to add two ATP Challenger titles to his record, entering the world’s top 150. Primed for a breakout season.

**Dino Prizmic**

The then-18-year-old (far right) wowed the tennis world at AO 2024, when he qualified and pushed his hero, Djokovic, to four sets in a first-round battle that spanned more than four hours – the longest first round of the Serbian’s Grand Slam career. While injury challenges subsequently robbed the Croatian of some momentum, a fully fit Prizmic is now surging towards the top 100 and appears poised for greater things.

There are also more paths for players to earn ranking points and begin their professional journey. In addition to Challenger and ITF events, there are more wildcard opportunities than ever, conferring points and playing opportunities on up-and-coming players. A few wins at these events and suddenly young players not only have ranking points that accelerate their careers, but also some funds to play bigger and better tournaments.

Then there is the clustering effect: a young player sees a peer break through and says: “I can do this, too.” A player like Mensik sees Alcaraz and adjusts his physique accordingly. A player like Tien practises with a peer like Alex Michelsen and not only do they push each other, but they can be travel buddies on the road, reducing the

stress and displacement of travelling internationally alone.

On the subject of travel, for years junior events were held in concentrated countries or regions, while professional events entailed hop-scotching from one far-flung event to another. The south of France one week, China the next, which makes for a considerable adjustment. To combat this and prepare promising players for the rigors and rhythms of travel, various federations – such as Canada with Mboko – intentionally schedule junior players for international play, in order to prepare them for the travel challenges of the pros.

In short, young success begets young success. And Tom Gutteridge, coach of Jovic, says that this all helps in the minting of young pros. “I thought the top 10, top 15 girls were incredibly strong the last couple of years,” he said. “When the age group is that strong and they’re competing for junior Grand Slams and bringing a certain level of tennis week-in week-out, the transition from the juniors to the 75s [level tournaments] and even then on the WTA Tour has not been as big of a jump as in years past.”

It’s changed the game for today’s fans. Today’s prospect might well be tomorrow’s big tournament winners. It’s also changed the game for veteran players, who can no longer bank on trouncing young players in need of seasoning.

We got a vivid illustration of this at last year’s Australian Open. In round one, Fonseca made fast work of an opponent a decade his senior, Andrey Rublev. In the next round, Tien also disrespected his elder and beat another stalwart, Daniil Medvedev. A few weeks after that Mensik beat Djokovic in the final of the Miami Masters.

The commentators and headline writers leaned on the same phrase: “Youth is served.”

Was it ever. Launched by live, energetic arms. At 200km/h. Drizzled with spin. Headed for the lines.

So it goes in modern tennis. **AO**

**Jon Wertheim** is a senior writer at *Sports Illustrated*, *Tennis Channel* commentator, a co-host of the *Served with Andy Roddick* podcast and an author of 11 tennis books.



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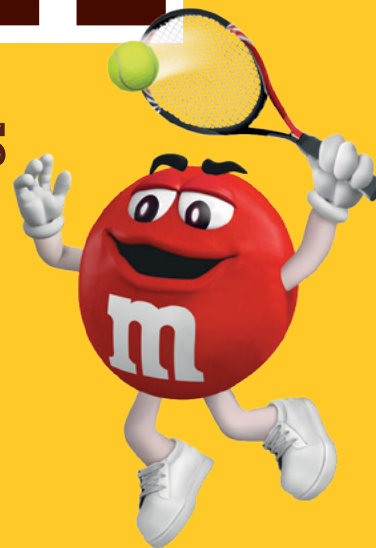


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# THE FINAL FRONTIER

With the Australian Open the only silverware missing from their major collections, Iga Swiatek and Carlos Alcaraz each stand on the brink of joining one of the sport's most exclusive clubs – those who have completed the career Grand Slam.

BY SIMON CAMBERS

**“It is always the main goal for me to complete a career Grand Slam.”**

**Carlos Alcaraz**



**T**here is a nice line in Andre Agassi's best-selling memoir, *Open*, in which he details his celebrations after triumphing at Roland Garros

in 1999, a victory that gave him the full set of Grand Slam titles, the coveted career Grand Slam.

Dining with friends in a restaurant on the Seine, Agassi was handed the telephone by John McEnroe, his fellow American and former world No 1, who had a friend on the line.

"McEnroe is there," Agassi writes. "He hands me a phone and says: 'someone wants to say hello.' 'Andre? Andre! Congratulations. I got such joy watching you tonight. I envy you.' (It's Bjorn) Borg. Envy, why? 'Doing something so few of us have done.'"

Winning the calendar-year Grand Slam - triumphing at the Australian Open, Roland Garros, Wimbledon and US Open - is regarded as the sport's Holy Grail. Only four players have done it; Americans Don Budge (1938) and Maureen Connolly (1953), Australia's Rod Laver, who managed it twice (1962 and 1969) and Steffi Graf, the German who achieved it in 1988, with an Olympic triumph thrown in to make it a calendar-year golden Grand Slam.

But the career Grand Slam is almost as exclusive a pack. Only 18 players in tennis history - eight men and 10 women - have done it. Only 10 have completed it in the Open era and only two players, Novak Djokovic and Maria Sharapova, have achieved it since Rafael Nadal in 2010.

At AO 2026, though, two players can join that most elite of groups. Carlos Alcaraz took his career Slam tally to six with Roland Garros and US Open wins in 2024 while Iga Swiatek won her first Wimbledon title last year to move her own personal tally to seven. Neither

has made the final in Australia yet but they have demonstrated their ability on every surface, while the motivation for both has surely never been greater.

"Completing the career Grand Slam in Australia would be an incredible milestone," Swiatek told the Australian Open.

Alcaraz turned his focus on Australia as soon as he won the US Open last year. "It's my first goal, to be honest," he told the ATP Tour. "It's the first or second tournament of the year, and it is always the main goal for me to complete a career Grand Slam (or) calendar Grand Slam. It's going to be great."

The reason so few players have achieved it, of course, is that it's not easy. Consistency across a career is a prerequisite, while an ability to adjust and adapt between surfaces and conditions is just as important.

In his brief conversation with Agassi on that June night in 1999, Borg's feeling of envy would surely resonate with others who have achieved so much in the sport, but who have never managed to win the career Grand Slam.

Borg won 11 Slams, six at Roland-Garros and five in a row at Wimbledon. He sits sixth in the all-time list of male Grand Slam champions but only played once in Australia and lost four finals at the US Open. Pete Sampras won 14 Slams but never progressed past the semifinals in Paris; Ken Rosewall won eight but couldn't win Wimbledon and other all-time greats including McEnroe, Jimmy Connors, Boris Becker, Stefan Edberg and Mats Wilander also fell short.

On the women's side, Monica Seles won nine Slams but never triumphed at Wimbledon; Justine Henin, Martina Hingis and Althea Gibson all won three of the four majors, while Venus Williams won seven but never came out on top in Paris or in Melbourne. For Swiatek and Alcaraz, the sheer fact that they are in this position already, at the ages of 24 and 22 respectively, is a testament to

**MAJOR TARGET:** With only Melbourne to conquer, Iga Swiatek and Carlos Alcaraz aim to match the career Grand Slam feats of Andre Agassi, Rafael Nadal, Steffi Graf and Novak Djokovic.



**CHANGING LANDSCAPE:** Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert won every Grand Slam at least twice, but Carlos Alcaraz and Iga Swiatek (above with Madison Keys) face a tougher road to joining that elite group.

their stunning rise and to their standing in the sport.

For most of the 18 who have done it, completing the career Grand Slam took time. Only four of the 10 women completed the set at a younger age than Swiatek is at AO 2026 while Alcaraz, who doesn't even turn 23 until May, would be the youngest man to achieve the feat.

It's something of a surprise that Alcaraz has yet to go beyond the quarterfinals in four trips to Melbourne but if he plays as well as he did at last year's US Open, when he outplayed his biggest rival, Jannik Sinner, in a four-set final, then he will take some stopping, even if Sinner is the two-time defending champion.

Swiatek, too, has taken time to get to grips with Australia, losing before the quarters on her first three visits and four times in the first five. A run to the semis

in 2022 proved a lot to herself about her ability on hard courts and she was one point from making the final last year only to be denied by an inspired Madison Keys, who went on to win the title. Victory at Wimbledon last summer may have taken some people by surprise but Wim Fissette, her coach, is a master at getting his players to peak at the majors.

When Maureen Connolly, Fred Perry and Don Budge were doing it in the 1930s, three of the four majors were played on grass, with Roland Garros the only outlier, played on red clay. That remained the case until the 1970s, when the US Open switched to clay for a few years and then, in 1978, to hard courts, while the AO's move from Kooyong to Flinders Park, now called Melbourne Park, in 1988 left Wimbledon as the only Slam played on grass.

The result of the changes was that

**“The career Grand Slam is huge. It takes the pressure off.”**

**Chris Evert**

winning all four Slams required more dexterity, more variety. In some ways, those who have achieved it in the past few decades could lay a claim to being more rounded players than the trailblazers of the first half of the 20th century because they were able to adjust their games from surface to surface. Others, such as Roger Federer, might say that the recent homogenisation of all four surfaces, in terms of speed, means the adjustments needed in 2026 compared to when he first came on Tour, make it easier.

When Chris Evert was trying to do it, in the early 1980s, she had the formidable obstacle of Martina Navratilova blocking her path. The two women ended up playing each other 80 times, including 60 in finals, numbers that will surely never be matched. Evert's win over her friend and biggest rival, on grass at Kooyong in 1982, was one of her most rewarding.

“The career Grand Slam is huge,” she told *Legends Voice*, 40 years on. “It takes the pressure off. It's like, you win two, you're going for the third and then when you win that, you'd hate to end your career winning three out of the four ... you've just got to go for that last elusive fourth one and make it complete ... then you're a complete champion.

“It's tougher right now because there's just such more depth. In our day, it would be someone in the top four winning a Grand Slam, but now it's someone in the top 30 - or even look at Emma [Raducanu] at the US Open [in 2021]. I would admire somebody even more if they did win the four today.”

## SLAM STAKES

It should be noted that Sinner may yet accomplish the career Grand Slam at Roland Garros this year himself. After all, he had match points against Alcaraz in last year's final there.

But Alcaraz and Swiatek have the first opportunity, which could go one of two ways. Either their motivation will be so high they remain focused throughout and get the job done, or maybe they struggle with the pressure, unsure, even at their young ages, if they'll have more opportunities while they're fully fit and at their peak.

Sometimes the quest brings both emotions, as was the case for Agassi in 1999. "I know this is my final chance to win the French Open, my final chance to win all four Slams and complete the set, which means my final shot at redemption," he wrote. "The idea of losing scares me, and the thought of winning scares me nearly as much."

Federer had been thwarted so often by Nadal in Paris that when the Spaniard was stunned by Robin Soderling in the

fourth round in 2009 - his first loss there - he was instantly told, by anyone and everyone, that this was his big chance. The pressure was so great he almost blew it. Trailing Tommy Haas by two sets to love and 3-4, 30-40 on his serve, Federer hit what he says now is the most important shot of his career, a forehand that landed on the line. The match turned on its head and Federer held his nerve to reach the final and then beat Soderling for the title.

At the time, the talk was mostly about Federer winning Roland Garros for the first time and tying Pete Sampras with 14 Grand Slams. Completing the career Grand Slam was almost a secondary thought, but the pressure was immense.

"Journalists (were saying) it's this year or never," Federer said in 2019, looking back at the win. "From then on, the next nine or 10 days felt like forever ... I knew that instead of the tournament becoming easier, it was going to become more difficult because of the pressure."

It was somehow fitting that Agassi, the last man before him to win all four, presented him with the trophy that day.

And when they do win it, what then? Will the confidence of winning all four take them to another level? Or will they feel, like Novak Djokovic did when he won Roland-Garros in 2016, slightly bereft, empty, wondering what there is left to achieve?

It took Djokovic two years to win another Slam. The fact that Swiatek and Alcaraz have got to this point so quickly, though, would suggest they will remain motivated, and the way Swiatek, in particular, talks about her game suggests her focus never strays too far from the present.

"Winning the career Grand Slam is incredibly challenging due to the unique demands and conditions of each tournament. Each Grand Slam has its own playing surface, which requires different skills and strategies," said Swiatek, who added that the pressure of competing at a high level and growing expectations are other factors.

"Injuries, fluctuations in form and the strength of the competition also play significant roles. Even this unique feeling of being on and off the site matters. Every place is different. Ultimately, it takes not only talent and hard work but also mental resilience and adaptability to navigate the ups and downs of each tournament to achieve this remarkable feat."

Ask any top player how they would like to be remembered and they will probably tell you that's something for others to debate. But if pushed, every single one of those who have achieved the feat and many who have come close will surely admit it matters.

Even Jimmy Connors, who won eight Slams but missed Roland Garros five consecutive years when he was at his peak, is still unhappy he missed out.

"I held a grudge for five years," the *LA Times* quoted him as saying years later. "I think that was five years of my best tennis." For the record, Connors won three Slams in 1974 but was banned from playing in Paris because he had signed to play in World Team Tennis, a team competition in the US that ended in 1978.

**EXCLUSIVE CLUB:** With his Roland Garros 2009 title, Roger Federer joined Andre Agassi as a champion at all four Grand Slams.







**SERENA SET:** Williams completed her collection of Grand Slam trophies with victory at AO 2023.

## MELBOURNE MILESTONES

Only three players - Shirley Fry Irvin, Chris Evert and Serena Williams - have completed the career Grand Slam at the Australian Open and with Sinner and Aryna Sabalenka, who have won the title in two of the past three years, at the top of their games, it won't be easy for Swiatek or Alcaraz to join them. While Swiatek says winning the career Grand Slam "has always been my ultimate dream", she also says she is prioritising improvement, week on week, year on year.

"Records and achievements are indeed motivating, and they can be rewarding, but at the end of the day, what truly matters is building a comprehensive and sustainable career that allows me to compete in a healthy and happy way," she said.

Winning AO 2026, and joining such an elite band, would surely be the icing on the cake for both players. **AO**

**Simon Cambers**, a journalist for more than 25 years, has covered 80 Grand Slams. He is a regular contributor to *The Guardian* and *ESPN.com* and in 2022, he co-authored his first book, *The Roger Federer Effect*.

## MAJOR TARGETS

Astonishing milestones are in sight as the sport's biggest stars target further Grand Slam glory.

**JANNIK SINNER** has the chance to become the first man to win three straight Australian Open titles since Novak Djokovic in 2011-2013. Roy Emerson, a champion in 1961 and from 1963-67, is the only other man to win the AO for three consecutive years.

While aiming to join Serena Williams as the only three-time AO women's champions this century, **ARYNA SABALENKA** also has the chance to surpass Steffi Graf's record as a finalist at seven hardcourt Grand Slams.

Should he lift a first Australian Open trophy, **CARLOS ALCARAZ** would become the first male player to complete the career Slam in Melbourne. At age 22, he would also be the youngest man to triumph at all four majors.

With a seventh major triumph in Melbourne, **IGA SWIATEK** would become the first woman in the Open era to go 7-0 in her first seven Slam finals, equalling Roger Federer's all-time record for men's and women players.

In his 21<sup>st</sup> main-draw campaign at Melbourne Park, **NOVAK DJOKOVIC** surpasses Lleyton Hewitt's record of 20 AO appearances. The Serbian is aiming to build on his own record as a 10-time Australian Open champion.

**NAOMI OSAKA**, the 2019 and 2020 champion, launches her 10<sup>th</sup> Melbourne Park campaign with the chance to become the first three-time women's champion since Serena Williams (who won the third of seven AO titles in 2007).





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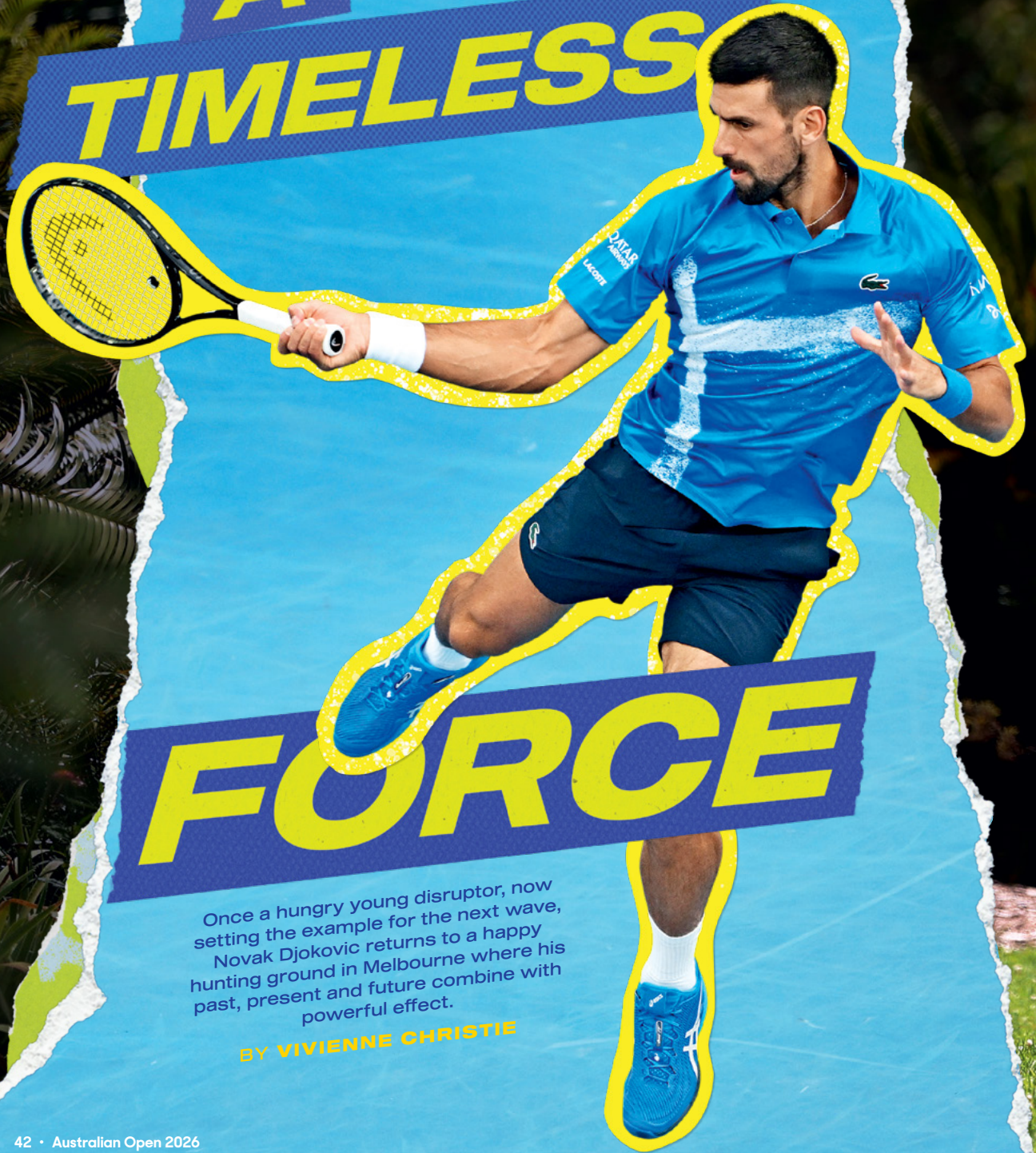
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# A TIMELESS



# FORCE

Once a hungry young disruptor, now setting the example for the next wave, Novak Djokovic returns to a happy hunting ground in Melbourne where his past, present and future combine with powerful effect.

BY VIVIENNE CHRISTIE

n the winding nature of pro tennis, treasured traditions inevitably develop as players return to a favourite city each year. Novak Djokovic, who made his Grand Slam debut as a little-known 17-year-old at Australian Open 2005, provides the perfect case in point.

On each trip to Melbourne, the Serbian likes to take in the picturesque Botanic Gardens, where he has developed an affinity with the magnificent trees.

"I'm not superstitious [but] I do obviously like to visit certain places that have brought me luck and make me feel good," he revealed at Melbourne Park two years ago.

"For example, [at the] botanical gardens just nearby, it's a wonderful park where I like to spend time and just be by myself in nature, just grounding, hugging trees, climbing trees and stuff. I love to do that, so I've done that for the last 15 years."

Typically favouring a base in nearby South Yarra over accommodation in the heart of Melbourne, Djokovic also enjoys walking or jogging at local beaches.

"It's good to have places where you can just rewind, relax, rejuvenate and kind of gather all the necessary energy for the next day," he explained.

Should he ever tire of those natural vistas, another Melbourne view - that of

**"Australia always will stay in my head, in my heart, as the best Slam that I've ever played."**



the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup - is equally illuminating for the Serbian star. For whatever way he considers it, Djokovic's Australian Open record simply glows.

Looking back, there are the 10 singles titles that make him the most successful men's champion of all time. Looking ahead, there's the knowledge that should his tally of 24 Grand Slam singles titles - another record, which he started building at age 20 with his debut major title at AO 2008 - remain fixed at that number, his place among the greats is assured.

While those records fuel Djokovic's motivation to build on his lofty milestones, there's also comforting perspective when fate intervenes.

Such was the case in Melbourne last summer, when the then-37-year-old battled past a string of hungry young contenders, including Carlos Alcaraz in the quarterfinals, to reach a 12<sup>th</sup> AO semifinal. After pushing world No.2 Alexander Zverev to a first-set tiebreak, he was forced to retire with a leg injury.

"You know, I cannot throw away all the incredible memories and results and achievements that I've amassed here over the years just because this year I retired in the semifinals," a disappointed but pragmatic Djokovic reasoned.

"Australia always will stay in my head, in my heart, as the best Slam that I've ever played and ever performed on."



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**“It’s a privilege to be part of the discussion as one of the greatest players of all time.”**

## ENDURING CHAMPION

For all the pleasure that looking back and forward can offer, the ever-mindful Djokovic has thrived in his ability to stay present.

And while the measures of his own creation - including 397 Grand Slam match wins, the most in modern history, and 101 singles titles, third in the Open era behind Jimmy Connors and Roger Federer - make for formidable comparisons, most players would happily settle for Djokovic’s current reality.

A semifinalist in every Grand Slam last season, Djokovic has returned to world No.4 in the rankings - perhaps most remarkably, having contested only 13 tournaments in 2025.

At age 38, he’s quick to acknowledge that his focus has narrowed to the majors, where a 25th title would move him past Margaret Court’s record of 24. He doesn’t shy from the challenge of facing new-generation greats Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner in best-of-five battles over a demanding Grand Slam fortnight.

“It’s just age, the wear and tear of the body. As much as I’m taking care of it, the reality hits me right now, last year-and-a-half, like never before, to be honest,” he lamented after injury factored in a straight-sets loss to Sinner at Wimbledon last year.

“It’s tough for me to accept that because I feel like when I’m fresh, when I’m fit, I can still play really good tennis ... But yeah, I guess playing best-of-five, particularly this year, has been a real



**GREATEST STAGE:** Since his 2008 breakthrough, Djokovic has triumphed in all 10 AO finals he’s contested.

struggle for me physically. The longer the tournament goes, the worse the condition gets. I reach the final stages, I reach the semis of every Slam this year, but I have to play Sinner or Alcaraz.

“These guys are fit, young, sharp. I feel like I’m going into the match with tank half empty. It’s just not possible to win a match like that.”

And yet Djokovic’s famed mindpower has always been as much a factor as his renowned physical weapons.

Alongside reflexes, speed and flexibility, resilience and an unrelenting determination have also underpinned many defining triumphs.

The brilliant blend is best represented in Djokovic’s clutch major performances.

Australian fans will long remember his gruelling final against Rafael Nadal in the AO 2012 decider, when he clawed back from a break down in the fifth set to triumph in five hours and 53 minutes. Several months on, he saved four match points against Jo-Wilfried Tsonga on his way to a first Roland Garros final.

And Federer has felt the full force of Djokovic’s resolve several times, after the Serbian saved two match points in both the US Open 2010 and 2011 semifinals. The toughest loss for the Swiss almost certainly came in the 2019

Wimbledon final. In an all-time classic, Federer held two match points at 8-7 in the deciding set. A steely Novak saved both, closing out a 7-6(5) 1-6 7-6(4) 4-6 13-12(2) victory after four hours and 57 minutes, the longest singles final in Wimbledon history.

“I try to play the match in my mind before I go on the court,” Djokovic said. “I always try to imagine myself as a winner. I think there is a power to that. There has to be, next to the willpower, strength that comes not just from your physical self, but from your mental and emotional self [too].”

## AGAINST ALL ODDS

That Djokovic’s career is defined by his ability to defy seemingly insurmountable odds is of no surprise to those who have tracked his remarkable journey since childhood.

Neither his family - nor his nation - had any traditions in tennis when he first picked up a racquet at the club opposite his family’s Belgrade pizzeria at age four.

And while a young Djokovic’s talent was clear from the outset, there were countless obstacles as he nurtured his passion in Serbia. The biggest one,

of course, was the war that engulfed Belgrade in the 1990s, when a young Novak regularly sought safety in bomb shelters with his family.

Those traumas only sharpened Djokovic's resolve and his singular focus on becoming world No.1. He has recalled watching Pete Sampras win Wimbledon - the only Grand Slam televised in Serbia - and then making a homemade trophy of his own. The childhood version, Novak style, of visualising a successful future in the sport.

It was at the Australian Open where the dream first came to life. After an ignominious Grand Slam start in 2005, when the then-17-year-old apologised to eventual champion Marat Safin for the lack of a competitive test in a 6-0 6-2 6-1 loss, Djokovic defeated Lleyton Hewitt, David Ferrer, Federer and Tsonga - among others - to lift his first major trophy at Melbourne Park in 2008.



**STAR SUPPORT:** Boris Becker, centre with Djokovic, is among his notable former coaches.

The legend has only grown in the near two decades since. Through bruising battles against the most intimidating opponents and in the highest-stakes scenarios, Djokovic has made Melbourne Park his greatest stage.

At AO 2016, he equalled Roy Emerson's record six Australian titles and drew level with Bjorn Borg's 11 Grand Slam titles. In 2019, he triumphed over Nadal to claim the standalone record. "Making history of the sport that I truly love is something special," said Djokovic, who also lifted the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup in 2020, 2021 and 2023.

"I never really liked comparing myself to others," he commented after victory over Stefanos Tsitsipas at the start of the 2023 season that also saw him triumph at Roland Garros and the US Open, and push Alcaraz the distance in a Wimbledon final.

"But of course, it's a privilege to be part of the discussion as one of the greatest players of all time."



## A PERFECT 10

From 20 Australian Open appearances, Novak Djokovic has claimed an unparalleled 10 titles over 16 years.



### AO 2008

At age 20 and contesting his 13<sup>th</sup> Grand Slam, Djokovic defeats Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the final to claim his Grand Slam breakthrough, becoming the first Serbian player to win a major singles title.



### AO 2011

He halts Roger Federer's title defence in the semifinals and then beats Andy Murray in the final. Having dropped only one set for the fortnight, Djokovic offers an early glimpse of the dominance to come.



### AO 2012

Djokovic goes back-to-back, outlasting Rafael Nadal in a five-hour, 53-minute epic before tearing off his shirt in an iconic celebration. It is the last major in which all of the 'Big Four' reach the semifinals.



### AO 2013

He becomes the first man in the Open era to complete an AO three-peat, highlighted by a five-set win over Stan Wawrinka. Spanning more than five hours, their fourth-round classic ends 12-10 in the fifth set.



### AO 2015

For the third straight year, Djokovic and Wawrinka push each other to five sets. After prevailing in their semifinal, Djokovic beats Murray in the final to lift the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup for the fifth time.

## LEGENDARY LEGACY

Much has changed for Djokovic since that first major triumph in Melbourne. Where mother Dijana, father Srđjan and younger brothers Marko and Djordje were courtside in 2008, family support now comes from his wife, Jelena, 11-year-old son Stefan and daughter Tara, who is eight.

While long-time coach Marian Vajda guided him to his breakthrough Slam victory, high-profile coaches Boris Becker, Goran Ivanisevic and even former rival Andy Murray have since been a part of Djokovic's team.

And where there was once inevitable uncertainty about whether that first major title was a precursor to future greatness, Djokovic has now achieved practically every glittering milestone in the sport.

Alongside his Grand Slam records, he is a 40-time champion at ATP Masters 1000 level and claimed year-end world No.1 honours for a record eight times. There's also national pride after Djokovic led Serbia to a first Davis Cup title in 2010 and claimed a long-awaited singles gold medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics.

Within that period, Djokovic hasn't simply created tennis history but shaped it. Wins over Federer and Nadal feature in his prolific Australian Open history, the Serbian having become the third member of the famed triumvirate that he hopes will one day define the "Sincaraz" trivalry.



**SUPERSTAR COMPANY:** Djokovic, pictured with Andy Murray, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer in 2022, is the most decorated member of the famed "Big Four."

"I kind of empathise with the third guy, because I was in those shoes with Federer and Nadal," he noted with a smile at the US Open last year.

Once the wide-eyed challenger chasing the giants of tennis, Djokovic is now a father figure to many, guiding the next wave through his enduring example. The fast-rising Alejandro Davidovich Fokina notes how he modelled his game on the Serbian's and young stars including Iva Jovic and Jakub Mensik name Djokovic as a childhood idol. Both players have cherished one-on-one time with the prolific champion, while Mensik was even invited to train with him in Dubai after impressing in his run to the AO 2022 boys' final.

"I feel and I hope that my active career that keeps going is also positively affecting the overall tennis ecosystem," said Djokovic in Doha last February. "And hopefully inspire younger generations to come and watch tennis, grab a tennis racquet, participate in our sport in any shape or form."

What *hasn't* changed for Djokovic is a fierce competitive spirit that still burns. "Obviously I love the drive of the competition and trying to reach more history of the sport, that I really love, that has given me so much. So, I want to win, I like the feeling of competing on the court," he reiterated last year.

"I also feel like the tennis court for me, particularly during the matches, is probably the best platform to evolve as a human being because I experience a crazy amount and intensity of different emotions on the court – from the thrill and joy to the frustration and anger. It's very interesting to kind of experience all those emotions."

After 20-plus years on tour and almost 1400 pro-level matches, those emotions are as familiar to Djokovic as ever. He lifted his milestone 100th pro singles trophy in Geneva last October and capped the 2025 season with a title run in Athens. Just one match shy of a 100<sup>th</sup> match win in Melbourne, Djokovic has even more Australian Open history in sight.

While the records tell one story, the man who enjoys his walks in nature reveal another – still grounded, cherishing the moment and circling back to the meaningful touchpoints that have shaped him from the start. **AO**

**Vivienne Christie is Managing Editor Publications (including *Australian Tennis Magazine*) & Content at Tennis Australia. She also co-hosts *The Sit-Down* weekly podcast.**



### AO 2016

After a four-set win over Federer in the semifinals, Djokovic overcomes Murray in the final for the fourth time. With a straight-sets victory, he equals Roy Emerson's longstanding record of six AO men's singles titles.



### AO 2019

Djokovic beats Nadal in the final to surpass Emerson as the most decorated men's champion in Australia. A seventh AO title is a 15<sup>th</sup> Slam in total, surpassing Pete Sampras on the all-time list of major winners.



### AO 2020

Down two sets to one in the final against Dominic Thiem, Djokovic rallies to become the first man since Ken Rosewall to win majors in three different decades. In the semis, he beats Federer in the Swiss great's final AO.



### AO 2021

With victory over Daniil Medvedev in the final, Djokovic secures another three-peat at Melbourne Park. In the fourth round, he becomes only the second man, after Federer, to reach 300 Grand Slam match wins.



### AO 2023

At 35, Djokovic defeats Stefanos Tsitsipas to tie Nadal as the only men to win 10 singles titles at the same major. Returning after missing the previous year, he also lifts his AO match-winning streak to 28, an Open era record.



ARYNA SABALENKA

# POWERED BY PURPOSE

Pipped at the post in her bid to become a three-peat champion at AO 2025, Aryna Sabalenka looks to make Rod Laver Arena her own again after a season of self-discovery.

BY DAN IMHOFF

Something about author and acclaimed neurosurgeon James R Doty's story struck a cord with Aryna Sabalenka following a string of narrow losses in the first half of 2025. A young Doty faced a

troubled life before a chance encounter at the curiously named Cactus Rabbit Magic Shop, where the shop owner's mother first helped him develop the tools to harness the power of the mind.

It sounds more like the foundations of a fantasy novel than a memoir that has shifted countless readers' perspectives when confronted with failure.

While self-help books on mindfulness were a dime a dozen and advice often rehashed from one to the next, Sabalenka's friends insisted this one was worth a read.

Already a three-time major winner, she arrived at Melbourne Park last January as the clear women's world No.1, hot off a title in Brisbane.

Though comfortable on these striking blue hard courts and popular with Australian crowds, which make her feel so at home, Sabalenka could not entirely shut out the history at stake.

**“When you get to the point of finals, it's trophy or nothing.”**

She again blazed a path and this time stood on the cusp of a rare feat - the first woman since Martina Hingis in 1999 to sweep three successive Australian Opens.

Experienced and explosive though typically considered too flashy to be on pundits' radars much as a major winner-in-waiting, a near-30-year-old Madison Keys narrowly foiled the top seed's three-peat bid in a three-set boilover.

“I think when you get to the point of finals, it's trophy or nothing,” Sabalenka said. “Nobody remembers the finalist, you know? Nobody puts, like, next to the winner (the) finalist name.”

“At this point, yeah, I go for titles. Of course, I have to be proud of myself with the finals, three finals in a row. That's something crazy. I hope that next year I'll come back as a better player, and I'll hold Daphne (the Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup) one more time.”

Such a high bar was understandable for a player of Sabalenka's ilk.

While trophies were added at Miami and Madrid, it was a different story on the major stages. A blustery collapse against Coco Gauff in a gusty Roland Garros decider followed her surprise defeat to an unshackled Keys at Rod Laver Arena.

Having fallen short in the Wimbledon semifinals to a fellow big-hitter, 13th seed Amanda Anisimova, something had to give.

“The season had been really intense at that point, and I felt like I was really low energy,” Sabalenka said. “I was motivated, of course, but it felt like everything was going really tough. I couldn't show my best and the body was really weak.”

Refreshingly authentic, Sabalenka represents the modern athlete, an open book unafraid to find balance in her life outside the rigours of her profession, often sharing humorous off-court takes on social media, including on her own YouTube vlog Aryna's Arena.

A holiday in the Greek islands with boyfriend Georgios Frangulis followed her Wimbledon departure amid a month in which she drew a line through competition. Just like her previous trip



## MADE IN MELBOURNE

From an erratic talent struggling to fulfil her potential, Aryna Sabalenka finally shook her hoodoo with her first of four hard-court majors in an instant classic over Elena Rybakina at Australian Open 2023. It continued a trend of breakout women's stars who first tasted major success at Melbourne Park.



### Madison Keys

If Sabalenka's first major was a long time coming, it paled in comparison to American Madison Keys' wait. At 29, Keys became the oldest first-time women's AO champion last year and the player with the longest gap between their first two Slam finals - seven years and four months - in the Open era.



### Sofia Kenin

Seeded 14th, Sofia Kenin showed unwavering self-belief to stun top seed Ash Barty and former No.1 Garbine Muguruza back-to-back for her sole Slam title to date at AO 2020. The 21-year-old Kenin became the youngest American since Serena Williams in 2002 to land a major title.



### Caroline Wozniacki

Denmark's greatest player, Caroline Wozniacki, spent 67 weeks as world No.1 and had long relinquished her hold on top spot before she finally claimed her first Grand Slam trophy at AO 2018. Wozniacki outlasted Simona Halep and returned to No.1 four weeks after her career-defining moment.



**HAPPY PLACE:** The two-time AO champion loves her annual trips to Australia.

to the Hellenic Republic only a month prior, boat trips, beach clubs - including the occasional cocktail - and gummy bears to satisfy her sweet tooth were all part of the mix.

If ever there was a time to put the racquets aside momentarily and hit reset that time had arrived.

"After the Australian Open, I thought that the right way would be just to forget it and move on, but then the same thing happened at the French Open. So, after French Open I figured that, OK, maybe it's time for me to sit back and to look at those finals and to maybe learn something, because I didn't want it to happen again and again and again," Sabalenka said.

"I was in Mykonos, reading my book, enjoying the view, and I was just thinking that why would I let my emotions take control over me in those two finals? It felt like I thought that, OK, if I made it to the final, it means that I'm going to win it, you know, and I sort of didn't expect players to come out there and to fight. I thought that everything was going to go easily my way, which was completely the wrong mindset."

That book was Doty's *New York Times* bestseller, which Sabalenka's fitness coach Jason Stacy said she sought out after Roland Garros. Defeat there was particularly galling having snapped Iga Swiatek's three year-reign in the semifinals.

Such opportunities, given her great Polish rival's stranglehold on clay in the French capital, did not arise often. "It all just kind of came together," Stacy said. "For us that was a really nice thing that she started to actually initiate wanting to figure some things out, talk about it, get things out of her head. Because before she would have a habit of keeping it to herself until it becomes something bigger. That was pretty impressive to see."

In his book, Doty outlined how he learnt over time to relax his body, calm his mind and respond compassionately. He visualised what he desired for his future.

"The way it's written, it's very interesting, because it's a real

**“I hope ... I’ll come back as a better player, and I’ll hold Daphne one more time.”**

story, the guy who learned how to control himself – how to not overthink,” Sabalenka said. “Reading that book, I realised a lot of things. [It] really helped me to stay focused and to focus on the right things on important points.

“I’ve seen so many friends of mine reading that book and recommending, saying, ‘Oh, my God, you have to read it, this book is incredible, so good’. It’s amazing ... It was the right moment for me to go for that book.”

The tried-and-tested method for many players in the past followed a familiar pattern. Identify areas for improvement after harrowing losses, compartmentalise the setback and move on.

This was clearly not working for Sabalenka considering her recent Slam results.

Still the world’s top-ranked women’s player when she returned to New York last August, the air of expectation brought with it a pressure distinct from that she had carried at the prior majors that year.

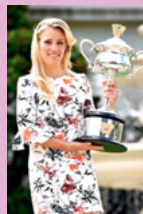
For all her consistency, she faced the prospect of being the most dominant player of the season without a Grand Slam trophy if she failed to defend at Flushing Meadows.

Post Mykonos escape, fellow Minsk-born Grand Slam champion Max Mirnyi – a retired former top-20 singles and world No.1 doubles player – was added to the team for the US hard-court swing.

After years with the same core team of coach Anton Dubrov, fitness coach Stacy and hitting partner Andrei Vasilevski, it was a chance to draw on a fresh voice.

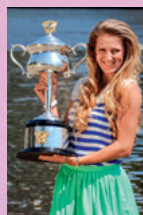


**GUIDING FORCE:** Coach Anton Dubrov has been pivotal to Sabalenka’s dominance at Melbourne Park.



#### Angelique Kerber

It doesn’t get any bigger than denying Serena Williams in your first Slam final and that’s exactly what Germany’s Angelique Kerber managed at AO 2016 against the reigning champion. Kerber was the first to secure a Slam from match point down in the first round.



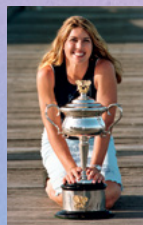
#### Victoria Azarenka

In her maiden Slam final, a ruthlessly aggressive Victoria Azarenka allowed former champion Maria Sharapova just three games for the AO 2012 silverware. Only the third former junior champion to triumph, the win elevated the 22-year-old to world No.1.



#### Amelie Mauresmo

Frenchwoman Amelie Mauresmo had already featured in an AO final seven years before she captured her first major at AO 2006. An unwell Justine Henin brought a premature end to the final, Mauresmo’s third match of the tournament in which her opponent retired.



#### Jennifer Capriati

American Jennifer Capriati was a former teenager star and Olympic gold medalist before she quit the sport early due to burnout. She returned in 1998 and later surprised defending champion Lindsay Davenport and world No.1 Martina Hingis to prevail at AO 2001.



#### Martina Hingis

The last teenage champion at Melbourne Park, Swiss sensation Hingis burst through over former champion Mary Pierce in the AO 1997 final. The 16-year-old, who won three of the four Slams that year, was the youngest major champion of the 20th century.



#### Mary Pierce

Having been overwhelmed in her first Slam final on home soil a year before, Pierce delivered revenge swiftly over Spanish top seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario for the AO 1995 silverware. The fourth-seeded Frenchwoman did not concede a set en route to the title.

"I remember I talked with Darren Cahill about it, like it's usual for tennis coaches, usually like a three-year period, because then the athlete is just listening for you," Dubrov said.

"[The player] knows what you're going to say. You know what [they're] going to be responding, she's going to respond to you.

"That's why for me it's kind of like I'm working for five years. That's why I'm always asking Aryna, 'What we can do?', because it's pretty normal to move on to find someone else.

"As she said, she's feeling kind of safe with me overall how the environment is. That's why I try to add a new layer. For me, the new layer is a new voice, a new experience."

Nicknamed 'The Beast', Mirnyi - an Olympic mixed doubles gold medallist alongside Victoria Azarenka at London 2012 - had always paid close attention to Sabalenka's development from the outside and had maintained contact with former Davis Cup teammates Dubrov and Vasilevski.

He had followed Sabalenka's ascent and what he deemed "the resistance" she and her team encountered when dealing with life at the top.

"Obviously the expectations are very high for themselves, and the expectation Aryna puts on herself. This is normal progression, it's natural to have," Mirnyi said.

"We are here to embrace that in her and maybe remind once again the plaque that we get in front of getting out onto the Ashe Court that 'Pressure is a privilege', and what Billie Jean King says after that. She says, 'Champions adapt' ...

"It's a delicate mission, because if I can only add one or two extra tools in her toolbox that she can operate with, I would consider my mission complete. Other than that, she's got a full force going for her. She just needs to remind herself that pressure is a privilege, and she's a champion that will adjust."

Sabalenka fittingly avenged her Wimbledon defeat to Anisimova at Arthur Ashe Stadium for her fourth hard-court major.



**BACK ON TRACK:** Sabalenka celebrates with her team after successfully defending her US Open title last year.

It was not without a hitch or two. The 27-year-old knew what to expect from a fervent New York crowd when an American was pitted against her - it was no holds barred if they wanted to get beneath her skin, hoping to push her emotions to the limit in volatile moments.

Twice, she admitted, she almost lost control when broken back at critical stages.

Not this time, however.

"Going into this final I decided for myself that I'm going to control my emotions," Sabalenka said. "I'm not going to let them take control over me and doesn't matter what happens in the match... I think from what I understand today that the lesson learned - and I really hope it will never happen again

if I'm going to be playing in other finals - that I will be more in control."

In January, Sabalenka again stands to follow in the footsteps of Steffi Graf, Monica Seles, Hingis and Serena Williams as just the fifth woman to win at least three Australian Opens since the tournament's move to Melbourne Park.

The now-famous neurosurgeon, Doty, detailed visions for his desired future. Sabalenka pictures hers back in possession of Daphne. Expectations remain high, the natural progression after steadying the ship in New York. Now better equipped, King's words resonate - the champion is adapting. **AO**

**Dan Imhoff** is a Melbourne-based tennis journalist and long-time AusOpen.com writer, who has reported at all four Grand Slams and tournaments throughout the world.

# WIINGS

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**“It’s a blessing  
starting the  
year in Australia,  
playing in front of  
my home fans.”**

**Alex de Minaur**



# NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Nothing compares to the party-like atmosphere of Australia's summer of tennis, an extra incentive for the local hopes competing in their own back yard.

BY LAUREN WOOD

**F**or most, the journey to Melbourne Park takes more than a simple tap of the court sneaker heels.

It's one of the longest trips in tennis, with the extra cabin baggage of a trophy upon departure reserved only for a very privileged few.

But to begin the season in Australia means much more to a select group who start their year on the tour's yellow brick road in a place held close to their hearts.

To the Australians competing at the Australian Open, there truly is no place like home.

Just ask top Australian hope and 2025 quarterfinalist Alex de Minaur.

The 26-year-old - Australia's top-ranked player - was born in Sydney before his family relocated to Alicante, Spain. In his early teens, they returned to the golden shores Down Under where he and his fellow Australians carried local hopes for the most treasured fortnight of Australian tennis.

And it is here at Melbourne Park that his greatest hopes lie.

"There's nothing I want to do more than play well here in Australia," De Minaur declared last year.

Often on the hunt for a top-notch bolognese around South Yarra, where he frequents annually for the summer, De Minaur enjoys "every moment I'm here".

"It's a blessing starting the year in Australia, playing in front of my home fans," he said.

There's plenty of noise - literally and figuratively - as the headlines match the hailing of the local crowds.

"I don't really associate playing in Australia as nerve-racking or more pressure. In fact, I associate it as just excitement," De Minaur said.

"I walk out and I've got an unbelievable crowd behind me, so I'm very fortunate for that."

It is the fans that bring the magic as players see that their dreams really can come true.

The free-flowing nature of Melbourne



## “It was like a different level ... There were so many people.” Destanee Aiava

Park, from Garden Square, past the famed Rod Laver Arena and through to the buzzing Grand Slam Oval ensures smiles are ever-present at the tour's so-dubbed “Happy Slam”, as locals and visitors alike bask in oft-sublime - albeit a little unpredictable - Melbourne weather, the world's best tennis and a cold drink or three.

Melbourne is good at plenty, but having a good time is right up there, and the tournament provides an electric few weeks in one of the world's busiest sporting calendars where the city's personality shines.

Thanasi Kokkinakis would know. He hails from Adelaide but lives nearby to Melbourne Park and is in the unique situation of sleeping in his own bed when competing at his treasured AO.

**HOME HOPES:** Maya Joint, Alexei Popyrin, Emerson Jones, Thanasi Kokkinakis and Priscilla Hon.

“For me, there's nothing like the summer and playing here,” he said.

“The crowd supporting you, it's summer, the weather is usually good. It's a big party. It's a big, fun atmosphere and having the crowd support is crazy.”

It's a full sensory experience.

The crowds bring the raucous sound as trams and trains deliver thousands to the time-honoured grounds. The smell of sunscreen, tennis balls and the odd amber ale hanging in the air.

For Melburnian Destanee Aiava, that couldn't have rung truer than in her famed showdown with brash American Danielle Collins, whose tete-a-tete with the Australian crowd in general admission Kia Arena went global last year.

“I look back on it and I smile,” Aiava said on *The Sit-Down* podcast.

“I really enjoyed it, honestly, with the crowd. I thought even I had some hecklers, so it was something really

different to what I've been used to, even playing overseas.

“It was like a different level. It was on Kia [Arena] but it still felt massive and there were so many people, I think it was literally full.”

Having grown up in Michigan, in the United States, with dual Australian citizenship - thanks to her father, a former squash professional - Maya Joint made the move to represent the green and gold in 2023.

She has enjoyed a stellar rise since. In just her second Australian Open main draw, Joint will carry the flag as the nation's top-ranked woman having surged from world No.119 to No.32 in a year that included her first two WTA trophies.

While she has already spent two previous Christmases in Melbourne, AO 2026 will carry an even homelier feel.

“My parents moved back to Melbourne a couple months ago, so yeah, I guess I live here now,” Joint said.

“[The] AO is my favourite event of the year. I have my whole family there and a lot of friends, so I'm pretty biased.



I just love competing in front of them and being at home is always so special.”

Just like for Joint’s adopted Australian rules football team, the Hawthorn Hawks, playing across the train tracks at the MCG, the local crowd is almost an extra set of hands for at-home hopefuls.

The extra push at the baseline, the extra kick on a serve. “The Australian crowd, I believe they’re amongst the most educated in the world, and the ones that have the most fun at matches, and we’ve certainly seen that,” Tournament Director Craig Tiley said last year.

“There are always going to be moments (where it’s too much), but the energy that it brings to the players, the event is remarkable, so for that we appreciate it.”

Alexei Popyrin is another Australian sure to entice the electric fanbase, having sent John Cain Arena into a five-set frenzy during a second-round win over Taylor Fritz at AO 2023.

The 26-year-old, who cracked the world’s top 20 for the first time for a period in 2025, still reflected fondly on that match from three years ago. “At AO, you know, I’ve played some unbelievable matches against Fritz and against Novak [in the second round at AO 2024] and for me just the support that I get there is unbelievable,” Popyrin told *Australian Tennis Magazine*. “That atmosphere [on John Cain Arena] is always unbelievable there.”

The sounds also include top-line entertainers on rocking stages, and the aromas include dishes from Melbourne’s top restaurants as one of the globe’s food hot spots.

You’ll often find Kokkinakis at the grill of the player restaurant for the tournament’s tastes, with the 29-year-old crediting Tiley for facilitating an array of cuisines available to players who travel long hours from all over the world.

“I just try and get some steaks, salads, avocados and mix it up a little bit,” he said.

“I just love the grill there - just knowing where everything is is easy. These are the courts and the places I’ve grown up coming to, so it does feel like home, and you feel like you have a bit



**CROWNING GLORY:** AO 2022 champion Ash Barty.

of advantage over some of the other players, just by purely being comfortable there and around the settings.”

It’s that familiarity of home - like a warm hug, or Mum’s home cooking.

Kokkinakis lifted the men’s doubles title alongside good mate and fellow Australian Nick Kyrgios in 2022 in an all-Australian final over Matt Ebden and Max Purcell.

That same night, Ash Barty was feted as women’s champion - the first Australian to claim the women’s trophy in 44 years.

In an incredibly rich river of local success, at least one local player has saluted with AO silverware in each of the past 14 years.

A year after Kokkinakis and Kyrgios joined Barty as home-grown champions, scratch pairing Rinky Hijikata and Jason Kubler saluted.

Sydneysider Hijikata doubts the pair would have made it beyond the opening rounds without such huge home support.

“Just having so many people behind you, it’s hard not to get up for it,” he said. “It’s hard not to kind of back yourself in the moment, really enjoy it. This is what you play for, being able to play a home Slam. There’s nothing better.”

There’s been Olivia Gadecki and John Peers in the 2025 mixed doubles.

There’s been seven-time quad wheelchair champion Dylan Alcott, Kyrgios and Luke Saville before him in the boys’ singles and Sam Stosur in the women’s doubles.

## THE GREEN & GOLD STANDARD

**For 14 straight years, at least one Australian has lifted a trophy at their home Grand Slam.**

- AO 2012** Luke Saville BOYS’ SINGLES
- AO 2013** Jarmila Gajdosova & Matt Ebden MIXED DOUBLES
- AO 2013** Nick Kyrgios BOYS’ SINGLES
- AO 2013** Jay Andrijić & Brad Mousley BOYS’ DOUBLES
- AO 2014** Brad Mousley & Lucas Miedler (AUT) BOYS’ DOUBLES
- AO 2015** Marc Polmans & Jake Delaney, BOYS’ DOUBLES
- AO 2015** Dylan Alcott, MEN’S WHEELCHAIR SINGLES
- AO 2016** Oliver Anderson, BOYS’ SINGLES
- AO 2016** Alex de Minaur & Blake Ellis BOYS’ DOUBLES
- AO 2016** Dylan Alcott MEN’S WHEELCHAIR SINGLES
- AO 2017** John Peers & Henri Kontinen (FIN) MEN’S DOUBLES
- AO 2018** Dylan Alcott MEN’S WHEELCHAIR SINGLES
- AO 2018** Dylan Alcott & Heath Davidson MEN’S WHEELCHAIR DOUBLES
- AO 2019** Sam Stosur & Zhang Shuai (CHN) WOMEN’S DOUBLES
- AO 2019** Dylan Alcott MEN’S WHEELCHAIR SINGLES
- AO 2019** Dylan Alcott & Heath Davidson MEN’S WHEELCHAIR DOUBLES
- AO 2020** Dylan Alcott MEN’S WHEELCHAIR SINGLES
- AO 2020** Dylan Alcott & Heath Davidson MEN’S WHEELCHAIR DOUBLES
- AO 2021** Dylan Alcott MEN’S WHEELCHAIR SINGLES
- AO 2021** Dylan Alcott & Heath Davidson MEN’S WHEELCHAIR DOUBLES
- AO 2022** Ash Barty, WOMEN’S SINGLES
- AO 2022** Thanasi Kokkinakis & Nick Kyrgios, MEN’S DOUBLES
- AO 2023** Rinky Hijikata & Jason Kubler, MEN’S DOUBLES
- AO 2024** Matt Ebden & Rohan Bopanna (IND) MEN’S DOUBLES
- AO 2025** John Peers & Olivia Gadecki, MIXED DOUBLES

**CHAMPIONS:** Olivia Gadecki and John Peers claimed mixed doubles glory; Rinky Hijikata and Jason Kubler at AO 2023



# MELBOURNE



**“This is what you play for, being able to play a home Slam. There’s nothing better.” Rinky Hijikata**

That’s just naming a few. And things continue to build.

Queenslander Priscilla Hon – who has played four main draws at the Australian Open – cracked the top 100 for the first time in October following a run to the third round at Flushing Meadows and the China Open.

Ajla Tomljanovic, a three-time Grand Slam quarterfinalist – twice at Wimbledon and once at the US Open – returned to the top 100 in October, while Kimberly Birrell, who has previously reached the third round in singles, made the mixed doubles final last year.

Kyrgios, who was plagued by injury in the lead-up to last year’s tournament, wanted to hear just one thing when he came onto the court.

“I don’t know how many times I’m going to be back here again,” he said at the time.

“That’s why I didn’t have headphones on, I wasn’t listening to music. I walked out there today wanting to hear the crowd. There were some special moments.”

There’s been many for Australians

in their own land of Oz – of heart and courage and tennis brains up there with the best on the planet.

Of glory, and guts.

For Kokkinakis, who famously said he had to paint the town red “for the both of us” with Kyrgios, those home-Slam heights are easily explained.

“We’ve always had good success, and I think it is just being here, preparing earlier, getting used to everything and it definitely gives us an advantage,” he said.

There will be a few extra mates in tow compared to previous years, hoping to further the cause for Australians on deck at AO 2026.

Former world No.8 Daria Kasatkina, who has changed her allegiance to Australia, is preparing to play her first home Grand Slam under the Australian flag. The switch in nationality wasn’t an easy decision, which gained traction at last year’s tournament and her permanent residency was granted at the end of March.

“It’s a great feeling to represent a country like Australia,” Kasatkina said.

“I’m very happy with how everyone

welcomed me. The first couple of times it did feel a bit strange. Also to see this beautiful flag next to me, I’m getting more used to it.”

The 28-year-old said she loved Melbourne and looked forward to making it her home.

“I was jealous of the people who live [in Australia] because I have, let’s say, [contrasting] examples to compare,” she said in an interview with Nine.

“This is a fairytale, for sure.

“Coming to the Slams and seeing how they treat the locals, in terms of support, I always wondered how I would feel to have a home Slam and a home crowd. I never thought it was going to happen... but it’s going to be big – a huge, massive motivation, and it can only bring you up.”

There is, after all, no place like home. No matter how or when you make it yours. **AO**

**Lauren Wood is a Melbourne-based award-winning sports journalist – and lifelong tennis fan – who has attended the Australian Open since she was in primary school and covered the tournament for more than a decade.**

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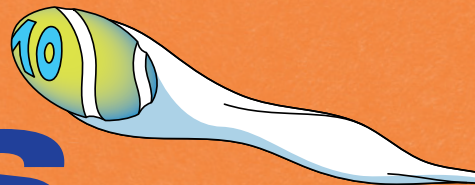


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# MAJOR ICONS



The AO 2026 champions will take their place among the sport's Grand Slam greats. By JACKSON MANSELL

## WOMEN'S SINGLES



SERENA WILLIAMS



MARTINA NAVRATILOVA



STEFFI GRAF

### All-time Grand Slam title leaders

Margaret Court (AUS)	24
Serena Williams (USA)	23
Steffi Graf (GER)	22
Helen Wills (USA)	19
Chris Evert (USA)	18
Martina Navratilova (USA)	18
Billie Jean King (USA)	12
Maureen Connolly (USA)	9
Monica Seles (USA)	9
Suzanne Lenglen (FRA)	8

### Longest consecutive stints at No.1

Steffi Graf (GER)	186	1987-91
S. Williams (USA)	186	2013-16
M. Navratilova (USA)	156	1982-85
Ash Barty (AUS)	114	2019-22
Chris Evert (USA)	113	1976-78

EVONNE GOOLAGONG CAWLEY

MONICA SELES

### Australian Open title leaders

Margaret Court (AUS)	11
Serena Williams (USA)	7
Nancye Wynne Bolton (AUS)	6
Daphne Akhurst (AUS)	5
Evonne Goolagong Cawley (AUS)	4
Steffi Graf (GER)	4
Monica Seles (USA)	4
Joan Hartigan (AUS)	3
Martina Hingis (SUI)	3
Martina Navratilova (USA)	3

### Women's ranking leaders

Women to reach No.1	29
Countries to boast a No.1	15
Times No.1 has changed	107

### Active Grand Slam champions

Venus Williams (USA)	7
Iga Swiatek (POL)	6
Naomi Osaka (JPN)	4
Aryna Sabalenka	4
Victoria Azarenka	2
Barbora Krejickova (CZE)	2
Coco Gauff (USA)	2
Bianca Andreescu (CAN)	1
Sofia Kenin (USA)	1
Jelena Ostapenko (LAT)	1
Emma Raducanu (GBR)	1
Elena Rybakina (KAZ)	1
Sloane Stephens (USA)	1
Marketa Vondrousova (CZE)	1
Madison Keys (USA)	1

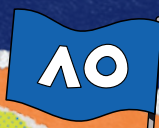
### Oldest Grand Slam champion (Open era)

Serena Williams (USA), Australian Open 2017, 35 years, 4 months

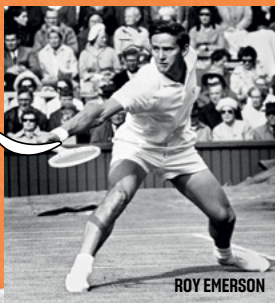
### Total Weeks at No.1\*

Steffi Graf (GER)	377
Martina Navratilova (USA)	332
Serena Williams (USA)	319
Chris Evert (USA)	260
Martina Hingis (SUI)	209
Monica Seles (USA)	178
Iga Swiatek (POL)	125
Ash Barty (AUS)	121
Justine Henin (BEL)	117
Lindsay Davenport (USA)	98
Caroline Wozniacki (DEN)	71
Aryna Sabalenka	66
Simona Halep (ROU)	64
Victoria Azarenka	51
Amelie Mauresmo (FRA)	39
Angelique Kerber (GER)	34
Dinara Safina	26
Naomi Osaka (JPN)	25
Tracy Austin (USA)	21
Maria Sharapova	21
Kim Clijsters (BEL)	20
Jelena Jankovic (SRB)	18
Jennifer Capriati (USA)	17
Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (ESP)	12
Ana Ivanovic (SRB)	12
Venus Williams (USA)	11
Karolina Pliskova (CZE)	8
Garbine Muguruza (ESP)	4
Evonne Goolagong Cawley (AUS)	2

\*Total weeks as of 8 December 2025



# MEN'S SINGLES



ROY EMERSON

## All-time Grand Slam title leaders

Novak Djokovic (SRB)	24
Rafael Nadal (ESP)	22
Roger Federer (SUI)	20
Pete Sampras (USA)	14
Roy Emerson (AUS)	12
Bjorn Borg (SWE)	11
Rod Laver (AUS)	11
Bill Tilden (USA)	10
Andre Agassi (USA)	8
Ken Rosewall (AUS)	8

## Longest consecutive stints at No.1

Roger Federer (SUI)	237	2004-08
Jimmy Connors (USA)	160	1974-77
Ivan Lendl (CZE)	157	1985-88
Novak Djokovic (SRB)	122	2014-16
Pete Sampras (USA)	102	1996-98



JIMMY CONNORS



ROGER FEDERER

## Australian Open title leaders

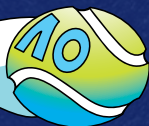
Novak Djokovic (SRB)	10
Roy Emerson (AUS)	6
Roger Federer (SUI)	6
Andre Agassi (USA)	4
Jack Crawford (AUS)	4
Ken Rosewall (AUS)	4
James Anderson (AUS)	3
Rod Laver (AUS)	3
Adrian Quist (AUS)	3
Mats Wilander (SWE)	3



KEN ROSEWALL

## Oldest Grand Slam Champion (Open era)

Ken Rosewall (AUS), Australian Open 1972, 37 years, 2 months



LLEYTON HEWITT

RAFAEL NADAL

PETE SAMPRAS

## Total weeks at No.1\*

Novak Djokovic (SRB)	428
Roger Federer (SUI)	310
Pete Sampras (USA)	286
Ivan Lendl (CZE)	270
Jimmy Connors (USA)	268
Rafael Nadal (ESP)	209
John McEnroe (USA)	170
Bjorn Borg (SWE)	109
Andre Agassi (USA)	101
Lleyton Hewitt (AUS)	80
Stefan Edberg (SWE)	72
Jannik Sinner (ITA)	66
Jim Courier (USA)	58
Carlos Alcaraz (ESP)	48
Gustavo Kuerten (BRA)	43
Andy Murray (GBR)	41
Ilie Nastase (ROU)	40
Mats Wilander (SWE)	20
Daniil Medvedev	16
Andy Roddick (USA)	13
Boris Becker (GER)	12
Marat Safin	9
John Newcombe (AUS)	8
Juan Carlos Ferrero (ESP)	8
Thomas Muster (AUT)	6
Marcelo Rios (CHI)	6
Yevgeny Kafelnikov	6
Carlos Moya (ESP)	2
Patrick Rafter (AUS)	1

\*Total Weeks as of 8 December 2025

## Men's ranking leaders

Men to reach No.1	29
Countries to boast a No.1	15
Times No.1 has changed	121



STAN WAWRINKA

## Active Grand Slam champions

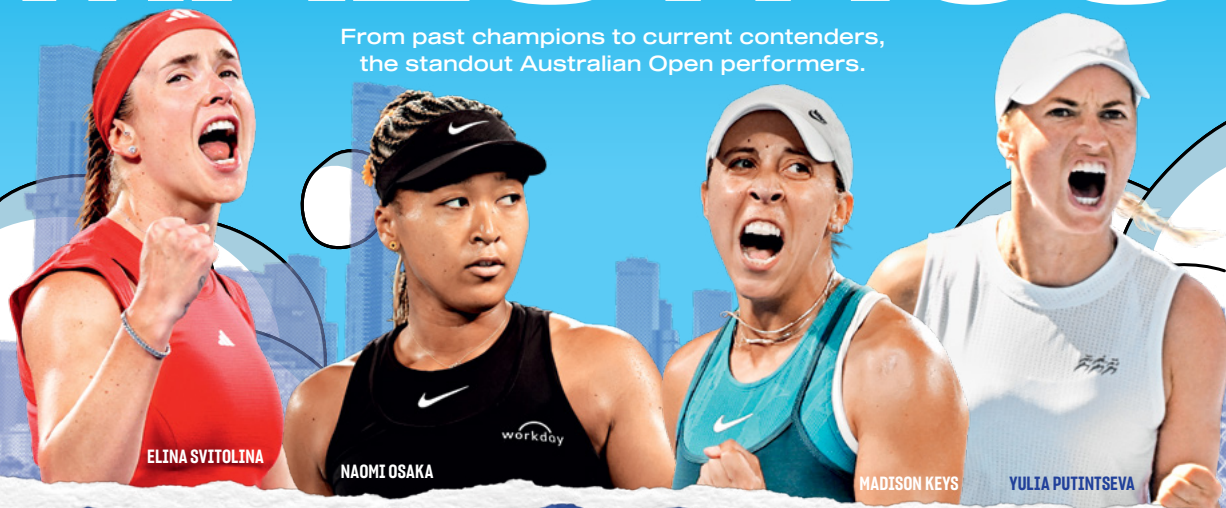
Novak Djokovic (SRB)	24
Carlos Alcaraz (ESP)	6
Jannik Sinner (ITA)	4
Stan Wawrinka (SUI)	3
Daniil Medvedev	1
Marin Cilic (CRO)	1



MARIN CILIC

# MELBOURNE MAESTROS

From past champions to current contenders, the standout Australian Open performers.



## WOMEN'S SINGLES

### Australian Open match wins (Open era)

Serena Williams (USA)	92
Maria Sharapova	57
Lindsay Davenport (USA)	56
Venus Williams (USA)	54
Martina Hingis (SUI)	52
Victoria Azarenka	50
Steffi Graf (GER)	47
Martina Navratilova (USA)	46
Monica Seles (USA)	43
Kim Clijsters (BEL)	43

### Australian Open match wins (Active players)

Venus Williams (USA)	54
Victoria Azarenka	50
Madison Keys (USA)	34
Elina Svitolina (UKR)	29
Aryna Sabalenka	28
Karolina Pliskova (CZE)	26
Naomi Osaka (JPN)	26
Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova	26
Iga Swiatek (POL)	22
Elise Mertens (BEL)	20

### Best winning percentage

Aryna Sabalenka	82.4%
Naomi Osaka (JPN)	78.8%
Madison Keys (USA)	77.3%
Victoria Azarenka	76.9%
Iga Swiatek (POL)	75.9%
Coco Gauff (USA)	72.7%
Barbora Krejčíková (CZE)	72.2%
Danielle Collins (USA)	72.0%
Venus Williams (USA)	72.0%
Jessica Pegula (USA)	71.4%

\*Based on minimum 10 AO matches played.

### Most main-draw appearances

Venus Williams (USA)	21
Victoria Azarenka	17
Sorana Cîrstea (ROU)	17
Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova	17
Petra Martić (CRO)	14
Lesia Tsurenko (UKR)	13
Donna Vekić (CRO)	13
Sloane Stephens (USA)	13
Yulia Putintseva (KAZ)	13
Zhang Shuai (CHN)	13



Aryna Sabalenka is the first woman to win 20 straight singles matches at the Australian Open since Martina Hingis did so between 1997 and 2000.



Katerina Siniakova and Yulia Putintseva have the most consecutive Grand Slam appearances among active players. Their 43 campaigns date back to AO 2015.



Naomi Osaka is the second-youngest player this century (23 years, four months, five days) to win the Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup twice. Serena Williams was younger by a day when she claimed AO 2005.



GRIGOR DIMITROV

BEN SHELTON

STAN WAWRINKA

Gael Monfils



## MEN'S SINGLES

### Australian Open match wins (Open era)

Roger Federer (SUI)	102
Novak Djokovic (SRB)	99
Rafael Nadal (ESP)	77
Stefan Edberg (SWE)	56
Andy Murray (GBR)	51
Ivan Lendl (CZE)	48
Andre Agassi (USA)	48
Tomas Berdych (CZE)	47
Pete Sampras (USA)	45
Stan Wawrinka (SUI)	43

### Australian Open match wins (Active players)

Novak Djokovic (SRB)	99
Stan Wawrinka (SUI)	43
Gael Monfils (FRA)	37
Marin Cilic (CRO)	35
Grigor Dimitrov (BUL)	33
Alexander Zverev (GER)	31
Daniil Medvedev	28
Kei Nishikori (JPN)	28
Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE)	24
Jannik Sinner (ITA)	22

### Best winning percentage

Novak Djokovic (SRB)	90.8%
Jannik Sinner (ITA)	84.6%
Ben Shelton (USA)	78.6%
Daniil Medvedev	75.7%
Alexander Zverev (GER)	75.6%
Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE)	75.0%
Carlos Alcaraz (ESP)	73.3%
Kei Nishikori (JPN)	71.8%
Tommy Paul (USA)	71.4%
Stan Wawrinka (SUI)	70.5%

\*Based on minimum 10 AO matches played.

### Most main-draw appearances

Novak Djokovic (SRB)	20
Gael Monfils (FRA)	19
Stan Wawrinka (SUI)	19
Adrian Panatta (ITA)	16
Marin Cilic (CRO)	15
Grigor Dimitrov (BUL)	15
Roberto Bautista Agut (ESP)	14
Albert Ramos Vinolas (ESP)	13
James Duckworth (AUS)	12
Jordan Thompson (AUS)	12



After reaching the quarterfinals at Australian Open 2025, Alex de Minaur is the first Australian male since Phil Dent (1979-82) to make four straight final-16 appearances at Melbourne Park.



Novak Djokovic is one win away from becoming the only player in the Open era to win 100 matches at three of the four Grand Slams.



Grigor Dimitrov and Adrian Panatta are tied for the most consecutive Australian Open campaigns among active male players, with 15 straight appearances each.

**DID YOU KNOW**

In the tournament's 121-year history, 110 players (61 men and 49 women) have been crowned Australian Open champions



# IN LINE WITH LEGENDS

Today's stars are forging a place in history among the sport's all-time greats.

## ARYNA SABALENKA

## IGA SWIATEK



4	GRAND SLAM TITLES	6
2	AUSTRALIAN OPEN TITLES	0
1	YEAR-END 2025 RANKING	2
68	WEEKS AT NO.1	125
63 (2025)	MOST WINS IN A SEASON	68 (2023)
40 (2024)	MOST HARDCOURT WINS IN A SEASON	47 (2022)
28	AO MATCH WINS	22

### Most match wins in a season (WTA Tour era)

Kim Clijsters (BEL)	90	2003
Serena Williams (USA)	78	2013
Martina Hingis (SUI)	77	2000
Jelena Jankovic (SRB)	77	2007
Martina Hingis (SUI)	75	1997
Justine Henin (BEL)	75	2003
Martina Hingis (SUI)	71	1999
Lindsay Davenport (USA)	69	1998
Victoria Azarenka	69	2012
Iga Swiatek (POL)	68	2023

### Most hardcourt wins in a season (WTA Tour era)

Kim Clijsters (BEL)	59	2003
A. Radwanska (POL)	52	2013
Kim Clijsters (BEL)	51	2005
Jelena Jankovic (SRB)	50	2008
Lindsay Davenport (USA)	49	2001
Victoria Azarenka	47	2012
Serena Williams (USA)	47	2013
Iga Swiatek (POL)	47	2022
Vera Zvonareva	46	2008
Caroline Wozniacki (DEN)	46	2010

### Hard-court winners (2025)

Elena Rybakina (KAZ)	43
Iga Swiatek (POL)	41
Aryna Sabalenka	39
Jessica Pegula (USA)	38
Coco Gauff (USA)	30
Jasmine Paolini (ITA)	30
Belinda Bencic (SUI)	29
Amanda Anisimova (USA)	28
Clara Tauson (DEN)	26
Leylah Fernandez (CAN)	26
Linda Noskova (CZE)	26

### Grand Slam winners (2025)

Aryna Sabalenka	23
Iga Swiatek (POL)	21
Amanda Anisimova (USA)	16
Coco Gauff (USA)	14
Madison Keys (USA)	13
Mirra Andreeva	13
Elena Rybakina (KAZ)	11
Daria Kasatkina (AUS)	10
Elina Svitolina (UKR)	10
Jessica Pegula (USA)	10

### Most match wins (2025)

Aryna Sabalenka	63
Iga Swiatek (POL)	62
Elena Rybakina (KAZ)	59
Jessica Pegula (USA)	53
Coco Gauff (USA)	48
Ekaterina Alexandrova	47
Jasmine Paolini (ITA)	46
Amanda Anisimova (USA)	45
Mirra Andreeva	40
Linda Noskova (CZE)	38



### Most wins at Rod Laver Arena

Serena Williams (USA)	77
Martina Hingis (SUI)	42
Maria Sharapova	42
Steffi Graf (GER)	35
Monica Seles (USA)	34
Venus Williams (USA)	34
Kim Clijsters (BEL)	29
Victoria Azarenka	26
Lindsay Davenport (USA)	26
Justine Henin (BEL)	22



## CARLOS ALCARAZ



## JANNIK SINNER



6	GRAND SLAM TITLES	4
0	AUSTRALIAN OPEN TITLES	2
45	WEEKS AT NO.1	66
1	YEAR-END 2025 RANKING	2
71 (2025)	MOST WINS IN A SEASON	74 (2024)
38 (2025)	MOST HARDCOURT WINS IN A SEASON	53 (2024)
22	AO MATCH WINS	11

### Most match wins in a season (ATP Tour era)

Roger Federer (SUI)	92	2006
Thomas Muster (AUT)	86	1995
Pete Sampras (USA)	85	1993
Rafael Nadal (ESP)	82	2008
Novak Djokovic (SRB)	82	2015
Roger Federer (SUI)	81	2005
Yevgeny Kafelnikov	80	1996
Lleyton Hewitt (AUS)	80	2001
Rafael Nadal (ESP)	79	2005
Novak Djokovic (SRB)	78	2009

### Most hardcourt wins in a season (ATP Tour era)

Roger Federer (SUI)	59	2006
Novak Djokovic (SRB)	59	2015
Andy Roddick (USA)	57	2004
Roger Federer (SUI)	56	2014
Andre Agassi (USA)	55	1998
Novak Djokovic (SRB)	53	2009
Novak Djokovic (SRB)	53	2013
Jannik Sinner (ITA)	53	2024
Andre Agassi (USA)	53	1995
Daniil Medvedev	51	2021

### Hard-court winners (2025)

Alex de Minaur (AUS)	43
Felix Auger-Aliassime (CAN)	41
Jannik Sinner (ITA)	39
Carlos Alcaraz (ESP)	38
Taylor Fritz (USA)	37
Alexander Zverev (GER)	33
Daniil Medvedev	30
Alejandro Davidovich	30
Fokina (ESP)	30
Jiri Lehecka (CZE)	29
Learner Tien (USA)	27

### Grand Slam match wins (2025)

Jannik Sinner (ITA)	26
Carlos Alcaraz (ESP)	24
Novak Djokovic (SRB)	20
Ben Shelton (USA)	13
Alex de Minaur (AUS)	12
Alexander Zverev (GER)	12
Lorenzo Musetti (ITA)	11
Taylor Fritz (USA)	11
Tommy Paul (USA)	11
Jiri Lehecka (CZE)	10

### Most match wins (2025)

Carlos Alcaraz (ESP)	71
Jannik Sinner (ITA)	58
Alexander Zverev (GER)	57
Alex de Minaur (AUS)	56
Taylor Fritz (USA)	53
Felix Auger-Aliassime (CAN)	50
Lorenzo Musetti (ITA)	45
Alejandro Davidovich	44
Fokina (ESP)	44
Jiri Lehecka (CZE)	41
Daniil Medvedev	41

ROGER FEDERER



ALEX DE MINAUR

### Most wins at Rod Laver Arena

Roger Federer (SUI)	93
Novak Djokovic (SRB)	85
Rafael Nadal (ESP)	71
Andre Agassi (USA)	46
Pete Sampras (USA)	37
Lleyton Hewitt (AUS)	32
Stefan Edberg (SWE)	31
Andy Murray (GBR)	27
Ivan Lendl (CZE)	24
Andy Roddick (USA)	24



**YEARS OF  
AO MAGIC**

Kooyong, 1976. Back in the land of grass courts, wooden racquets, short shorts and pom-pom socks. The Australian Open tournament program doubles as the debut issue of *Australian Tennis Magazine*. Launched in the dying rays of Australia's golden tennis era, ATM has been courtside for the AO's stunning transformation and is still informing and entertaining tennis fans today. Former editor **SUZI PETKOVSKI** looks back on five decades of AO highlights.

1976-85

**OUTLIER**

John Newcombe's iconic, moustachioed visage graces the cover of the AO 1976 program and inaugural issue of ATM. The defending champion and former No.1 is still defying the international tide at age 31. But in his 10th and last Grand Slam final, Newk is upstaged by fellow New South Welshman Mark Edmondson, a burly 21-year-old who also knocked out No.1 seed Ken Rosewall. Edmondson remains the last local to win the men's title and the lowest-ranked man (No.212) to lift a Grand Slam singles trophy.

**VIVA VILAS**

The topspinning 'Poet of the Pampas', Guillermo Vilas injects much-needed star power to the AO in its lean years. The Argentine idol, with his huge left arm and trademark leaping backhand smash, makes the final on debut in January 1977 and wins back-to-back in 1978-79 at his most successful major. Not bad for the King of Clay in his day, who announced "Grass is for cows" ahead of winning the year-end 1974 Masters at - you guessed it - Kooyong.

**"This title is the missing link in my career. I would have hated to look back in 10 years and seen something lacking."**

Chris Evert, *Australian Tennis Magazine* January 1983, on achieving the career Grand Slam at Kooyong. Evert made the final in all six of her AO campaigns

**QUEEN OF KOOYONG**

Just seven months after the birth of daughter Kelly, Evonne Goolagong Cawley collects a fourth and final AO title at Kooyong in December 1977. Her final opponent is another Mrs Cawley, the former Helen Gourlay, and the umpire calls the match using the players' first names. Since the AO was a movable feast until settling at Kooyong in 1972, Evonne's haul of four singles titles at the horseshoe-shaped stadium is a record.

**UNRIVALLED**

The blockbuster Chris Evert v Martina Navratilova rivalry gifts the AO three riveting finals in 1981, '82 and '85 that all go the distance. Evert completes her career Grand Slam at Kooyong in 1982 and notches a record 1000th match win en route to the title in 1984, when the all-conquering Navratilova, hunting a seventh straight major, is sensationally upset by Helena Sukova. She was just two wins from the coveted Grand Slam.

**SWEDE AS**

The big guns of men's tennis return to Kooyong in 1983, but No.2 John McEnroe and No.1 Ivan Lendl are stunned by Swedish teenager Mats Wilander, still the youngest men's champion of the Open era, at 19 years and three months. It's the start of Swedish rule at the Australian Open - Wilander and compatriot Stefan Edberg shared the men's trophy for five straight years. Travelling bands of face-painted, Viking-horned Swedes influence the feel-good fan culture of the AO for the next decade.

**"These Swedes go out there and have a milkshake and it's all over. It's too cool for me."**

Two-time AO winner Johan Kriek, *Australian Tennis Magazine* January 1985, after being trounced by defending champion Mats Wilander



# 1986-95

**“It’s extraordinary, all the superlatives. The major thing wrong with it is that it’s not in New York.”**

Legendary broadcaster Bud Collins on the new home of the Australian Open, March 1988

## THROUGH THE ROOF

The premiere of the spanking new National Tennis Centre at Flinders Park is a smashing success. A bumper crowd of 245,000 flocks to AO 1988, which hosts 128-player draws for the first time. The new home of the AO - with its futuristic retractable roof, perfect sight lines and proximity to the CBD - is hailed as second to none by the majority of players. It’s a big break with tradition but the beginning of the AO’s stunning rise, from Grand Slam laggard to leader, as all other majors follow suit with roofed stadiums.



## HISTORY IN AND OUT

History is made in the first year at Flinders Park, as the roof is closed for the 1988 women’s final and Steffi Graf defeats Evert in the first Grand Slam title decided indoors. It’s the first leg of Graf’s unequalled Golden Grand Slam. Wilander defeats Cash in an epic men’s final and wins a special place in AO history as the only champion to win at both Kooyong and Flinders Park.



## YOUTH BOOM

Boris Becker defeats two-time defending champion Lendl for the 1991 title and ascends to No.1. But a packed stadium and tournament organisers are left on tenterhooks as the elated winner flees centre court post-match for some ‘me time’ in Yarra Park. A new champion also takes the women’s crown with Monica Seles winning on debut aged 17 years and one month, the youngest champion of the Open era.

## KOORYONG FAREWELL

No AO is held in 1986 as the event reverts to January dates in 1987. The rousing send-off in the last year at Kooyong features record crowds (140,000), Edberg defending his title in a five-setter over hometown hero Pat Cash (who upset No.1 Lendl in the semis), a boilover women’s final, with Hana Mandlikova mastering grass titan Navratilova, and the return of mixed doubles, last played in 1969.

**“The critics at last have been silenced. A new, wonderful era in Australian tennis has begun. Let us make the most of it.”**

Australian Tennis Magazine, March 1988

## ANDRE THE AO GIANT

In ‘tennis pirate’ garb, featuring kerchief, goatee and earring, Andre Agassi raids AO 1995, winning on his belated debut aged 24 to begin his mutual love affair with Australia, his most successful major. In a cracking final, Agassi defeats storied rival Pete Sampras for the only time in a Grand Slam decider. Night play is expanded and the AO undergoes a visual makeover, featuring the serving man logo and black-aqua-ochre colour scheme, as the event looks toward global growth.



## 2006-2015

## BLUE YONDER

A harbinger of change with the switch to blue courts at AO 2008: Novak Djokovic defeats Federer and Jo-Wilfried Tsonga for the loss of a set to open his awesome reign at Melbourne Park. New women's champion Sharapova defeats Ana Ivanovic in the so-called 'Glam Slam'. But "I was there!" honours go to the all-ighter between former finalists Hewitt and Marcos Baghdatis, with the Aussie gritting out the five-set win at 4.34am.



## ASIAN FUSION

Truth in advertising for the Grand Slam of Asia-Pacific as Chinese star Li Na is the first Asian player to contest a major singles final at AO 2011, falling to Kim Clijsters. Outfitted in apple-green Fila in homage to Goolagong Cawley, the last mum to slam grandly, Clijsters wins her last major title and makes history as the first player to win more Grand Slams post-motherhood (3-1).

## EPIC NOVAK

The 100th edition of the tournament, AO 2012, ends in a shirt-ripping epic at 1.37am, with Djokovic defeating Rafael Nadal in the longest Grand Slam decider in history (five hours, 53 minutes). New women's champ Victoria Azarenka makes more brisk history dropping just three games against Sharapova in the final to become the first player to vault from No.3 to No.1.



## STAN AND DELIVER

Wonder Down Under! Stan Wawrinka, the free-swinging Swiss who at 28 had one Slam semifinal on the CV, eliminates Djokovic and Nadal for the AO 2014 title. Not since 1993 had a major winner got past the top two men. Long the second fiddle to Federer, Wawrinka departs Melbourne as the Swiss No.1. Asian trailblazer Li clinches her favourite trophy from a third AO final, at age 31.

## BOUTIQUE BEAUTY

Unveiled at AO 2015, the redeveloped Margaret Court Arena ranks as arguably the world's best boutique court. Under its distinct copper-penny retractable roof, capacity is increased to 7500 from 5000 yet the arena still feels intimate. With a third roofed arena, the AO is poised to break new attendance records. Price of progress: The MCA upgrade cost \$180 million; the outlay for the entire National Tennis Centre in 1988 was \$64 million.



## 1996-2005

## MONICA'S MOMENT

Ending a painful three-year exile, Seles returns in triumph at AO 1996, extending her record streak in Melbourne to 28-0 with a fourth title. It's her ninth and last Grand Slam crown and the only one after the 1993 on-court attack that cleaved her career in two. Becker too claims his last major, No.6, in Melbourne. Garden Square and its giant video screen debuts as a happy gathering place for fans.



## MELBOURNE PARK ERA

Flinders Park is renamed Melbourne Park ahead of AO 1997 but not everyone approves of the new moniker. Some media wags insist on The Stadium Formerly Known as Flinders Park. Martina Hingis likes Melbourne Park just fine, the Swiss Miss gliding to the title without dropping a set to become the youngest singles AO champion, at 16 years and four months. It's the first year of a Hingis threepeat in both singles and doubles.

## ENTER ROD LAVER ARENA

Centre Court is named for Rod Laver at AO 2000; meanwhile work proceeds on the second roofed stadium, completed ahead of AO 2001. It allows for the expansion of night sessions and booming crowds that will see the AO reign as the best-attended Slam in the 21st century.

## REIGN OF ROGER

A dazzling new era in the men's game, as Roger Federer opens his reign at No.1 after winning AO 2004 over Marat Safin. The charismatic Safin ended the 26-match streak of three-time champ Agassi, for the American's first loss in Melbourne since 1999.



## HAPPY CENTENARY

The centenary AO 2005 is a blockbuster, with Safin topping Leyton Hewitt in the first men's night final. Safin overcame defending champ Federer from match point down in a cracking semifinal, while women's winner Serena Williams also overcame semifinal matchpoints, against Maria Sharapova before topping No.1 Lindsay Davenport for her second AO title.



# 2016-2025

## OLD MASTERS

AO 2017 is a tennis fan's fever dream. Federer roars back for his first major win since 2012, an insta-classic five-setter against old-time rival Nadal. It's the first 'Fedal' Grand Slam final since 2011, their ninth major title bout and their last against each other (Nadal taking the honours 6-3). A throwback women's final too, with Serena defeating sister Venus in their ninth major showdown. Serena's seventh AO is her 23rd and last major, with Venus among the very few to know the champion is several weeks pregnant.



## RAFA THE TIEBREAKER

With the all-time 'Big Three' of Federer, Nadal and Djokovic equal on a record 20 majors apiece, it's Nadal who breaks the tie in this real-time GOAT contest, winning AO 2022 for a men's unprecedented 21st major, and from two sets down against Daniil Medvedev. Coming 13 long years since his first AO title in 2009, Nadal revels in a peak career moment at his most jinxed major.

## RETURN OF THE KING

Deported in a blaze of controversy in 2022, Djokovic returns to his all-conquering best at AO 2023, dropping just one set en route to a preposterous 10th AO victory from 10 finals. Apart from traumatic memories of the previous year and the improving opposition (Grigor Dimitrov, Alex de Minaur, Andrey Rublev, Tommy Paul and Stefanos Tsitsipas all dismissed in straight sets), Djokovic achieves the feat with a torn hamstring. The statue is surely being measured for Garden Square.



## FUTURE IS NOW

Fans embrace a Sunday start at AO 2024, with attendance breaking one million for the first time in Grand Slam history. The King of Melbourne Park is rudely unseated, Jannik Sinner ending Djokovic's unbeaten run in 20 semis and finals and denying Medvedev to become the first Italian AO champion. Women's champion Aryna Sabalenka defends her title without dropping a set, the first back-to-back winner since compatriot Azarenka in 2013. Runner-up Zheng Qinwen, inspired by the feats of 2014 champion Li, meets her idol at Melbourne Park a decade later. "She's much more beautiful than when I saw her on TV."

## BARTY THE DROUGHT BREAKER

Not a dry eye in the house as Goolagong Cawley is the surprise presenter of the AO 2022 trophy to fellow Indigenous No.1 Ash Barty. The compact Queenslander serenely ends the 44-year Aussie drought at her home Grand Slam without the loss of a set. More tears flow weeks later after Barty's shock retirement aged 25.



## A LEGEND LOOKS BACK

As he reflects on 50 years of *Australian Tennis Magazine*, other memories come rushing back for John Newcombe, who graced the inaugural edition in January 1976.

That first issue, which also doubled as the Australian Open program, featured Newcombe in action as he claimed the last of his seven Grand Slam singles titles with victory over Jimmy Connors in the AO 1975 final.

"It was probably the toughest win I had because I wasn't going to play the

tournament. I was ready to retire, but I only agreed to play 10 days before, when they told me Jimmy was coming out," Newcombe recalled. "I managed to get through the final and beat him, but I had a tough time even getting to the final."

Newcombe's path included a five-set quarterfinal win over fellow Australian Geoff Masters and another epic against Tony Roche - his long-time mate and doubles partner - in which he saved four match points. He then sealed the title with a 7-5, 3-6, 6-4, 7-6(5) victory over

Connors, the world No.1 at the time.

As a "good mate" of founding editor Alan Trengove, Newcombe is proud to see the same staying power in Australia's only tennis publication. "Not many things keep going for 50 years," he said. "It's been a great success. I thought it was very important for tennis in Australia to keep it going. It's a way for the tennis public to keep in touch." **AO**

For more on *Australian Tennis Magazine*, visit [tennismag.com.au](http://tennismag.com.au) or follow on social channels



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# AO25

New and repeat champions were crowned in the Australian Open's 120th anniversary.

# CHAMPIONS



**MEN'S SINGLES**  
Jannik Sinner (ITA)



**WOMEN'S SINGLES**  
Madison Keys (USA)



**MEN'S DOUBLES**  
Henry Patten (GBR) & Harri Heliövaara (FIN)



**WOMEN'S DOUBLES**  
Taylor Townsend (USA) & Katerina Siniakova (CZE)



**MIXED DOUBLES**  
Olivia Gadecki (AUS) & John Peers (AUS)



**MEN'S WHEELCHAIR SINGLES**  
Alfie Hewett (GBR)



**WOMEN'S WHEELCHAIR SINGLES**  
Yui Kamiji (JPN)



**QUAD WHEELCHAIR SINGLES**  
Sam Schroder (NED)



**MEN'S WHEELCHAIR DOUBLES**  
Alfie Hewett (GBR) & Gordon Reid (GBR)



**WOMEN'S WHEELCHAIR DOUBLES**  
LI Xiaohui (CHN) & Wang Ziyi (CHN)



**QUAD WHEELCHAIR DOUBLES**  
Andy Lapthorne (GBR) & Sam Schroder (NED)



**BOYS' SINGLES**  
Henry Bernet (SUI)



**BOYS' DOUBLES**  
Maxwell Exsted (USA) & Jan Kumstat (CZE)



**GIRLS' SINGLES**  
Wakana Sonobe (JPN)



**GIRLS' DOUBLES**  
Annika Penickova (USA) & Kristina Penickova (USA)



**BOYS' WHEELCHAIR SINGLES**  
Charlie Cooper (USA)



**BOYS' WHEELCHAIR DOUBLES**  
Luiz Calixto (BRA) & Charlie Cooper (USA)



**GIRLS' WHEELCHAIR SINGLES**  
Vitoria Miranda (BRA)



**GIRLS' WHEELCHAIR DOUBLES**  
Vitoria Miranda (BRA) & Luna Gryp (BEL)



**MEN'S  
SINGLES**

**2025  
CHAMPION  
Jannik  
Sinner**

YEAR	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP	SCORE
1966	R. Emerson (AUS)	A. Ashe (USA)	6-4 6-8 6-2 6-3
1967	R. Emerson (AUS)	A. Ashe (USA)	6-4 6-1 6-4
1968	B. Bowrey (AUS)	J. Gisbert (ESP)	7-5 2-6 9-7 6-4
1969	R. Laver (AUS)	A. Gimeno (ESP)	6-3 6-4 7-5
1970	A. Ashe (USA)	D. Crealy (AUS)	6-4 9-7 6-2
1971	K. Rosewall (AUS)	A. Ashe (USA)	6-1 7-5 6-3
1972	K. Rosewall (AUS)	M. Anderson (AUS)	7-6(2) 6-3 7-5
1973	J. Newcombe (AUS)	O. Parun (NZL)	6-3 6-7 7-5 6-1
1974	J. Connors (USA)	P. Dent (AUS)	7-6(7) 6-4 4-6 6-3
1975	J. Newcombe (AUS)	J. Connors (USA)	7-5 3-6 6-4 7-6(7)
1976	M. Edmondson (AUS)	J. Newcombe (AUS)	6-7 6-3 7-6 6-1
1977 (Jan)	R. Tanner (USA)	G. Vilas (ARG)	6-3 6-3 6-3
1977 (Dec)	V. Gerulaitis (USA)	J. Lloyd (GBR)	6-3 7-6(1) 5-7 3-6 6-2
1978	G. Vilas (ARG)	J. Marks (AUS)	6-4 6-4 3-6 6-3
1979	G. Vilas (ARG)	J. Sadri (USA)	7-6(4) 6-3 6-2
1980	B. Teacher (USA)	K. Warwick (AUS)	7-5 7-6(4) 6-3
1981	J. Kriek (RSA)	S. Denton (USA)	6-2 7-6(1) 6-7(1) 6-4
1982	J. Kriek (USA)	S. Denton (USA)	6-3 6-3 6-2
1983	M. Wilander (SWE)	I. Lendl (TCH)	6-1 6-4 6-4
1984	M. Wilander (SWE)	K. Curren (RSA)	6-7(5) 6-4 7-6(3) 6-2
1985 (Nov)	S. Edberg (SWE)	M. Wilander (SWE)	6-4 6-3 6-3
1986	No competition		
1987 (Jan)	S. Edberg (SWE)	P. Cash (AUS)	6-3 6-4 3-6 5-7 6-3
1988	M. Wilander (SWE)	P. Cash (AUS)	6-3 6-7(3) 3-6 6-1 8-6
1989	I. Lendl (TCH)	M. Mecir (TCH)	6-2 6-2 6-2
1990	I. Lendl (TCH)	S. Edberg (SWE)	4-6 7-6(3) 5-2 ret.
1991	B. Becker (GER)	I. Lendl (TCH)	1-6 6-4 6-4 6-4
1992	J. Courier (USA)	S. Edberg (SWE)	6-3 3-6 6-4 6-2
1993	J. Courier (USA)	S. Edberg (SWE)	6-2 6-1 2-6 7-5
1994	P. Sampras (USA)	T. Martin (USA)	7-6(4) 6-4 6-4
1995	A. Agassi (USA)	P. Sampras (USA)	4-6 6-1 7-5(6) 6-4
1996	B. Becker (GER)	M. Chang (USA)	6-2 6-4 2-6 6-2
1997	P. Sampras (USA)	C. Moya (ESP)	6-2 6-3 6-3
1998	P. Korda (CZE)	M. Rios (CHI)	6-2 6-2 6-2
1999	Y. Kafelnikov (RUS)	T. Enqvist (SWE)	4-6 6-0 6-3 7-6(1)
2000	A. Agassi (USA)	Y. Kafelnikov (RUS)	3-6 6-3 6-2 6-4
2001	A. Agassi (USA)	A. Clement (FRA)	6-4 6-2 6-2
2002	T. Johansson (SWE)	M. Safin (RUS)	3-6 6-4 6-4 7-6(4)
2003	A. Agassi (USA)	R. Schuettler (GER)	6-2 6-2 6-1
2004	R. Federer (SUI)	M. Safin (RUS)	7-6(3) 6-4 6-2
2005	M. Safin (RUS)	L. Hewitt (AUS)	1-6 6-3 6-4 6-4
2006	R. Federer (SUI)	M. Baghdati (CYP)	5-7 7-5 6-0 6-2
2007	R. Federer (SUI)	F. Gonzalez (CHI)	7-6(2) 6-4 6-4
2008	N. Djokovic (SRB)	J. Tsonga (FRA)	4-6 6-4 6-3 7-6(2)
2009	R. Nadal (ESP)	R. Federer (SUI)	7-5 3-6 7-6(3) 3-6 6-2
2010	R. Federer (SUI)	A. Murray (GBR)	6-3 6-4 7-6(1)
2011	N. Djokovic (SRB)	A. Murray (GBR)	6-4 6-2 6-3
2012	N. Djokovic (SRB)	R. Nadal (ESP)	5-7 6-4 6-2 6-7(5) 7-5
2013	N. Djokovic (SRB)	A. Murray (GBR)	6-7(2) 7-6(3) 6-3 6-2
2014	S. Wawrinka (SUI)	R. Nadal (ESP)	6-3 6-2 3-6 6-3
2015	N. Djokovic (SRB)	A. Murray (GBR)	7-6(5) 6-7(4) 6-3 6-0
2016	N. Djokovic (SRB)	A. Murray (GBR)	6-1 7-5 7-6(3)
2017	R. Federer (SUI)	R. Nadal (ESP)	6-4 3-6 6-1 3-6 6-3
2018	R. Federer (SUI)	M. Cilic (CRO)	6-2 6-7(5) 6-3 3-6 6-1
2019	N. Djokovic (SRB)	R. Nadal (ESP)	6-3 6-2 6-3
2020	N. Djokovic (SRB)	D. Thiem (AUT)	6-4 4-6 2-6 6-3 6-4
2021	N. Djokovic (SRB)	D. Medvedev (RUS)	7-5 6-2 6-2
2022	R. Nadal (ESP)	D. Medvedev (RUS)	2-6 6-7(5) 6-4 6-4 7-5
2023	N. Djokovic (SRB)	S. Tsitsipas (GRE)	6-3 7-6(4) 7-6(5)
2024	J. Sinner (ITA)	D. Medvedev (RUS)	3-6 3-6 6-4 6-4 6-3
2025	<b>J. Sinner (ITA)</b>	<b>A. Zverev (GER)</b>	<b>6-3 7-6(4) 6-3</b>

YEAR	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP	SCORE
1905	R. Heath (AUS)	Dr. A. Curtis (AUS)	4-6 6-3 6-4 6-4
1906	T. Wilding (NZL)	F. Fisher (NZL)	6-0 6-4 6-4
1907	H. Rice (AUS)	H. Parker (NZL)	6-3 6-4 6-4
1908	F. Alexander (USA)	A. Dunlop (AUS)	3-6 3-6 6-0 6-2 6-3
1909	T. Wilding (NZL)	E. Parker (AUS)	6-1 7-5 6-2
1910	R. Heath (AUS)	H. Rice (AUS)	6-4 6-3 6-2
1911	N. Brookes (AUS)	H. Rice (AUS)	6-1 6-2 6-3
1912	J. Parke (GBR)	A. Beamish (GBR)	3-6 6-3 1-6 6-1 7-5
1913	E. Parker (AUS)	H. Parker (NZL)	2-6 6-1 6-3 6-2
1914	A. O'Hara Wood (AUS)	G. Patterson (AUS)	6-4 6-3 5-7 6-1
1915	G. Lowe (GBR)	H. Rice (AUS)	4-6 6-1 6-1 6-4
1916-18	No competition		
1919	A. Kingscote (GBR)	Dr. E. Pockley (AUS)	6-4 6-0 6-3
1920	P. O'Hara Wood (AUS)	R. Thomas (AUS)	6-3 4-6 6-8 6-1 6-3
1921	R. Gemmell (AUS)	A. Hedeman (AUS)	7-5 6-1 6-4
1922	J. Anderson (AUS)	G. Patterson (AUS)	6-0 3-6 3-6 6-3 6-2
1923	P. O'Hara Wood (AUS)	B. St. John (AUS)	6-1 6-1 6-3
1924	J. Anderson (AUS)	R. Schlesinger (AUS)	6-3 6-4 3-6 5-7 6-3
1925	J. Anderson (AUS)	G. Patterson (AUS)	11-9 2-6 6-2 6-3
1926	J. Hawkes (AUS)	J. Willard (AUS)	6-1 6-3 6-1
1927	G. Patterson (AUS)	J. Hawkes (AUS)	3-6 6-4 3-6 18-16 6-3
1928	J. Borotra (FRA)	J. Cummings (AUS)	6-4 6-1 4-6 5-7 6-3
1929	C. Gregory (GBR)	R. Schlesinger (AUS)	6-2 6-2 5-7 7-5
1930	E. Moon (AUS)	H. Hopman (AUS)	6-3 6-1 6-3
1931	J. Crawford (AUS)	H. Hopman (AUS)	6-4 6-2 2-6 6-1
1932	J. Crawford (AUS)	H. Hopman (AUS)	4-6 6-3 3-6 6-3 6-1
1933	J. Crawford (AUS)	K. Gledhill (USA)	2-6 7-5 6-3 6-2

YEAR	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP	SCORE
1934	F. Perry (GBR)	J. Crawford (AUS)	6-3 7-5 6-1
1935	J. Crawford (AUS)	F. Perry (GBR)	2-6 6-4 6-4 6-4
1936	A. Quist (AUS)	J. Crawford (AUS)	6-2 6-3 4-6 3-6 9-7
1937	V. McGrath (AUS)	J. Bromwich (AUS)	6-3 1-6 6-0 2-6 6-1
1938	D. Budge (USA)	J. Bromwich (AUS)	6-4 6-2 6-1
1939	J. Bromwich (AUS)	A. Quist (AUS)	6-4 6-1 6-3
1940	A. Quist (AUS)	J. Crawford (AUS)	6-3 6-1 6-2
1941-45	No competition		
1946	J. Bromwich (AUS)	D. Pails (AUS)	5-7 6-3 7-5 3-6 6-2
1947	D. Pails (AUS)	J. Bromwich (AUS)	4-6 6-4 3-6 7-5 8-6
1948	A. Quist (AUS)	J. Bromwich (AUS)	6-4 3-6 6-3 2-6 6-3
1949	F. Sedgman (AUS)	J. Bromwich (AUS)	6-3 6-2 6-2
1950	F. Sedgman (AUS)	K. McGregor (AUS)	6-3 6-4 4-6 6-1
1951	D. Savitt (USA)	K. McGregor (AUS)	6-3 2-6 6-3 6-1
1952	K. McGregor (AUS)	F. Sedgman (AUS)	7-5 12-10 2-6 6-2
1953	K. Rosewall (AUS)	M. Rose (AUS)	6-0 6-3 6-4
1954	M. Rose (AUS)	R. Hartwig (AUS)	6-2 0-6 6-4 6-2
1955	K. Rosewall (AUS)	L. Hoad (AUS)	9-7 6-4 6-4
1956	L. Hoad (AUS)	K. Rosewall (AUS)	6-4 3-6 6-4 7-5
1957	A. Cooper (AUS)	N. Fraser (AUS)	6-3 9-11 6-4 6-2
1958	A. Cooper (AUS)	M. Anderson (AUS)	7-5 6-3 6-4
1959	A. Olmedo (USA)	N. Fraser (AUS)	6-1 6-2 3-6 6-3
1960	R. Laver (AUS)	N. Fraser (AUS)	5-7 3-6 6-3 8-6 8-6
1961	R. Emerson (AUS)	R. Laver (AUS)	1-6 6-3 7-5 6-4
1962	R. Laver (AUS)	R. Emerson (AUS)	8-6 0-6 6-4 6-4
1963	R. Emerson (AUS)	K. Fletcher (AUS)	6-3 6-3 6-1
1964	R. Emerson (AUS)	F. Stolle (AUS)	6-3 6-4 6-2
1965	R. Emerson (AUS)	F. Stolle (AUS)	7-9 2-6 6-4 7-5 6-1

# WOMEN'S SINGLES



YEAR	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP	SCORE
1922	M. Molesworth (AUS)	E. Boyd (AUS)	6-3 10-8
1923	M. Molesworth (AUS)	E. Boyd (AUS)	6-1 7-5
1924	S. Lance (AUS)	E. Boyd (AUS)	6-3 3-6 8-6
1925	D. Akhurst (AUS)	E. Boyd (AUS)	1-6 6-6 6-4
1926	D. Akhurst (AUS)	E. Boyd (AUS)	6-1 6-3
1927	E. Boyd (AUS)	S. Harper (AUS)	5-7 6-1 6-2
1928	D. Akhurst (AUS)	E. Boyd (AUS)	7-5 6-2
1929	D. Akhurst (AUS)	L. Bickerton (AUS)	6-1 5-7 6-2
1930	D. Akhurst (AUS)	S. Harper (AUS)	10-8 2-6 7-5
1931	C. Buttsworth (AUS)	M. Crawford (AUS)	1-6 6-3 6-4
1932	C. Buttsworth (AUS)	K. Le Mesurier (AUS)	9-7 6-4
1933	J. Hartigan (AUS)	C. Buttsworth (AUS)	6-4 6-3
1934	J. Hartigan (AUS)	M. Molesworth (AUS)	6-1 6-4
1935	D. Round (GBR)	N. Lyle (GBR)	1-6 6-1 6-3
1936	J. Hartigan (AUS)	N. Wynne (AUS)	6-4 6-4
1937	N. Wynne (AUS)	E. Westacott (AUS)	6-3 5-7 6-4
1938	D. Bundy (USA)	D. Stevenson (AUS)	6-3 6-2
1939	E. Westacott (AUS)	N. Hopman (AUS)	6-1 6-2
1940	N. Wynne (AUS)	T. Coyne (AUS)	5-7 6-4 6-0
1941-45	No competition		
1946	N. (Wynne) Bolton (AUS)	J. Fitch (AUS)	6-4 6-4
1947	N. Bolton (AUS)	N. Hopman (AUS)	6-3 6-2
1948	N. Bolton (AUS)	M. Toomey (AUS)	6-3 6-1
1949	D. Hart (USA)	N. Bolton (AUS)	6-3 6-4
1950	L. Brough (USA)	D. Hart (USA)	6-4 3-6 6-4
1951	N. Bolton (AUS)	T. (Coyne) Long (AUS)	6-1 7-5
1952	T. Long (AUS)	H. Angwin (AUS)	6-2 6-3
1953	M. Connolly (USA)	J. Sampson (USA)	6-3 6-2
1954	T. Long (AUS)	J. Staley (AUS)	6-3 6-4
1955	B. Penrose (AUS)	T. Long (AUS)	6-4 6-3
1956	M. Carter (AUS)	T. Long (AUS)	3-6 6-2 9-7
1957	S. Fry (USA)	A. Gibson (USA)	6-3 6-3
1958	A. Mortimer (GBR)	L. Coghlan (AUS)	6-3 6-4
1959	M. (Carter) Reitano (AUS)	R. Schuurman (RSA)	6-2 6-3
1960	M. Smith (AUS)	J. Lehane (AUS)	7-5 6-2
1961	M. Smith (AUS)	J. Lehane (AUS)	6-1 6-4
1962	M. Smith (AUS)	J. Lehane (AUS)	6-0 6-2
1963	M. Smith (AUS)	J. Lehane (AUS)	6-2 6-2
1964	M. Smith (AUS)	L. Turner (AUS)	6-3 6-2
1965	M. Smith (AUS)	M. Bueno (BRA)	5-7 6-4 5-2 ret.
1966	M. Smith (AUS)	N. Richey (USA)	w/o
1967	N. Richey (USA)	L. Turner (AUS)	6-1 6-4
1968	B. J. King (USA)	M. (Smith) Court (AUS)	6-1 6-2
1969	M. Court (AUS)	B. J. King (USA)	6-4 6-1
1970	M. Court (AUS)	K. Melville (AUS)	6-3 6-1
1971	M. Court (AUS)	E. Goolagong (AUS)	2-6 7-6(0) 7-5
1972	V. Wade (GBR)	E. Goolagong (AUS)	6-4 6-4
1973	M. Court (AUS)	E. Goolagong (AUS)	6-4 7-5
1974	E. Goolagong (AUS)	C. Evert (USA)	7-6(5) 4-6 6-0
1975	E. Goolagong (AUS)	M. Navratilova (TCH)	6-3 6-2
1976	E. Goolagong-Cawley (AUS)	R. Tomanova (TCH)	6-2 6-2
1977 (Jan)	K. (Melville) Reid (AUS)	D. Fromholtz (AUS)	7-5 6-2
1977 (Dec)	E. Goolagong-Cawley (AUS)	H. (Gourlay) Cawley (AUS)	6-3 6-0
1978	C. O'Neill (AUS)	B. Nagelsen (USA)	6-3 7-6(3)
1979	B. Jordan (USA)	S. Walsh (USA)	6-3 6-3
1980	H. Mandlikova (TCH)	W. Turnbull (AUS)	6-0 7-5
1981	M. Navratilova (USA)	C. Evert-Lloyd (USA)	6-7(4) 6-4 7-5

YEAR	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP	SCORE
1982	C. Evert-Lloyd (USA)	M. Navratilova (USA)	6-3 2-6 6-3
1983	M. Navratilova (USA)	K. Jordan (USA)	6-2 7-6(5)
1984	C. Evert-Lloyd (USA)	H. Sukova (TCH)	6-7(4) 6-1 6-3
1985 (Nov)	M. Navratilova (USA)	C. Evert-Lloyd (USA)	6-2 4-6 6-2
1986	No competition		
1987 (Jan)	H. Mandlikova (TCH)	M. Navratilova (USA)	7-5 7-6(1)
1988	S. Graf (FRG)	C. Evert (USA)	6-1 7-6(3)
1989	S. Graf (FRG)	H. Sukova (TCH)	6-4 6-4
1990	S. Graf (GER)	M. J. Fernandez (USA)	6-3 6-4
1991	M. Seles (YUG)	J. Novotna (TCH)	5-7 6-3 6-1
1992	M. Seles (YUG)	M. J. Fernandez (USA)	6-2 6-3
1993	M. Seles (YUG)	S. Graf (GER)	4-6 6-3 6-2
1994	S. Graf (GER)	A. Sanchez Vicario (ESP)	6-0 6-2
1995	M. Pierce (FRA)	A. Sanchez Vicario (ESP)	6-3 6-2
1996	M. Seles (USA)	A. Huber (GER)	6-4 6-1
1997	M. Hingis (SUI)	M. Pierce (FRA)	6-2 6-2
1998	M. Hingis (SUI)	C. Martinez (ESP)	6-3 6-3
1999	M. Hingis (SUI)	A. Mauresmo (FRA)	6-2 6-3
2000	L. Davenport (USA)	M. Hingis (SUI)	6-1 7-5
2001	J. Capriati (USA)	M. Hingis (SUI)	6-4 6-3
2002	J. Capriati (USA)	M. Hingis (SUI)	4-6 7-6(7) 6-2
2003	S. Williams (USA)	V. Williams (USA)	7-6(4) 3-6 6-4

YEAR	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP	SCORE
2004	J. Henin-Hardenne (BEL)	K. Ciljsters (BEL)	6-3 4-6 6-3
2005	S. Williams (USA)	L. Davenport (USA)	2-6 6-3 6-0
2006	A. Mauresmo (FRA)	J. Henin-Hardenne (BEL)	6-1 2-0 ret.
2007	S. Williams (USA)	M. Sharapova	6-1 6-2
2008	M. Sharapova	A. Ivanovic (SRB)	7-5 6-3
2009	S. Williams (USA)	D. Safina	6-0 6-3
2010	S. Williams (USA)	J. Henin (BEL)	6-4 3-6 6-2
2011	K. Ciljsters (BEL)	Li Na (CHN)	3-6 6-3 6-3
2012	V. Azarenka	M. Sharapova	6-3 6-0
2013	V. Azarenka	Li Na (CHN)	4-6 6-4 6-3
2014	Li Na (CHN)	D. Cibulkova (SVK)	7-6(3) 6-0
2015	S. Williams (USA)	M. Sharapova	6-3 7-6(5)
2016	A. Kerber (GER)	S. Williams (USA)	6-4 3-6 6-4
2017	S. Williams (USA)	V. Williams (USA)	6-4 6-4
2018	C. Wozniacki (DEN)	S. Halep (ROU)	7-6(2) 3-6 6-4
2019	N. Osaka (JPN)	P. Kvitova (CZE)	7-6(2) 5-7 6-4
2020	S. Kenin (USA)	G. Muguruza (ESP)	4-6 6-2 6-2
2021	N. Osaka (JPN)	J. Brady (USA)	6-4 6-3
2022	A. Barty (AUS)	D. Collins (USA)	6-3 7-6(2)
2023	A. Sabalenka	E. Rybakina (KAZ)	4-6 6-3 6-4
2024	A. Sabalenka	Zheng Qinwen (CHN)	6-3 6-2
2025	M. Keys (USA)	A. Sabalenka	6-3 2-6 7-5



**2025  
CHAMPION  
Madison  
Keys**

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# MAJOR KEYS

Persistence finally paid off for Madison Keys, who made history with her long-awaited Grand Slam breakthrough at Australian Open 2025.

BY RHYS DE DEUGD

**A**fter more than a decade of near-misses at Grand Slams, including deep runs at all four majors, Madison Keys at last had her champion moment at Australian Open 2025.

In her 49th Grand Slam campaign, the 29-year-old American eliminated the top two seeds - world No. 2 Iga Swiatek, then two-time defending champion Aryna Sabalenka - in two of the tournament's most memorable encounters to claim the Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup.

Showing no signs of slowing down after a two-hour, 36-minute semifinal epic against Swiatek, Keys produced another fearless performance in the final, edging Sabalenka 6-3 2-6 7-5.

"I just kept telling myself, 'Be brave, go for it, lay it all on the line,'" said Keys. "No matter what happens, if I do that, I can be proud of myself. It just made it a little bit easier."

It was a long-awaited reward for years of persistence.

Before her triumph in Melbourne, Keys had reached the semifinals of a Grand Slam on 10 occasions. This included her progress to the 2017 US Open final, marking the longest gap between a player's first and second major finals.

Her Australian Open victory was also a full-circle moment, arriving a decade after her first major semifinal appearance at Melbourne Park in 2015.

"I didn't always believe I could get back to this point," Keys reflected. "To do it and win means the world to me."

Her title run was built on resilience. Keys became the first woman in the Open era to win four consecutive three-set matches from the fourth round through to the final - each one testing her physical and mental reserves.

The breakthrough came in the semifinal against Swiatek, a match that transformed belief into certainty. After fighting back from a set down, Keys held firm as Swiatek served for victory and held a match point at 6-5 in the third set.

The American forced a deciding 10-point tie-break, playing her boldest tennis when it mattered most to secure the upset.

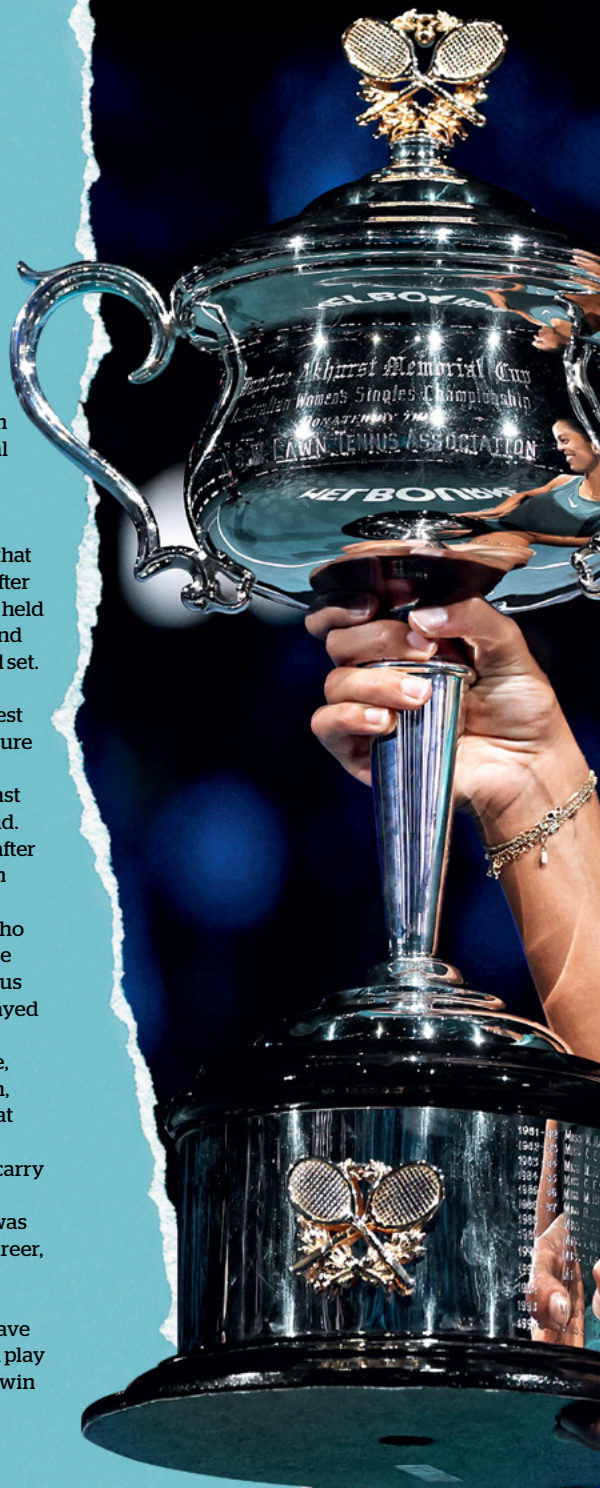
"I think winning that match against Iga was really a big hurdle," Keys said. "I always believed I could do it, but after that match, I thought to myself, I can absolutely win on Saturday."

It fulfilled the talent that Keys - who was famously inspired to take up the sport at age four after watching Venus Williams at Wimbledon - had displayed since her earliest steps in tennis.

"I felt like from a pretty young age, I felt like if I never won a Grand Slam, then I wouldn't have lived up to what people thought I should have been. That was a pretty heavy burden to carry around," she said.

"I finally got to the point where I was proud of myself and proud of my career, with or without a Grand Slam [title].

"I feel like finally letting go of that kind of internal talk that I had just gave me the ability to actually go out and play some really good tennis to actually win a Grand Slam." **AO**



**“I just kept  
telling myself:  
‘be brave’.”**

**Madison Keys**



## **UNITED GREATS**

**With 17 players in the world's top 100 - including multiple Grand Slam contenders - American women are a formidable force at AO 2026.**

### **Coco Gauff**

The American No.1 reached her first major final at Roland Garros 2022 and has since lifted Grand Slam trophies in New York (2023) and Paris (2025).

### **Amanda Anisimova**

Runner-up at Wimbledon and the US Open in 2025, the new world No.4 arrives in Melbourne with serious Slam momentum.

### **Jessica Pegula**

A US Open 2024 finalist and 2025 semifinalist, the 31-year-old continues to prove her staying power at the top.

### **Madison Keys**

The AO 2026 champion and 2017 US Open finalist has also reached five other major semifinals.

### **Emma Navarro**

A 2024 US Open semifinalist and AO 2025 quarterfinalist, the 24-year-old remains a consistent Grand Slam threat.

### **Sofia Kenin**

At AO 2020, the then-21-year-old (below) stunned Gauff, Ash Barty and Garbine Muguruza to become the youngest American major champion since Serena Williams in 2002.



# LEGENDARY COMPANY

Jannik Sinner became the first Italian player to win three Grand Slam singles titles as he made the court his own at the Australian Open for the second consecutive year.

**C**omparisons to the greats only grow for Jannik Sinner when he matches or even surpasses long-standing marks.

One year on from his Grand Slam title breakthrough under the lights at Rod Laver Arena, the Italian became the first man to defend his maiden major crown since Rafael Nadal at Roland Garros in 2006.

Of the four previous men who snagged their first Slam at Melbourne Park - Petr Korda, Thomas Johansson, Novak Djokovic and Stan Wawrinka - none defended their breakthrough trophy.

Having picked up his third Slam crown in a 12-month period, Sinner ensured he retained his world No.1 ranking and cemented himself as a genuine superstar of the modern game.

"You have maybe this little extra pressure and attention on your side, which you have to handle. But in the other way, you know that you can do it because you've done it once," he said.

"What I understood this time is every day is different. You have days where you might feel a bit not 100 per cent, and then the next match all of a sudden, I'm into the tournament."

In the final, the Italian spoiled No.2 seed Alexander Zverev's dreams of a maiden Grand Slam - showcasing a level that left no doubt who was the dominant hard-court player at the time.

With a 6-3-7-6(4) 6-3 victory in front of a roaring twilight crowd, Sinner became the first player since 1973 to land 10 successive straight-sets victories over top-10 opponents.

It was in stark contrast to his breakthrough Australian Open triumph year earlier, when Sinner recovered from a two-sets deficit against Daniil Medvedev to secure his maiden major.

"It was an amazing performance from my side. I felt like I was in the beginning of the match serving really well and trying to get into the zone very fast. It was a very high-quality from my side," Sinner said.

"All things considered, amazing run again here in Australia. I'm extremely happy. Sharing this with the team here and family and the people I love, it's amazing."

The 23-year-old became just the eighth man in the Open era - after Jimmy Connors, Bjorn Borg, Stefan Edberg, Gustavo Kuerten, Roger Federer, Wawrinka and Carlos Alcaraz - in to win their first three Grand Slam finals.

Heading into a major as a defending champion for the first time, the young star perfectly absorbed the pressure and performed immaculately.

Sinner steamrolled his way through the draw - he dropped only three sets from the first round to the last - and became the first player to go back-to-back in Melbourne since Jim Courier in 1993.

For Sinner, greatness was not just about what he had achieved, but about breaking further ground.

Having cemented his standing as the world's No.1 player, he was determined to translate that hardcourt success to the other surfaces.

With two Australian Open titles and a US Open under his belt, Sinner had his sights set on Wimbledon, where he prevailed for his second major of 2025.

"As I always say, I'm still young, and I think I have time to adjust, especially on grass court, because I never played the juniors - it was kind of new when I arrived to the tour," Sinner said.

"You have to be a complete player, not only one surface, but on also the other two." **AO**



**“Amazing run again here in Australia. I’m extremely happy.”**

**Jannik Sinner**

## **LEADING BY EXAMPLE**

**Sinner is leading a group of Italian men who are a commanding force on tour.**

### **Lorenzo Musetti**

The No.2 Italian has established himself in the world’s top 10 since May 2025, following the second Grand Slam semifinal of his career at Roland Garros last year and his first US Open quarterfinal.

### **Flavio Cobolli**

A top-20 debut for the United Cup representative came in a breakthrough 2025, which included a maiden Grand Slam quarterfinal at Wimbledon and his first two ATP titles at Bucharest and Hamburg.

### **Luciano Darderi**

Argentina-born Darderi is another rapidly rising Italian who won three titles in 2025 in Marrakech, Bastad and Umag, and made the third round at Wimbledon and the US Open.

### **Lorenzo Sonego**

At age 29 and in a seventh AO main draw, Sonego maximised his experience to edge past fast-rising teens Joao Fonseca and Learner Tien to reach a maiden Slam quarterfinal in Melbourne last year.

### **Matteo Berrettini**

The former world No.6 (below), who reached the Wimbledon 2021 final and Australian Open 2022 and US Open 2019 semifinals, teamed with Sinner to back-to-back Davis Cup titles for Italy in 2024.



# CRUZING IN PREMIUM ECONOMY

AO

OFFICIAL AIRLINE



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Emirates

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WOMEN'S PROFILES By Matt Trollope

Note: Rankings at year-end 2025.  
All prize money in US dollars.



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MEN'S PROFILES By Courtney Walsh

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World No. **1**

# ARYNA SABALENKA

**Born** 5 May 1998, Minsk, Belarus

**Height** 182cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$15,008,519

**Career Prize Money** \$45,175,621

**Singles Titles** 21

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.1

**Highest Singles Rank** No.1

(September 2023)

**2025 Highlights** W US Open, Brisbane, Miami, Madrid; F Australian Open, Roland Garros, WTA Finals, Indian Wells, Stuttgart; SF Wimbledon

**AO Best Result** Champion 2023, 2024

**AO 2025** No.1 SEED 1R d Stephens, 2R d Bouzas Maneiro, 3R d Tauson, 4R d [14] Andreeva, QF d [27] Pavlyuchenkova, SF d [11] Badosa, F I [19] Keys

> After briefly hitting world No.1 in 2023, and ending 2024 in the same position, Aryna Sabalenka held the top ranking for every week of 2025.

While her MO was once to hit every ball as hard as possible, her ascent has been helped by her ability to temper that low-percentage instinct. She shored up her serve - a process that began in 2022 - and added shape and margin to her groundstrokes,

incorporated increasing variety and a killer drop shot, all while improving her movement.

She's now deadly on all surfaces and the greatest threat on the biggest stages. Sabalenka has reached the semifinals or better in 11 of her past 12 Grand Slam campaigns, including at all four majors in 2025.

She was denied an AO title hat-trick by Madison Keys and was a set from her first non-hard court major title at Roland Garros, only to fall to Coco Gauff.

After another narrow loss at Wimbledon, this time to Amanda Anisimova, she finally prevailed in New York, where she defended her title. For the first time in four years, the season's match-win leader was not Iga Swiatek, but Sabalenka, who overtook the Pole with her 63rd win en route to her ninth final of the year at the WTA Finals.

"She's just a perfect personality for world No.1," noted former No.1 Garbine Muguruza on *The Sit-Down* podcast.

"She's fun, she's not shy, she has a lot of fans, she keeps her social media active, she has amazing strength and talent."

At AO 2026 Sabalenka is targeting a seventh consecutive hardcourt major final.

## Grand Slam record

Grand Slam / Year	Career	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17
Australian Open	28-6	F	W	W	4R	4R	1R	3R	1R	-
Roland Garros	22-8	F	QF	SF	3R	3R	3R	2R	1R	-
Wimbledon	16-6	SF	-	SF	-	SF	-	1R	1R	2R
US Open	34-6	W	W	F	SF	SF	2R	2R	4R	-

**DID YOU KNOW**

Born in the Year of the Tiger, Sabalenka has a tiger tattoo on her left forearm. Her fitness trainer, Jason Stacy, even put a temporary tiger tattoo on his head during her run to the US Open 2024 title.



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# IGA SWIATEK

/ Poland

**Born** 31 May 2001, Warsaw, Poland

**Height** 176cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$10,112,532

**Career Prize Money** \$43,640,490

**Singles Titles** 25

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.2

**Highest Singles Rank** No.1

(April 2022)

**2025 Highlights** W Wimbledon, Cincinnati, Seoul; F Bad Homburg; SF Australian Open, Roland Garros, Doha, Indian Wells, Madrid; QF US Open

**AO Best Result** SF 2022, 2025

**AO 2025** No.2 SEED 1R d Siniakova, 2R d Sramkova, 3R d Raducanu, 4R d [LL] Lys, QF d [8] Navarro, SF I [19] Keys

➤ At age 24, Iga Swiatek is already an all-time great, with a record-breaking career shaped by skill and fortitude. After a comparatively lean run in the first half of 2025, the Polish star rebounded in ways that pleasantly surprised observers.

Her season began strongly with her best Australian Open performance in which she came within a point of the final before she succumbed to Madison Keys.

As she continued to fall in quarters and semis though, a

finals drought was extending. After lopsided losses in Madrid and Rome, there were concerns when Sabalenka ended her 26-match, four-year Roland Garros winning streak in the semifinals - after which she dropped to world No.8.

Swiatek recalibrated, in arguably the unlikeliest of settings, on grass. She reached her first final in more than a year in Bad Homburg, then stormed to the Wimbledon title. She won her last 20 consecutive games as she overwhelmed Belinda Bencic and Amanda Anisimova. It was Swiatek's sixth major title - she is a perfect 6-0 in those finals - and meant she had conquered all three Grand Slam surfaces.

Her upswing continued with the WTA 1000 title in Cincinnati and her third trophy of 2025 in Seoul, which meant she won 25 of her past 28 matches. Swiatek ultimately won more than 60 matches for the fourth straight year and ended a fourth consecutive season inside the top two.

Already lauded for her exceptional footwork, laser-like focus, killer instinct and devastating forehand, Swiatek's 2025 successes showed her continued evolution.

## Grand Slam record

Grand Slam / Year	Career	25	24	23	22	21	20	19
Australian Open	22-7	SF	3R	4R	SF	4R	4R	2R
Roland Garros	40-3	SF	W	W	W	QF	W	4R
Wimbledon	18-5	W	3R	QF	3R	4R	-	1R
US Open	24-6	QF	QF	4R	W	4R	3R	2R

**DID YOU KNOW?** Swiatek loves to build LEGO as an off-court hobby and has a custom range created in her honour, including a replica of Court Philippe Chatrier following her Roland Garros 2024 triumph and a giant strawberry in 2025 after winning Wimbledon.

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World No. **3****COCO GAUFF**

/ USA

**Born** 13 March 2004, Delray Beach, United States**Height** 175cm**Plays** Right-handed**2025 Prize Money** \$7,969,845**Career Prize Money** \$29,759,121**Singles Titles** 11**2025 Year-End Rank** No.3**Highest Singles Rank** No.2 (June 2024)**2025 Highlights** W Roland Garros, Wuhan; F Madrid, Rome; SF Beijing; QF Australian Open, Stuttgart, Cincinnati**AO Best Result** SF 2024**AO 2025** No.3 SEED 1R d Kenin, 2R d Burrage, 3R d [30] Fernandez, 4R d Bencic, QF I [11]Badosa

► Coco Gauff, listed by *Forbes* in December 2024 as the world's highest-paid female athlete, remains one of the sport's most compelling stars.

That distinction is unlikely to change after she earned her second Grand Slam singles title over Aryna Sabalenka in the Roland Garros final, which completed an excellent claycourt season in which she also reached the Madrid and Rome finals.

Shortly after she scaled those heights she confronted

challenges, wrestling with technical issues on her serve and forehand that prompted her to employ biomechanist Gavin MacMillan ahead of the US Open.

Despite that stressful campaign, Gauff advanced to the fourth round in New York and thrived in late-season events in China, which improved her record in finals to 11-3 with the WTA 1000 title in Wuhan - further proof of her incredible mental strength and ability to rebound.

"It was filled with some disappointments but mainly positives," Gauff posted on Instagram about her season. "When I look back at it, I feel proud of all the things I accomplished. I love this sport and I am grateful for all of its ups and downs."

Gauff was also the highest-ranked of six players to appear on *SportsPro's* 2025 list of the world's most marketable athletes.

It's little surprise; she has her own signature shoe and wears custom outfits - the result of a collaboration between New Balance and Miu Miu - all while playing tennis with the astounding athleticism, speed and dogged competitiveness that helped her finish a third straight season inside the WTA's top three.

**DID YOU KNOW**

Gauff uses her high-profile platform as a vocal advocate for racial justice and social change, including Black Lives Matter and calling for an end to gun violence in the USA.

**Grand Slam record**

Grand Slam / Year	Career	25	24	23	22	21	20	19
Australian Open	16-6	QF	SF	4R	1R	2R	4R	-
Roland Garros	27-5	W	SF	QF	F	QF	2R	-
Wimbledon	11-6	1R	4R	1R	3R	4R	-	4R
US Open	20-6	4R	4R	W	QF	2R	1R	3R



# AMANDA ANISIMOVA

/ USA

**Born** 31 August 2001, Miami Beach, United States

**Height** 180cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$7,260,577

**Career Prize Money** \$12,387,036

**Singles Titles** 4

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.4

**Highest Singles Rank** No.4 (September 2025)

**2025 Highlights** W Doha, Beijing; F Wimbledon, US Open, Queen's; SF WTA Finals, Charleston

**AO Best Result** 4R 2019, 2022, 2024

**AO 2025 UNSEEDED** 1R d Carle, 2R l Raducanu

> Amanda Anisimova was a jolt of new energy as she soared into the top five in 2025, joining established forces at the elite level.

A prodigious junior who reached the 2019 Roland Garros semifinals at 17, Anisimova has overcome personal tragedy and mental health challenges to arrive at this point.

The American stepped away from tennis for eight months in 2023 - she slowed down, pursued art and recovered from burnout - and returned the next

January, competing at AO 2024 while ranked 442nd.

She ended that season inside the top 40 and kept surging in 2025, winning her biggest career title at the Doha WTA 1000 to crack the top 20.

The second half of the season was when Anisimova truly shone.

A finalist at Queen's, she continued that grasscourt form at Wimbledon, where she stunned world No.1 Aryna Sabalenka to reach her first Grand Slam final.

While she suffered a sobering 6-0 6-0 defeat to Iga Swiatek at the All England Club, she refused to let the result define her, avenging that loss in the US Open quarterfinals en route to her second consecutive major final.

By the time she'd captured another WTA 1000 trophy in Beijing, Anisimova had won 20 of her past 24 matches, peaked at world No.4, and confirmed her WTA Finals debut, where she capped her stellar year as a semifinalist.

Armed with an improved serve, devastating groundstroke pace and arguably the sport's best double-handed backhand, Anisimova was the only player to defeat all four Grand Slam champions in 2025.

## Grand Slam record

Grand Slam / Year	Career	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17
Australian Open	10-6	2R	4R	1R	4R	-	1R	4R	-	-
Roland Garros	14-7	4R	2R	-	4R	1R	3R	SF	-	1R
Wimbledon	11-4	F	-	-	QF	1R	-	2R	-	-
US Open	9-6	F	1R	-	1R	2R	3R	-	1R	-

### DID YOU KNOW

During her hiatus from tennis Anisimova took up painting and sold her artworks for charities supporting mental health under a project called 'Art for hope' in New York.

World No. **5**

2026 Player Profiles Women's Singles

# ELENA RYBAKINA

/ Kazakhstan

**Born** 17 June 1999, Moscow, Russia**Height** 184cm**Plays** Right-handed**2025 Prize Money** \$8,456,632**Career Prize Money** \$24,438,717**Singles Titles** 11**2025 Year-End Rank** No.5**Highest Singles Rank** No.3  
(June 2023)**2025 Highlights** W WTA Finals, Strasbourg, Ningbo; SF Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Washington DC, Montreal, Cincinnati, Tokyo**AO Best Result** Final 2023**AO 2025** No.6 SEED 1R d [WC] Jones, 2R d [WC] Jovic, 3R d [32] Yastremska, 4R l [19] Keys

> It was a resurgent 2025 season for Elena Rybakina, who slipped as low as world No.13 in mid-July but returned to the top five after winning the season-ending WTA Finals, her biggest title since Wimbledon 2022 and first above 500-level since Rome in 2023.

Behind a huge serve and some of the purest, most powerful ballstriking in the sport, Rybakina beat the world's top two women - Iga Swiatek in the group stages, and Aryna Sabalenka in the final - to go undefeated in Riyadh and claim the USD \$5.235 million prize, the biggest pay cheque in women's sporting history.

She closed 2025 with 59 match wins, the most she had achieved in one season in her career, and became just the

second woman since 2008, after Karolina Pliskova, to record 500+ aces within a season.

"Rybakina's starting to find her best tennis," observed data analyst and former coach Simon Rea on the podcast, *The Tennis*. "Her best tennis when she finds it is as good as there is."

She notched an impressive nine tour-level semifinals in 2025, yet none of those came at Grand Slam level, with three fourth-round finishes at the majors

resulting in three-set exits each time.

It's a sign the Kazakhstan is not far off the level that has seen her reach the quarterfinals at six previous majors and come close to a second Slam title before she fell to Sabalenka in a classic Australian Open 2023 final.

Given she carries an 11-match winning streak into the new season, she'll be motivated and confident to improve on that record in 2026.

## Grand Slam record

Grand Slam / Year	Career	25	24	23	22	21	20	19
Australian Open	14-6	4R	2R	F	2R	2R	3R	-
Roland Garros	16-6	4R	QF	3R	3R	QF	2R	1R
Wimbledon	21-4	3R	SF	QF	W	4R	-	-
US Open	8-6	4R	2R	3R	1R	3R	2R	1R



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World No. **6****JESSICA  
PEGULA**

/ USA

**Born** 24 February 1994, Buffalo, United States**Height** 170cm**Plays** Right-handed**2025 Prize Money** \$5,262,311**Career Prize Money** \$21,867,635**Singles Titles** 9**2025 Year-End Rank** No.6**Highest Singles Rank** No.3 (October 2022)**2025 Highlights** W Austin, Charleston, Bad Homburg; F Adelaide, Miami, Wuhan; SF US Open, Beijing**AO Best Result** QF 2021, 2022, 2023**AO 2025** No.7 SEED 1R d [WC] Joint, 2R d Mertens, 3R I Danilovic

> Jessica Pegula is defying the typical bell curve of a professional athlete with her ongoing improvement at age 31.

The American reached more finals (six) and won more titles (three) than in any previous season, with her three tournament victories coming on all three surfaces in a testament to her completeness as a player.

With 53 match wins in 2025 - the last of those coming in her fourth straight WTA Finals

campaign - Pegula completed a fourth consecutive season inside the world's top 10.

Nineteen of those wins came in three sets, from 31 three-setters played, and both numbers represented tour highs, which spotlighted her fitness, robustness and mental strength.

"I had a great season. I felt like I became a better player this season," said Pegula, who has maintained her top-10 ranking since June 2022. "I feel like I worked on some things and have been able to utilise them during matches, which I think is something that you're always striving for as a player."

After earlier than expected losses at the Australian Open, Roland Garros and Wimbledon, Pegula turned her Grand Slam season around in New York, where she returned to the US Open semifinals and pushed Aryna Sabalenka to the limit in one of the year's best matches.

With the confidence from that run, plus the fact her flat, compact, aggressive game translates especially well to quick hard courts, Pegula will no doubt enjoy her return to the AO, where she is a three-time quarterfinalist.

**DID YOU KNOW**

Pegula's love for her pets led her to create a charity called A Lending Paw, which supports organisations that rescue and rehabilitate service dogs.

**Grand Slam record**

Grand Slam / Year	Career	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	16	15
Australian Open	15-6	3R	2R	QF	QF	QF	1R	-	-	-
Roland Garros	11-6	4R	-	3R	QF	3R	1R	1R	-	-
Wimbledon	8-6	1R	2R	QF	3R	2R	-	1R	-	-
US Open	23-9	SF	F	4R	QF	3R	3R	1R	1R	2R



World No. **7**

## MADISON KEYS

/ USA

**Born** 17 February 1995, Rock Island, United States

**Height** 178cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$4,357,787

**Career Prize Money** \$23,287,555

**Singles Titles** 10

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.7

**Highest Singles Rank** No.5 (February 2025)

**2025 Highlights** W Australian Open, Adelaide; SF Indian Wells, Queen's; QF Roland Garros, Madrid, Montreal, Auckland

**AO Best Result** Champion 2025

**AO 2025** No.19 SEED 1R d Li, 2R d [Q] Ruse, 3R d [10] Collins, 4R d [6] Rybakina, QF d [28] Svitolina, SF d [2] Swiatek, F d [1] Sabalenka

➤ Madison Keys' Australian Open triumph was perhaps the most heartwarming story of 2025, coming more than seven years after she reached her first Slam final at the US Open and a decade after breaking through at Melbourne Park as a teenage semifinalist.

A month before her 30th birthday, Keys won a major title she'd long craved but learned to live without. She saved match point to beat world No.2 Iga

Swiatek in a thrilling semifinal, before out-hitting world No.1 and two-time defending champion Aryna Sabalenka in another classic.

It was an achievement made possible after seeking therapy, buying into the approach of husband and coach Bjorn Fratangelo - who tweaked her serve and encouraged her to switch racquets - and better harnessing the jaw-dropping power she'd always possessed.

An Adelaide International champion the week prior, Keys extended her win streak to 16 matches by progressing to the Indian Wells semifinals. She later reached a 12th Slam quarterfinal at Roland Garros, an embodiment of her nickname 'Major Keys'.

She peaked at world No.5 in February - after beginning the year at No.21 - while other highlights included a semifinal at Queen's.

Injuries increasingly hampered the American, who lost her last four matches of 2025. "Not how I wanted the story to end, but at the beginning of the year I had the goal of making year-end finals again and for that I'm so proud of all of the work my team and I put in to make that goal happen," she posted to social media after she withdrew from the WTA Finals.

### Grand Slam record

Grand Slam / Year	Career	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11
Australian Open	34-10	W	-	3R	SF	-	3R	4R	QF	-	4R	SF	2R	3R	1R	-
Roland Garros	28-13	QF	3R	2R	4R	3R	1R	QF	SF	2R	4R	3R	1R	2R	-	-
Wimbledon	27-11	3R	4R	QF	-	4R	-	2R	3R	2R	4R	QF	3R	3R	-	-
US Open	33-14	1R	3R	SF	3R	1R	3R	4R	SF	F	4R	4R	2R	1R	-	2R

# JASMINE PAOLINI

/ Italy

**Born** 4 January 1996, Castelnuovo di Garfagnana, Italy

**Height** 163cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$5,253,997

**Career Prize Money** \$14,290,992

**Singles Titles** 3

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.8

**Highest Singles Rank** No.4  
(October 2024)

**2025 Highlights** W Rome;  
F Cincinnati; SF Miami, Stuttgart,  
Bad Homburg, Wuhan, Ningbo; QF  
Beijing

**AO Best Result** 4R 2024

**AO 2025** No.4 SEED 1R d [Q] Wei,  
2R d Zarazua, 3R l [28] Svitolina

> If anyone assumed Jasmine Paolini would suffer a letdown following her breakout 2024 season, she was determined to prove them wrong.

The Italian maintained a top-10 ranking for the entirety of 2025, and while she may not have scaled the same Grand Slam heights as her back-to-back Roland Garros and Wimbledon finals of the previous year, she claimed the Rome title on home soil in front of passionate fans.

Paolini excelled at WTA 1000 level, producing a 26-9 record

across those 10 events and reaching a final in Cincinnati, plus semis in Miami and Wuhan. She beat world No.2 Iga Swiatek for the first time on her Wuhan run.

For all her individual success, Paolini was arguably even better in a team setting. Combining with countrywoman Sara Errani, she scooped the Roland Garros title, plus WTA 1000 trophies in Doha, Rome and Beijing, to end the year as doubles world No.3.

She also steered Italy to its second straight Billie Jean King Cup title, winning all three of her singles matches and going 4-0 overall at September's Finals in Shenzhen.

The 29-year-old, who qualified for the WTA Finals for the second straight year, has developed into a fan favourite thanks to her sunny disposition and dynamic playing style. She boasts explosive athleticism and eyebrow-raising power, despite being just 163cm tall.

Paolini also appeals to a cross-cultural fan base thanks to Polish and Ghanaian roots on her mother's side.

## Grand Slam record

Grand Slam / Year	Career	25	24	23	22	21	20	19
Australian Open	5-6	3R	4R	1R	1R	1R	1R	-
Roland Garros	12-7	4R	F	2R	1R	2R	2R	1R
Wimbledon	7-5	2R	F	1R	1R	1R	-	-
US Open	6-6	3R	4R	1R	1R	2R	1R	-

## DID YOU KNOW

Paolini was a ballkid for now double partner Sara Errani's Billie Jean King Cup-winning Italian team, which beat the United States in the 2009 final in front of their home crowd in Reggio Calabria.

## MIRRA ANDREEVA

**Born** 29 April 2007, Krasnoyarsk, Russia

**Height** 175cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$4,726,226

**Career Prize Money** \$7,545,132

**Singles Titles** 3

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.9

**Highest Singles Rank** No.5 (July 2025)

**2025 Highlights** W Dubai, Indian Wells; SF Brisbane; QF Roland Garros, Wimbledon, Madrid, Rome, Bad Homburg

**AO Best Result** 4R 2024, 2025

**AO 2025** No.14 SEED 1R d Bouzkova, 2R d Uchijima, 3R d [23] Frech, 4R l [1] Sabalenka

> If Mirra Andreeva was the game's most exciting rising star in 2024, then 2025 cemented her stardom. Shortly after her Australian Open fourth round, she went on a tear with successive WTA 1000 titles in Dubai and Indian Wells, which vaulted her from world No.14 to No.6.

That run included five top-10 wins - she beat the world's top two women, Iga Swiatek and Aryna Sabalenka, in succession to win Indian Wells - and helped her build a 13-match winning

streak. Power now complements her astonishing court craft and composure. Andreeva is much taller than when she emerged two years ago and has attained serve speeds near 200km/h at Indian Wells.

Those titles, achieved while she was still 17, made her the youngest 1000-level champion in more than 20 years and the youngest to debut in the top 10 since 2007. She later notched back-to-back major quarterfinals at Roland Garros and Wimbledon to crack the top five.

Andreeva's prodigious talent has sparked comparisons to Martina Hingis, the Swiss legend who revealed on *The Sit-Down* podcast she was a big fan of the teenager and was once asked to become her coach.

Andreeva slowed as the season progressed, losing five of her last nine matches and narrowly missing the eighth spot at the WTA Finals. Yet she still travelled to Riyadh for doubles alongside Diana Shnaider, reward for their two titles and two Grand Slam semifinal finishes in 2025.

With top-12 rankings in both disciplines, the future is bright for Andreeva, who is coached by 1994 Wimbledon winner Conchita Martinez.

### DID YOU KNOW

Andreeva's older sister Erika is also a professional tennis player who has been ranked as high as world No.65. The pair has split their two meetings on tour.

### Grand Slam record

Grand Slam / Year	Career	25	24	23
Australian Open	6-2	4R	4R	-
Roland Garros	11-3	QF	SF	3R
Wimbledon	7-3	QF	1R	4R
US Open	4-3	3R	2R	2R

World No. **10**

## EKATERINA ALEXANDROVA

**Born** 15 November 1994,  
Chelyabinsk, Russia

**Height** 175cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$2,689,766

**Career Prize Money** \$9,690,003

**Singles Titles** 5

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.10

**Highest Singles Rank** No.10  
(October 2025)

**2025 Highlights** W Dubai, Indian Wells; SF Brisbane; QF Roland Garros, Wimbledon, Madrid, Rome, Bad Homburg

**AO Best Result** 3R 2020, 2021, 2023

**2025 Highlights** W Linz; F Monterrey, Seoul, Ningbo; SF Doha, Charleston, Stuttgart, 's-Hertogenbosch

**AO 2025** No.26 SEED 1R | Raducanu

> The big-hitting Ekaterina Alexandrova, who first cracked the top 100 almost 10 years ago, became a top-10 player for the first time in October, just a month out from her 31st birthday.

Her rise was made possible by competing, and winning, a lot in 2025. Alexandrova played 73 matches - she won 47 of them - and the last of those came at the WTA Finals in Riyadh, where

she debuted at the event as an alternate.

She reached 11 tour-level quarterfinals, progressed to eight semifinals and thrived on all surfaces. Her powerful serve and heavy, penetrating groundstrokes translated to records of 26-17 on hard, 13-5 on clay and 8-3 on grass.

Such performances helped the Czech-based player complete her seventh consecutive top-50 season and improve on her previous best year-end ranking of 19th in 2022.

Of the 12 big tournaments she played - four Grand Slams and eight WTA 1000s - she only went beyond the last 16 once, in her trip to the Doha semis.

But it was in Doha where she collected her two top-five wins of the season - over Aryna Sabalenka and Jessica Pegula - and she later went on to reach the fourth round at Roland Garros, Wimbledon and the US Open, the first time she'd reached the second week at three straight Slams.

Alexandrova is trending in the right direction and with her career-high ranking meaning a greater level of protection in major draws, she could achieve new milestones in 2026.

### Grand Slam record

Grand Slam / Year	Career	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17
Australian Open	7-9	1R	1R	3R	1R	3R	3R	1R	2R	1R
Roland Garros	12-9	4R	1R	3R	2R	2R	3R	3R	1R	2R
Wimbledon	8-7	4R	-	4R	-	2R	-	1R	1R	1R
US Open	12-9	4R	3R	3R	2R	2R	2R	2R	1R	2R



World No.

11



## BELINDA BENCIC

/ Switzerland

**Born** 10 March 1997, Flawil, Switzerland

**Height** 175cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$2,609,769

**Career Prize Money** \$14,856,339

**Singles Titles** 10

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.11

**Highest Singles Rank** No.4 (February 2020)

**2025 Highlights** W Abu Dhabi, Tokyo; SF Wimbledon; QF Indian Wells, Ningbo; 4R Australian Open

**AO Best Result** 4R 2016, 2023, 2025

**AO 2025** UNSEEDDED 1R d [16] Ostapenko, 2R d Lamens, 3R d Osaka, 4R I [3] Gauff

➤ In her first full season as a mother, the 28-year-old Swiss soared in the rankings, returning to the cusp of the top 10 after beginning the 2025 season just inside the top 500. Among the highlights was a semifinal performance at Wimbledon - her first major semifinal in six years - and WTA 500 titles in Abu Dhabi and Tokyo, her first tour-level trophies since 2023. After welcoming daughter Bella in April 2024, Bencic made an ITF-level comeback in October that year and is now among a growing cohort of mothers thriving at the top of the game. Top-10 wins over Rybakina, Gauff and Andreeva were among almost 40 match wins in 2025 for Bencic, who is edging closer to the top-five ranking she attained in early 2020.

World No.

12



## CLARA TAUSON

/ Denmark

**Born** 21 December 2002, Copenhagen, Denmark

**Height** 182cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$2,078,483

**Career Prize Money** \$4,428,350

**Singles Titles** 3

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.12

**Highest Singles Rank** No.12 (September 2025)

**2025 Highlights** W Auckland; F Dubai; SF Montreal, Linz; QF Nottingham, Washington DC, Seoul

**AO Best Result** 3R 2022, 2025

**AO 2025** UNSEEDDED 1R d [29] Noskova, 2R d Maria, 3R I [1] Sabalenka

➤ The emerging Danish star was among the biggest improvers in 2025, a season she began at world No.50 before winning her first tournament of the year in Auckland and later peaking at No.12. Reaching the Dubai final and Montreal semifinals - by far her best WTA 1000 results - also assisted her rise, in runs that featured wins over Grand Slam champions Sabalenka, Swiatek and Keys. She also defeated 2022 Wimbledon winner Rybakina en route to the fourth round at the All England Club, equalling her best Slam result. Highly regarded by tennis insiders for her exceptional ball-striking abilities and tennis brain, Tauson will be among the 2026 contenders at Melbourne Park, where she was a junior singles champion in 2019.

World No.

13



## LINDA NOSKOVA

/ Czechia

**Born** 17 November 2024, Vsetin, Czech Republic

**Height** 179cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$2,223,383

**Career Prize Money** \$4,560,619

**Singles Titles** 1

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.13

**Highest Singles Rank** No.13 (October 2025)

**2025 Highlights** F Prague, Beijing, Tokyo; SF Abu Dhabi, Bad Homburg; QF Dubai, Nottingham, Monterrey

**AO Best Result** QF 2024

**AO 2025** No.29 SEED 1R | Tauson

► Famous for her stunning upset of then-world No.1 Swiatek at AO 2024, Noskova has continued her progress as one of a large troupe of talented Czech youngsters thriving on the WTA Tour. She was at her best last year during the post-US Open Asian swing, powering into the Beijing decider - her first WTA 1000 final - then a few weeks later reaching the same stage in Tokyo, her third final of the season. These results helped propel Noskova, who turned 21 in November, to a career-best ranking of World No.13. They also served as another reminder of how potent her ball-striking can be, especially on hard courts, a surface on which Noskova has reached all six of her career finals, including her first at the 2023 Adelaide International.

World No.

14



## ELINA SVITOLINA

/ Ukraine

**Born** 12 September 1994, Odessa, Ukraine

**Height** 174cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$2,213,165

**Career Prize Money** \$26,657,071

**Singles Titles** 18

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.14

**Highest Singles Rank** No.3 (September 2017)

**2025 Highlights** W Rouen; SF Madrid; QF Australian Open, Roland Garros, Indian Wells, Rome, Montreal

**AO Best Result** QF 2018, 2019, 2025

**AO 2025** No.28 SEED 1R d Cirstea, 2R d Dolehide, 3R d [4] Paolini, 4R d Kudermetova, QF | [19] Keys

► Svitolina remains an inspiring figure, competing at a top-20 level as a mother to two-year-old daughter Skai while working as an anti-war advocate and fundraiser for fellow Ukrainians. Beginning 2025 at world No.27, she'd more than halved her ranking by Wimbledon, and by early August she was a quarterfinalist or better at seven tournaments - including the AO and Roland Garros, plus four WTA 1000s. Her title run in Rouen, followed by a semifinal in Madrid, formed part of an 11-match, 22-set winning streak, ultimately snapped by world No.1 Sabalenka. Citing the need to "heal and recharge", Svitolina shut down her season after September's Billie Jean King Cup finals. She'll be a force to be reckoned with on her return.

World No.

15



## EMMA NAVARRO

/ USA

**Born** 18 May 2001, New York, United States

**Height** 170cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,968,865

**Career Prize Money** \$5,640,609

**Singles Titles** 2

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.15

**Highest Singles Rank** No.8 (September 2024)

**2025 Highlights** W Merida; QF Australian Open, Adelaide, Charleston, Strasbourg, Queen's Club, Bad Homburg, Beijing

**AO Best Result** QF 2025

**AO 2025** No.8 SEED 1R d Stearns, 2R d Wang Xiyu, 3R d Jabeur, 4R d [9] Kasatkina, QF I [2] Swiatek

► Navarro performed strongly in 2025, consolidating the gains she made in a breakout 2024 season. While she didn't quite match the highs of the previous year - such as a US Open semifinal appearance on home soil and a peak No.8 ranking - she remained a top-15 presence following a quarterfinal finish at the Australian Open. She also won the biggest title of her career in Merida, Mexico and helped the USA into the Billie Jean King Cup final. In statement wins over defending champ Krejčíková at Wimbledon and Swiatek on her way to the Beijing quarterfinals, Navarro showcased the athleticism, complete game and tennis smarts that prompted legendary coach Darren Cahill to describe the American as one of his favourite players to watch.

World No.

16



## NAOMI OSAKA

/ Japan

**Born** 16 October 1997, Osaka, Japan

**Height** 180cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$2,515,892

**Career Prize Money** \$24,603,332

**Singles Titles** 7

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.16

**Highest Singles Rank** No.1 (January 2019)

**2025 Highlights** F Auckland, Montreal; SF US Open; QF Osaka; 4R Miami, Rome

**AO Best Result** Champion 2019, 2021

**AO 2025** UNSEED 1R d Garcia, 2R d [20] Muchova, 3R I Bencic

► Osaka enjoyed a thrilling resurgence in a 2025 season that opened with an appearance in the Auckland final and reached its zenith on North American hardcourts - first with a run to the WTA 1000 final in Montreal then a semifinal showing at the US Open. It was her best major result in almost five years, a form jump coinciding with her new coaching partnership with Tomasz Wiktorowski. Committed to playing more regularly, the four-time Slam champion dropped down to WTA 125 level and triumphed in Saint Malo, her first pro title of any kind since AO 2021. Her daughter, Shai, was born in June 2023. Osaka played 50 matches in 2025 - her highest tally since 2019 - and won 35 of them, placing her within striking distance of a top-10 return.

World No.

17



## LIUDMILA SAMSONOVA

**Born** 11 November 1998, Olenegorsk, Russia

**Height** 182cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$2,040,166

**Career Prize Money** \$7,949,984

**Singles Titles** 5

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.17

**Highest Singles Rank** No.12 (February 2023)

**2025 Highlights** F Strasbourg; SF Adelaide, Berlin; QF Wimbledon, Indian Wells, Cleveland

**AO Best Result** 2R 2021, 2022, 2023, 2025

**AO 2025** No.25 SEED 1R d Rakhimova, 2R l Danilovic

➤ The 26-year-old Samsonova has strong connections to Italy, spending significant time there from early childhood, briefly representing the country and continuing to work with an Italian team while fluently speaking the language. In 2021, Samsonova burst to prominence after her WTA 500 title in Berlin and a run to the second week at Wimbledon - a result she outperformed at the All England Club in 2025 with a quarterfinal showing, her best Grand Slam result to date. Samsonova's powerful serve and groundstrokes translate well to all surfaces, proven in the three semifinals she reached on different surfaces in 2025; on Adelaide's hard courts, Strasbourg's clay - where she advanced a step further to the final - and Berlin's grass.

World No.

18



## VICTORIA MBOKO

/ Canada

**Born** 26 August 2006, Charlotte, United States

**Height** 178cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,444,890

**Career Prize Money** \$1,506,598

**Singles Titles** 2

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.18

**Highest Singles Rank** No.18 (November 2025)

**2025 Highlights** W Montreal, Hong Kong; QF Tokyo; 3R Roland Garros

**AO Best Result** Making debut

**AO 2025** DID NOT PLAY

➤ During Australian Open 2025, Mboko was a little-known Canadian teenager, ranked 337th, competing on the ITF circuit in the Caribbean. She's since become the game's newest superstar, a top-20 phenom with a WTA 1000 title to her name. That came on home soil in Montreal, a week during which Mboko electrified the tournament by beating a succession of Slam champions - Kenin, Gauff, Rybakina and Osaka - to win the biggest title of her career. Athletic, poised and powerful, Mboko won five ITF titles in 2025 and more than 50 matches across all levels. She cracked the world's top 100 after progressing to the third round at Roland Garros as a qualifier. She closed her spectacular season with a second WTA title in Hong Kong.

World No. **19**



## KAROLINA MUCHOVA

/ Czechia

**Born** 21 August 1996, Olomouc, Czechia

**Height** 180cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$2,119,265

**Career Prize Money** \$10,422,030

**Singles Titles** 1

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.19

**Highest Singles Rank** No.8 (September 2023)

**2025 Highlights** SF Linz, Dubai; QF US Open, Tokyo; 4R Indian Wells, Montreal, Beijing

**AO Best Result** SF 2012

**AO 2025** No.20 SEED 1R d Podoroska, 2R l Osaka

> A favourite among tennis purists, Muchova captivates with her artistry and versatility. The Czech possesses all the shots and a penchant for inventive play, mixing in heavy, powerful forehands, sliced backhands and ventures to the net - all assisted by exceptional athleticism. Her complete game explains her success across all surfaces and consistently deep runs at all four majors. In 2025, she recorded another great Grand Slam result with a quarterfinal run in New York, her third straight trip to that stage of the US Open. Injury arguably remains her toughest opponent; Muchova was plagued by wrist issues in 2025 and missed practically the entire claycourt season. At full health and fitness, the 29-year-old remains a major force.

World No. **20**



## ELISE MERTENS

/ Belgium

**Born** 17 November 1995, Leuven, Belgium

**Height** 179cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$2,895,029

**Career Prize Money** \$17,794,963

**Singles Titles** 10

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.20

**Highest Singles Rank** No.12 (November 2018)

**2025 Highlights** W Singapore, 's-Hertogenbosch; F Hobart; QF Stuttgart, Monterrey; 4R Wimbledon

**AO Best Result** SF 2018

**2025 Highlights AO 2025** UNSEED 1R d [Q] Golubic, 2R l [7] Pegula

> A pillar of consistency, the 29-year-old completed a fourth top-20 season in 2025 and finished with her highest year-end ranking since 2020. The Belgian added two more WTA singles titles to her CV, taking her tally to 10 and marking the first time she'd won multiple singles titles in a season in seven years. Mertens contested the Hobart final for a fourth time and advanced to the second week at Wimbledon, pushing No.1 Sabalenka to the brink in a brilliant fourth-round encounter. A relentless ball-striker with incredible fitness and focus, Mertens also continued to thrive in doubles. She won Wimbledon with Veronika Kudermetova - her fifth major doubles title - and ended a seventh straight year inside the doubles top 10.

World No.

21



## DIANA SHNAIDER

**Born** 2 April 2004, Zhigulevsk, Russia

**Height** 170cm

**Plays** Left-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$2,148,649

**Career Prize Money** \$4,222,152

**Singles Titles** 5

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.21

**Highest Singles Rank** No.11 (May 2025)

**2025 Highlights** W Monterrey; SF Ningbo; QF Adelaide, Rome, Queen's Club; 4R Madrid

**AO Best Result** 3R 2025

**AO 2025** No.12 SEED 1R d Cocciaretto, 2R d [WC] Tomljanovic, 3R l [18] Vekic

➤ While she didn't replicate the heights of 2024, a season during which she won four WTA titles, Shnaider maintained a top-25 ranking and added another trophy to her cabinet in Monterrey last year. Her lefty game and savvy tennis helped her reach quarterfinals on all three surfaces and beat impressive opponents Alexandrova and Muchova in the second half of the season. The 21-year-old, who competed for North Carolina State in US college tennis, is recognisable for the polka-dot bandanas she wears on court. She also continues to thrive in doubles, reaching the Australian Open and Roland Garros semifinals and triumphing in Miami, all with Andreeva - also her partner as a silver medallist at the Paris 2024 Olympics.

World No.

22



## LEYLAH FERNANDEZ

/ Canada

**Born** 6 September 2002, Montreal, Canada

**Height** 168cm

**Plays** Left-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,645,046

**Career Prize Money** \$7,358,139

**Singles Titles** 5

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.22

**Highest Singles Rank** No.13 (August 2022)

**2025 Highlights** W Washington, Osaka; QF Abu Dhabi, Nottingham

**AO Best Result** 3R 2025

**AO 2025** No.30 SEED: 1R d Starodubtseva, 2R d Bucsa, 3R l [3] Gauff

➤ For the first time, Fernandez won multiple titles in a single season last year, backing up her WTA 500 title in Washington - the biggest of the 23-year-old's career - with victory in Osaka, Japan. It elevated her to world No.22, her highest ranking since 2022. It was a reminder of the the Canadian's lefty promise, which was obvious as far back as 2019 when she won the Roland Garros girls' title and became junior world No.1. Two years later, Fernandez produced an unforgettable run to the 2021 US Open final, beating three top-five players en route. She peaked at world No.13 after reaching the Roland Garros quarterfinals in 2022. A diminutive fighter who takes the ball early, Fernandez arrives in Australia with momentum on her side.

World No. **23**



## JELENA OSTAPENKO

/ Latvia

**Born** 8 June 1997, Rīga, Latvia

**Height** 177cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$2,328,202

**Career Prize Money** \$18,724,486

**Singles Titles** 9

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.23

**Highest Singles Rank** No.5  
(March 2018)

**2025 Highlights** W Stuttgart;  
F Doha; 4R Rome, 3R Roland  
Garros

**AO Best Result** QF 2024

**AO 2025** No.16 SEED: 1R | Bencic

► Ostapenko's 2025 season was defined by peaks and valleys, during which she crested at 17th and fell as low as 37th in the rankings. At her best, she was unstoppable, beating the world's top two players, Sabalenka and Swiatek, to win her ninth career title in Stuttgart. She also beat two top-five players, including Swiatek again, en route to the WTA 1000 final in Doha. Yet she struggled at the majors - her best result was a third-round finish in Paris - and ended the season with a losing record. Still, Ostapenko remains one of the game's most thrilling, audacious shotmakers. When she catches fire - just as she did to become Latvia's first Grand Slam singles champion at Roland Garros in 2017 - few players can resist her first-strike assault.

World No. **24**



## ZHENG QINWEN

/ China

**Born** 8 October 2002,  
Shiyan, China

**Height** 178cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,574,548

**Career Prize Money** \$9,924,752

**Singles Titles** 5

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.24

**Highest Singles Rank** No.4  
(June 2025)

**2025 Highlights** SF Rome,  
Queen's Club; QF Roland Garros,  
Indian Wells, Miami, Charleston

**AO Best Result** Final 2024

**AO 2025** No.5 SEED 1R d [Q] Todoni,  
2R | Siegemund

► It was a challenging 2025 - yet still one with many highlights - for former World No.4 Zheng, who missed almost three months of competition after elbow surgery. She won 16 of 20 matches between March and May and on her favoured clay, came within a tiebreak of reaching the Rome final. She posted her best Roland Garros result as a quarterfinalist. The surgery saw her step off the tour after Wimbledon but Zheng was feted when she returned to action in China, where she became a superstar following her gold medal win at the Paris 2024 Olympics. Her Beijing campaign ended in a third-round retirement, but a healthy Zheng would relish her return to Australia, where she achieved a major breakthrough as an AO 2024 finalist.

World No.

25



## PAULA BADOSA

/ Spain

**Born** 15 November 1997,  
New York, United States

**Height** 180cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,335,714

**Career Prize Money** \$9,278,923

**Singles Titles** 4

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.25

**Highest Singles Rank** No.2  
(April 2022)

**2025 Highlights** SF Australian  
Open; QF Merida, Strasbourg,  
Berlin; 4R Miami

**AO Best Result** SF 2025

**AO 2025** No.11 SEED 1R d Wang  
Xinyu, 2R d [WC] Gibson, 3R d [17]  
Kostyuk, 4R d Danilovic, QF d [3]  
Gauff, SF I [1] Sabalenka

► Despite the ongoing challenge of a chronic back issue, Badosa attained an impressive level when she competed throughout 2025. The zenith came at the Australian Open, where the Spaniard reached her first Grand Slam semifinal after an upset win over No.3 seed Gauff. A return to the top 10, for the first time since 2022, followed. At Roland Garros she came through a thrilling first-round match against Osaka en route to the third round. The 27-year-old's physicality and heavy backcourt game helped her to wins over two more top-20 players (Navarro and Kostyuk), but the second half of her season was blighted by injury. Badosa shut down in September, hoping to return stronger in a seventh campaign in Melbourne.

World No.

26



## MARTA KOSTYUK

/ Ukraine

**Born** 28 June 2002, Kyiv, Ukraine

**Height** 175cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,794,913

**Career Prize Money** \$6,857,222

**Singles Titles** 1

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.26

**Highest Singles Rank** No.16  
(June 2024)

**2025 Highlights** QF Doha, Madrid,  
Montreal; 4R US Open, Indian  
Wells, Miami, Rome, Beijing

**AO Best Result** QF 2024

**AO 2025** No.17 SEED 1R d Hibino,  
2R d Niemeier, 3R I [11] Badosa

► The talented Ukrainian maintained a top-30 ranking for much of 2025, producing her strongest results at WTA 1000 level. She claimed a statement win over world No.3 Gauff en route to the Doha quarterfinals and pushed top-ranked Sabalenka to the limit at the same stage in Madrid. At the US Open, she extended Muchova to three sets in the fourth round. Known for her world-class movement and ability to turn defence into attack, Kostyuk continues to mature under long-time coach Sandra Zaniewska. The AO girls' singles champion in 2017 and a third-round finisher at AO 2018 as a 15-year-old qualifier, Kostyuk notched her lone Grand Slam quarterfinal appearance at Melbourne Park in 2024.



World No.

27



World No.

28



## DAYANA YASTREMSKA

/ Ukraine

**Born** 15 May 2000,  
Odessa, Ukraine

**Height** 175cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,245,385

**Career Prize Money** \$6,031,242

**Singles Titles** 3

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.27

**Highest Singles Rank** No.21  
(January 2020)

**2025 Highlights** F Linz,  
Nottingham; SF Hamburg;  
QF Hobart, Eastbourne;  
4R Montreal

**AO Best Result** SF 2024

**AO 2025** No.32 SEED 1R d Sherif,  
2R d Kovinic, 3R l [6] Rybakina

➤ One of three Ukrainian women inside the top 30, Yastremska produced a consistent season and ended 2025 with her highest year-end ranking in six years. She reached the third round at the Australian Open, Roland Garros and Wimbledon, making a statement at the latter with her first-round upset of No.2 seed Gauff, who was fresh from her Roland Garros triumph. One of the game's purest ball-strikers, Yastremska enjoyed success across all surfaces and scored three top-20 wins in the past 12 months. The 25-year-old's best big-stage result remains her semifinal run at Australian Open 2024, a run which began in the qualifying rounds and boosted her back inside the top 30 - where she has remained for the majority of weeks since.

## SOFIA KENIN

/ USA

**Born** 14 November 1998,  
Moscow, Russia

**Height** 170cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,491,733

**Career Prize Money** \$11,736,919

**Singles Titles** 5

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.28

**Highest Singles Rank** No.4  
(March 2020)

**2025 Highlights** F Charleston;  
SF Tokyo; QF Hobart, Dubai;  
3R Roland Garros, Doha, Rome,  
Madrid

**AO Best Result** Champion 2020

**AO 2025** UNSEEDDED 1R l [3] Gauff

➤ Kenin, famous for her Australian Open triumph in 2020, was a resurgent force on tour five years later. Beginning season 2025 ranked world No.81, she returned to the top 25 in October ahead of a semifinal run in Tokyo. While she was unlucky to draw No.3 seed Gauff in the first round at AO 2025, she came within a point of the last 16 at Roland Garros - where she was a 2020 finalist - to conclude an impressive claycourt season that also featured a finals appearance in Charleston. Inspired by Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova as a junior, Kenin is a gritty competitor with excellent court sense and groundstroke timing. She has a knack for lifting against the world's best, evidenced by her two top-10 wins in 2025.

World No. **29**



## EMMA RADUCANU

/ Great Britain

**Born** 13 November 2002, Toronto, Canada

**Height** 175cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,450,476

**Career Prize Money** \$5,957,378

**Singles Titles** 1

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.29

**Highest Singles Rank** No.10 (July 2022)

**2025 Highlights** SF Washington DC; QF Miami, Queen's Club; 4R Rome; 3R Australian Open, Wimbledon, US Open

**AO Best Result** 3R 2025

**AO 2025** UNSEEDED 1R d [26] Alexandrova, 2R d Anisimova, 3R l [2] Swiatek

> The 2021 US Open champion, who has struggled with physical issues since that career peak, enjoyed a resurgent 2025. She competed at Melbourne Park as the world No.61 but climbed back inside the top 30 after compiling almost 30 match wins, the majority of which came in tournaments at 500-level or above. Raducanu played 50 matches in 2025 - by far her biggest tally in a single professional season - yet ended her year slightly early as those health issues returned. Nevertheless, the British superstar, among the world's highest-paid female athletes, has put herself in a position to be seeded at Australian Open 2026, which would mark her first Grand Slam seeding since the 2022 US Open.

World No. **30**



## VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA

**Born** 24 April 1997 Kazan, Russia

**Height** 175cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$2,809,563

**Career Prize Money** \$10,680,692

**Singles Titles** 2

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.30

**Highest Singles Rank** No.9 (October 2022)

**2025 Highlights** SF Cincinnati; QF Hobart, 's-Hertogenbosch; 4R Australian Open; 3R Roland Garros

**AO Best Result** 4R 2025

**AO 2025** UNSEEDED 1R d Gadecki, 2R d [22] Boulter, 3R d [15] Haddad Maia, 4R l [28] Svitolina

> Like many players in the world's top 30, Kudermetova found herself ranked much lower at the beginning of 2025. In early January, the former world No.9 languished at 77th before a quarterfinal appearance in Hobart, followed by a fourth-round finish at Melbourne Park, boosted her back to the cusp of the world's top-50. Later, a semifinal run at the WTA 1000 tournament in Cincinnati - helped by top-20 wins over Tauson and Bencic - saw her return to the top 25. Kudermetova, the elder sister of 2025 Brisbane International finalist Polina, was also a force in doubles. She won Wimbledon and the WTA Finals, and reached the Madrid and Rome finals, plus the Roland Garros quarterfinals - all with Belgian partner Mertens.

World No.

31



## MCCARTNEY KESSLER

/ USA

**Born** 8 July 1999, Lawrenceville, United States

**Height** 175cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,272,330

**Career Prize Money** \$1,879,024

**Singles Titles** 3

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.31

**Highest Singles Rank** No.30 (June 2025)

**2025 Highlights** W Hobart, Nottingham; F Austin; QF Ningbo; 4R Montreal, Beijing

**AO Best Result** 2R 2024

**AO 2025** UNSEEDED 1R | Zhang

➤ Kessler rose as part of a wave of American women thriving on the WTA Tour, beginning the 2025 season with a bang by capturing the title in Hobart - a victory that helped her crack the top 50. It was the first of three tour-level singles finals in 2025 for the 26-year-old, who came through the US college tennis system at the University of Florida. A week after winning her second 2025 title, on grass in Nottingham, she peaked at world No.30 in singles. She also finished the year inside the doubles top 50 after winning the WTA 1000 title in Canada with Gauff. Now earning Grand Slam seedings and supported by husband Zach, plus older brother McClain as her coach, Kessler will hope to pass the second round of a major for the first time in 2026.

World No.

32



## MAYA JOINT

/ Australia

**Born** 16 April 2006, Michigan, United States

**Height** N/A

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,046,881

**Career Prize Money** \$1,354,241

**Singles Titles** 2

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.32

**Highest Singles Rank** No.32 (October 2025)

**2025 Highlights** W Rabat, Eastbourne; SF Hobart, Seoul, Hong Kong; QF Merida; 3R Cincinnati

**AO Best Result** 1R 2025

**AO 2025** UNSEEDED 1R | [7] Pegula

➤ Already one of the sport's fastest-rising stars in 2024, Joint continued that trajectory in 2025, becoming Australia's No.1 woman in singles and placing herself in contention for a Grand Slam seeding. She won more than 50 matches - including over top-20 opponents Vekic, Tauson and Shnaider - and thrived on all surfaces, scoring her first WTA singles titles on clay in Rabat and Eastbourne's lawns and reaching three semifinals on hard courts, including in Hobart. Another milestone was her Billie Jean King Cup debut for Australia. Aided by steely focus and a blazing backhand, Joint soared more than 80 ranking places in 2025, after beginning season 2024 at No.684. The future appears bright as one of only six teenagers in the WTA's top 100.

World No.

33



## ANNA KALINSKAYA

**Born** 2 December 1998, Moscow, Russia

**Height** 175cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,495,159

**Career Prize Money** \$5,814,214

**Singles Titles** 0

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.33

**Highest Singles Rank** No.11 (October 2024)

**2025 Highlights** F Washington DC; SF Singapore; QF Charleston, Strasbourg, Cincinnati, Tokyo, Hong Kong

**AO Best Result** QF 2024

**AO 2025** DID NOT PLAY

➤ It was an injury-affected season for the dangerous ball-striker, who fell from a peak of world No.11 in October 2024. Kalinskaya still managed to reach the quarterfinal stage at seven tournaments in 2025 - advancing as far as the final in Washington DC - and achieve top-10 wins over Keys, Pegula and Anisimova along the way. Coached by Argentine former pro Patricia Tarabini while also travelling on tour with her dog (a dachshund named Bella), Kalinskaya pushed world No.2 Swiatek to the limit in the US Open third round, her best Grand Slam result of the season. Kalinskaya's best major performance was a quarterfinal finish at Australian Open 2024, a year before she graced the cover of *Harper's Bazaar Australia*.

World No.

34



## MARKETA VONDROUSOVA

/ Czechia

**Born** 28 June 1999, Sokolov, Czechia

**Height** 172cm

**Plays** Left-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,445,073

**Career Prize Money** \$11,959,465

**Singles Titles** 3

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.34

**Highest Singles Rank** No.6 (September 2023)

**2025 Highlights** W Berlin; QF US Open, Abu Dhabi; 3R Roland Garros

**AO Best Result** 4R 2021

**AO 2025** DID NOT PLAY

➤ Having suffered frequently with injury over the years, 2025 was no different for the talented left-hander, who was restricted to just 28 singles matches. When healthy, Vondrousova thrived as we know she can. The 2023 Wimbledon champion succeeded again on grass with the WTA 500 title in Berlin, a few months before producing one of her finest performances to oust fellow Wimbledon winner Rybakina and reach the US Open quarterfinals. That proved her final match win of the season as injury cruelly struck again, a knee issue forcing her to withdraw ahead of her battle with defending champion Sabalenka. The Australian Open remains the only Grand Slam at which the crafty Czech is yet to reach the quarterfinals.

2026 Player Profiles Women's Singles

World No. **35**



## IVA JOVIC

/ USA

**Born** 6 December 2007, Torrance, United States

**Height** 170cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$924,448

**Career Prize Money** \$1,125,748

**Singles Titles** 1

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.35

**Highest Singles Rank** No.33 (October 2025)

**2025 Highlights** W Guadalajara; 3R Cincinnati; 2R Australian Open, Roland Garros, US Open

**AO Best Result** 2R 2025

**AO 2025** UNSEEDED 1R d Parrizas Diaz, 2R l [6] Rybakina

➤ Just 17 years of age, Jovic soared from world No.191 at the start of 2025 to peak at 33rd, making her one of six teenagers inside the WTA top 100. The prodigious American talent spent much of the first half of the season competing on the lower rungs of the pro circuit, winning one of two ITF finals before triumphing at the WTA 125K title in Ilkley. That boosted her inside the top 100, and she extended her win streak to eight matches by qualifying for Wimbledon. Jovic also posted wins at the three other majors - including at the US Open, where she met childhood idol Novak Djokovic - and capped her breakout year by winning the WTA 500 title in Guadalajara in September. It confirmed her status as a bona fide star on the rise.

World No. **36**



## LOIS BOISSON

/ France

**Born** 16 May 2003, Dijon, France

**Height** 175cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,043,519

**Career Prize Money** \$1,170,428

**Singles Titles** 1

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.36

**Highest Singles Rank** No.36 (November 2025)

**2025 Highlights** W Hamburg; SF Roland Garros; 3R Beijing

**AO Best Result** N/A

**AO 2025** DID NOT PLAY

➤ The Frenchwoman burst to prominence at Roland Garros, becoming the star of the tournament with an unlikely run to the semifinals while competing as a 361st-ranked wildcard. With a playing style and physique reminiscent of Sam Stosur, Boisson was roared on by home fans as she stunned top-10 seeds Pegula and Andreeva and rewrote the record books. Proving her success was no fluke, she won her first WTA title in Hamburg shortly after. The 22-year-old may seem to have emerged from nowhere, but she was a highly touted prospect tearing up the ITF circuit in 2024 before an ACL injury sidelined her for nine months. Later in 2025 Boisson upset Samsonova to reach the third round in Beijing, before injury struck again.

World No.

37



## DARIA KASATKINA

/ Australia

**Born** 7 May 1997, Togliatti, Russia

**Height** 170cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,483,162

**Career Prize Money** \$14,239,744

**Singles Titles** 8

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.37

**Highest Singles Rank** No.8  
(October 2022)

**2025 Highlights** QF Adelaide;  
4R Australian Open, Roland  
Garros; 3R Wimbledon, US Open

**AO Best Result** 4R 2025

**AO 2025** No.9 SEED 1R d Tomova,  
2R d Wang, 3R d [24] Putintseva,  
4R I [8] Navarro

► Perhaps the most notable 2025 moment for Kasatkina came in March, with the news the Russian-born athlete would represent Australia after attaining permanent residency. Soon afterwards, the proud LGBTQI+ athlete announced her engagement to Olympian Natalia Zabilako. Indifferent results and the grind of the tour saw the 28-year-old wrap her season early after starting 2025 inside the world's top 10. Yet she still managed second-week finishes at the AO and Roland Garros and won 10 Grand Slam matches over the year - her highest total since 2018. At Australian Open 2026 Kasatkina will compete for the first time representing her adopted country, in what will no doubt be a positive boost after a challenging season.

World No.

38



## ANN LI

/ USA

**Born** 26 June 2000, King of Prussia, United States

**Height** 170cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,139,987

**Career Prize Money** \$3,076,396

**Singles Titles** 2

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.38

**Highest Singles Rank** No.33  
(October 2025)

**2025 Highlights** W Guangzhou;  
F Singapore, Cleveland; QF Rabat,  
Prague; 4R US Open

**AO Best Result** 3R 2021

**AO 2025** UNSEED 1R I [19] Keys

► The 25-year-old American rose to the cusp of the top 30 in a breakout 2025 season highlighted by reaching three WTA singles finals - the third of which she won in Guangzhou for her second career title. Yet perhaps the most significant result was her fourth-round run on home soil at the US Open. Following on from her Cleveland final a week earlier, Li stunned top-20 star Bencic en route to recording her best Grand Slam result. The daughter of Chinese college athletes (her father in soccer, mother in track and field), Li has a training base in Atlanta and is one of nine American women in the top 40. Having opened her season in Auckland at world No.96, Li proved one the more significant risers in the 2025 rankings.

World No.

39



## JAQUELINE CRISTIAN

/ Romania

**Born** 5 June 1998, Bucharest, Romania

**Height** 182cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,135,782

**Career Prize Money** \$2,919,659

**Singles Titles** 0

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.39

**Highest Singles Rank** No.39 (October 2025)

**2025 Highlights** F Rabat; SF Iasi, Osaka; 3R Australian Open, Roland Garros, US Open

**AO Best Result** 3R 2025

**AO 2025** UNSEEDED 1R d Martic, 2R d Bronzetti, 3R l Lys

➤ Prior to 2025 Cristian had never gone beyond the second round at a Grand Slam - a milestone she accomplished three times in the past year to help her crack the world's top 40. At her best on clay thanks to a combination of gritty consistency and aggressive ballstriking, Cristian won 12 of 18 matches on the surface in 2025, with third-round finishes in Rome and Roland Garros either side of reaching the Rabat final, her first WTA singles final in four years. The 27-year-old Romanian later reached another claycourt semifinal, on home soil in Iasi, before closing the year strongly on hard courts, reaching third rounds in Montreal and New York and a semifinal in Osaka. She also hoisted a WTA 125K trophy in Puerto Vallarta.

World No.

40



## EVA LYS

/ Germany

**Born** 12 January 2002, Kyiv, Ukraine

**Height** 165cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,170,588

**Career Prize Money** \$1,990,446

**Singles Titles** 0

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.40

**Highest Singles Rank** No.40 (November 2025)

**2025 Highlights** QF Beijing, Cleveland; 4R Australian Open; 3R Montreal

**AO Best Result** 4R 2025

**AO 2025** UNSEEDED 1R d Birrell, 2R d Gracheva, 3R d Cristian, 4R l [2] Swiatek

➤ Lys began the season in Brisbane qualifying ranked world No.131, then fell at the final hurdle of AO 2025 qualifying. But with the withdrawal of Kalinskaya, she sneaked into the main draw - beginning a fairytale run to the fourth round that completely changed her trajectory. The German, who was born in Ukraine, was suddenly a top-100 player with boosted career earnings, which she leveraged to complete a breakout season. Her quarterfinal appearance at the WTA 1000 event in Beijing, including an upset of 10th-ranked Rybakina, vaulted her inside the top 45, and she will return to Melbourne Park one year on as a direct entrant, comfortably. Lys' inspirational ascent has helped her amass more than 260,000 Instagram followers.

World No.

41



## TATJANA MARIA

/ Germany

**Born** 8 August 1987, Bad Saulgau, Germany

**Height** 172cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$879,095

**Career Prize Money** \$6,668,009

**Singles Titles** 4

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.41

**Highest Singles Rank** No.36 (July 2025)

**2025 Highlights** W Queen's; QF Bogota; Guadalajara; 2R Australian Open

**AO Best Result** 2R 2009, 2016, 2024, 2025

**AO 2025** UNSEEDED 1R d Pera, 2R l Tauson

► Maria's fairytale run to the Queen's title was one of the feel-good stories of 2025. It was the first time women's pro players were competing at London's Queen's Club in 52 years. Maria began the week in qualifying before flummoxing Muchova, Rybakina, Keys and Anisimova - all top-15 opponents - to win the biggest title of her career, with daughters Charlotte (age 12) and Cecilia (four) watching court-side. It made her the oldest player, at 37, to win a women's tournament at that level. Off the main tour, Maria reached the WTA 125 final in Newport, also on grass, and the W100 ITF tournament in Bengaluru, India, results that helped her attain a career-high ranking of world No.36 just a few weeks before turning 38.

World No.

42



## JESSICA BOUZAS MANEIRO

/ Spain

**Born** 24 September 2002, Galicia, Spain

**Height** 170cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,300,423

**Career Prize Money** \$2,297,175

**Singles Titles** 2

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.42

**Highest Singles Rank** No.40 (August 2025)

**2025 Highlights** QF Montreal, Rouen, Rabat; 4R Wimbledon, Cincinnati; 3R Roland Garros, Beijing

**AO Best Result** 2R 2025

**AO 2025** UNSEEDED 1R d Kartal, 2R l [1] Sabalenka

► The No.2 Spanish woman behind Badosa, Bouzas Maneiro was on fire in mid-2025. From the start of Wimbledon, where she made the fourth round, to when she beat Taylor Townsend to reach the same stage at Cincinnati, the 23-year-old won 10 of 12 matches and climbed from 62nd to 40th in just five weeks. Earlier, she surrendered just one game in a first-round upset of world No.9 Navarro at Roland Garros. It continued her penchant for big-name upsets, after she stunned defending champion Vondrousova, then No.6, in the opening round at 2024 Wimbledon. Bouzas Maneiro has the letters 'Shh' tattooed on her index finger, directed at doubters in her career journey.



World No.

43



## MARIE BOUZKOVA

/ Czechia

**Born** 21 July 1998, Prague, Czechia

**Height** 180cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,044,843

**Career Prize Money** \$6,368,548

**Singles Titles** 2

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.43

**Highest Singles Rank** No.24 (December 2022)

**2025 Highlights** W Prague; SF Monterrey; QF Brisbane, Bogota; 4R Beijing; 3R Roland Garros

**AO Best Result** 2R 2022

**AO 2025** UNSEEDED 1R | [14] Andreeva

► The likeable Czech's 2025 highlight came when she won the tournament in Prague - her city of birth - over compatriot Noskova for her second career title. That result, plus reaching at least the quarterfinal stage at four events, helped her end a fourth consecutive season inside the top 50. Bouzkova, who left Prague as a child to develop her game in Florida, is a previous winner of the annual WTA Karen Krantzcke Sportsmanship Award. But she remains a fearsome competitor, with her fitness and consistency carrying her to the Wimbledon quarterfinals in 2022 - the same year she peaked inside the top 25 - and WTA 1000-level semifinals in Toronto (2019) and Guadalajara (2022). She also beat four top-20 players in 2025.

World No.

44



## SORANA CIRSTEA

/ Romania

**Born** 7 April 1990, Bucharest, Romania

**Height** 176cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,076,818

**Career Prize Money** \$10,824,928

**Singles Titles** 3

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.44

**Highest Singles Rank** No.21 (August 2013)

**2025 Highlights** W Cleveland; SF Iasi, Osaka; QF Dubai, Austin, Hong Kong; 4R Cincinnati

**AO Best Result** 4R 2017, 2022

**AO 2025** UNSEEDED 1R | [28] Svitolina

► The Romanian veteran, who burst to prominence in 2009 with a quarterfinal appearance at Roland Garros, remains a successful presence at elite level. Since the start of last year's WTA 1000 tournament in Cincinnati, where she reached the fourth round, Cirstea won 19 of her next 26 matches and improved her ranking to 45th, after slipping to 169th in June. That run also included her third career title - and first in four years - in Cleveland, where she started as a qualifier. Her ascent was especially impressive given injury restricted her to just two events between Miami and Wimbledon. In doubles, Cirstea claimed the 1000-level crown in Madrid and at age 35, she remains a top-60 player in both singles and doubles.

World No.

45



## ASHLYN KRUEGER

/ USA

**Born** 7 May 2004, Dallas, United States

**Height** 185cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,210,417

**Career Prize Money** \$2,877,529

**Singles Titles** 1

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.45

**Highest Singles Rank** No.29  
(July 2025)

**2025 Highlights** F Abu Dhabi;  
QF Brisbane, Adelaide; 4R Miami;  
2R Roland Garros, Wimbledon,  
US Open

**AO Best Result** 1R 2024, 2025

**AO 2025** UNSEEDDED 1R I [WC]  
Tomljanovic

➤ Krueger began the 2025 season in sizzling form, notching three quarterfinal appearances - the third of which she went beyond to reach her biggest career final in Abu Dhabi. By the time she was into the fourth round in Miami, Krueger had built a 15-8 win-loss record and later peaked at world No.29. After Miami she failed to win consecutive matches for the rest of the season, but at just 21 years old, she has plenty of time to recalibrate. She completed a third consecutive top-100 season, improving on her year-end ranking each time. Tall and imposing at 185cm, and an admirer of aggressive baseliners Kim Clijsters and Maria Sharapova, Krueger forms part of a wave of young American stars rising in women's tennis.

World No.

46



## LAURA SIEGEMUND

/ Germany

**Born** 4 March 1988, Filderstadt, Germany

**Height** 168cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,725,387

**Career Prize Money** \$8,030,304

**Singles Titles** 2

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.46

**Highest Singles Rank** No.27  
(August 2016)

**2025 Highlights** QF Wimbledon,  
Wuhan; 3R Australian Open,  
US Open, Rome.

**AO Best Result** 3R 2016, 2023,  
2025

**AO 2025** UNSEEDDED 1R d Baptiste,  
2R d [5] Zheng, 3R I [27]  
Pavlyuchenkova

➤ At age 37, Siegemund enjoyed the best Grand Slam season of her career in 2025, with a Wimbledon quarterfinal accompanied by third-round finishes at the Australian and US Opens. She was brilliant at the All England Club, outplaying Fernandez and Keys en route to the last eight where she pushed world No.1 Sabalenka in a Centre Court thriller - all while ranked outside the top 100. Extremely fit, fiercely competitive, tactically astute and armed with a psychology degree, Siegemund later advanced to the WTA 1000 quarterfinals in Wuhan. That performance returned her to the top 40 for the first time since 2017, with Siegemund now approaching the peak world No.27 ranking she attained almost 10 years ago.

World No.

47



## ANASTASIA PAVLYUCHENKOVA

**Born** 3 July 1991, Samara, Russia

**Height** 176cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,406,165

**Career Prize Money** \$15,906,252

**Singles Titles** 12

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.47

**Highest Singles Rank** No.11  
(November 2021)

**2025 Highlights** SF Eastbourne;  
QF Australian Open, Wimbledon;  
2R US Open, Rome, Abu Dhabi,  
Cincinnati

**AO Best Result** QF 2017, 2019,  
2020, 2025

**AO 2025** No.27 SEED 1R d Yuan,  
2R d Potapova, 3R d Siegemund,  
4R d [18] Vekic, QF I [1] Sabalenka

➤ Melbourne is a happy hunting ground for Pavlyuchenkova, the AO junior champion of 2006 and 2007 who has since reached four women's singles quarterfinals - her most appearances in the last eight at any of the four majors. She reached the same stage in 2025, her experience and stylish ball-striking helped her upset 18th seed Vekic in the fourth round, then pushed top-ranked Sabalenka to three sets. She was also a Wimbledon quarterfinalist, the first time in 14 years she'd reached multiple Slam quarterfinals in one season. It was impressive considering the 34-year-old was restricted to just 28 matches in 2025 while dealing with a pulled hamstring and Epstein-Barr virus. She has ended 16 of the past 18 seasons inside the world's top 50.

World No.

48



## EMILIANA ARANGO

/ Colombia

**Born** 28 November 2000,  
Medellin, Colombia

**Height** 172cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$745,510

**Career Prize Money** \$1,315,825

**Singles Titles** 0

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.48

**Highest Singles Rank** No.46  
(October 2025)

**2025 Highlights** F Merida,  
Guadalajara; 2R Roland Garros,  
Rome, Hong Kong

**AO Best Result** Q1 2024, 2025

**AO 2025 QUALIFYING** 1QR I [30]  
Snigur

➤ Arango thrived in Mexico more than anywhere in 2025. It was where the 25-year-old reached two tour-level finals - the first two of her career - and where she claimed the Cancun WTA 125 title. The Cancun crown preceded her run, as a qualifier, to the WTA 500 Merida final; she built an 11-match winning streak which pushed her from world No.169 to inside the top 80. In September, Arango's progress to the Guadalajara final boosted her inside the top 50 for the first time. The Colombian, who idolised Rafael Nadal as a junior and is distinct for playing with her cap turned backwards, is now based in Florida. She will make her Australian Open main-draw debut in 2026 after competing in the qualifying rounds in 2024 and 2025.

World No.

49



## KATERINA SINIAKOVA

/ Czechia

**Born** 10 May 1996, Hradec Kralove, Czechia

**Height** 174cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$2,146,427

**Career Prize Money** \$14,944,350

**Singles Titles** 5

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.49

**Highest Singles Rank** No.27  
(June 2024)

**2025 Highlights** SF Cluj-Napoca, Seoul; QF Wuhan, Prague; 3R Indian Wells

**AO Best Result** 2R 2015, 2018, 2024

► The world No.1 doubles player also proved a strong singles performer in 2025. She began the season inside the top 50, dipped as low as 89th in August, but returned to that bracket with a quarterfinal run at Wuhan, a WTA 1000 event. Winning through qualifying at six tournaments and scooping the WTA 125 title in Warsaw helped the Czech win almost 40 singles matches in 2025, all while she thrived at the biggest doubles events. She won her 10th major doubles title at the Australian Open, her favourite tournament, alongside Taylor Townsend. Now 29, Siniakova has been a force on tour for more than a decade, completing the doubles career Slam, winning two Olympic gold medals and becoming a Billie Jean King Cup champion for Czechia.

World No.

50



## ALEXANDRA EALA

/ Philippines

**Born** 23 May 2005, Quezon City, Philippines

**Height** 175cm

**Plays** Left-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$907,777

**Career Prize Money** \$1,363,685

**Singles Titles** 0

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.50

**Highest Singles Rank** No.50  
(November 2025)

**2025 Highlights** F Eastbourne; SF Miami; QF Sao Paolo

**AO Best Result** Making main-draw debut

**AO 2025 QUALIFYING** 1R [27] Fett

► After falling in the first round of AO 2025 qualifying, Eala returns to Melbourne as the first Filipino to crack the world's top 50. Her rise into the upper echelon was sparked by a life-changing run at the WTA 1000 tournament in Miami, where Eala - aged 19 and ranked No.140 - stunned Ostapenko, Keys, Badosa and Swiatek to reach the semifinals. A first WTA final on grass in Eastbourne followed, and she made more history at the US Open, upsetting No.14 Tauson to become the first player from her nation to win a main-draw match at a major. Now 20 and based at the Rafa Nadal Academy in Mallorca, the hard-hitting left-hander is already a huge star in her homeland - and a player to watch in her Australian Open main-draw debut.

*Carlos Alcaraz*



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World No. **1****DID YOU KNOW**

If Alcaraz could steal one skill from any player, past or present, he'd take Andre Agassi's legendary return of serve.

# CARLOS ALCARAZ

/ Spain

**Born** 5 May 2003, El Palmar, Spain**Height** 183cm**Plays** Right-handed**2025 Prize Money** \$18,803,427**Career Prize Money** \$57,480,695**Singles Titles** 24**2025 Year-End Rank** No.1**Highest Singles Rank** No.1  
(September 2022)**2025 Highlights** W Roland Garros, US Open, Rotterdam, Monte Carlo, Rome, Queen's, Cincinnati, Tokyo; F Wimbledon, ATP Finals, Barcelona; SF Indian Wells; QF Australian Open, Doha**AO Best Result** QF 2024, 2025**AO 2025** No.3 SEED 1R d Shevchenko, 2R d Nishioka, 3R d Borges, 4R d [15] Draper, QF I [7] Djokovic

> With a dazzling smile, a shock-and-awe forehand and the deftest of drop shots, Carlos Alcaraz capped a magnificent 2025 with two more major trophies among his eight titles and finished as year-end world No.1 for the second time.

On the red-clay canvas, the explosive Spaniard edged rival Jannik Sinner in a Roland Garros decider considered among the greatest major finals contested.

After surrendering his Wimbledon crown to the Italian champion, the 22-year-old rebounded with distinction at the scene of his first Grand Slam triumph in New York with a US Open stunner.

A daredevil on the court who is the ultimate prime-time performer, the six-time major winner arrives in Melbourne seeking to add the missing piece to his Slam puzzle and set a new mark in tennis.

Despite possessing a style suitable to the hard courts of Melbourne Park, the dynamo is yet to produce his best at the Australian Open - though he has reached the quarterfinals for the past two years.

Should the Prince of Murcia break through for a first AO title in 2026, he will become the youngest man in history to win all four Grand Slams in another measure of his greatness.

A showman on court, Alcaraz revels in thrilling fans all over the world with his vast repertoire of brilliance, but he is also renowned for his sportsmanship and grace.

The Spaniard is a shining light whose star will only brighten if he happens to prevail on the final Sunday in Melbourne.

**Grand Slam record**

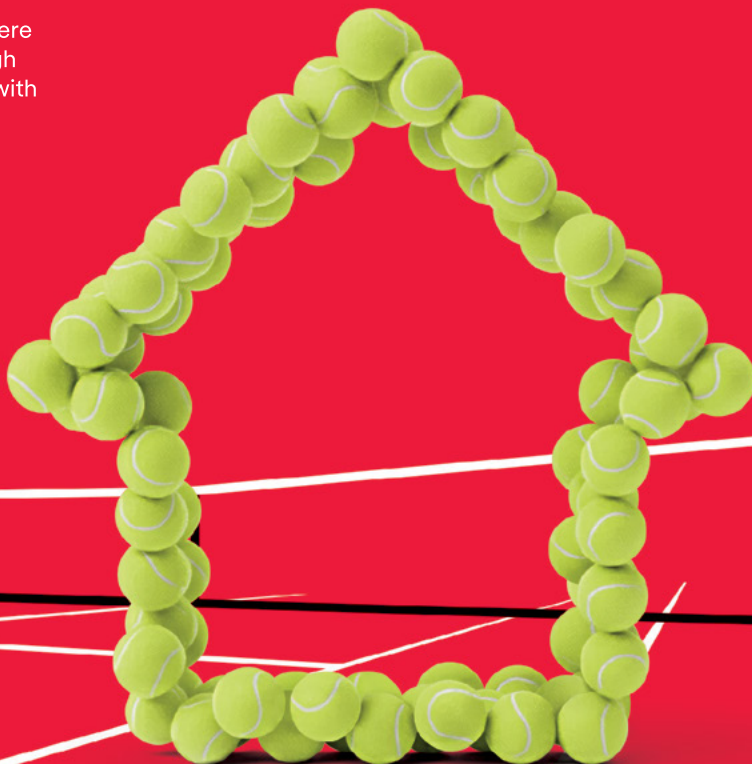
Grand Slam/Year	Career	25	24	23	22	21
Australian Open	11-4	QF	QF	-	3R	2R
Roland Garros	25-3	W	W	SF	QF	3R
Wimbledon	24-3	F	W	W	4R	2R
US Open	24-3	W	2R	SF	W	QF

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World No. **2**

2026 Player Profiles Men's Singles

## JANNIK SINNER

/ Italy

**Born** 16 August 2001, San Candido, Italy

**Height** 191cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$19,114,396

**Career Prize Money** \$56,632,426

**Singles Titles** 24

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.2

**Highest Singles Rank** No.1  
(June 2024)

**2025 Highlights** W Australian Open, Wimbledon, ATP Finals, Paris, Beijing, Vienna; F Roland Garros, US Open, Rome, Cincinnati

**AO Best Result** Champion 2024, 2025

**AO 2025** No.1 SEED 1R d Jarry, 2R d [WC] Schoolkate, 3R d Giron, 4R d [13] Rune, QF d [8] De Minaur, SF d [21] Shelton, F d [2] Zverev

➤ It speaks volumes about the desire and hunger of Jannik Sinner that, even after his biggest career triumph, he resolved to tinker with his game to keep pace with his greatest rival.

The Italian sensation is another crowd favourite in Australia and not solely because his co-coach Darren Cahill hails from Adelaide and has a rich history in tennis.

Sinner is seeking a hat-trick of AO titles, a feat which only Novak Djokovic in the Open era and Aussie greats Roy Emerson in the 1960s and Jack Crawford in the 1930s have matched.

A star skier as a boy whose skills on the slopes were put to good use by a luxury clothing sponsor in an ad campaign that went viral last year, Sinner is a smooth mover on the court.

Despite missing three months due to a suspension, he enjoyed a sublime season in 2025, which included a first Wimbledon crown after a superb win over Carlos Alcaraz.

He was oh so close at Roland Garros too, having held three championship points against the Spaniard in the decider and like his loss to Alcaraz in the US Open final, it compelled him to improve.

Rather than being satisfied with a level that already identified him as a great, Sinner realised he needed to add variety to his game, which was evident in late-season title runs in Vienna, Paris and Turin, where he defended his ATP Finals trophy.

While Alcaraz chases history at the Australian Open and Novak Djokovic is the King of Melbourne Park, Sinner is the man to beat.

### Grand Slam record

Grand Slam/Year	Career	25	24	23	22	21	20	19
Australian Open	22-4	W	W	4R	QF	1R	2R	-
Roland Garros	22-6	F	SF	2R	4R	4R	QF	-
Wimbledon	20-4	W	QF	SF	QF	1R	-	-
US Open	23-6	F	W	4R	QF	4R	1R	1R



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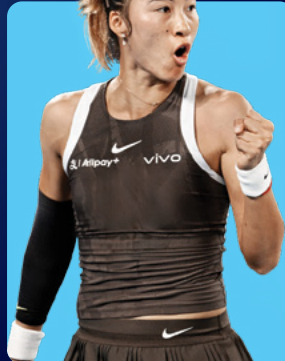
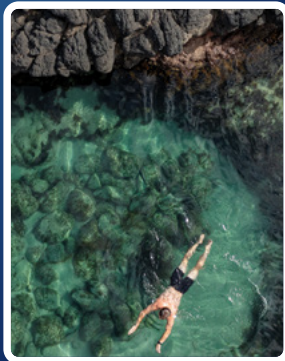
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World No. **3****ALEXANDER  
ZVEREV**

/ Germany

**Born** 20 April 1997, Hamburg, Germany**Height** 198cm**Plays** Right-handed**2025 Prize Money** \$5,976,268**Career Prize Money** \$56,726,536**Singles Titles** 24**2025 Year-End Rank** No.3**Highest Singles Rank** No.2  
(June 2022)**2025 Highlights** W Munich; F Australian Open, Stuttgart, Vienna; SF Halle, Toronto, Cincinnati, Paris; QF Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Rome, Roland Garros, Beijing**AO Best Result** Final 2025**AO 2025** No.2 SEED 1R d [WC] Pouille, 2R d Martinez, 3R d Fearnley, 4R d [14] Humbert, QF d [12] Paul, SF d [7] Djokovic, F I [1] Sinner

> A high-quality performer, Alexander Zverev's exceptional tennis was on full display at Melbourne Park last year when he reached the final against Jannik Sinner in his best Australian Open performance.

Zverev, who possesses a powerful serve and an exceptional backhand, is a threat in any tournament he contests

and has been among the world's best players for a decade. The tall German, whose elder brother Mischa reached an Australian Open quarterfinal, hails from a tennis family, with both his parents accomplished players for the former Soviet Union.

That Zverev, who has also reached finals at Roland Garros and the US Open, has been able to carve out a career of such distinction is a credit to his resilience and determination to overcome the odds given he suffers from type 1 diabetes.

He is twice the winner of the ATP Tour Finals and also has seven ATP Masters titles to his name, a further demonstration of his standing on the court.

The 28-year-old, who featured in the second season of the Netflix documentary *Break Point*, is still chasing an elusive Grand Slam title but won an Olympic gold medal in Tokyo in 2021 and has been ranked as high as No.2.

While Carlos Alcaraz and Sinner split the Grand Slam titles between them for the past two seasons, Zverev has been the man next most likely to have achieved a major breakthrough given his weaponry and record against the world's best.

**Grand Slam record**

Grand Slam/Year	Career	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15
Australian Open	31-10	F	SF	2R	4R	QF	SF	4R	3R	3R	1R	-
Roland Garros	38-10	QF	F	SF	SF	SF	4R	QF	QF	1R	3R	-
Wimbledon	16-9	1R	4R	3R	-	4R	-	1R	3R	4R	3R	2R
US Open	28-10	3R	QF	QF	-	SF	F	4R	3R	2R	2R	1R

**Did you know**

Zverev has launched a charity to support children suffering from type 1 diabetes, which provides life-saving insulin and other medicines, including in developing nations.



# NOVAK DJOKOVIC

/ Serbia

**Born** 22 May 1987, Belgrade, Serbia

**Height** 188cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$5,127,245

**Career Prize Money** \$191,252,375

**Singles Titles** 101

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.4

**Highest Singles Rank** No.1  
(July 2011)

**2025 Highlights** W Geneva, Athens; F Miami; SF Australian Open, Roland Garros, Wimbledon, US Open, Shanghai; QF Brisbane

**AO Best Result** Champion 2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023

**AO 2025** No.7 SEED 1R d [WC] Basavareddy, 2R d [Q] Faria, 3R d [26] Machac, 4R d [24] Lehecka, QF d [3] Alcaraz, SF l [2] Zverev

➤ A global icon and a favourite among Australian Open crowds given his astonishing success here and around the world, Novak Djokovic is the King of Melbourne Park.

Cite a tennis record and Djokovic is certain to hold it - from his 24 Grand Slam titles to his 10 Australian Open triumphs, his 40 ATP Masters 1000 victories, his seven year-end ATP Tour Finals wins and most weeks at world No.1 with 428.

The mighty Serbian, who can be spotted reviving his spiritual senses in the Melbourne Botanic Gardens during visits to the city, remains a phenomenon even at age 38. He reached another landmark last year by claiming his 100th ATP Tour title.

While a Grand Slam title eluded him in 2025, the mastermind managed to make the semifinals of all four majors again in a demonstration he remained a significant title threat.

Having scaled the greatest heights in tennis, the father of two to son Stefan and daughter Tara now chooses when and where to play. Even on a reduced schedule he still finished last season in the world's top four.

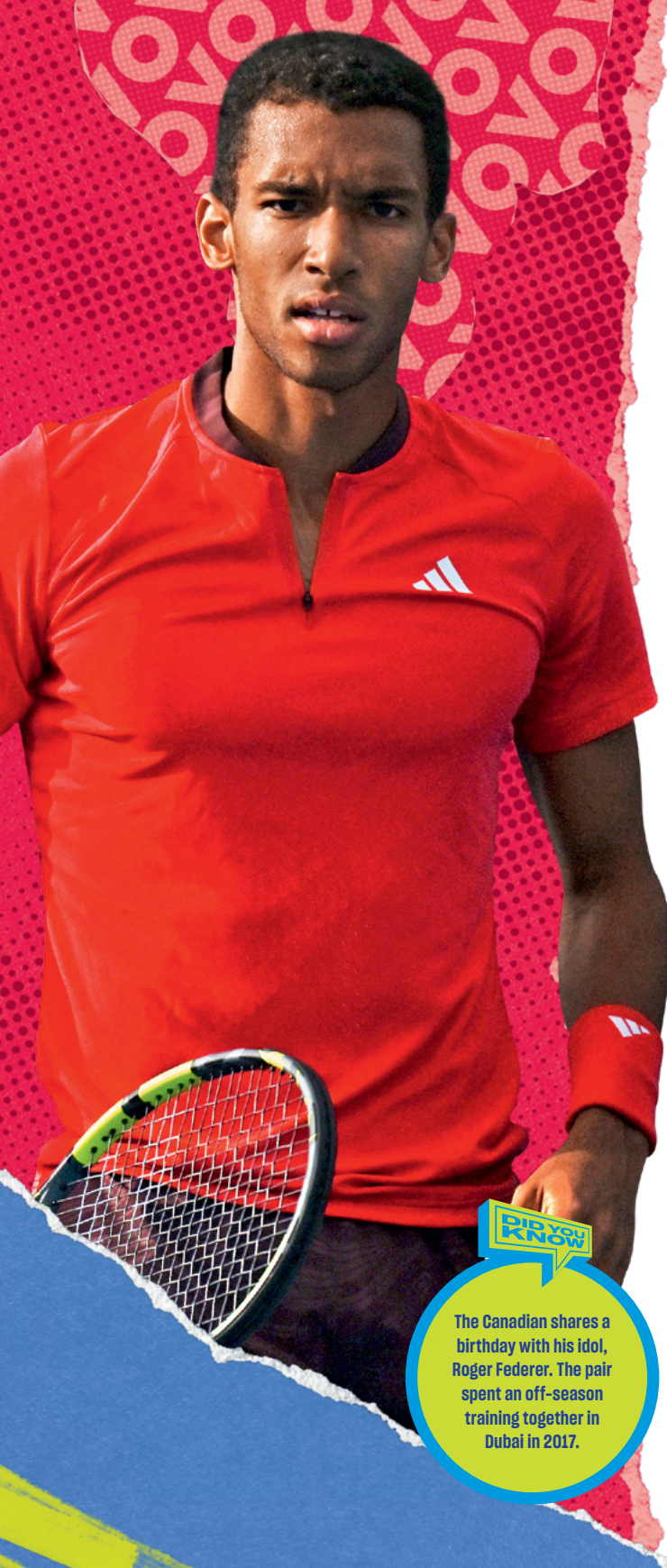
During a period of war in his homeland, Djokovic honed his game by practising in a disused swimming pool. Now he is hailed on the grandest stages for his contribution to sport as one of the globe's greatest athletes.

Entering his 21st Australian Open, Djokovic will set a new mark if successful, with Aussie icon Ken Rosewall the oldest man to win a major when aged 37.

Given his remarkable history, Melbourne might yet prove the scene of another astonishing feat for the aggressive baseliner.

**Grand Slam record**

Grand Slam/Year	Career	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	09	08	07	06	05
Australian Open	99-10	SF	SF	W	-	W	W	W	4R	2R	W	W	QF	W	W	W	QF	QF	W	4R	1R	1R
Roland Garros	101-17	SF	QF	W	QF	W	F	SF	QF	QF	W	F	F	SF	F	SF	QF	3R	SF	SF	QF	2R
Wimbledon	102-13	SF	F	F	W	W	-	W	W	QF	3R	W	W	F	SF	W	SF	QF	2R	SF	4R	3R
US Open	95-15	SF	3R	W	-	F	4R	4R	W	-	F	W	SF	F	F	W	F	SF	SF	F	3R	3R



World No. **5**

# FELIX AUGER-ALIASSIME

/ Canada

**Born** 8 August 2000, Montreal, Canada

**Height** 193cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$5,228,696

**Career Prize Money** \$19,671,882

**Singles Titles** 8

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.5

**Highest Singles Rank** No.5 (November 2025)

**2025 Highlights** W Adelaide, Montpellier, Brussels; F Paris, Dubai; SF US Open, ATP Finals, Doha, Hamburg, Stuttgart, Mallorca, Brussels; QF Cincinnati, Shanghai, Basel

**AO Best Result** QF 2022

**AO 2025:** No.29 SEED 1R d Struff, 2R l Davidovich Fokina

> The Canadian plays with an athleticism and verve that brings a smile to fans' faces, with much to be happy about after returning to his brilliant best in 2025.

Felix Auger-Aliassime, who featured in a historic Davis Cup success for Canada in 2022, possesses on his serve and forehand and is an exceptional mover, which enables his aggressive approach to tennis.

The creativity extends off the

court, with the talented 25-year-old a capable pianist who would have pursued a career in music or dance if not for his prowess on the tennis court.

It was a big season for the right-hander in 2025 after he made the semifinals of the US Open - where he won the boys' singles a decade ago - for the second time after an initial run in 2021.

The 25-year-old carried that form into a strong finish to the season, which included progress to the final of the Paris Masters, which thrust him into the frame for the ATP Tour Finals.

Auger-Aliassime is highly regarded for his deeds off the court. He was awarded the ATP Tour's Arthur Ashe Humanitarian Award in 2023 for his work for children in Togo, the country from which his father hails. The program has expanded in recent years to assist teenagers from disadvantaged communities attend university.

He arrives for the Australian Open newly married after his wedding to Nina Ghaibi - whose cousin is Australian player Ajla Tomljanovic - in Morocco in September.

**DID YOU KNOW**  
The Canadian shares a birthday with his idol, Roger Federer. The pair spent an off-season training together in Dubai in 2017.

### Grand Slam record

Grand Slam/Year	Career	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18
Australian Open	13-6	2R	3R	4R	QF	4R	1R	-	-
Roland Garros	6-6	1R	4R	1R	4R	1R	1R	-	-
Wimbledon	7-6	2R	1R	1R	1R	QF	-	3R	-
US Open	14-8	SF	1R	1R	2R	SF	4R	1R	1R



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World No.

6

## TAYLOR FRITZ

/ USA

**Born** 28 October 1997, Rancho Santa Fe, United States

**Height** 196cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$5,456,536

**Career Prize Money** \$28,433,481

**Singles Titles** 10

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.6

**Highest Singles Rank** No.4 (November 2024)

**2025 Highlights** W United Cup, Stuttgart, Eastbourne; F Tokyo; SF Wimbledon, Miami, Toronto; QF US Open, Delray Beach, Geneva, Washington

**AO Best Result** QF 2024

**AO 2025** No.4 SEED 1R d Brooksby, 2R d [Q] Garin, 3R l Monfils

> The most consistent flagbearer among a crop of American men, Taylor Fritz has carved out an impressive career, which is hardly a surprise given the weapons at his disposal.

A US Open finalist in 2024 and among the stars of the Netflix documentary *Break Point*, Fritz is renowned for a poised persona.

Identified as a future star after winning the US Open boys'

singles in 2015, the right-hander boasts a prodigious serve and a forehand that allows him to dictate terms to his rivals.

The 28-year-old was born into a tennis family, with his mum, Kathy May, a former top-10 player and his dad, Guy Fritz, a professional coach.

Raised in San Diego, the Californian became the pride of his home state when he claimed its biggest event, and one of the world's biggest tournaments, at Indian Wells over Rafael Nadal in 2022.

A father to son Jordan, Fritz is highly sought after by global brands given the quality of his tennis and personality, and loves to spend downtime gaming.

His long-term partner Morgan Riddle is a high-profile influencer who provides behind-the-scenes insight into life on tour, among other business interests, which has furthered Fritz's profile.

A Wimbledon 2025 semifinalist, the 28-year-old knows what it is like to contend on the biggest stages and has the experience and talent to be a threat in every tournament he plays.

### Grand Slam record

Grand Slam/Year	Career	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16
Australian Open	16-9	3R	QF	2R	4R	3R	3R	3R	-	1R	1R
Roland Garros	10-9	1R	4R	3R	2R	2R	3R	2R	1R	-	1R
Wimbledon	18-9	SF	QF	2R	QF	3R	-	2R	2R	1R	1R
US Open	20-10	QF	F	QF	1R	2R	3R	1R	3R	2R	1R

DID YOU KNOW

Fritz says if he could face anyone in history, it would be two dream matches: one against Pete Sampras and one against Andre Agassi.

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World No.

7

# ALEX DE MINAUR

/ Australia

**Born** 17 February 1999, Sydney, Australia

**Height** 183cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$5,192,227

**Career Prize Money** \$21,101,894

**Singles Titles** 10

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.7

**Highest Singles Rank** No.6 (July 2024)

**2025 Highlights** W Washington; F Rotterdam; SF ATP Finals, Monte Carlo, Beijing, Vienna; QF Australian Open, US Open, Shanghai, Doha, Barcelona, Toronto, Paris; 4R Wimbledon

**AO Best Result** QF 2025

**AO 2025** No.8 SEED 1R d van de Zandschulp, 2R d [Q] Boyer, 3R d [31] Cerundolo, 4R d Michelsen, QF l [1] Sinner

> What is there not to love about Alex de Minaur, the Aussie No.1 and the nation's leading hope at this year's Australian Open?

From the magnificence of his tennis to his easy-going off-court demeanour, 'Demon' has carried the role as Australia's standard-bearer with distinction, following Ash Barty's retirement.

The Davis Cup stalwart, who first picked up a racquet when his mother, Esther, spotted an

advertisement for young players while walking in Sydney, has matured into a global star.

With athleticism a trademark, De Minaur showed his renowned fighting spirit when he saved three championship points against Alejandro Davidovich Fokina to claim a 10th ATP title in Washington last year.

He went on to become the first Australian to qualify for back-to-back ATP Tour Finals since Lleyton Hewitt two decades ago. By reaching the semifinals, he ended the season just shy of his career-high ranking.

It was not only speed that elevated De Minaur into the top echelon. The 26-year-old has the ability to find acute angles, with his court craft and smarts, plus proficiency at the net, helping him to counter rivals with more powerful weapons.

The Aussie, who is engaged to British player Katie Boulter, is an aficionado of classic cars and is building a classy collection of his own at his European base.

When it comes to making the second week of Grand Slams, few can match the dedication and consistency of the right-hander, who is leaving no stone unturned in his bid to take another step forward in 2026.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Following his Davis Cup debut in 2018, De Minaur had '109' tattooed above his heart, marking his place as the 109th man to represent Australia.

## Grand Slam record

Grand Slam/Year	Career	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17
Australian Open	18-8	QF	4R	4R	4R	3R	-	3R	1R	2R
Roland Garros	8-9	2R	QF	2R	1R	2R	1R	2R	1R	1R
Wimbledon	13-6	4R	QF	2R	4R	1R	-	2R	3R	-
US Open	22-9	QF	QF	4R	3R	1R	QF	4R	3R	1R



# LORENZO MUSETTI

/ Italy

**Born** 3 March 2002, Carrara, Italy

**Height** 185cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$4,682,629

**Career Prize Money** \$12,672,607

**Singles Titles** 2

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.8

**Highest Singles Rank** No.6  
(June 2025)

**2025 Highlights** F Monte Carlo, Chengdu, Athens; SF Roland Garros, Madrid, Rome, Vienna; QF US Open, Hong Kong, Buenos Aires, Beijing, Brussels

**AO Best Result** 3R 2025

**AO 2025** No.16 SEED 1R d Arnaldi, 2R d Shapovalov, 3R l [21] Shelton

> A versatile Italian with a pleasing game style, Lorenzo Musetti is adept on all surfaces and has matured into a player

## DID YOU KNOW

Despite being the lone top-10 player with a one-handed backhand, Musetti believes modern tennis is too difficult to compete this way. If his son plays, he "would want him to have a two-handed backhand".

capable of contending at all four Grand Slams.

The right-hander, who modelled his fluid single-handed backhand on Roger Federer's, demonstrated his prowess as a junior in Melbourne when he won the Australian Open 2019 boys' singles title. Fondly known as 'Muse', he has continued to flourish thanks to his spectacular shotmaking.

Musetti has enjoyed great success for Italy - he clinched a bronze medal at the Paris Olympics last year to accompany his membership of the triumphant Davis Cup teams in 2023 and 2024.

The 23-year-old became a father to son Ludovico almost two years ago and he and his partner Veronica Confalonieri announced last May they were expecting a second child.

Musetti, whose father is a marble producer, is a passionate music lover and listens to classic rock whenever he wants to relax and tune out from tennis.

He is proud of his Italian identity, is a big fan of Juventus, has cited gnocchi with ragu as his pasta of choice and would love to own a Ferrari 458, according to his ATP profile.

### Grand Slam record

Grand Slam/Year	Career	25	24	23	22	21
Australian Open	3-4	3R	2R	1R	1R	-
Roland Garros	13-5	SF	3R	4R	1R	4R
Wimbledon	7-5	1R	SF	3R	1R	1R
US Open	9-5	QF	3R	1R	3R	2R



**DID YOU KNOW**

Shelton cracked the world's top 100 in 2022 without leaving the United States - winning three straight Challenger titles before getting his passport to play in Adelaide.

World No. **9**

2026 Player Profiles Men's Singles

## BEN SHELTON

/ USA

**Born** 9 October 2002, Atlanta, United States

**Height** 193cm

**Plays** Left-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$4,600,653

**Career Prize Money** \$10,269,951

**Singles Titles** 3

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.9

**Highest Singles Rank** No.6 (August 2025)

**2025 Highlights** W Toronto; F Munich; SF Australian Open, Stuttgart, Washington; QF Wimbledon, Indian Wells, Cincinnati, Paris

**AO Best Result** SF 2025

**AO 2025** No.21 SEED 1R d Nakashima, 2R d Carreno Busta, 3R d [16] Musetti, 4R d Monfils, QF d Sonego, SF I [1] Sinner

> An electric talent with a broad grin and even bigger game, Ben Shelton has become one of the game's most exciting players to watch. Anyone who witnessed his dynamic run to the Australian Open semifinals last year will appreciate he is a bona fide prime-time star.

The American, whose father and coach, Bryan Shelton, was a former world No.55, is blessed with a venomous serve that is both lightning quick and also

lively given the vast amount of spin he imparts on the ball.

Rivals have nightmares plotting how to return the chief weapon of a player who strengthened his shoulder when playing as a quarterback in American football as a child.

Shelton, who is in a relationship with US soccer star Trinity Rodman, has matured into a highly marketable athlete given his style and personality, and he promotes several major global brands.

The 23-year-old enjoyed another notable career breakthrough by making his top-10 debut midway through 2025.

It wasn't the only significant moment of the season for Shelton, who idolised Roger Federer as a junior.

The left-hander also clinched a maiden ATP Masters 1000 title in Toronto in August and qualified for the year-end ATP Finals.

As a younger talent, Shelton was renowned as a burst player who could blast winners from anywhere, particularly when setting points up with his monstrous serve.

But the dedication he has shown to rounding his game and boosting his fitness is the reason he is now a legitimate Grand Slam contender.

### Grand Slam record

Grand Slam/Year	Career	25	24	23	22
Australian Open	11-3	SF	3R	QF	-
Roland Garros	4-3	4R	3R	1R	-
Wimbledon	8-3	QF	4R	2R	-
US Open	9-4	3R	3R	SF	1R



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World No. **10****JACK  
DRAPER**

/ Great Britain

**Born** 22 December 2001, Sutton, England**Height** 193cm**Plays** Left-handed**2025 Prize Money** \$3,421,704**Career Prize Money** \$8,443,805**Singles Titles** 3**2025 Year-End Rank** No.10**Highest Singles Rank** No.4 (June 2025)**2025 Highlights** W Indian Wells; F Madrid, Doha; SF Queen's; QF Rome**AO Best Result** 4R 2025**AO 2025** No.15 SEED 1R d Navone, 2R d Kokkinakis, 3R d Vukic, 4R l [3] Alcaraz

> A powerhouse performer, Jack Draper delivered on his promise last season with a statement title run at Indian Wells in March, where he beat stars including Carlos Alcaraz on the way.

The left-hander, who has a booming serve and is extremely athletic for his height, has been touted as a potential Grand Slam winner from his teens.

His breakout run came at the US Open in 2024 when he reached the semifinals.

The biggest obstacle for Draper - who generates considerable topspin on his forehand - is staying healthy,

with injuries a regular hindrance for a player who peaked at world No.4 last June.

Despite a restricted preparation due to a hip problem, Draper reached the fourth round at the Australian Open last year. An arm injury subsequently ended his season prematurely after the US Open.

Identified as the heir apparent to Andy Murray in Great Britain after reaching the Wimbledon boys' singles final in 2018, the 23-year-old has handled that burden with distinction to date.

But Draper, who hails from a family with a rich tennis history - his father Roger is a former executive with Britain's Lawn Tennis Association - is not only adept on the court. By virtue of a global sponsorship portfolio, he has strutted the catwalk in fashion shows in Europe.

An avid soccer fan who follows Manchester United in the Premier League, Draper tunes in whenever possible and has received support from the club ahead of big matches.

If Draper arrives in Australia in good health, having spent the past four months rehabilitating an arm problem, he shapes as a contender given the sheer quality of his talent.

**Grand Slam record**

Grand Slam/Year	Career	25	24	23	22	21
Australian Open	4-3	4R	2R	1R	-	-
Roland Garros	3-3	4R	1R	1R	-	-
Wimbledon	3-4	2R	2R	-	2R	1R
US Open	11-3	2R	SF	4R	3R	-

**DID YOU KNOW**  
Draper's pre-match routine includes blasting rap and grime tracks from Central Cee, 50 Cent and Eminem. "You are what you listen to," he says. "If you listen to love songs, you're going to be in your feels."

World No.

11



## ALEXANDER BUBLIK

/ Kazakhstan

**Born** 17 June 1997, Gatchina, Russia

**Height** 196cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$2,905,991

**Career Prize Money** \$10,646,354

**Singles Titles** 8

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.11

**Highest Singles Rank** No.11 (November 2025)

**2025 Highlights:** W Halle, Gstaad, Kitzbuhel, Hangzhou; SF Paris; QF Roland Garros, Montpellier, Vienna

**AO Best Result** SF 2020

**AO 2025** UNSEEDED 1R I Gerundolo

> The enigmatic Kazakhstani star is a box-office talent - the kind of player you simply can't look away from when he's in full flight. In a career-best 2025 season, Bublik's talent and showmanship came together with thrilling effect. A powerful athlete capable of blasting winners off both wings and showing fine touch at the net, Bublik thrived with the realisation he belonged on the sport's biggest stages. The more eyes on him, the better he seems to play. After rallying from a two-set deficit against De Minaur at Roland Garros to reach his first Grand Slam quarterfinal, the electric right-hander went on to score his biggest career victory - over Sinner - en route to the Halle title, one of four trophies in a marquee year.

World No.

12



## CASPER RUUD

/ Norway

**Born** 22 December 1998, Oslo, Norway

**Height** 183cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$3,268,588

**Career Prize Money** \$26,128,848

**Singles Titles** 14

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.12

**Highest Singles Rank** No.2 (September 2022)

**2025 Highlights** W Madrid, Stockholm; F Dallas; SF Tokyo; QF Rome, Barcelona, Gstaad, Basel

**AO Best Result** 4R 2021

**AO 2025** No.6 SEED 1R d Munar 2R I Mensik,

> A three-time Grand Slam finalist - twice at Roland Garros and once at the US Open - Ruud has been ranked as high as world No.2 and is the most accomplished player to emerge from Norway. Popular with players and fans alike, Ruud's on-court fairness was recognised as the winner of the peer-voted Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award in 2022. Last year, he claimed his biggest career title at the ATP Masters 1000 tournament in Madrid and was also a winner in Stockholm. The son of former professional player Christian Ruud - now his coach - the 27-year-old is among the players who love to spend down-time on the golf course. Ruud and his fiancée, Maria Galligani, are expecting their first child next year.

World No.

13



## DANIIL MEDVEDEV

**Born** 11 February 1996, Moscow, Russia

**Height** 198cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$2,877,831

**Career Prize Money** \$48,192,619

**Singles Titles** 21

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.13

**Highest Singles Rank** No.1  
(February 2022)

**2025 Highlights** W Almaty, F Halle; SF Indian Wells, Shanghai, Beijing, Marseille; QF Madrid, Paris, Dubai, Doha, 's-Hertogenbosch, Washington, Hangzhou

**AO Best Result** F 2021, 2022, 2024

**AO 2025** No.5 SEED 1R d [WC] Samrej, 2R I [Q] Tien

> The 29-year-old Medvedev has developed a reputation as a late-night specialist in Melbourne, often producing his best tennis after midnight. The former world No.1 is a compelling competitor and not solely because of the quality of his game. Medvedev is a theatrical player who thrives on the emotional sway of matches. After a difficult 2025, the 2021 US Open champion made some late-season team changes and struck back with a vengeance. In Almaty, he lifted his first ATP trophy since mid-2023. A father to daughters Alisa and Vika (aged three and one), a young Medvedev was inspired by watching Marat Safin triumph at AO 2005. As a three-time finalist, he'll be aiming to improve on a superb Australian Open record of his own in 2026.

World No.

14



## ALEJANDRO DAVIDOVICH FOKINA

/ Spain

**Born** 5 June 1999, Málaga, Spain

**Height** 180cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$2,692,725

**Career Prize Money** \$10,018,855

**Singles Titles** 0

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.14

**Highest Singles Rank** No.14  
(November 2025)

**2025 Highlights** F Washington, Delray Beach, Acapulco, Basel; SF Monte Carlo, Eastbourne; QF Barcelona, Brussels

**AO Best Result** 4R 2025

**AO 2025** UNSEED 1R d Shang, 2R d [29] Auger-Aliassime, 3R d Mensik, 4R I [12] Paul

> Stylish Spaniard Davidovich Fokina plays with flair, combining flashes of brilliance with strong defence. A career-best 2025 season wasn't without heartbreak, with his despair on display when he surrendered championship match points to De Minaur in the Washington final. The quest for a first ATP title was also thwarted in Delray Beach and Acapulco. A smooth and entertaining mover who possesses a delightful drop shot, the 2017 Wimbledon boys' champion throws himself around the court with fearless commitment. With confidence from his top-20 breakthrough and marriage to Paloma Amatiste in July, he appears ready to make a deep push at a Slam.

World No.

15



## HOLGER RUNE

/ Denmark

**Born** 29 April 2003, Gentofte, Denmark

**Height** 188cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$2,973,472

**Career Prize Money** \$14,849,464

**Singles Titles** 5

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.15

**Highest Singles Rank** No.4 (August 2023)

**2025 Highlights** W Barcelona; F Indian Wells; SF Stockholm; QF Cincinnati, Shanghai, Queen's, Tokyo

**AO Best Result** 4R 2023, 2025

**AO 2025** No.13 SEED 1R d Zhang, 2R d Berrettini, 3R d Kecmanovic, 4R I [1] Sinner

➤ A renowned showman with superb shotmaking ability, Rune has used his weapons to dazzling effect at the Australian Open. He reached the fourth round at age 19 in 2023, with a repeat performance in 2025 concluding with an entertaining four-set test against No.1 Sinner. After regaining a top-10 ranking late last season, there will sadly be no repeat performance for the Dane this summer after he suffered a serious Achilles injury while competing at Stockholm in October. Considered a talent capable of dominating the tour alongside Sinner and Alcaraz, whom he defeated to win the Barcelona title last year, the 22-year-old will aim to continue a history-making path as the best Danish male player in history when he returns to the tour.

World No.

16



## ANDREY RUBLEV

**Born** 20 October 1997, Moscow, Russia

**Height** 188cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$3,047,413

**Career Prize Money** \$30,868,485

**Singles Titles** 17

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.16

**Highest Singles Rank** No.5 (September 2021)

**2025 Highlights:** W Doha; F Hamburg; SF Los Cabos, Montpellier; QF Toronto, Cincinnati, Rotterdam; 4R Roland Garros, Wimbledon, US Open

**AO Best Result** QF 2021, 2023, 2024

**AO 2025** No.9 SEED 1R I [Q] Fonseca

➤ An exceptional ball-striker with an outstanding ATP record, Rublev has been a fixture in the world's top 20 for several years. The red-haired right-hander is must-watch viewing, capable of breathtaking shotmaking and ferocious intensity but also known for the raw emotion that sometimes spills over on court. A two-time ATP Masters 1000 champion (at Monte Carlo in 2023, and Madrid 2024), his 2025 high point was lifting a 17th tour-level trophy in Doha and a 28th final overall in Hamburg. Now 28, and godfather to close friend Medvedev's daughter Alisa, Rublev's next challenge is translating his potential into a Grand Slam breakthrough, turning his regular quarterfinal runs - including three times in Australia - into something truly special.

World No.

17



## JIRI LEHECKA

/ Czechia

**Born** 8 November 2001, Miada Boleslav, Czechia

**Height** 185cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$2,596,590

**Career Prize Money** \$7,092,295

**Singles Titles** 2

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.17

**Highest Singles Rank** No.16 (September 2025)

**2025 Highlights** W Brisbane; F Queen's, Brussels; SF Doha; QF US Open, Hamburg, Stuttgart

**AO Best Result** QF 2023

**AO 2025** No.24 SEED 1R d [WC] Tu, 2R d Gaston, 3R d Bonzi, 4R l [7] Djokovic

► An efficient player with a formidable appetite for success, Lehecka is among a group of talented Czechs striving to take the next step at Slams. Lehecka, whose mother Romana was a star athlete and father Jiri Snr a strong swimmer, started playing tennis after watching his grandmother teach older sister Veronika how to play. The 24-year-old has claimed both of his career titles in Australia, following a 2023 Adelaide breakthrough with victory in Brisbane last year. Melbourne Park has also been a happy hunting ground, where Lehecka advanced to the fourth round in 2025 having reached his maiden Grand Slam quarterfinal there two years earlier - a feat he repeated at this year's US Open, after which he made his top-20 debut.

World No.

18



## KAREN KHACHANOV

**Born** 21 May 1996, Moscow, Russia

**Height** 198cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$2,774,481

**Career Prize Money** \$21,211,477

**Singles Titles** 7

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.18

**Highest Singles Rank** No.8 (July 2019)

**2025 Highlights:** F Toronto; SF Halle, Barcelona; QF Wimbledon, Geneva, 's-Hertogenbosch

**AO Best Result** SF 2023

**AO 2025** No.19 SEED 1R d Mannarino, 2R d Diallo, 3R l Michelsen

► Close friends with Rublev and Medvedev from their junior days, Khachanov is an enduring professional who is rarely far from clinching a title. An angular athlete who possesses a powerful forehand and serve, the right-hander is an Olympic silver medalist (at Tokyo 2020), a winner at ATP Masters 1000 level and a dual-Grand Slam semifinalist. Ranked as high as world No.8 in 2019, the father of two sons (David, aged six and Mikael, two) is a consistent campaigner who has shone at Melbourne Park previously, with his best effort a semifinal appearance in 2023. Regularly in or around the top-10 players in the world, he demonstrated his ongoing potential at the highest level as a Wimbledon quarterfinalist last year.



World No. **19**



## JAKUB MENSIK

/ Czechia

**Born** 1 September 2005, Prostějov, Czechia

**Height** 196cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$2,652,860

**Career Prize Money** \$4,280,406

**Singles Titles** 1

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.19

**Highest Singles Rank** No.16 (August 2025)

**2025 Highlights:** W Miami; QF Madrid, Brisbane, Auckland, Eastbourne, Beijing

**AO Best Result** 3R 2025

**AO 2025** UNSEEDED 1R d [Q] Basilashvili, 2R d [6] Ruud, 3R l Davidovich Fokina

➤ Had Mensik not grown up living 100 metres away from tennis courts in Prostějov, he might never have picked up a racquet, given his family had no history with the sport. But fans of the gifted Czech, who shocked childhood idol Djokovic to claim his maiden ATP title at the Miami Masters last year, are glad he fell for tennis at age five after watching friends play. His triumph in Florida might have surprised given his youth, but astute fans would have picked Mensik as a player of the future when he reached the AO 2022 boys' singles final. Wins over stars including Rublev and Fritz soon followed. An aggressive baseliner, Mensik has impressed in his past two AO campaigns with upset wins over Shapovalov in 2024 and Ruud last year.

World No. **20**



## TOMMY PAUL

/ USA

**Born** 17 May 1997, Voorhees, United States

**Height** 185cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$2,265,471

**Career Prize Money** \$12,503,563

**Singles Titles** 4

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.20

**Highest Singles Rank** No.8 (June 2025)

**2025 Highlights:** SF Rome, Adelaide, Dallas, Houston; QF Australian Open, Roland Garros; 4R Indian Wells, Madrid

**AO Best Result** QF 2025

**AO 2025** No.12 SEED 1R d O'Connell, 2R d Nishikori, 3R d Carballes Baena, 4R d Davidovich Fokina, QF l [2] Zverev

➤ A tough American with an all-court style that is not only effective but also engaging to watch, Paul has rated among the world's best players in recent years. A junior prodigy whose transition to senior ranks took some time, Paul summoned the necessary discipline and consistency to thrive on tour in his early 20s and was ranked No.8 last July. A semifinalist at Australian Open 2023, Paul became the first American man in 23 years to reach the quarterfinals of Roland Garros last year. Foot issues - attributed to the theft of a bag carrying his orthotics - curtailed his 2025 season, and he did not compete after the US Open. With his trademark grit and athleticism, expect him to bounce back strongly in 2026.

World No.

21



## FRANCISCO CERUNDOLO

/ Argentina

**Born** 13 August 1998, Buenos Aires, Argentina

**Height** 185cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$2,173,340

**Career Prize Money** \$8,338,165

**Singles Titles** 3

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.21

**Highest Singles Rank** No.18 (May 2025)

**2025 Highlights** F Buenos Aires; SF Madrid, Santiago, Munich, Bastad; QF Indian Wells, Miami, Rio de Janeiro

**AO Best Result** 3R 2023, 2025

**AO 2025** No.31 SEED 1R d Bublik, 2R d Diaz Acosta, 3R l [8] De Minaur

➤ The Argentine showcased his considerable talent when he pushed De Minaur in a gruelling four-set clash at AO 2025. Cerundolo generates easy power with his groundstrokes but also has the resilience in spirit and physical endurance to make him a testing rival for any opponent. Upsets of No.12 Paul and No.5 Ruud on his way to the Miami quarterfinals were among six wins over top-20 opponents last year. Cerundolo is the older brother of Juan Manuel, with the pair the first brothers to achieve a top-100 ranking at the same time since Mischa and Alexander Zverev. Sporting pedigree runs in the family - father Alejandro is a former player and coach, while sister Maria Constanza Cerundolo has represented Argentina in field hockey.

World No.

22



## FLAVIO COBOLLI

/ Italy

**Born** 6 May 2002, Florence, Italy

**Height** 183cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$2,623,372

**Career Prize Money** \$5,099,053

**Singles Titles** 2

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.22

**Highest Singles Rank** No.17 (July 2025)

**2025 Highlights** W Bucharest, Hamburg, Davis Cup; QF Wimbledon, United Cup, Halle, Almaty

**AO Best Result** 3R 2024

**AO 2025** No.32 SEED

1R l Etcheverry

➤ The talented Cobolli brings colour and charisma to the court - through both his explosive hitting and bold sense of style. The Italian was raised on clay courts but like compatriots Sinner and Musetti, he has the firepower and smarts to excel on all surfaces. Cobolli underlined that versatility with a run to the 2025 Wimbledon quarterfinals, where he took a set from seven-time champion Djokovic and demonstrated the nerve to excel on the biggest stages. That breakthrough pushed the 23-year-old, whose father Stefano was a former pro player, into the top 20 for the first time. He solidified his star status with three match wins - saving seven match points over Bergs in the semifinals - to help Italy claim a third straight Davis Cup title.

World No.

23



## DENIS SHAPOVALOV

/ Canada

**Born** 15 April 1999, Tel Aviv, Israel

**Height** 185cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$2,018,950

**Career Prize Money** \$14,399,177

**Singles Titles** 4

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.23

**Highest Singles Rank** No.10  
(September 2020)

**2025 Highlights** W Dallas,  
Los Cabos; SF Acapulco,  
Stockholm; QF Basel

**AO Best Result** QF 2022

**AO 2025 UNSEEDED** 1R d Bautista  
Agut, 2R l [16] Musetti

> A breathtaking talent, Shapovalov was identified as a potential Grand Slam champion after overcoming De Minaur in the 2016 Wimbledon boys' singles final. A decade on and the left-handed Canadian possesses a style that can trouble the best in the world, with his blistering single-handed backhand a delight to watch. Shapovalov, who has released rap singles under the name 'Shapo' as a side hustle, has endured difficulties with injuries after achieving his best major result as a 2021 Wimbledon semifinalist. But in a solid 2025 season - in which he doubled his ATP title count with triumphs in Dallas and Los Cabos - the 26-year-old returned to the world's top 30 and underlined his ongoing ability to challenge at the highest level.

World No.

24



## JOAO FONSECA

/ Brazil

**Born** 21 August 2006, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Height** 188cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,757,191

**Career Prize Money** \$2,592,310

**Singles Titles** 2

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.24

**Highest Singles Rank** No.24  
(November 2025)

**2025 Highlights** W Buenos Aires, Basel; 3R Roland Garros, Wimbledon

**AO Best Result** 2R 2025

**AO 2025 QUALIFIER** 1R d [9] Rublev, 2R l Sonego

> If you want to be wowed at Australian Open 2026, keep an eye on Brazilian sensation Fonseca. The electrifying 19-year-old, who qualified and upset No.9 seed Rublev at Melbourne Park last summer, is emerging as one of the sport's most exciting talents. In 2025, he became only the sixth teenager in history to claim titles on multiple surfaces in a single season - triumphing in Buenos Aires on clay and Basel on indoor hard court - joining the elite company of Djokovic, Rafael Nadal, Alcaraz, Juan Martin del Potro and Rune. A former junior No.1, Fonseca also claimed a win for Team World at Laver Cup. Tipped as a future challenger to Alcaraz and Sinner, he will arrive in Melbourne as a Grand Slam seed for the first time.

World No.

25



## TALLON GRIEKSPoor

/ Netherlands

**Born** 2 July 1996, Haarlem, Netherlands

**Height** 188cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,790,038

**Career Prize Money** \$6,914,505

**Singles Titles** 3

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.25

**Highest Singles Rank** No.21 (November 2023)

**2025 Highlights** W Mallorca; F Marrakech; SF Dubai, QF Indian Wells, Montpellier, Munich, Bastad, Vienna; 4R Roland Garros

**AO Best Result** 3R 2023, 2024

**AO 2025** UNSEEDED 1R | [18] Hurkacz

> A versatile player who is competitive on all surfaces, Griekspoor arrives in Australia after a consistent season that included triumphs over top-20 opponents Humbert, Medvedev, Zverev, Khachanov and two-time AO champion Sinner. While he lists clay as his favourite surface, the 29-year-old beat Auger-Aliassime, among others, to secure his third ATP title in Mallorca. Credit for Griekspoor's athleticism can be given to motorcross driver dad Ron and tennis instructor mother Monique. His grandfather founded a construction company that now employs several family members. Griekspoor can make a deep run if he can find his rhythm in his favourite city of Melbourne, the setting for his Grand Slam debut in 2020.

World No.

26



## LUCIANO DARDERI

/ Italy

**Born** 14 February 2002, Villa Gesell, Argentina

**Height** 183cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,625,078

**Career Prize Money** \$3,155,792

**Singles Titles** 4

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.26

**Highest Singles Rank** No.26 (October 2025)

**2025 Highlights** W Marrakech, Bastad, Umag; QF Munich, Hamburg

**AO Best Result** 1R 2025

**AO 2025** UNSEEDED 1R | Martinez

> A powerful baseliner capable of producing sizzling winners, the Argentine-born Italian is a player on the rise and growing in confidence after a trio of ATP-level triumphs - each on clay - last season. A feisty competitor, who is not afraid to show his emotions on court, the 23-year-old peaked at world No.26 in his career-best season. Inspired by Grand Slam-winning Argentine Juan Martin Del Potro, Darderi also lists Roger Federer as an idol and has retained fierce loyalty to his father, Luciano Snr, as his coach. After consecutive third-round runs at Wimbledon and the US Open, the next step for the Italian is a bigger Grand Slam breakthrough. He packs the punch to test the leading Australian Open contenders this summer.

2026 Player Profiles Men's Singles

World No. **27**



## CAMERON NORRIE

/ Great Britain

**Born** 23 August 1995,  
Johannesburg, South Africa

**Height** 188cm

**Plays** Left-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,972,588

**Career Prize Money** \$13,738,332

**Singles Titles** 5

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.27

**Highest Singles Rank** No.8  
(September 2022)

**2025 Highlights** F Metz;  
SF Geneva; QF Wimbledon,  
Hong Kong, Delray Beach;  
4R Roland Garros

**AO Best Result** 4R 2024

**AO 2025 UNSEEDED** 1R I Berrettini

► A resilient 30-year-old who has thrived on the game's biggest stages, Norrie claimed a big win over Alcaraz at the Paris Masters in October. The left-hander, who plays with a flatter style than many rivals, was at risk of dropping out of the world's top 100 in mid-2025 but rebounded to claim an Australian Open seeding. The son of microbiologists Don and Helen and raised in New Zealand – where he started playing tennis with a squash racquet at age six – Norrie peaked at world No.8 in 2022, a season in which a semifinal run at Wimbledon delivered his best major result. Norrie, the 2020 Indian Wells champion, can unsettle the rhythm of any rival and will look to improve on his peak AO result – a fourth-round finish in 2024.

World No. **28**



## LEARNER TIEN

/ USA

**Born** 2 December 2005, Irvine,  
United States

**Height** 180cm

**Plays** Left-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,743,311

**Career Prize Money** \$2,526,637

**Singles Titles** 1

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.28

**Highest Singles Rank** No.28  
(November 2025)

**2025 Highlights** W Metz; F Beijing;  
QF Acapulco, Mallorca, Hangzhou;  
4R Australian Open, Toronto,  
Shanghai

**AO Best Result** 4R 2025

**AO 2025 QUALIFIER** 1R d Carabelli,  
2R d [5] Medvedev, 3R d Moutet,  
4R I Sonego

► What an impression this young American, a left-hander who can conjure considerable loop on his forehand and damage with his flat backhand, made with his 2025 rise. Tien earned a cult following in Melbourne last year when, after qualifying as a teenager, he stunned three-time AO finalist Medvedev on his way to the fourth round. Coached by 1989 Roland Garros champion Michael Chang, Tien also posted victories over top-20 stars Rublev, Shelton and Zverev in his breakthrough year. A maiden ATP title in Metz in November sealed his top-40 debut, confirming the promise he'd shown as runner-up to Fonseca at the 2024 Next Gen Finals. With his first name honouring his teacher mother, Tien is aptly proving a fast learner on tour.

World No.

29



## ARTHUR RINDERKNECH

/ France

**Born** 23 July 1995, Gassin, France**Height** 196cm**Plays** Right-handed**2025 Prize Money** \$1,967,301**Career Prize Money** \$5,691,036**Singles Titles** 0**2025 Year-End Rank** No.29**Highest Singles Rank** No.27  
(October 2025)**2025 Highlights** F Shanghai; SF  
Kitzbuhel; QF Queen's; 4R US Open**AO Best Result** 2R 2022**AO 2025** UNSEEDED 1R | [17] Tiafoe

> A Frenchman with flair, Rinderknech was the co-star in one of the best tennis stories of 2025 when he was runner-up to his cousin, Vacherot, at the Shanghai Masters. It was the 30-year-old's best performance in an ATP tournament and an effort that catapulted him into the seedings for Australian Open 2026. A career-best season also included a standout performance at Wimbledon, where Rinderknech stunned No.3 seed Zverev to claim a maiden top-five win. At the US Open, he progressed to a Grand Slam fourth round for the first time. Tennis runs in the blood for the extended Rinderknech family, with his mother Virginie Paquet a former tour player, along with cousins Chloe Paquet and Benjamin Balleret.

World No.

30



## FRANCES TIAFOE

/ USA

**Born** 20 January 1998, Maryland,  
United States**Height** 188cm**Plays** Right-handed**2025 Prize Money** \$1,870,534**Career Prize Money** \$15,384,074**Singles Titles** 3**2025 Year-End Rank** No.30**Highest Singles Rank** No.10  
(June 2023)**2025 Highlights** F Houston,  
QF Roland Garros, Washington;  
4R Toronto, Cincinnati,**AO Best Result** QF 2019**AO 2025** No.17 SEED 1R d  
Rinderknech, 2R I Marozsan

> An American star with a beaming smile and a style that lights up stadiums around the world, Tiafoe is another must-watch talent when at his peak. The 27-year-old is at his best on hard courts, which suit his explosive first serve and a vicious forehand that is delivered with plenty of pop and topspin. An athlete blessed with tremendous power, the right-hander has produced his best efforts at home as a two-time US Open semifinalist and was a quarterfinalist at AO 2019. A former top-10 player, who peaked at No.2 in his junior career, Tiafoe endured a challenging 2025, but with his progress to the Roland Garros quarterfinals, he underlined an enduring potential to perform on the game's biggest stages.

World No.

31



## VALENTIN VACHEROT

/ Monaco

**Born** 16 November 1998, Monaco

**Height** 193cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,527,336

**Career Prize Money** \$1,920,624

**Singles Titles** 1

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.31

**Highest Singles Rank** No.30  
(November 2025)

**2025 Highlights** W Shanghai;  
QF Paris

**AO Best Result** 2QR 2025

**AO 2025 QUALIFYING** 1QR d  
Huesler, 2QR l Coppejans

► The fairytale story of 2025, Vacherot made global headlines with his win at the Shanghai Masters in October. Entering the tournament as a world No.204 qualifier, he became the lowest-ranked player in history - and the first from Monaco - to claim an ATP Masters 1000 title. "It is just crazy ... for the sport of tennis, the story is unreal," he beamed after victory over his cousin, Rinderknech, in the final. Backing up with a quarterfinal run at the Paris Masters, the 27-year-old will make his AO main-draw debut as a seed. Nicknamed "Val", a young Vacherot focused on skiing before turning to tennis. After training under the Monegasque Tennis Federation as a teenager, he further developed his game at Texas A&M University.

World No.

32



## TOMAS MACHAC

/ Czechia

**Born** 13 October 2000, Beroun,  
Czechia

**Height** 183cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$2,161,964

**Career Prize Money** \$5,659,097

**Singles Titles** 1

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.32

**Highest Singles Rank** No.20  
(March 2025)

**2025 Highlights** W Acapulco;  
QF Dallas, Halle; 4R US Open, Miami

**AO Best Result** 3R 2024, 2025

**AO 2025** No.26 SEED 1R d Nagal, 2R  
d Opelka, 3R l [7] Djokovic

► Triumphs over Sinner, Alcaraz and Djokovic underline the talent of the exciting Machac, who enjoyed a golden week in Paris in 2024 when he won the Olympic mixed doubles alongside Katerina Siniakova. It was a sound demonstration of the all-court skills of the exciting Czech, who has good reason to be fond of Australia. He clinched his first significant professional title at the Traralgon Challenger in 2021 a week before qualifying for the Australian Open, where he won his first main-draw match in a major. Fresh from securing Olympic glory for his country, Machac enjoyed a career-best season in 2025. He clinched his first title in Mexico, broke into the top 20 and most recently reached the US Open's final 16.

World No.

33



## BRANDON NAKASHIMA

/ USA

**Born** 3 August 2001, San Diego, United States

**Height** 188cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,810,044

**Career Prize Money** \$6,519,896

**Singles Titles** 1

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.33

**Highest Singles Rank** No.29 (May 2025)

**2025 Highlights** SF Acapulco, Houston, Chengdu; QF Delray Beach, Stuttgart, Queen's, Washington, Tokyo

**AO Best Result** 1R 2022, 2023, 2025

**AO 2025** UNSEEDED 1R | [21] Shelton

► The hard-working American shot to prominence as a player to watch as the 2022 Next Gen Finals champion over Lehecka - an event that has unearthed future major stars including Sinner. His steady ascent since then reflects the 24-year-old's willingness to improve in every facet of the sport - from the speed of his groundstrokes and consistency in rallies to packing more punch to finish points. A composed and resilient competitor, Nakashima will probe patiently to exploit an opponent's weakness. In 2025, his determined approach delivered three semifinals among eight quarterfinal appearances. Hailing from California and a collegiate star at the University of Virginia, Nakashima is looking for his first AO match win.

World No.

34



## STEFANOS TSITSIPAS

/ Greece

**Born** 12 August 1998, Athens, Greece

**Height** 193cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$2,026,842

**Career Prize Money** \$36,063,857

**Singles Titles** 12

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.34

**Highest Singles Rank** No.3 (August 2021)

**2025 Highlights:** W Dubai; QF Monte Carlo, Barcelona, Rotterdam; 4R Indian Wells

**AO Best Result** F 2023

**AO 2025** No.11 SEED 1R | Michelsen

► The Greek sensation is no stranger to success in Melbourne, with his dynamic all-court game and charismatic presence making him an enduring crowd favourite at the Australian Open. Tsitsipas surged into the spotlight with an upset of Roger Federer in a fourth-round thriller at AO 2019 and was runner-up to Djokovic at AO 2023. Also a finalist at Roland Garros in 2021, Tsitsipas peaked at No.3 in the same year. Injuries were a factor in a challenging year, which saw the 27-year-old shut down his season in September. Yet the right-hander - who is passionately backed by Melbourne's Greek community - retains the talent, flair and firepower that have made him one of the sport's most compelling stars.



World No.

35



## CORENTIN MOUTET

/ France

**Born** 19 April 1999, Paris, France**Height** 180cm**Plays** Left-handed**2025 Prize Money** \$1,531,711**Career Prize Money** \$5,568,741**Singles Titles** 0**2025 Year-End Rank** No.35**Highest Singles Rank** No.31  
(November 2025)**2025 Highlights** F Mallorca,  
Almaty; SF Washington,  
Hangzhou; QF Vienna**AO Best Result** 3R 2025**AO 2025** UNSEEDDED 1R d [25]  
Popyrin, 2R d [Q] Krueger,  
3R l [Q] Tien

> If you like the approach Nick Kyrgios has to tennis, Moutet might be your man. In an era ruled by power, the feisty Frenchman stands out for his artistry – shaping the ball, working the angles and keeping opponents guessing. Moutet does not boast the serve or firepower of the Australian, and he is a left-hander, but he makes up for it with flair, speed and audacity. The 26-year-old has a propensity for disrupting his rivals' rhythm and concentration, but this means that you risk missing a moment of magic or madness if you look away. Tennis is far from his only talent, with Moutet also a recording artist who released a hip-hop album in 2020, and he has collaborated with fellow left-hander Shapovalov.

World No.

36



## JAUME MUNAR

/ Spain

**Born** 5 May 1997, Santanyi, Spain**Height** 183cm**Plays** Right-handed**2025 Prize Money** \$1,795,515**Career Prize Money** \$6,697,366**Singles Titles** 0**2025 Year-End Rank** No.36**Highest Singles Rank** No.36  
(October 2025)**2025 Highlights** SF Hong Kong,  
Dallas, Basel; QF Winston-Salem;  
4R US Open**AO Best Result** 2R 2020, 2024**AO 2025** UNSEEDDED 1R l [6] Ruud

> The sturdy Spaniard is the definition of solid, with his adeptness at the baseline and all-surface ability a feature in his consistency over several years. A runner-up to Rublev in the Roland Garros boys' final in 2014, Munar has matured into a professional who can challenge the big names. In 2025, wins over top-20 opponents Medvedev, Shelton and Auger-Aliassime ranked among his most notable performances. While a teenage Munar toyed with a career in medicine, given his interest in science, pro tennis proved a wise path. The 28-year-old reached the second week of a Grand Slam for the first time at the US Open last September and has good reason to believe his best results are still ahead.

World No.

37



## UGO HUMBERT

/ France

**Born** 26 June 1998, Metz, France**Height** 188cm**Plays** Left-handed**2025 Prize Money** \$1,635,293**Career Prize Money** \$10,021,604**Singles Titles** 7**2025 Year-End Rank** No.37**Highest Singles Rank** No.13  
(April 2024)**2025 Highlights** W Marseille;  
F Stockholm; SF 's-Hertogenbosch,  
Eastbourne, Basel; 4R Australian  
Open**AO Best Result** 4R 2025**AO 2025** No.14 SEED 1R d [Q]  
Gigante, 2R d [Q] Habib, 3R d [20]  
Fils, 4R I [2] Zverev

➤ An electric talent with a flair for scintillating shotmaking, Humbert is a box-office player who thrives on a big stage. He showed that quality with a run to the final of the prestigious Paris Masters late in 2024, which was a breakthrough season that propelled him into the world's top 15 for the first time. An aggressive player who uses his left-handed serve and sharp volleying to perfection, Humbert showed he could be a factor at the Australian Open with his final-16 run in 2025, when he pushed No.2 seed Zverev to four sets. Soon afterwards, he lifted a seventh ATP trophy in Marseille. The 27-year-old, who is also a talented pianist and guitarist, is set to entertain again in his eighth main-draw campaign at Melbourne Park.

World No.

38



## ALEX MICHELSEN

/ USA

**Born** 25 August 2004, Laguna Hills, United States**Height** 193cm**Plays** Right-handed**2025 Prize Money** \$1,464,284**Career Prize Money** \$3,724,541**Singles Titles** 0**2025 Year-End Rank** No.38**Highest Singles Rank** No.30  
(July 2025)**2025 Highlights** SF Delray Beach,  
Mallorca, Almaty; QF Toronto,  
Auckland, Houston, Halle; 4R  
Australian Open**AO Best Result** 4R 2025**AO 2025** UNSEED 1R d [11]  
Tsitsipas, 2R d [WC] McCabe, 3R d  
[19] Khachanov, 4R I [8] De Minaur

➤ An American with a powerful game and winning smile, the Californian-born Michelsen showed promise late in his teens and has continued to rise through the ranks in an encouraging ascent. The 21-year-old is a Star Wars fan who can slug his serve and his forehand but has more depth to his game than just those weapons - as he demonstrated in a stellar Australian Open run last year. Michelsen upset seeded opponents Tsitsipas and Khachanov to reach the second week of a major for the first time, before falling to local favourite De Minaur. A Laver Cup representative, Michelsen recently revealed he's working to curb superstitions, including a habit of eating the same foods after every win.

World No.

39



## LORENZO SONEGO

/ Italy

**Born** 11 May 1995, Turin, Italy

**Height** 191cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,661,931

**Career Prize Money** \$9,226,898

**Singles Titles** 4

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.39

**Highest Singles Rank** No.21  
(October 2021)

**2025 Highlights** SF Metz;  
QF Australian Open, Marseille,  
Stockholm

**AO Best Result** QF 2025

**AO 2025** UNSEED 1R d [WC]  
Wawrinka, 2R d [Q] Fonseca,  
3R d Marozsan, 4R d [Q] Tien,  
QF I [21] Shelton

► A charismatic Italian who competes with flair, Lorenzo Sonego has reason to love Melbourne after his run to the Australian Open quarterfinals last year. The durable Sonego was a member of Italy's triumphant Davis Cup team last year and in 2023 and has lifted ATP trophies on grass, clay and hard courts. Alongside his successful tennis career, Sonego has also made his mark in music and released three singles - one attracting more than 1.5 million streams. An all-court player who has reached Wimbledon and Roland Garros fourth rounds, he famously defeated then-world No.1 Djokovic at Vienna in 2020. In his eighth AO main draw campaign, Sonego will be hoping to replicate the peak form he struck in Australia in 2025.

40



## ARTHUR FILS

/ France

**Born** 12 June 2004, Bondoufle, France

**Height** 185cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,392,485

**Career Prize Money** \$5,873,156

**Singles Titles** 3

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.40

**Highest Singles Rank** No.14  
(April 2025)

**2025 Highlights** SF Barcelona;  
QF Indian Wells, Miami, Monte  
Carlo, Hong Kong

**AO Best Result** 3R 2025

**AO 2025** No.20 SEED 1R d Virtanen,  
2R d Halys, 3R I [14] Humbert

► In full flight and at peak fitness, Fils is one of the most dynamic players on tour - powerful, athletic and thrilling to watch. The 21-year-old Frenchman, whose strength is matched by his shotmaking ability, endured a mixed 2025 season. A bright start was cruelly interrupted by a stress fracture in his back that halted his progress after Roland Garros. Before that setback, the energetic right-hander showcased his talent in style, winning 22 of 33 matches and producing standout results at ATP Masters 1000 level - with quarterfinal appearances at Indian Wells, Miami and Monte Carlo - that pushed him to the verge of the world's top 10. A fully healthy Fils will look to recapture that momentum in 2026.

World No.

41



## GABRIEL DIALLO

/ Canada

**Born** 24 September 2001,  
Montreal, Canada

**Height** 203cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,449,172

**Career Prize Money** \$2,392,476

**Singles Titles** 1

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.41

**Highest Singles Rank** No.33  
(August 2025)

**2025 Highlights** W 's-H'bosch;  
QF Madrid, Mallorca

**AO Best Result** 2R 2025

**AO 2025** UNSEEDDED 1R d Nardi,  
2R l [19] Khachanov

➤ A powerful Canadian with a booming serve and groundstrokes, Diallo followed the inspiring deeds of compatriots Auger-Aliassime and Shapovalov in 2025. The multilingual 24-year-old, the son of a Ukrainian mother and Guinean father, was raised in Montreal and followed the US college pathway prior to turning pro in 2022. Auger-Aliassime's father, Sam, had earlier helped him fine-tune his game, urging patience as the then-teenager took time to find his feet.

Diallo, who earned all-American honours in singles and doubles at the University of Kentucky, clinched his maiden tour title on grass at 's-Hertogenbosch last year and pushed No.5 seed Fritz to five sets in the second round at Wimbledon.

World No.

42

2026 Player Profiles Men's Singles



## ALEXANDRE MULLER

/ France

**Born** 1 February 1997, Poissy,  
France

**Height** 183cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,421,571

**Career Prize Money** \$3,789,541

**Singles Titles** 1

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.42

**Highest Singles Rank** No.38  
(August 2025)

**2025 Highlights** W Hong Kong;  
F Rio de Janeiro; QF Marrakech,  
Hamburg, Athens

**AO Best Result** 2R 2021

**AO 2025** UNSEEDDED 1R l Borges

➤ Formerly a prolific winner on the ATP Challenger Tour, Muller has not only become a mainstay at ATP level but continues to bloom. While the Frenchman loves to engage in long rallies, he's not afraid to seize control when the opportunity presents itself - an approach that saw him defeat Kei Nishikori to claim his maiden ATP title in Hong Kong last year. Also a runner-up in Rio de Janeiro, he later made his top-40 debut. Muller's progress is even more impressive given he also manages Crohn's disease - a career-threatening condition that was diagnosed in his early teens. A passionate soccer fan who cites Cristiano Ronaldo as his favourite player, Muller initially focused on that sport before moving to Paris at age 15 to pursue a tennis career.

World No.

43



## ZIZOU BERGS

/ Belgium

**Born** 3 June 1999, Lommel, Belgium

**Height** 185cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,382,401

**Career Prize Money** \$2,909,238

**Singles Titles** 0

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.43

**Highest Singles Rank** No.39 (October 2025)

**2025 Highlights:** F Auckland, 's-Hertogenbosch; SF Marseille; QF Shanghai, Munich

**AO Best Result** 1R 2023,2024,2025

**AO 2025** UNSEEDED 1R | Díaz Acosta

> An exciting Belgian with a growing record, Bergs showed how his best tennis could trouble higher-ranked opponents in a marquee 2025 season. Alongside finals runs in Auckland and 's-Hertogenbosch, the 26-year-old was a Marseille semifinalist and spearheaded Belgium's charge to the Davis Cup semifinals. Victory over Ruud on his way to the Shanghai quarters was one of three top-20 wins for the year. Named after French soccer player Zinedine Zidane, Bergs is active on social media, posting short videos of himself while showcasing the realities of life on tour. Bergs who donates tennis clothes and equipment to communities in Africa, is aiming to carry the momentum of a third-round run at the US Open to a first AO main-draw win.

World No.

44



## GRIGOR DIMITROV

/ Bulgaria

**Born** 16 May 1991, Haskovo, Bulgaria

**Height** 191cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,384,773

**Career Prize Money** \$30,694,182

**Singles Titles** 9

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.44

**Highest Singles Rank** No.3 (November 2017)

**2025 Highlights** SF Miami, Brisbane; QF Monte Carlo

**AO Best Result** SF 2017

**AO 2025** No.10 SEED 1R | [LL] Passaro

> Bulgaria's most accomplished male player, Dimitrov has long been a crowd favourite in Melbourne, where his progress to the final four at AO 2017 is one of three Grand Slam semifinal campaigns. A former world No.3 and winner of nine ATP titles - including the prestigious ATP Finals in 2017 - Dimitrov is celebrated for his elegant, all-court game and classic single-handed backhand that draws comparisons with Roger Federer and Pete Sampras. In his 59th major appearance at Wimbledon last year, Dimitrov led world No.1 Sinner by two sets before a serious pectoral injury cruelly ended his run. After returning to win a match in Paris late in the season, many will hope Dimitrov's comeback only gathers momentum in Australia.

World No.

45



## SEBASTIAN BAEZ

/ Argentina

**Born** 28 December 2000, Buenos Aires, Argentina

**Height** 170cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,389,186

**Career Prize Money** \$5,881,488

**Singles Titles** 7

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.45

**Highest Singles Rank** No.18 (June 2024)

**2025 Highlights** W Rio de Janeiro; F Santiago, Bucharest; QF Bastad

**AO Best Result** 3R 2024

**AO 2025** No.28 SEED 1R | Cazaux

➤ An Argentine who packs considerable power for someone who regularly concedes a height advantage to rivals, Baez is a fighter. A former world No.1 junior, the right-hander has enjoyed considerable success on his favoured clay surface and successfully defended his Rio de Janeiro title last February. He backed up with finals in Santiago and Bucharest. Baez was mentored by Argentine icon Juan Martin del Potro early in his pro career and credited his major-winning countryman with helping him figure out what was necessary to succeed on tour. Long-time coach Sebastian Gutierrez, whom Baez names as a father figure, is another prolific influence and encouraged the discipline that accompanied his top-20 rise in 2024.

World No.

46



## DANIEL ALTMAIER

/ Germany

**Born** 12 September 1998, Kempen, Germany

**Height** 188cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,481,497

**Career Prize Money** \$4,806,363

**Singles Titles** 0

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.46

**Highest Singles Rank** No.46 (November 2025)

**2025 Highlights** QF Rotterdam, Marseille, Metz, 4R Roland Garros, 3R US Open

**AO Best Result** 2R 2025

**AO 2025** UNSEED 1R d Comesana, 2R | Monfils

➤ A German who enjoyed his best season so far in 2025, Altmaier has mostly thrived on clay but is a threat on all surfaces - including the hard courts at Melbourne Park, where he triumphed over Francisco Comesana in five sets to record his first AO main-draw win last summer. An upset winner over Sinner at Roland Garros in 2023 - where he reached the second week as a qualifier in 2021 - Altmaier produced another marquee run at Roland Garros last year by beating No.4 seed Fritz on his way to the final 16. He later upset Tsitsipas to reach the US Open third round. Tennis is not his only passion, with Altmaier also enjoying pursuits such as fishing, an activity he enjoys with his father, Juri, a former amateur boxer.

World No.

47



## NUNO BORGES

/ Portugal

**Born** 19 February 1997, Maia, Portugal

**Height** 185cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,530,329

**Career Prize Money** \$4,298,081

**Singles Titles** 1

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.47

**Highest Singles Rank** No.30 (September 2024)

**2025 Highlights** SF Auckland; QF Marrakech, 's-Hertongenbosch, Athens

**AO Best Result** 4R 2024

**AO 2025** UNSEEDED 1R d Muller, 2R d [27] Thompson, 3R l [3] Alcaraz

➤ A durable competitor with a distinctive flat-hitting style, Borges is a proud trailblazer for his nation. He created history at the Australian Open two years ago as the first Portuguese man to reach the second week of a Grand Slam. With wins over players including the higher-ranked Dimitrov, Borges formed a reputation as a reliable competitor who can exploit any vulnerabilities in rivals. He backed up by beating Nadal in the 2024 Bastad final to become the first Portuguese to lift an ATP trophy and replicated his fourth-round AO run at the US Open later that season. Borges, who honed his game while gaining a degree in kinesiology at Mississippi State University, credits his successful career to his fierce competitiveness.

World No.

48



## SEBASTIAN KORDA

/ United States

**Born** 5 July 2000, Bradenton, United States

**Height** 196cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,182,353

**Career Prize Money** \$8,277,494

**Singles Titles** 2

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.48

**Highest Singles Rank** No.15 (August 2024)

**2025 Highlights** F Adelaide; SF Winston Salem, Athens; QF Miami, Tokyo, Stockholm

**AO Best Result** 3R 2025

**AO 2025** No.22 SEED 1R d [Q] Klein; 2R l Vukic

➤ As the son of a former Grand Slam champion, Korda draws inevitable comparisons to his father, Petr, who triumphed at AO 1998. But the American has also forged his own path, as a two-time ATP titlist and an AO 2023 quarterfinalist. Australia is a successful setting for the 25-year-old, who climbed to junior world No.1 after lifting the AO 2018 boys' trophy. He launched his 2025 season as a finalist in Adelaide. While injury at times limited Korda in the past year, he remained a top-50 presence and closed out his season as an Athens semifinalist. With his mother, Regina, also a former pro player and sisters Nelly and Jessica champion pro golfers, Korda will aim to build on the family business of winning in his fifth main-draw AO campaign.

World No.

49



## CAMILO UGO CARABELLI

/ Argentina

**Born** 17 June 1999, Buenos Aires, Argentina

**Height** 185cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,107,687

**Career Prize Money** \$2,045,959

**Singles Titles** 0

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.49

**Highest Singles Rank** No.43  
(August 2025)

**2025 Highlights** SF Rio de Janeiro, Santiago, Bastad, Umag

**AO Best Result** 1R 2025

**AO 2025** UNSEEDDED 1R I [Q] Tien

➤ Armed with a heavy forehand that some opponents deem unplayable, Ugo Carabelli was boosted by strong claycourt form as he made his top-50 debut in 2025. The foundation for that success came with the Argentine's start in the sport at age seven alongside his older brother. While Jeremias went on to become a pro footballer, Camilo began to excel at tennis in his late teens, when he also juggled classes at the University of Palermo. The right-hander's heavily tattooed left arm, which started with a tribute to his mother, Maria, as a 15-year-old, is an artform he continues to pursue. After contesting all four majors for the first time last season, Carabelli is growing in experience and a player to watch throughout 2026.

World No.

50

2026 Player Profiles Men's Singles



## REILLY OPELKA

/ USA

**Born** 28 August 1997, St Joseph, USA

**Height** 211cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2025 Prize Money** \$1,206,053

**Career Prize Money** \$5,710,657

**Singles Titles** 4

**2025 Year-End Rank** No.50

**Highest Singles Rank** No.17  
(February 2022)

**2025 Highlights** F Brisbane; SF 's-Hertogenbosch; QF Dallas, Basel

**AO Best Result** 3R 2022

**AO 2025** UNSEEDDED 1R d [Q] Onclin, 2R I [26] Machac

➤ Tied with Ivo Karlovic as the tallest man to play pro tennis, Opelka puts his 211cm frame to great use, with his spectacular serve considered among the game's finest. The American was tipped for big things after claiming the Wimbledon 2015 boys' title and has not disappointed. After clinching four ATP titles - all on American soil - Opelka peaked at world No.17 in 2022. Hip and wrist injuries subsequently threatened his career, but the powerful right-hander made a top-50 return in 2025, with highlights including a run to the final in Brisbane. Given his prodigious weapons, Opelka is a threat to any player and as he gains further confidence in his body, expect him to continue a surge back up the rankings.



Alex de Minaur and  
Ajla Tomljanovic  
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Inspired by the stars? Hot Shots Tennis turns Australian Open excitement into a lifelong love of tennis while building the social skills to thrive on and off the court.

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Being out and playing games is central to a child's world. Hot Shots Tennis builds on this natural curiosity, using a *Play to Learn* philosophy to develop coordination, balance, and agility, while also fostering listening and communication skills key to any collaborative environment.

No one brings the values of Hot Shots to life better than Australia's No.1, Alex de Minaur who, alongside Ajla Tomljanovic, is a proud Hot Shots Tennis ambassador.

The AO 2025 quarterfinalist is universally admired for his persistence, patience and self-belief, as well as graciousness in victory, humility in defeat and loyalty to his country in team competitions. It's no surprise, then, that he believes Hot Shots provides the perfect beginning for young players.

"Kids get so much out of learning tennis, and Hot Shots lays the perfect foundation - building skills, confidence, and a genuine love for the game. For me, that love is what drives every match I play," said De Minaur, whose passion for the sport was sparked at age three at the Parkside Tennis Club in Sydney.

That same love for the game drives former world No.32 Tomljanovic, who has represented Australia at the Billie Jean King Cup since 2019.

"Hot Shots is all about teamwork,

having fun, and falling in love with tennis from the very start. The lessons I learned as a kid shaped who I am today. I'm thrilled to inspire young players to pick up a racquet and fall in love with the game too," she says.

Hot Shots Tennis offers programs for all ages and skill levels, letting children progress at their own pace while having fun in the sun. To learn more and get involved, visit [tennis.com.au](https://tennis.com.au) today. **AO**

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# SHAPING TOMORROW

The Australian Open and Tennis Australia's official charity makes meaningful change at AO 2026.

The Australian Tennis Foundation (ATF) has a proud legacy of creating brighter futures for children and young people facing adversity, using the sport to help build resilience, encourage healthy lifestyle choices and to build social connections for disadvantaged communities.

For the fourth straight year, the *Brighter Days* program - one of the ATF's many initiatives - has extended into the Summer of Tennis and the Australian Open, giving families from like-minded charities the chance to experience the excitement of those events while finding reprieve from their daily challenges.

Across AO 2026 and the Summer of Tennis, the ATF has provided more than 900 experiences for families and children facing adversity.

Lana Fomoso and her son Luka

attended the *Brighter Days* event for the second time last year after Luka finished his treatment for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia.

"He had undergone treatment for three years and is now in remission," Lana said. "The last time we were here, Luka was in a wheelchair. The fact that Luka is now standing, walking, healthy and able to enjoy *Brighter Days* is extremely special for us. It is also extremely important to us to see all of the other kids here able to enjoy this experience."

Over five days, children and families from charities such as My Room, Ronald McDonald House, Refugee Migrant Children Centre, Sony Foundation, MacKillop Foundation and Camp Quality were treated to unforgettable experiences at the tennis.

"We believe in the power of sports to uplift and inspire," ATF Director Vicki



Reid said. "We hope to create lasting memories and a sense of community for these young individuals. The Australian Open is not just about tennis; it's about bringing people together and celebrating the spirit of resilience and hope."

Since its launch in 2022, the *Brighter Days* program has provided over 3000 kids and families facing challenging life circumstances respite and relief through tennis.

Founded amid the Black Summer bushfires six years ago, the ATF's *Rally as One* initiative has also made meaningful contributions to fire and flood recovery in 47 communities across 23 regions in four states.

Through a series of community events, programs and infrastructure support, it has reconnected some 20,000 people with friends, family and neighbours through tennis.

It has helped more than 8500 children regain routine, confidence and a sense of normality after disaster and supplied more than 7000 racquets, nets and balls to communities.

Following the success of the ATF's inaugural Night of Champions event, Evonne Goolagong-Cawley

Scholarships were launched in 2025. The scholarship helps promising First Nations players reach their full potential with Charlie Pade (20, NSW) and Laquisa Khan (22, Qld) the first recipients on their transition from domestic to international competition in 2026. **AO**

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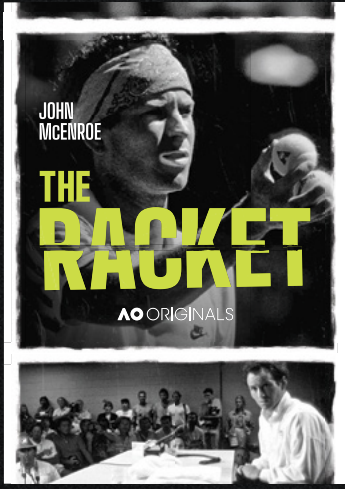
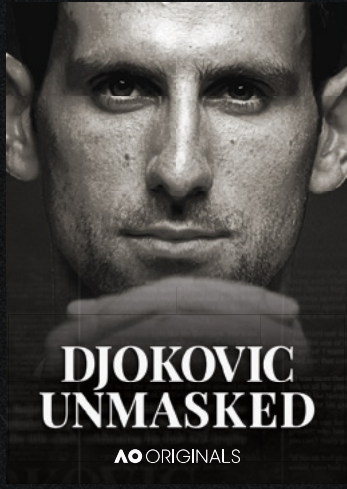
By purchasing a \$20 ticket to the annual ATF lottery, you enter the draw to win the ultimate AO 2026 finals experience, including tickets to your choice of the men's or women's final, flights, accommodation and exclusive behind-the-scenes access.

All money raised will help inspire brighter futures for disadvantaged young people through tennis.



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At 9 December 2025



# AO26

# A GREAT DAY OUT

There are special days dotted throughout the three weeks of Australian Open 2026, each dedicated to celebrating all members of the tennis family.



## KIDS TENNIS DAY

SATURDAY 17 JANUARY

A day before the main draw begins, Kids Tennis Day presented by Emirates lights up Melbourne Park with exciting family entertainment and tennis action. It's anchored by an arena spectacular at Rod Laver Arena, which each year features appearances from some of the world's top tennis stars.



## EVONNE GOOLAGONG CAWLEY DAY

WEDNESDAY 21 JANUARY

Celebrated on Wurundjeri Country, this day spotlights the art, music, food, language and storytelling of the world's longest continuing living culture. It's aptly named for Evonne Goolagong Cawley, Australia's first WTA world No.1 and a First Nations Ambassador who has inspired countless players.



## HOT SHOTS TENNIS DAY

THURSDAY 22 JANUARY

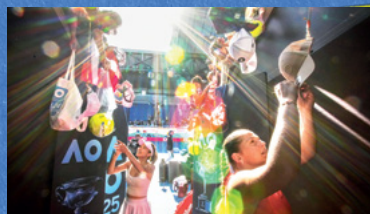
Young fans can enjoy Hot Shots Tennis – a fun way for kids to experience and play the game, consisting of four progressive stages matched to ability – at AO Ballpark presented by Emirates, with mini courts, games and activities for kids of all ages.



## ALL ABILITIES DAY

TUESDAY 27 JANUARY

Supported by Bupa, this is a day showcasing the multitude of ways fans of all abilities can experience the AO and participate in tennis, including the various disability pathways into the sport – all while offering an inclusive and accessible experience.



## WOMEN & GIRLS DAY

THURSDAY 29 JANUARY

Female success and influence on and off the court is celebrated on Women & Girls Day, which also features the 10th AO Inspirational Series and concludes with back-to-back women's singles semifinals under lights at Rod Laver Arena.

## PRIDE DAY

FRIDAY 30 JANUARY



Love, tennis and inclusion are colourfully celebrated on Pride Day, a day featuring live entertainment and vibrant activations. It also coincides with the first day of the AO Glam Slam presented by Ralph Lauren – the only LGBTQIA+ tournament held at a Grand Slam.



# AROUND THE GROUNDS

Beyond the exciting on-court action, there's plenty to see and do around the Melbourne Park precinct, adding to the buzz of the Australian Open experience.



## TOPCOURT

After debuting at AO 2025, TOPCOURT returns to Birrarung Marr's middle terrace, where you can find Game On – a digital gaming pavilion – plus live music and entertainment, POP and pickleball courts, activations and shopping. The Australian debut of Shake Shack is a bonus in 2026.



## COURTSIDE BAR

Returning for a third year, the Courtside Bar by Grey Goose has become an AO hot spot. It's reimagined in 2026, connecting seamlessly with the new, shaded Highline – which offers elevated views over the Western Courts – and with grandstand seating complementing the vantage points from the Grey Goose Rooftop Bar.



## THE VILLAGE

One of the more popular parts of the AO precinct, The Village gives fans an incredible opportunity to see the world's top players practise as they prepare for the season's first Grand Slam. Located between John Cain Arena and Kia Arena, it has shaded viewing platforms, food and bar options plus pickleball come-and-try sessions on finals weekend.

# AO BALLPARK PRESENTED BY EMIRATES



A hit with kids and families, AO Ballpark presented by Emirates is an immersive experience with totem tennis, Hot Shots Tennis, feature shows, story time and the waterslides of the Splash Zone all on offer. It officially opens on 12 January with live shows and games – a day that kids go free at the Australian Open.





Some handy tips and tricks to take your day from good to great.

### Easy riding

Ditch the car and hop on a tram to the tennis! AO 2026 ticket holders enjoy free travel across the Yarra Trams network, with Route 70 delivering you straight to Melbourne Park. Trains are equally simple, with nearby stops at Flinders Street, Richmond and Jolimont. Prefer to stretch your legs? Follow the Yarra River and stroll through Birrarung Marr, arriving via the spectacular Tanderrum Bridge.

### World-class views

There have never been more ways to watch the action. The reimagined Courtside Bar by Grey Goose now includes grandstand seating, so you can sip, snack and cheer from a prime spot. It also links to the Highline, which soars above the Western Courts and provides elevated views of the world's best players in action.

### Keep your cool

As the tennis heats up, the weather often follows. Luckily, shaded spots are dotted right across the precinct. Along with covered areas at 1573 Arena and ANZ Arena, you can cool down at Grand Slam Oval, the shaded Highline, multiple food and beverage zones, or at the practice viewing decks in The Village (between KIA and John Cain Arenas).

Free drinking-water stations and misting fountains help keep you refreshed, and MECCA sunscreen samples make it easy to stay sun smart.

### Access for all

The AO is proudly inclusive, with accessibility options to ensure everyone feels welcome. Visit [ausopen.com/accessibility](https://ausopen.com/accessibility) for details on wheelchair seating, accessible parking and drop-off points, and Travellers Aid services. Service dogs are welcome, and dedicated sensory rooms are located at AO Ballpark presented by Emirates, John Cain Arena and Margaret Court Arena.

### Talking trash

Recycling bins are clearly marked, and our friendly "trash talkers" are on hand to help you dispose of waste in the most responsible way. It's all part of the AO's commitment to being a sustainable sports and entertainment event, supported by an extensive waste management and recycling program.

### Any questions?

Look for the Customer Experience team in their bright yellow shirts. Scattered throughout the precinct, they're ready to help with directions, info or anything else you need to make the most of your day at Melbourne Park.



# AO LIVE

An expanded schedule of live music — up from three nights to five nights — headlines the only music series at a Grand Slam at John Cain Arena.

Following the huge success of AO Live last year, fans can expect an even greater offering across five nights at AO 2026.



The Kid LAROI kicks things off in an exclusive Australian show on Wednesday 28 January. The Grammy-nominated Sydney rapper and singer has collaborated with artists including Justin Bieber and Juice WRLD, with his chart-topping hit *Stay* spending six

weeks at No.1 on the Billboard Hot 100.

Fremantle's *Spacey Jane*, now one of Australia's most loved bands, takes the stage on Thursday 29 January. The indie-rock quartet has three critically acclaimed albums, while their breakout hit *Booster Seat* scooped the ARIA Song of the Year and reached No.2 in Triple J's Hottest 100 in 2020.

Hot on the heels of their smash hit *Untouched* being voted No.3 in the Triple J Hottest 100 Australian songs of all time, beloved Brisbane twins Lisa and Jessica Origliasso, aka *The Veronicas*, perform the evening of AO Pride Day on Friday 30 January as well as American Grammy-nominated electronic duo *Sofi Tukker*.



American singer-songwriter *Renee Rapp* makes her Australian debut on women's final Saturday. Rapp gained recognition for starring as Regina George in the Broadway musical *Mean Girls*. Rapp's hits, including *Leave Me Alone*, have amassed more than 1.4 billion streams.

Korean-born DJ and producer *Peggy Gou*'s infectious house and techno will close out AO 2026 on Sunday 1 February. From underground sensation to global star, Gou has become one of dance music's most recognisable names, with international hits including *It Goes Like (Nanana)*.

Any ticket purchased to AO Live automatically includes a full-day ground pass for the same day.

In addition, live music will ring out every day across the AO precinct, with more AO Live Opening Week events at TOPCOURT, and for the first time, Grand Slam Oval will host live music every night of Opening Week presented by Herald Sun.





# TENNIS AT EVERY TURN

Across a fun-filled fortnight, the Melbourne Park precinct comes alive as champions are crowned in a range of events.



## AO wheelchair championships

As 2026 marks 50 years since the birth of wheelchair tennis, the Australian Open continues to champion the pathway for professional athletes in the sport. Grand Slam honours are on the line as five wheelchair tournaments – men, women, quads, boys and girls – begin from Tuesday 27 January.

## Australian Tennis Championships

The Australian Tennis Championships unfold at Melbourne Park during the tournament's second week. It provides players with an intellectual impairment, as well as deaf and hard-of-hearing athletes, the chance to compete for national honours on a Grand Slam stage.

## AO junior championships

What do stars including Victoria Azarenka, Clara Tauson, Alexander Zverev and Nick Kyrgios share in common? Before their rise on the professional tour, they were champions at AO girls' and boys' events. You may be watching the next big thing as the world's best 18/u players target glory in AO junior championships from Saturday 24 January.

## AO Legends Cup

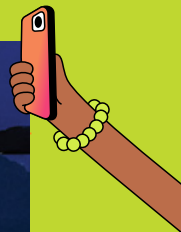
Featuring a line-up of retired fan favourites, the AO Legends Cup presented by Marriott Bonvoy brings much-loved former pros back into Grand Slam action from Tuesday 27 January. Expect fun, nostalgia and some healthy competition as Team Australia faces Team World.

## Glam Slam

As Pride Day lights up Friday 30 January, the annual Glam Slam presented by Ralph Lauren begins. This vibrant LGBTQIA+ event, sanctioned by the Gay and Lesbian Tennis Alliance, brings more than 200 players from around the world together. Fans can enjoy every moment with a ground pass, including the finals – which are staged on Court 6, beside the buzzing Courtside Bar by Grey Goose, on the final Sunday.

## Never Miss a Moment

Catch the latest AO news on the AO app or at [ausopen.com](https://ausopen.com), with news and features updated daily. Share your experience with fans around the world by using [#AusOpen](https://twitter.com/AusOpen) on social media.



## DROP SHOTS ...

Modern buzz meets long-held traditions, with some fascinating stories and details shaping the AO experience.

### AO Vibes

TOPCOURT has raised the entertainment stakes with live music and DJs, including some of the most popular acts in electronic music – Hot Chip, Cassian, The Presets and Elderbrook – in Opening Week presented by Herald Sun.



### Sounds of the AO

For the first time, fans will see an all-new recording of the AO's iconic theme song performed by Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Composer and orchestra conductor Nicholas Buck arranged the soundtrack, which will be regularly heard throughout AO 2026.



# SERVING UP A FEAST

With more than 20 global names and cult local favourites to choose from, discover a diverse range of food experiences available at Melbourne Park.

Food takes centre stage at AO 2026, with fresh flavours popping up across the precinct. From the first Australian arrival of Shake Shack at TOPCOURT to new favourites in Garden Square, there's plenty to savour.

Grand Slam Oval keeps things global, as do the snacks on Western Courts. Family favourite Wonder Pies returns to AO Ballpark presented by Emirates, and the Courtside Bar by Grey Goose serves up the iconic **Grey Goose Lemon Ace** alongside a new French-style snack box.

The popular **Peach Melbourne** can be found throughout the precinct and **AO Frappe**®, served up by a2 Milk®, also makes a 2026 comeback following a triumphant debut in 2025. In addition, further dining experiences offer a smorgasbord of options. Acclaimed culinary talents include the likes of legendary **Angie Giannakodakis** (Taverna), **Ray Capaldi** (Wonder Pies), and **Shane Delia** (Layla).

## TOPCOURT

**Shake Shack** The global burger phenomenon comes to the AO in its first Australian pop-up, with an exclusive AO Shake (AO debut)

## Garden Square

**Hector's Deli** Next-level sandwiches and house-made sodas (AO debut)

**Layla** Middle Eastern-inspired menu (AO debut)

**Entrecôte** French mitraillette baguette and signature cheeseburger and frites

**Vic's Meat, Butcher's Burger** A one-up on the Australian sausage-in-bread classic (AO debut)

## Grand Slam Oval

**Season** Vietnamese fried chicken (AO debut)

**Ho Jiak** A unique take on traditional Malaysian classics (AO debut)

**JollyGood** Quintessential Melbourne burgers (AO debut)

**Stalactites x Taverna** A new Greek-fusion dining collaboration (AO debut)

**D.O.C Pizzas** by the slice and Italian street-food favourites

**Fishbowl** Freshly made poke bowls and salad boxes

## Western Courts

**Suupaa** New fast-service dining concept serving sandwiches, noodles, fried chicken and more (AO debut)

## AO Ballpark presented by Emirates

**Wonder Pies** Renowned pies and nostalgic tuck-shop family favourites

## AO Reserve premium experiences

**Simon Rogan** Award-winning chef of acclaimed L'Enclume and Umbel restaurants

**Peter Gilmore** of Bennelong and Quay, renowned for his innovative menus

**Rodney Dunn and Severine Demanet** who explore a truly local experience at Tasmania's Agrarian Kitchen

**SK Steak and Oyster** Acclaimed Brisbane eatery

**Shimpei Raikuni** Brisbane's favourite Sushi Room

**Alejandro Saravia** Chef at the helm of Victoria's famous Farmer's Daughters

**Caretaker's Cottage** One of Australia's most-awarded cocktail bars



## Australian Tennis Hall of Fame

The 1968 Australian Championships men's winner, **Bill Bowrey**, joins 48 other Australian legends when he is inducted into the Australian Tennis Hall of Fame. Bowrey was the last amateur to win the title before the tournament opened to professionals.

## Golden anniversaries

Australian greats **Mark Edmondson** and **Evonne Goolagong Cawley** celebrate 50 years since their Australian Open titles. The 212<sup>th</sup>-ranked Edmondson is the last Australian men's champion at AO, while 1976 was Goolagong Cawley's third on home soil. Edmondson features on the coin tossed before all matches at AO 2026.

## Treasured trophies

Since 1934, the AO women's champion has lifted the **Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup**, named in honour of the late Daphne Akhurst (1903-33), a five-time AO singles champion. Since 1934, the AO men's champion is presented with the **Norman Brookes Challenge Cup**, named after the late Sir Norman Brookes (1877-1968), a former Australian champion.

## On the ball

A squad of more than 400 ballkids includes First Nations ballkids, Interstate Leadership Program representatives, All Abilities ballkids, Kia Korea representatives, China Open ballkids and two from France. Registrations for AO 2027 opened on 1 December, with trials starting in May. The final squad is selected from more than 2500 applicants.

**EVENT**

# CALENDAR

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>Jan 12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>AO Opening Week presented by Herald Sun</b> > Men's and women's qualifying singles first round > Open practice sessions	<b>AO Opening Week</b> > Men's and women's qualifying singles first round > Open practice sessions > Opening Week Showdowns	<b>Kia Move Different Day</b> > Men's and women's qualifying singles second round > Open practice sessions > AO 1 Point Slam driven by Kia final	<b>AO Opening Week</b> > Men's and women's qualifying singles final round > Open practice sessions > Opening Week Showdowns	<b>AO Opening Week</b> > Open practice sessions > Opening Week Showdowns	<b>Kids Tennis Day presented by Emirates</b> > Opening Ceremony	<b>AO main draw begins</b> > Men's and women's singles, first round
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
> Men's and women's singles, first round	<b>Emirates Day</b> > Men's and women's singles, first round > Men's and women's doubles 	<b>Evonne Goolagong Cawley Day</b> > Men's and women's singles, second round > Men's and women's doubles	<b>Hot Shots Tennis Day</b> > Men's and women's singles, second round > Men's and women's doubles > Mixed doubles 	> Men's and women's singles, third round > Men's and women's doubles > Mixed doubles	<b>Asahi Super Dry Saturday</b> > Men's and women's singles, third round > Men's and women's doubles > Mixed doubles > Juniors > Legends	<b>Kia Super Sunday</b> > Men's and women's singles, fourth round > Men's and women's doubles > Mixed doubles > Juniors > Legends
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Feb 1</b>
<b>Australia Day</b> > Men's and women's singles, fourth round > Men's and women's doubles > Mixed doubles > Juniors > Legends > Wheelchairs > Junior wheelchairs	<b>All Abilities Day supported by Bupa</b> > Men's and women's singles, quarterfinals > Men's and women's doubles > Mixed doubles > Juniors > Legends > Wheelchairs > Junior wheelchairs	> Men's and women's singles, quarterfinals > Men's and women's doubles > Mixed doubles > Juniors > Legends > Wheelchairs > Junior wheelchairs > AO Live Presents	<b>Women and Girls' Day</b> > Women's singles, semifinal (N) > Men's and women's doubles > Juniors > Legends > Wheelchairs > Junior wheelchairs > AO Live Presents	<b>Pride Day</b> > Men's singles semifinals > Mixed doubles final > Juniors > Legends > Wheelchairs > Junior wheelchairs > AO Pickleball Slam > AO Live Presents	> Women's singles final (N) > Wheelchair singles, finals > Men's & women's doubles, finals > AO Pickleball Slam > AO Live Presents	> Men's singles, final (N) > Junior singles, finals > Glam Slam final > AO Pickleball Slam > AO Live Presents



Schedule correct at time of printing, but subject to change.

(D) Day (N) Night

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