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IGA ŚWIĄTEK



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## WHERE THE SUN RISES

Nowhere else could you start a new year in such a fashion. In what many consider the heart of winter, the best players start the harrowing crossing of a new season under the Australian sun. On these grounds, they must turn their backs to the achievements of the season past. Inevitably, the count is reset. But, however daunting it may be, this tournament offers the promise of another chance. One for all players to reinvent themselves and start anew. Making this contest as tough, spectacular and thrilling as the lands that host it every year. **Welcome to the Australian Open.**

*#Perpetual*



OYSTER PERPETUAL  
DATEJUST 41



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AO

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# MELBOURNE EVERY BIT DIFFERENT



## THE CAN'T TALK, EATING BIT

Love food? You're going to love Melbourne. From opulent award-winning fine dining to fast and fun casual eateries, you'll find it all here in abundance.



Gimlet

Lob up to this lavishly reimagined grand cocktail bar and dining room for a modern European menu – think wood-fired meats, oysters and caviar – and Chicago-style old-world décor. Housed in the heritage-listed Cavendish House perched above the street, award-winning chef Andrew McDonnell has created a relaxed, classy space where a quick drink at the bar, or a long lunch with friends, is always on the menu.

[gimlet.melbourne](http://gimlet.melbourne)



Easey's

If you're not feeling the fancy vibe, there's plenty of options that sit firmly in the chill zone, like Easey's. Situated in a couple of heavily graffitied train carriages five stories above the streets of Collingwood, it serves signature burgers (yeah, that's right), and is about as chill as it gets.

[easeys.com.au](http://easeys.com.au)



Reine & La Rue

Set in one of Melbourne's finest grand Gothic gold rush buildings, complete with high vaulted ceilings and stained-glass windows, this elegant French restaurant and cocktail bar is the city's newest arrival and ritzy to the point of regal. The carefully curated menu includes a show-stopping seafood tower and locally sourced cuts of meat, cooked over a wood-fired grill.

[reineandlarue.melbourne](http://reineandlarue.melbourne)

## THE ROCK ON AND ON AND ON BIT

Plug in and turn up the volume with Melbourne's live music scene that's always off the charts.

### The Tote

You want hairy, sticky, punk, funk rock? This North-side institution will have you thrashing and fist-pumping with the best of them. Live bands, beer garden and plenty of atmosphere; The Tote is one of the jewels in Melbourne's heavy rock scene.

[thetotehotel.com](http://thetotehotel.com)

### Cherry Bar

Big names, first giggers and everyone in-between comes to the Cherry Bar for its pumping live music, seven days a week. Nostalgic, welcoming and very capable of partying hard, come for the DJs and live bands, and stay for the friends you have just made in the mosh-pit.

[cherrybar.com.au](http://cherrybar.com.au)

### Corner Hotel

A rowdy night at the Corner Hotel is a must if you're keen to tick off one of Melbourne's most iconic live music venues. This beloved bandroom has played host to a star-studded list of legendary musicians, from Mick Jagger to Crowded House.

[cornerhotel.com](http://cornerhotel.com)



Cherry Bar

## THE NARRM BIT

Narrm is the Woi Wurrung language for Melbourne, and we pay respect to the strong, storied, and unbroken culture of our First Peoples. Many of these experiences can be found right in the heart of the CBD.

### Koorie Heritage Trust

Authentic and meaningful experiences are what the Koorie Heritage Trust is all about. Take a CBD walking tour and delve into the history of Aboriginal Victoria as you learn about the world's oldest continuous living culture. While you're here, pick up a handcrafted gift made by local artists.

[koorieheritagetrust.com.au](http://koorieheritagetrust.com.au)

### Big Esso by Mabu Mabu

Let Torres Strait Islander chef Nornie Bero take your taste buds on a journey at this all-day bar and eatery in Fed Square. Order the chef's selection 'feed me' menu and feast on flavour-packed dishes made with unique native ingredients.

[mabumabu.com.au](http://mabumabu.com.au)

### Haus of Dizzy

Shop for bold and colourful statement jewellery pieces at Haus of Dizzy's fabulous Fitzroy boutique. Proud Wiradjuri woman Kristy Dickinson meticulously designs every piece, making it her mission to celebrate and honour Indigenous culture through art.

[hausofdizzy.com](http://hausofdizzy.com)



Haus of Dizzy

## THE LOSE YOURSELF IN THE LANEWAYS BIT

Take a sharp turn off the beaten track and head deep, deep into the vibrant, ever-changing heart of Melbourne.

### Tattersalls Lane

Nestled within an explosion of colourful street art, Tattersalls Lane is one of the city's oldest laneways. This iconic stretch of asphalt links Chinatown with Lonsdale Street and is home to a mix of old-school eateries and grungy dive bars. Grab a plate of dumplings and a Tsingtao then head up the road to Ferdydurke or Section 8 where you can pull up a milk crate and let the good times roll.

### ACDC Lane

One of Melbourne's great laneways, ACDC Lane is the perfect juxtaposition of everything this unique city has to offer. Sip tiki cocktails at Melbourne's only Hawaiian dive bar or head further down the lane for Peruvian at Pastuso before getting lost down connecting cobbled paths.



Tattersalls Lane



[VISITMELBOURNE.COM](http://VISITMELBOURNE.COM)



# CRUZ TO THE LOUNGE



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Australian Open 2024  
Official Program

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*The Australian Open acknowledges that we work, rest and play on Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Country and we pay our respects to Elders past and present.*

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AO



POLO  
RALPH LAUREN

OFFICIAL OUTFITTER



## Victorian Premier

> Summer in Melbourne means the tennis. The silence on the court, the crack of racquet on ball, and the roar of the crowd.

Every year hundreds of thousands of people come from across Australia and the globe to see the best tennis players battle it out right here.

The Australian Open is the greatest Grand Slam in the world and we are proud to be its host.

And this year, there's even more action on and off the court, with the tournament extended to 15 days.

Across the singles, doubles, juniors, legends and wheelchair competitions there's world-class tennis on show.

But you don't have to know much about tennis to enjoy a day out at Melbourne Park; there's plenty going on beyond the courts.

The event precinct buzzes with live music, family events and activities, and gourmet food and drink.

And whether you're visiting Melbourne for the first time or the 50th, there's so much to see and do.

Catch a theatre show. Embrace art - whether it's at the National Gallery of Victoria or adorning our laneways. Discover a hidden bar or eat at a top-rated restaurant. And - of course - enjoy the coffee.

Get out of the city and visit the Yarra Valley, the Mornington Peninsula or Bells Beach. Take a day trip to the Great Ocean Road, see the penguins at Phillip Island, or visit the history-rich regional cities of Bendigo or Ballarat.

The Victorian Government is proud to host the Australian Open. We've redeveloped Melbourne Park to make sure fans and players will keep coming back for years to come.

The Australian Open shows Victoria to the world, with millions watching.

But it wouldn't be possible without a lot of hard work. From the players and officials to the ballkids and everyone behind the scenes, everyone plays their part.

Thank you for making the Australian Open an unmissable event.

*Jacinta Allan*  
Hon Jacinta Allan MP  
Premier of Victoria



## Prime Minister

> I'm delighted to welcome the world to Australian Open 2024.

In 1974, on the grass courts at Kooyong, Australia's Evonne Goolagong Cawley won the first of four Australian Championships.

One of so many firsts in a magnificent career, she remembers: "a heat haze in the sky and a real electricity in the air ... and 11,999 people willing me to win."

Fifty years later, here at Melbourne Park, the atmosphere has lost none of its buzz.

Whether you play it or watch it live or on screen, tennis is captivating. The intensity of the players, the fierceness of the competition, and the endless possibilities of every stroke are thrilling.

As fans, we witness courage and skill, grit and determination. We remember the contest, the heartbreak of defeat and the grace found in victory.

Few cities in the world can match Melbourne as a home for international sporting events. Year after year, Melbourne is a superb backdrop to every triumph and emotion of the Australian Open.

With audiences in Australia and around the world willing them to win, a new generation of champions are keeping the spirit of the Australian Open alive in 2024.

Which means whether you're on the court or in the stands, you'll be part of a tremendous tournament.

*Anthony Albanese*

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP  
Prime Minister of Australia



Australian Government



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## Kia

> Greetings to the most avid tennis fans on the planet. On behalf of the entire Kia family, welcome to Australian Open 2024!

Now in our 23rd consecutive year of collaboration with the Australian Open as the Major Partner, we are once again excited to provide new and engaging experiences for both fans at Melbourne Park and those viewing from around the world.


This year's edition of the AO is particularly special as we will be witnessing many firsts in the tournament's long, storied history. It is the first time the tournament comes to us as a 15-day event, packed with even more tennis and entertainment for all to enjoy. It is also the first year of Kia's new five-year agreement to continue partnering with the world's most thrilling Grand Slam through 2028.

We are also introducing the new Kia EV9 into the official AO courtesy vehicle fleet for the first time ever. This all-electric, large SUV serves as the flagship of Kia's rapidly expanding EV line-up and can be spotted throughout Melbourne Park at some of our innovative on-site activations. I encourage those in Melbourne to take a moment to experience all that the Kia brand has to offer.

Guided by our brand ethos 'Movement that inspires', we at Kia believe that overcoming any challenge and pushing the boundaries of what's possible always start with a simple movement. And every year, the AO proves to be a true spectacle of movement - from the waves of record-breaking crowds moving throughout the festive event precinct, to the incredible on-court feats of the world's best players and the inspiring moments of perseverance and triumph that move our hearts.

Based on this common thread, we are excited to bring you our "Dear Tennis" campaign for Australian Open 2024, which gives an introspective look into the true passion embedded in the game of tennis from the perspective of players from all walks of life, including Kia's global brand ambassador, Rafael Nadal. We hope the campaign helps to inspire and empower players and fans alike to not only overcome obstacles and challenges in their lives, but to make their move in pursuing growth and progress.

We at Kia wish the best of luck to all the players competing in this year's Australian Open, and I hope you enjoy the countless inspiring on and off-court movements that await us.

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

  
Movement that inspires



## Tennis Australia

> Welcome to the 2024 edition of the Australian Open. We hope you love your experience with us this year, as we work hard to bring you one of the world's very best sporting events.

The Tennis Australia team and our valued partners are delighted to create memorable experiences for everyone involved in the tournament, from the athletes who impress us with their physical and mental prowess on court to the thousands of eager fans who stream through the gates at Melbourne Park.

An incredible 902,312 fans attended over three weeks of Australian Open 2023, setting a new Grand Slam record. They witnessed some remarkable feats, with Novak Djokovic winning an unprecedented 10th Australian Open men's singles title and Aryna Sabalenka securing her first major title in the women's singles competition. Aussie wildcards Rinky Hijikata and Jason Kubler also thrilled local fans with their captivating title-winning run in the men's doubles competition.

As we celebrate the present, we proudly acknowledge the past too. The legendary Evonne Goolagong Cawley is a special guest at this year's tournament, as we mark the 50th anniversary of her first Australian Open triumph.

With main-draw action extending to 15 days this summer, along with a jam-packed lead-in schedule extending the event across three weeks, there are even more opportunities for fans to enjoy the excitement of AO 2024.

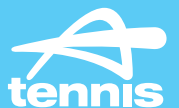
We are committed to making the Australian Open a truly inclusive community event. This is achieved through spectacular off-court entertainment, from family friendly fun to celebrations of culture and diversity. This aligns closely with our vision to create a playful world through tennis for everyone.

The Australian Open, and the top-ranked stars who compete, also inspire more people, both locally and across the world, to play tennis.

That's why the Australian Open hits different. We are more than a tennis tournament. We are an all-inclusive event that inspires and unites communities.

We hope you enjoy your time at Australian Open 2024 and feel proud to be playing your part in growing our great game. Hopefully we see you on a court soon as well!

  
**Jayne Hrdlicka**  
Chair, Tennis Australia

  
tennis





# PROUD TO HIT DIFFERENT

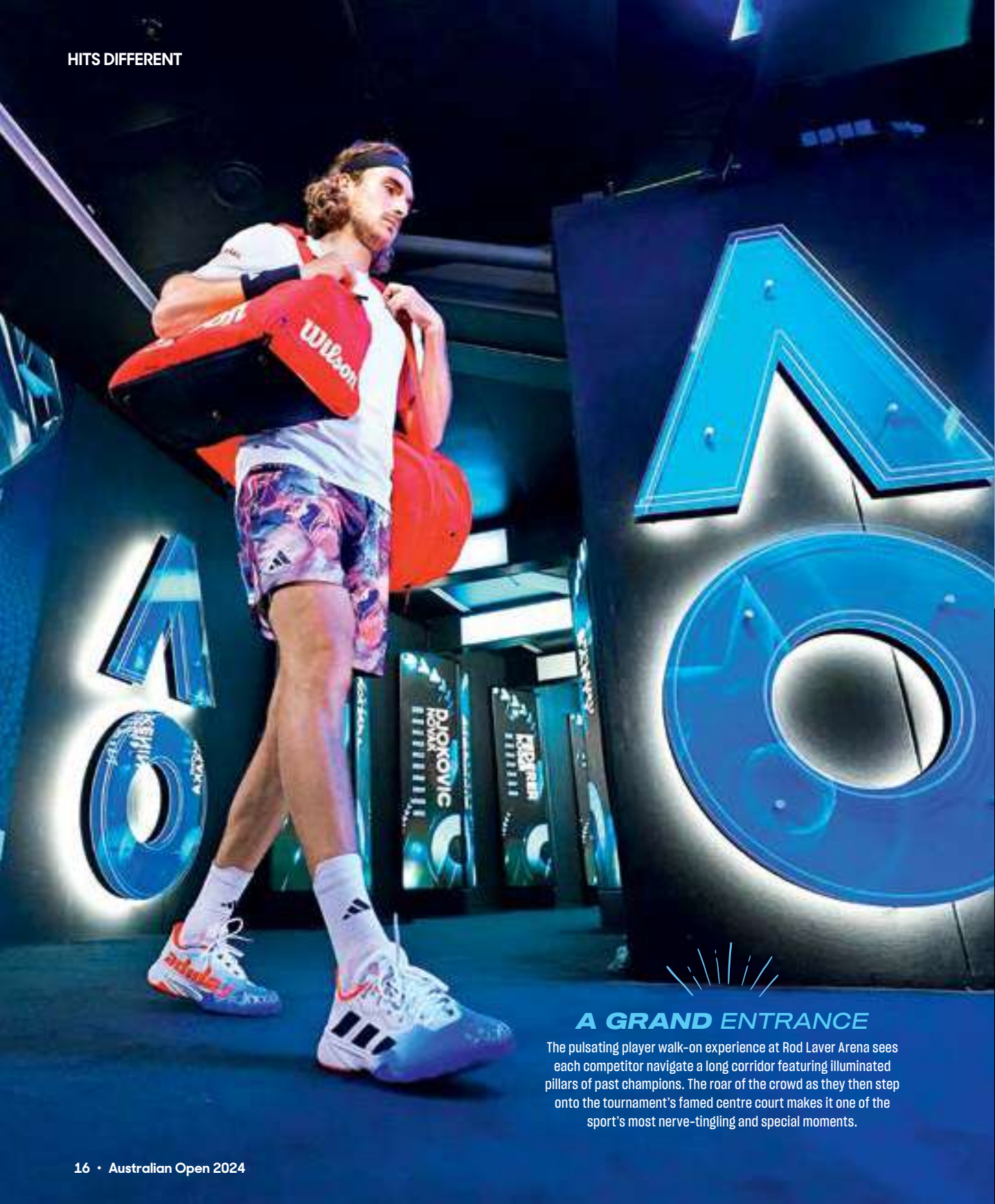
Nothing compares to the Australian Open and the sizzling Melbourne summer. Tennis in Australia really does hit different.



**STRONG  
AUSSIE SPIRIT**

Patriotic fans inspire Australian players to incredible heights at their home Grand Slam. "Having so many people behind you, it's hard not to get up for it," Rinky Hijikata said after capturing the AO 2023 doubles title alongside compatriot Jason Kubler. "This is what you play for, being able to play a home Slam. There's nothing better."





**A GRAND ENTRANCE**

The pulsating player walk-on experience at Rod Laver Arena sees each competitor navigate a long corridor featuring illuminated pillars of past champions. The roar of the crowd as they then step onto the tournament's famed centre court makes it one of the sport's most nerve-tingling and special moments.



**HOME TO  
EPIC  
FINALS**

More singles finals have extended the full distance at the Australian Open than any other Grand Slam this century. Aryna Sabalenka's gallant three-set victory against Elena Rybakina at AO 2023 was the 18th final (12 women's and six men's) since 2000 to span maximum sets.

**PLAYING  
TO WIN**

Competing for Grand Slam glory brings out the best in the world's top players and creates an incredible spectacle for fans. Reinstated at world No.1, Polish star Iga Swiatek has her sights set on claiming her first Australian Open title.





### FUTURE STARS HIT IT BIG

The Australian Open has a proud history of unearthing future stars. Italian Jannik Sinner, who scored his first Grand Slam main-draw victory at AO 2020, returns this year as the world No.4 and looking to snare a first major title. Is this the 22-year-old's time to shine on the sport's grandest stage?

### MELBOURNE'S BIGGEST PARTY

Electric off-court vibes are an Australian Open signature. As well as having the chance to see the world's best tennis players in action, thousands of fans soak up the atmosphere and experience events across the precinct, such as the AO Finals Festival.



### WHERE LEGENDS ARE LOVED

Feting past champions is a proud tradition at the Australian Open. A custom coin featuring a tournament legend is created each summer for use in the pre-match coin tosses. Ken Rosewall was celebrated at AO 2023, while this year's tournament coin honours Evonne Goolagong Cawley.







### BRINGING FANS CLOSER

As the world's best players look to fulfil their Grand Slam dreams at Melbourne Park, they also appreciate the passionate fans cheering them on. That's why they enjoy giving back to supporters, creating unforgettable moments by snapping a selfie or signing an autograph.



### WHERE HISTORY HAPPENS

No man boasts an Australian Open record as dominant as 10-time champion Novak Djokovic. Almost two decades into his incredible career, the 36-year-old from Serbia continues to marvel fans with his unbelievable athleticism and unprecedented on-court achievements.



### A UNIQUE FINALE

The Australian Open is the only Grand Slam event with night finals, which provide a spectacular conclusion to the tournament. Even if you don't have a courtside seat, the precinct is abuzz with anticipation and excitement as thousands of fans cheer on their favourites.





# VICTORIA EVERY BIT DIFFERENT

## THE MOUTH-WATERING BIT

Regional Victoria enters the chat and drops some gastronomic real talk. Ready? We're hitting the highways and by-ways on some serious belly-business.



Dal Zotto, King Valley

Experience 'la dolce vita' and sip on delightful Italian wines at this family-owned winery along the King Valley's famous Prosecco Road. Dal Zotto is all about warm hospitality, exceptional wine making and hearty trattoria dining – what more could you want?

[dalzotto.com.au](http://dalzotto.com.au)



Little Picket, Lorne

Prepare to be bowled over by some seriously good food at this unassuming little diner on the Great Ocean Road. Little Picket recently earned itself a spot on the Good Food Guide's best-of-2023 list and is known for its unique, sustainability-focused menu.

[littlepicket.com.au](http://littlepicket.com.au)



Bar Merenda, Daylesford

Head to Daylesford and see for yourself why Bar Merenda just won Bar of the Year at the Good Food Guide Awards. Feel the warmth of this down-to-earth wine bar as you tuck into flavourful dishes from the ever-changing, Mediterranean-inspired menu.

[barmerenda.com.au](http://barmerenda.com.au)

## THE RELAXED TO THE MAX BIT

Slow it all right down and turn the chill mode up to 10 with an indulgent spa experience.

### Alba Thermal Springs & Spa

Embrace your inner Zen and soak until your heart's content in more than 30 stunning pools at this ultra-luxe wellness sanctuary. Alba is synonymous with elevated spa experiences, so you'll leave feeling like a new person after a day of pampering.

[albathermalsprings.com.au](http://albathermalsprings.com.au)

### Peppers Mineral Springs Hotel

Nothing says relaxation quite like an indulgent stay at a boutique spa hotel, and Peppers Mineral Springs ticks every box for a blissful getaway to Daylesford & the Macedon Ranges. Sink into the rejuvenating mineral waters and luxuriate in heavenly treatments at the on-site spa – go on, you deserve it.

[peppers.com.au/springs](http://peppers.com.au/springs)

### Peninsula Hot Springs

Sink into geothermal waters and exhale. This is pure serenity on the Mornington Peninsula. More than 70 globally inspired bathing and wellness experiences. Peaceful natural surroundings. A coastal oasis that feels worlds away yet is only a short drive from Melbourne.

[peninsulahotsprings.com](http://peninsulahotsprings.com)



Peninsula Hot Springs

## THE TAKING THE SCENIC ROUTE BIT

Head out onto the open road and into the loving embrace of Mother Nature. We get it, sometimes you need to take a break from the bright lights and bustling energy of the city and swap it for some twinkling stars and natural beauty.

### Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park

Where do we even start – rugged mountain ranges, dazzling waterfalls, panoramic lookouts with horizons that stretch into infinity, ancient Indigenous rock art, bushwalking, hiking, rock climbing, fishing, canoeing... there's just too much to talk about.

[visitvictoria.com/regions/grampians](http://visitvictoria.com/regions/grampians)



Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park

### Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park

Seven Gippsland rivers meet at this vast tranquil park, where lakes, lagoons and waterways are framed by the sand dunes of Ninety Mile Beach. A holiday favourite for boating and fishing, this coastal gem is a paradise for nature-lovers.

[visitvictoria.com/gippsland-lakes-coastal-park](http://visitvictoria.com/gippsland-lakes-coastal-park)

### Black Spur Drive

Wind your way through the lush forest landscapes of the Yarra Ranges on this must-do drive. Lower the windows, breathe in the fresh forest fragrances and gaze up at towering mountain ash trees in total awe. This is Mother Nature at her absolute best.

[visitvictoria.com/Black-Spur-Drive](http://visitvictoria.com/Black-Spur-Drive)



Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park



Black Spur Drive



VISITVICTORIA.COM





# THE COMEBACK QUEENS

... MEET THE REIGNING ROYALS

Former champions Naomi Osaka, Caroline Wozniacki and Angelique Kerber make headline-grabbing returns at Australian Open 2024, but the WTA's new order isn't giving up its throne with ease. It creates an intriguing - and unique - dynamic as a new Grand Slam season begins.

By NICK McCARVEL

**HUNGRY FOR MORE:**  
Former champions Angelique Kerber, Naomi Osaka and Caroline Wozniacki make Australian Open returns as mothers.

"I definitely have a fresh perspective on life - and on tennis in particular."  
Naomi Osaka





WOMEN TO WATCH



**O**n a sticky Thursday night in Queens, New York, Coco Gauff and Karolina Muchova were doing battle for a respective career-first: a spot in the US Open final.

But if you looked closely at the first row of the President's Box inside Arthur Ashe Stadium, another women's tennis superstar sat just off the baseline, court-side. Clad in loose-fitting denim-wash jeans with a cream-coloured baseball cap pulled tightly over her face, there was Naomi Osaka, nearly a year removed from her last professional match - and just weeks into motherhood.

"Is that Naomi?" Gauff asked tennis legend Pam Shriver during their post-match interview, the teen having just earned her way into the championship match, which she would go on to win some 48 hours later.

"I didn't know she was sitting there until now," Coco added with a laugh, waving towards Osaka.

The journey from spectator to sports spectacle is one Osaka is set to take in 2024, the four-time major winner - twice

**MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH:** Coco Gauff peaked at No.3 after her maiden Grand Slam triumph at the US Open.

a champion here at the Australian Open - forging a path this sport knows quite well: the return of a champion.

She's doing so, too, as part of a unique, elite group: Mothers. Mothers on a mission. Women's tennis saw it before (think Kim Clijsters and Evonne Goolagong Cawley) and is seeing it now more than ever. Osaka's comeback aligns with those of fellow top stars-turned-mums Caroline Wozniacki, Angelique Kerber and Elina Svitolina.

"This chapter is about more than me; happiness and fulfilment are the most important," Osaka told the Australian Open exclusively. "I definitely have a fresh perspective on life - and on tennis in particular."

The AO champion in 2019 and 2021, her triumph at Melbourne Park three summers ago was - quite unexpectedly - one of her last bright moments in the sport. The Japanese star compiled just five wins at the majors over the remainder of that year and into 2022, while she openly expressed the mental health toll

she had faced amid mounting pressure.

A year ago in January came the announcement she was expecting her first child, and in July she gave birth to a baby girl, Shai.

"I really want to enjoy myself more this time," Osaka said of this next chapter, having announced Australia as the scene of her comeback. "And cherish all the experiences (to come)."

**The reigning royals**

Since Osaka last took to the competitive court in September 2022, women's tennis has crowned three new major champions in Gauff (US Open), Marketa Vondrousova (Wimbledon) and reigning Australian Open title holder, Aryna Sabalenka.

Iga Swiatek has added a fourth Grand Slam jewel to her crown, while she and Sabalenka have split time at world No.1, the position left vacant when Ash Barty retired after her AO 2022 triumph.

Muchova reached a major final (Roland Garros) and another semifinal, while Wimbledon 2022 winner Elena Rybakina, Ons Jabeur, Jessica Pegula and Maria Sakkari have established themselves as consistent top-10 forces and major threats.

"It's obvious that six or eight women could win a major right now," tennis legend Chris Evert told reporters during the 2022 US Open. "It's just getting to be a more athletic and strength(-based) game."

"I think it has to do with winning seven consecutive matches at a Grand Slam," she added. "And being consistent."

But champions pack a special punch with that consistency - a fact highlighted by Svitolina's stirring back-to-back major runs in Paris and London, where she made the quarterfinals and semifinals less than a year after giving birth to her daughter, Skai, in October 2022.

"I didn't really expect to be in the semifinals," an honest Svitolina offered at Wimbledon, having upset Swiatek to reach the final four. "I'm really, really proud (of) the way that I've been playing against tough opponents, Grand Slam champions, the players who know how to win and how to play pressure moments."

As the saying goes, "To be the best you have to beat the best." That applies even to great champions, no matter what their past accomplishments may be.

**Not easy, but possible**

"She's not just coming back to play ... she wants to win," said Clijsters of Wozniacki's return when it was announced ahead of Wimbledon last year.

The Dane, who won Australian Open 2018, hadn't played since Australia in 2020, having not one but two children in her three-and-a-half years away from the sport, which many - including her - saw as a definite retirement.

Clijsters' own return to the tour in 2009 came after a two-year absence. In just her third tournament back, she shocked the tennis world when she beat none other than Wozniacki for the US Open crown.

"Victoria Azarenka, Kim Clijsters, and Serena (Williams) have already shown what it takes to have a child and return to the tour," Wozniacki wrote in *Vogue* when she announced her return. "It's not easy by any means, but it is possible."

Three-time major champion Kerber, who gave birth to daughter Liana last February, begins her comeback this summer. The German turns 36 during

her Australian Open return, her first major since Wimbledon 2022.

"Kicking off again at the United Cup after a one-and-a-half-year break and then having your first Grand Slam two weeks later is a huge challenge," Kerber told *Porsche Newsroom*.

"The love for the sport is my biggest motivation. It'll never go away. Added to that is the challenge of returning to the big tennis stage and giving it my all once again."

Mums on tour have become a mainstay. Ten competed in the main draw of the US Open and at least one - Osaka - sat in the stands watching from close range.

Each of them acutely understands the hard work required to return to the top.

"I really enjoyed my time away, but I'm ready to get back down to business," Osaka said of her return. "The competition is what I missed the most ... and coming back to Australia."

**Inspiring returns**

Comebacks have taken on many forms over the years - and aren't confined to returning mothers. In 2001, it was Jennifer Capriati finally scaling the game's Mount Everest with her win at Melbourne Park after facing down years of demons to earn her first major title.

**"This chapter is about more than me; happiness and fulfilment are the most important." Naomi Osaka**



**MULTI-SLAM STARS:** Naomi Osaka and Iga Swiatek, past and present world No.1s, are each in the hunt for their fifth Grand Slam trophy.



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**FRESH PERSPECTIVE:**  
Former world No.3 and new mother Elena Svitolina was a Wimbledon semifinalist in 2023.

**"Playing for so many years at the top level, you want to play well and come back to that level." Elena Svitolina**

"This (feels like) a new life, a different life," said Capriati, when asked to compare her win in 2001 to the success she had as a teenager in the early 1990s, including when she won Olympic gold in 1992.

Svitolina, who made a spectacular return to world No.25 in 2023, can relate to the sense of a fresh start.

"Playing for so many years at the top level, you want to play well and come back to that level," she explained during Wimbledon. "You want to play on the big stages, win big matches. It's (a) very difficult road to come back to your best form, to your best game."

"I cannot compare it to what it was before the pregnancy. Now is very different. It's also (a) fresh mindset, I'm really motivated like never before (and) just happy with where I am right now."

### Enduring passion

The Clijsters comeback wasn't complete with that US Open 2009 win. She repeated as champion in New York in 2010, then four months later captured a long-awaited Australian Open title.

"It's been one of the great sports stories

in recent years, coming back to the sport after a break," said commentator Fred Stolle as Clijsters reached championship point against Li Na at Rod Laver Arena.

It was a reminder that you never can predict sport, the most unscripted of reality shows. A decade later, Clijsters returned for a brief stint at age 36.

Now, more than ever, a comeback can take any shape, form or age.

Passion could well be the defining quality of a changed tennis landscape.

The top of the sport - in particular Swiatek and Sabalenka - have made it clear they are as hungry as anyone to be the standard bearer.

"Now I've become the one who is trying to run away as far as I can so nobody really can get me," Sabalenka said after ascending to world No.1 last September. "But let's say, I'm chasing my goals. That's it."

It was a striking moment in the sport. For the first time since April 2022, Swiatek relented the No.1 ranking, and to a player - in Sabalenka - who had been fiercely chasing her for months.

One player's lifelong dream appeared to be another's relief.

## WOMEN TO WATCH

### MAJOR THREATS

Can these top-100 forces, already Grand Slam champions, add to their major records at AO 2024?

**Elena Rybakina**  
Kazakhstan, world No.4

> Big-hitting Rybakina soared to the Wimbledon title in 2022, upsetting Ons Jabeur to become the first player from Kazakhstan to win a singles major. Still just 24, she has five titles in total.

**Marketa Vondrousova**  
Czech Republic, world No.7

> Vondrousova is the first unseeded and lowest-ranked woman to win Wimbledon, ranked No.42 when she beat Jabeur. The all-surface threat was Roland Garros finalist in 2019 and the Tokyo 2020 Olympic silver medallist.

**Barbora Krejickova**  
Czech Republic, world No.10

> Doubles star Krejickova was the surprise singles champion at Roland Garros 2021, then climbed to world No.2. Despite recent injury challenges, she's collected seven singles titles thanks to her all-court game.

**Petra Kvitova**  
Czech Republic, world No.14

> A two-time Wimbledon winner - in 2011 and 2014 - Kvitova's unexpected longevity has added to her legacy. The lefty has 31 titles in total, dating back to 2009, and was runner-up at AO 2019.

**REPEAT CONTENDER:**  
Elena Rybakina is the AO 2023 runner-up and Wimbledon 2022 champion.





## WOMEN TO WATCH

### Jelena Ostapenko Latvia, world No.13

> Known to have the most expressive face in tennis, Ostapenko knows only one speed: fast. Her lightning groundstrokes sensationally lifted her to the Roland Garros title in 2017, one of six career trophies.

### Victoria Azarenka World No.22

> More than a decade since she won back-to-back AO titles (in 2012 and 2013) and climbed to world No.1, 34-year-old Azarenka remains a mainstay at the top of the game. In all, she has 21 titles to her name.

### Sofia Kenin USA, world No.33

> The surprise AO 2020 champion went on to reach the Roland Garros final amid the pandemic later that year but subsequently struggled with injury and off-court issues. She has recently returned to form and remains a threat.

### Sloane Stephens USA, world No.48

> Stephens became the first American not named "Williams" to win a major since Jennifer Capriati when she claimed the US Open in 2017. The 30-year-old has seven titles, and was a Roland Garros finalist in 2018.

### Bianca Andreescu Canada, World No.92

> Andreescu's US Open 2019 title run remains one of the great modern marvels in women's tennis. 'Bibi', as she's known, has since been beset by injuries but owns a counter-punching baseline game that can trouble anyone.

### DUAL CROWN:

Victoria Azarenka has won each of her two major titles in Melbourne.



**DEFENDING CHAMPION:** Aryna Sabalenka is bidding to become the first woman to claim back-to-back AO titles since Victoria Azarenka in 2012 and 2013.

"For me, sport is a cycle of constant changes ... we either win or lose," Swiatek reflected on social media. "New season, next tournament; new opportunities to gain (and) achieve."

It was sage perspective. Soon afterwards, Swiatek added to her impressive record with victory in the season-ending WTA Finals and in the process, reclaimed her No.1 throne.

## Ready to wow

When Gauff lifted her first Grand Slam trophy in New York, her champion's speech was heard around the world: "Honestly, thank you to the people who didn't believe in me," Gauff said. "To those who thought they were putting water on my fire, you were really adding gas to it."

"And I'm burning so bright right now." It's a new order of confidence that is nearly a requirement in today's game with the pressures and expectations that accompany a place at the top of the sport.

Jabeur has been open about how serious she takes her role as an Arab trailblazer, while Sakkar spoke of being spurred on by Gauff's victory when she captured her biggest title at Guadalajara several weeks later.

You can factor in the likes of Madison

Keys, Zheng Qinwen and Beatriz Haddad Maia into the major conversation in 2024.

Throw in major champions Sofia Kenin and Bianca Andreescu into that mix and it's a fascinating time in women's tennis.

Gauff, still just 19, has shown it isn't just about screaming forehands and aces out wide. It's about playing your cards right, and timing your move.

After faltering to Kenin in the first round at Wimbledon in July, she returned home and recalibrated. She hired well-known coach Pere Riba to head her team, legendary savant Brad Gilbert as an advisor, and Jarmere Jenkins, the former hitting partner of Serena Williams.

Wins in Washington, Cincinnati and the US Open followed in just five weeks.

You could see Osaka's move, in 2021, as akin to Gauff's, but in a wider sense: "It was a little selfish, if I'm being honest," she said of highlighting the importance of mental health. "Growing up, I had been taught to 'tough it out.' I needed to step back (from the sport)."

Now she steps back in, much as Svitolina and Wozniacki have done over the past few months. It's a chance to reclaim the spotlight when so many lights are shining so brightly in the sport.

Each of the aforementioned stars take centre stage at Australian Open 2024.

And instead of Osaka on the sidelines, it's us. Watching, waiting, but already wowed. **AO**

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"Obviously he's one of the greatest of all time from our sport ... everything he does in the game is unbelievable."

Carlos Alcaraz on Novak Djokovic

# MAJOR CONTRASTS

Aged 16 years apart and with vastly different records, Novak Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz sit at opposite ends of their careers. But there are also striking synchronicities in passion and potential as the world's top two men lead the charge at Australian Open 2024.

By **SIMON CAMBERS**

**RECORD BREAKERS:**  
Carlos Alcaraz stopped Novak Djokovic from sweeping all four Grand Slams in 2023.



MEN’S CONTENDERS

Novak Djokovic returns to Melbourne as the world No.1, chasing his 11th Australian Open title and with a record as good as any in the history of men’s tennis.

At 36, the Serbian shows no sign of slowing down. The numbers are almost laughably good. Djokovic has won 12 of his past 19 Grand Slams, dating back to his quarterfinal defeat at Roland Garros in 2018. He won three of the four Slams in 2023; he has triumphed in four of the past five that he has played; he’s won seven of the past 12 Slams, of which he has only played 10; and perhaps most remarkably of all, Djokovic has reached the final in 10 of his past 11 Slams. With 24 Grand Slams to his name – a record only matched by the Aussie great Margaret Court – Djokovic has pushed himself ahead of Rafael Nadal (22) and Roger Federer (20) in the all-time list.

Arguments as to who’s the greatest will doubtless go on – how many more Slams would Rod Laver have won if he had not been banned for five years after turning professional in 1962? But in terms of pure numbers, Djokovic has put himself well ahead of the rest. As Mats Wilander said at Roland Garros last year, when the Serbian won his third Roland Garros title, Djokovic is the most complete player the men’s game has ever seen. “He doesn’t have any weaknesses,” Wilander said.

A golden age

It is now 16 years since Djokovic won his first Grand Slam title, beating Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the AO 2008 final. Though it took him three more years to win his second major, that victory began a love affair with the Australian Open that continues to this day. Over a career

**SPOILER ALERT:** Daniil Medvedev, a two-time Australian Open finalist, is in rare company as a winner over Novak Djokovic in a major final.

which now spans almost two decades, Djokovic has taken on all-comers and has beaten all of them. His insatiable appetite for success has seen him prioritise the Slams even more in the past couple of years and that spells trouble for his rivals, who continue to struggle to keep up with him. In that period, Djokovic has tamed serve and volleyers, like Tsonga, ground down the best baseliners of the lot, including Nadal and Andy Murray, and found a way to get the better of Federer, perhaps the greatest all-court player of all time. Close your eyes and think of Djokovic-Federer battles and the image of Federer trying to take the net away from Djokovic looms large, before the Serbian’s unmatched defensive skills offered him chances to pass the Swiss, which he invariably took. The rivalry of the Big Three – Djokovic, Nadal and Federer – will go down in history as the golden age of men’s tennis, playing each other many times



when they were each at or close to their peaks. With very different playing styles and even more different in terms of personality, they took tennis to a new level. The controlled, elegant brilliance of Federer; the raw power, incredible mental strength of Nadal and the defence and resilience of Djokovic has made them stand out above all others.

A burgeoning rivalry

At Australian Open 2024, Djokovic has a new rival. Carlos Alcaraz had already announced himself when he won the US Open in 2022 at the age of 19, wresting the world No.1 ranking from the absent Djokovic in the process. The Spaniard missed last year’s event in Melbourne through injury, denying us a look at the two men going toe-to-toe at a Slam. But in 2023, they rectified that, playing each other in four incredible battles; first in the semifinals at Roland Garros, where the intensity coming from Djokovic and the occasion caused Alcaraz so much stress he cramped so badly he had nothing left; to the Wimbledon final, where the 20-year-old showed he had the resilience to match his shot-making, edging an instant classic in

**OPPORTUNITY KNOCKING:** Stefanos Tsitsipas reached the Australian Open final in 2023, while Djokovic fell to Alcaraz in a classic Wimbledon decider.

five sets to win his second major title. Their subsequent clash in the final at Cincinnati last August, when Djokovic came out on top in an epic played out in brutal heat, was arguably the match of the year. For all the efforts of Daniil Medvedev and Stefanos Tsitsipas, two recent finalists at Melbourne Park, and for the rise of Jannik Sinner, it is the arrival of Alcaraz, whose venomous hitting is accompanied with incredible speed and a disarming smile, that has really given Djokovic something to think about. It’s a burgeoning rivalry, one that benefits from their contrasting personalities and even their differences on court, which may not be too obvious at first glance. “Carlos Alcaraz has so much flair and so much explosiveness in his arm, and he can hit these forehands and then can massage these little drop shots,” Wilander said on Eurosport last year. “Then you have the other style, which is the relentless defensive game of Novak Djokovic, who sometimes pushes

himself to be more aggressive than maybe he wants to, but he does it at the right time. The defensive skills, and then against Alcaraz, is absolutely incredible. Throw on top of that the defensive skills of Carlos Alcaraz, because he’s got those as well.”

Pushing the boundaries

The fact that there is 16 years between the two men doesn’t hurt the narrative, either. At 36, Djokovic may be pushing the boundaries of what’s possible in tennis at his age, but as great as he is, he knows he’s coming towards the end. Alcaraz is just starting out, ready to compete with the Serbian, to beat him at times, and with the kind of game and mentality that suggests he will go on to win many more Grand Slam titles. As a youngster, Alcaraz liked to describe himself as being more like Federer, at least in game style. Like Federer, it seems there is no ball that Alcaraz can’t attack from; like Federer, he can volley superbly, and he has the same kind of explosivity, with even more power than the 20-time Grand Slam champion. It was fascinating to listen to Djokovic, after the Wimbledon final, summing up what he sees when he looks at Alcaraz across the net. “I think people have been talking in the past 12 months or so about his game consisting of certain elements from Roger, Rafa, and myself,” Djokovic said. “I would agree with that. I think he’s got basically best of all three worlds. “He’s got this mental resilience and real maturity for someone who

“People have been talking about his game consisting of certain elements from Roger, Rafa and myself. I would agree ... he’s got basically best of all three worlds.”

Novak Djokovic on Carlos Alcaraz



is 20 years old. It's quite impressive. He's got this Spanish bull mentality of competitiveness and fighting spirit and incredible defence that we've seen with Rafa over the years.

"And I think he's got some nice sliding backhands that have some similarities with my backhands. Yeah, two-handed backhands, defence, being able to adapt. I think that has been my personal strength for many years. He has it, too.

"I haven't played a player like him ever, to be honest. Roger and Rafa have their own strengths and weaknesses. Carlos is a very complete player. (He has) amazing adapting capabilities that I think are a key for longevity and for a successful career on all surfaces."

No safe zones

Among the enthralled spectators packed into Centre Court at Wimbledon for last year's final was Murray. Twice a Wimbledon champion and still searching for every edge he can find.

Murray was watching with a Grand Slam champion's eye, videoing sections of the match, looking closely at what both were doing. He left the court with some ideas for himself but also hugely impressed by how Alcaraz handled the occasion.

Speaking on the *Control the Controllables* podcast ahead of last year's US Open, Murray said Alcaraz differed from most of his generation in that his opponents have no safe zone to go to, no area they can play to without fear of being attacked.

"Alcaraz is an amazing player," he said. "Regardless of generations, he'd be



ITALIAN STYLE: A runner-up finish at the ATP Finals and leading Italy to the 2023 Davis Cup title shows Jannik Sinner is ready to challenge for major titles.

winning all the time, anyway, or right up at the top of the game. But for me, the thing that stands out about him is that he has an all-court game, he doesn't have an obvious weakness that you can go to on the court, like someone like Novak would have. And I think he's one of the few guys of the younger generation that has all of those tools.

"It seems like there's bigger strengths (in players now), but maybe slightly more obvious weaknesses than the previous generation. And I think that is where Alcaraz, over time, he will be very adaptable to the opponents and the surfaces and everything. He'll definitely

lose matches, but I don't think you'll see guys with like, five, six, seven-zero, head-to-head records against him, whereas there are clear match-ups (elsewhere) that don't favour one of the guys.

"With Roger, Rafa and Novak, when those guys were playing against each other, yes, surface and everything would affect the head-to-head but they were winning a lot against each other. It wasn't totally one-sided in any of those match-ups."

Revered rivalries

Rivalries come in different shapes and forms, of course. Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova, who each won 18 Grand Slam singles titles, played each other for several years at their peaks. Of their 80 contests, an incredible 60 were in finals. Djokovic and Nadal have played 59 times, with Djokovic leading 30-29, while the Serbian led Federer 27-23 and Nadal led Federer 24-16, a lead extended by his superiority on clay.

Djokovic and Alcaraz are unlikely to get anywhere near those numbers, purely because of their respective ages. In theory, their age difference means Alcaraz should have a big advantage, physically, but as Alcaraz said at Wimbledon, Djokovic remains a supreme athlete. "Obviously he's one of

the greatest of all time from our sport," Alcaraz said.

"No doubts about it. Everything he does in the game is unbelievable. He never gives up. Tough moment, (when it looks like) he's going to lose, he always gives the chance to himself to keep playing and be able to win."

The chasing pack

Djokovic and Alcaraz have clearly pulled away at the top of the men's game, but that's not to say there are not others in the Australian Open field who believe they can win the title.

Medvedev reached the final here in 2021 and 2022; he led Nadal by two sets and a break in the latter before the Spaniard fought back to win.

After a difficult second half of 2022, affected by injury, he looks back to his best again, reaching a fifth Grand Slam final at the US Open, where only Djokovic stopped him from winning a second major.

Italy's Jannik Sinner has made big strides since the arrival of Australian coach Darren Cahill in his camp, reaching his first Slam semifinal at Wimbledon and winning the China Open, where he beat both Alcaraz and Medvedev.

Then there's Tsitsipas, a finalist here

last year and always a popular figure in Melbourne; Denmark's Holger Rune, world No.5 Andrey Rublev, Casper Ruud from Norway, Germany's Alexander Zverev and the American trio of Taylor Fritz, Frances Tiafoe and rising youngster Ben Shelton. A healthy Nadal can never be ruled out either.

Contrasting styles

But it is Djokovic and Alcaraz who will capture the headlines in the build-up to the event, their contrasting styles and personalities the perfect mix. Alcaraz will be a massive threat but all things being equal, it will still take something incredible to stop Djokovic from winning yet again. And the bad news for his rivals is that he is still learning, still striving to improve.

"I love competition," he said. "I think the more you find yourself in those particular circumstances where you're experiencing adversity on the court, where things are not maybe moving the right way for you in terms of the performance of that day, in terms of tennis, or mentally you're not feeling your best, that's normally the best possible opportunity for you to grow mentally from that, to learn something.

"Normally in the face of adversity is where you learn the most." **AO**



PRESSING MATTERS: Andrey Rublev enjoyed his most consistent season at the majors in 2023, reaching three further quarterfinals.

It is far from a duopoly at the top of the men's game, with multiple contenders in line for the Australian Open 2024 crown.

Daniil Medvedev

> The 27-year-old is a five-time Grand Slam finalist on hard courts. This includes his Australian Open runner-up finishes in 2021 and 2022.

Jannik Sinner

> The 22-year-old Italian climbed to a career-high ranking of No.4 and advanced to his first Grand Slam semifinal at Wimbledon during 2023.

Andrey Rublev

> A nine-time Grand Slam quarterfinalist, a major breakthrough seems imminent for the consistent 26-year-old.

Stefanos Tsitsipas

> With four semifinals from his past five AO appearances, it is no secret the 25-year-old Greek thrives at Melbourne Park.

Alexander Zverev

> The 26-year-old German has progressed to the second week in four of his past five Australian Open appearances.

Holger Rune

> The 20-year-old Dane won seven of his first eight matches against top-five opponents, a feat last achieved almost five decades ago.

Taylor Fritz

> After peaking at world No.5 during 2023, Fritz is eyeing Grand Slam success in the new season.

Casper Ruud

> The 25-year-old Norwegian has reached the final in three of the past seven Grand Slam tournaments.

Frances Tiafoe

> The 25-year-old American enjoyed his best season to date in 2023 and was rewarded with a top-10 debut.

Rafael Nadal

> The 22-time Grand Slam champion can never be discounted, even if he did miss most of 2023 through injury.

A CROSS-GENERATIONAL BATTLE

Carlos Alcaraz	v	Novak Djokovic
20	Age	36
2018	Year turned pro	2003
11	Grand Slams contested	72
2	Grand Slam titles	24
12	Total titles won	98
1	Year-end No.1 finishes	8



# AUSTRALIAN OPEN QUICK SERVE

Want to impress your family and friends with your tournament knowledge?  
This is your fast and friendly guide to becoming  
an Australian Open expert.



## THE EARLY YEARS

- > The inaugural edition of the tournament was played in Melbourne at the Warehouseman's Cricket Ground (now known as Tennis World Albert Reserve) in November 1905.
- > As well as in Melbourne, the event has been staged in Sydney (17 times), Adelaide (15 times), Brisbane (seven times) and Perth (three times).
- > New Zealand even hosted two early editions, at Christchurch in 1906 and Hastings in 1912.

## MELBOURNE MOVE

- > Melbourne has been the permanent home of the tournament since 1972.
- > The Australian Open was played at the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club until 1987, before moving to Melbourne Park (known as Flinders Park until 1996).
- > The Australian Open was originally played on green Rebound Ace courts at Melbourne Park, before switching to 'true blue' Plexicushion courts from 2008.
- > **Melbourne Park** is the only Grand Slam tennis venue that has three courts with a retractable roof. This allows play to continue in the event of rain or extreme heat.

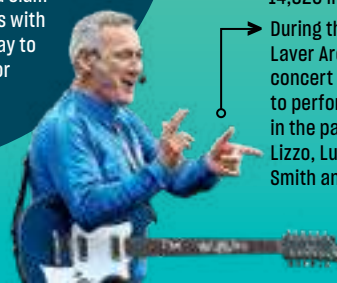
## MAJOR CHANGES

- > Before becoming the Australian Open in 1969, the tournament was known as the Australasian Championships (from 1905-1926) and the Australian Championships (from 1927-1968).
- > The only times the annual tournament has not been held was during World War I (from 1916-1918) and World War II (from 1941-1945), as well as in 1986, when the tournament start date switched from November (in 1985) to January (in 1987).
- > The tournament was played twice in 1977, in both January and December.



## ROD LAVER ARENA

- > Originally known as Centre Court, the venue was renamed Rod Laver Arena in January 2000 to honour one of Australia's greatest players, **Rod Laver**.
- > Laver is the only man in history to win two calendar-year Grand Slams in singles, sweeping all four major titles in both 1962 and 1969.
- > Rod Laver Arena has a seating capacity of 14,820 in tennis mode.
- > During the year, Rod Laver Arena is a popular concert venue. Artists to perform at the arena in the past year include Lizzo, Luke Combs, Sam Smith and **The Wiggles**.



## AROUND THE GROUNDS

- > The Australian Open boasts the biggest precinct of the four Grand Slam tournaments.
- > Margaret Court Arena, which was redeveloped with a retractable roof in 2015, holds 7500 fans.
- > Since opening in 2022, the 5000-seat Kia Arena has become a fan favourite among ground-pass holders.

John Cain Arena  
is the second biggest  
venue at Melbourne  
Park, seating  
**10,300**  
fans.

## REMARKABLE FEATS

- > Novak Djokovic won the longest final in tournament history, overcoming Rafael Nadal 5-7 6-4 6-2 6-7(5) 7-5 in an epic five-hour and 53-minute battle in 2012.
- > Djokovic also holds the record for most men's singles titles, with 10. He captured his maiden Grand Slam title at AO 2008.
- > Margaret Court holds the record for the most women's singles titles, with 11. The legendary Australian also collected eight women's doubles titles and four in mixed doubles. Serena Williams is the most prolific Open era champion with seven singles and four doubles titles.
- > Australian Lleyton Hewitt won the latest-finishing Grand Slam match in history at AO 2008, securing a third-round victory against Marcos Baghdatis 4-6 7-5 7-5 6-7(4) 6-3 at 4.33am.
- > **Ash Barty** is the most recent local to win a singles title at the Australian Open, ending a 44-year drought with her 2022 triumph.



## THE HAPPY SLAM

- > Six-time Australian Open men's singles champion **Roger Federer** christened the tournament as the "Happy Slam", a nickname that has fittingly stuck.
- > A total of 839,192 fans attended AO 2023, setting a new Grand Slam record. This is an almost 370 per cent increase on the number of fans at the first tournament staged at Melbourne Park.
- > Craig Tiley, Tennis Australia's Chief Executive Officer and a former South African Davis Cup captain, has served as the Australian Open Tournament Director since 2006.



## WINNER, WINNER!

- > **The Norman Brookes Challenge Cup** has been presented to the men's singles champion since 1934. It is named after the 1911 champion, who later served as president of the Lawn Tennis Association of Australia for almost three decades.
- > **The Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup** has been presented to the women's singles champion since 1934. It is named after a five-time champion, who tragically passed away at age 29 in 1933 due to an ectopic pregnancy.
- > The singles champions at Australian Open 2024 receive 2000 ranking points, as well as multiple millions in prize money.

## A WORLD GAME

- > A total of 817 players from 68 different nations competed across all events at Australian Open 2023.
- > The USA had the highest representation with 87 players, followed by Australia with 85.



## AN EPIC JOURNEY

- > Players need to win seven rounds to secure an Australian Open singles title.
- > There were 81,838 shots played, across 17,066 points, before **Aryna Sabalenka** was crowned the AO 2023 women's singles champion.
- > There were 145,396 shots played, across 28,935 points, before Novak Djokovic was crowned the AO 2023 men's singles champion.

A total of  
**71,352**  
Dunlop tennis balls  
were used at  
AO 2023



## ACE EFFORT

- > American Ben Shelton served a tournament-leading 85 aces at AO 2023. He also struck the fastest recorded serve at 228 km/h.
- > Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina led the women's singles ace count at AO 2023 with 54. She was also the fastest server at 195 km/h, an honour shared with Coco Gauff.

## TEAM EFFORT

- > More than 12,000 team members help deliver the Australian Open every summer. This includes 200 officials and close to 400 ballkids.





# WHO TO WATCH STYLE SCHOOL

From the big servers to the crafty shot-makers, the stars of Australian Open 2024 boast some stunning signature strengths.

## FOREHAND FINISHERS

Iga Swiatek, Casper Ruud, **Madison Keys** and Andrey Rublev are examples of players who use a heavy forehand to their advantage. If they get a look at a short ball on their favoured side, they can step in and strike an unbelievable winner.

## DROP-SHOT MASTERS

A perfectly disguised drop shot is the perfect way to surprise an opponent and change the tempo of a point. This is a signature shot for players such as **Carlos Alcaraz**, Marketa Vondrousova and Ons Jabeur.

## BEAUTIFUL BACKHANDS

There's nothing quite like a cleanly struck backhand. Grigor Dimitrov and **Stefanos Tsitsipas** possess two of the purest one-handed backhands in the world. When it comes to powerful two-handed backhands, watch out for the fierce strokes of Victoria Azarenka and Danielle Collins.

## SPEED DEMONS

If you want to witness a lion-hearted competitor who runs down as many balls as possible in action, then Australian No.1 Alex de Minaur always delivers. Reigning US Open champion **Coco Gauff** is another known for her ability to be quick around the court and chase down every ball.

## DOUBLE DUTY

Many of the world's top-ranked singles players also compete in doubles at a Grand Slam, giving fans more opportunity to see their favourites in action. This includes Americans **Coco Gauff** and Jessica Pegula, who enjoyed stints at world No.1 in doubles during 2023.

## OLD-SCHOOL STYLE

The serve-and-volley is somewhat of a dying art in the tennis world, especially on the singles court. Australian **Max Purcell**, however, proudly bucks this trend. The 25-year-old's net rushing is an effective strategy to take time away from opponents and keep points shorter.

## BASELINE BLASTERS

The modern-day tennis player is someone who can finish rallies from the baseline and effortlessly turn defence into offence. Reigning AO champion Aryna Sabalenka is a prime example, as are **Jelena Ostapenko** and Jannik Sinner.

## SERVING STARS

The ability to win 'free points' with a thunderous ace or unreturnable serve is an impressive skill. Caroline Garcia and **Hubert Hurkacz** led the tour's ace counts in 2023, averaging seven and 15 aces per match respectively.

## FIVE-SET SPECIALISTS

You can never discount **Andy Murray** in a five-set battle, as the former world No.1 demonstrated with two steely wins at AO 2023. While the Brit has won 28 five-set matches in his career, Novak Djokovic is the sport's all-time leader with 39.

## SLICE IS NICE

A slice backhand was a shot that Ash Barty perfectly executed during her title-winning run at AO 2022, bamboozling opponents with her ability to control points. It is a strategy that **Karolina Muchova** now successfully employs, making the world No.8 dangerous this summer.

## HOMETOWN HEROES

Australian players thrive off the energy of a home crowd at Melbourne Park. Alexei Popyrin, Daria Saville, **Thanasi Kokkinakis** and Kimberly Birrell have all upset much higher-ranked opponents at the Australian Open.





## STARS OF THE SPORT

## DID YOU KNOW?

Showcase your knowledge of the world's top players with some interesting, and surprising, facts.

## LOVE MATCHES

- Australian **Alex de Minaur** is in a long-term relationship with top-ranked British woman, **Katie Boulter**.
- Greek star **Stefanos Tsitsipas** and Spain's **Paula Badosa**, a former world No.2, began dating in mid-2023.
- Ukrainian **Elina Svitolina** married French player **Gael Monfils** in July 2021. They welcomed their first child, daughter **Skai**, in October 2022.
- When Australian couple **Daria and Luke Saville** married in December 2021, their wedding party included fellow players **Storm Hunter** and **Ellen Perez**.

## INSPIRING CHAMPION

**Sam Schroder**, the two-time Australian Open defending champion in the quad wheelchair singles division, has a rare genetic disorder which caused his hands and feet to develop abnormally. The resilient 24-year-old from the Netherlands also survived colon cancer as a teenager.



## TOP PEDIGREE

- **Sebastian Korda** is the son of former world No.2 and AO 1998 champion, **Petr Korda**.
- **Elizabeth Mandlik** is the daughter of two-time AO singles champion, **Hana Mandlikova**.
- World No.11 **Casper Ruud**'s father, **Christian**, played professionally and made the Australian Open fourth round in 1997.
- American **Taylor Fritz** made his top-10 debut in October 2022, emulating a feat his mother, **Kathy May**, achieved in 1977.

## MAJOR GOALS

**Diede de Groot** is aiming to win a fourth consecutive Australian Open title in the women's wheelchair singles competition - and a remarkable 14th straight Grand Slam title. The 27-year-old from the Netherlands' last Grand Slam loss was at Roland Garros in 2020.



## JUNIOR STARS

- Seven former Australian Open girls' singles champions finished the 2023 season inside the year-end top 100 (**Victoria Azarenka**, **Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova**, **Arantxa Rus**, **Karolina Pliskova**, **Taylor Townsend**, **Marta Kostyuk**, **Clara Tauson**).
- Five former Australian Open boys' singles champions finished the 2023 season inside the year-end top 100 (**Gael Monfils**, **Alexander Zverev**, **Roman Safiullin**, **Sebastian Korda**, **Lorenzo Musetti**).

## SISTER ACTS

- Identical twin sisters, **Lyudmyla and Nadiia Kichenok** from Ukraine, are both ranked inside the world's top 60 in doubles.
- Czech sisters, 18-year-old **Linda** and 16-year-old **Brenda Fruhvirtova**, are two of the highest-ranked teens in the world.
- Other top-ranked sisters on tour include **Veronika and Polina Kudermetova**, **Erika and Mirra Andreeva**, as well as doubles talents **Latisha and Hao-Ching Chan**.

## THE NEXT GENERATION

- A rivalry between top-10 stars **Stefanos Tsitsipas** and **Alexander Zverev** began before they were born. Their mothers, **Julia Apostoli** and **Irina Zvereva**, were both professional players and met in an ITF final at Athens in 1994.



Indian **Rohan Bopanna** created history in 2023, becoming the oldest Grand Slam men's doubles finalist at age

43

## FASHIONISTAS

- **Carlos Alcaraz** and **Jannik Sinner** are sponsored by high-end fashion brands, **Louis Vuitton** and **Gucci**, respectively.
- Their fellow top-10 star **Taylor Fritz** walked the runway for **Hermes** during New York Fashion Week in 2023.
- **Coco Gauff** is the only active player with their own signature shoe range.
- Italian **Camila Giorgi** wears custom **Giomila** outfits on court, which are designed and created by her mother, **Claudia**.



## LEADING THE WAY

- **Storm Hunter**, a 29-year-old who lives in Melbourne, finished 2023 as world No.1 in doubles. She is the first Australian in 17 years to achieve this feat.
- **Rinky Hijikata**, a 22-year-old from Sydney and the reigning AO men's doubles champion, was the only player aged 24 and under inside the ATP year-end top-50 doubles rankings in 2023.

## HITTING NOTES

- Several top-ranked players have released their own music, including **Stefanos Tsitsipas**, **Denis Shapovalov**, **Dayana Yastremska** and **Caroline Wozniacki**.
- Italian **Lorenzo Sonego**'s single 'Un solo secondo' has had almost 1.5 million streams on Spotify since its 2022 release.

## FAMOUS COMPANY

- World No.8 **Karolina Muchova** is a friend of Australian actress and comedian **Rebel Wilson**.
- Reigning US Open champion **Coco Gauff** shares a close bond with **Michelle Obama**, the former First Lady of America.
- When **Novak Djokovic** won the US Open in 2023, actor **Matthew McConaughey** was a VIP guest in his player's box.
- **Grigor Dimitrov** is friends with football superstar **David Beckham**. The world No.14 has even provided tennis lessons to Beckham's son, **Romeo**.

## HIGH-PROFILE MENTORS

- Australian **Darren Cahill**, who has previously guided **Lleyton Hewitt**, **Andre Agassi** and **Simona Halep** to world No.1, now works with Italian **Jannik Sinner**.
- World No.8 **Holger Rune** added two-time Australian Open champion **Boris Becker** to his coaching team late in the 2023 season.
- Romanian **Sorana Cirstea** is coached by AO 2002 champion, Swede **Thomas Johansson**.
- Croatia's **Donna Vekic**, a quarterfinalist at AO 2023, works with seven-time Australian Open doubles champion **Pam Shriver**.





“To have  
a deep run at  
the Aussie –  
that would be  
a dream.”  
Alex de Minaur

# Alex de Minaur

## A HAPPY HOMECOMING

Top-ranked Aussie Alex de Minaur brings the fondest of memories into his home Grand Slam, knowing all signs point to even better things to come.

By VIVIANNE CHRISTIE

Alex de Minaur can still distinctly recall the details. As a 17-year-old wildcard and yet to rank among the world's top-300 players when he made his Grand Slam debut at Australian Open 2017, he battled for almost four hours to overcome the experienced Gerald Melzer, a player nine years his senior.

Scores of fans at Melbourne Park's Court 3 had grown in voice and excitement as they caught on to a new Australian star on the rise.

"I played a gruelling five-set match in the sun. It was super hot and at that stage, Court 3 didn't have any shade," said De Minaur, who saved a match point in the fourth set of his eventual 5-7 6-3 2-6 7-6(2) 6-1 upset of the world No.87 from Austria.

"The court was packed with fans chanting with every single point. I remember that was one of the best feelings ever as a

young junior. To feel this atmosphere and have all these people behind me was a surreal feeling - it was truly amazing."

Much has changed for De Minaur, of course, since that electrifying first major win. At age 24, he's now a 'veteran' of six Australian Opens and 25 major campaigns in total. He's also the No.1 Australian and at world No.12, firmly in the spotlight at Australian Open 2024.

And there's no place that De Minaur, with his renowned work ethic, never-say-die competitiveness and ability to thrive in the most pressure-filled environments, would rather be.

A love for this tournament was forged early for De Minaur, who recalls he was "lucky enough" to first experience his home Grand Slam as a fan at age eight.

"A vivid memory is going to one of the shops and buying some Australian Open dampeners, which I used on my racquets for three or four years," he said.

Those dampeners are long lost,

#### REASONS TO SMILE:

Alex de Minaur set new career highs in season 2023, including his best ranking of world No.11.



NO.1 AUSTRALIAN

unsurprisingly, given that childhood coach Cindy Dock recalls how a young De Minaur “carried his racquets with him all the time”. But the passion that was infused as the wide-eyed young player gained an early first-hand glimpse of heroes including Roger Federer and Lleyton Hewitt is forever entrenched.

“There’s been some absolute epics,” he smiled. “I’ve got a couple of favourite matches in my head from back in the day. I remember watching Lleyton play. I was always rooting for him to win the AO.”

Fast-forward almost two decades and those roles are unquestionably reversed. Hewitt is now a high-profile supporter in De Minaur’s player box, the former world No.1 both a long-time mentor (alongside regular coaches Adolfo Gutierrez and Peter Luczak) and a prominent influence as the nation’s Davis Cup captain.

Many fans are struck by the likeness with Hewitt as they watch a determined De Minaur feed off the fan energy and generate much of his own as he brings the best of his high-intensity tennis to Melbourne Park.

Aussie spirit

De Minaur’s passion for competing on home soil is matched only by his pride in representing the nation in team events. Soon after his Davis Cup debut in 2018, two weeks before his 19th birthday, De Minaur had his “109” team number

tattooed on his chest. He’s since built an impressive record in the competition, and lead Australia into back-to-back Davis Cup finals in 2022 and 2023.

It’s not surprising, then, that De Minaur views his rise to become the nation’s top-ranked player through a collective lens. “I feel very fortunate to be the No.1-ranked Aussie, but I feel more fortunate that my fellow team-mates respect me and we have a great environment,” he pointed out.

The team-spirited outlook is clearly paying off. Ten Australian men held top-100 singles rankings during 2023, with eight of them achieving career highs. This includes De Minaur himself, who peaked at No.11 after reaching a first ATP Masters 1000 final at Toronto in August.

“You know, we’ve been a nation with such rich culture and heritage,” he smiled, as he reflects on the current success in Australian tennis. “I think this is all due to the fact that we keep on pushing each other and we stick together as a nation ... we’re always trying to get the best out of each other.”

Citizen of the world

De Minaur’s passion for representing his birth nation is particularly notable given

**FAN FAVOURITE:** Alex de Minaur, now a proud Hot Shots Tennis ambassador, soared in popularity after saving a match point as a 17-year-old wildcard in his Australian Open debut in 2017.

his deep connections to other parts of the world. Born in Sydney to Uruguayan father Anibal and Spanish mother Esther, De Minaur relocated to Alicante, in Spain, with his family (which includes older brother Dominic and younger siblings Daniel, Sara and Cristina) at age five. Growing up, he split his time between the two nations.

De Minaur credits the dual upbringing as a major influence in his professional rise. “It created a couple of layers to me as a player,” he explained. “I learned two different cultures of tennis, which I think I’m very fortunate to have, and I was able to kind of mash them together to create the kind of player I am.”

The development years in Australia, said De Minaur, created a “very serious and professional” competitor. “I knew the importance of hard work and what to do in certain moments and also kind of (developed) that aggressive mindset that is kind of Australian heritage,” he said.

“In Spain, I learned from a very young age how to win tennis matches,” De Minaur added. “It doesn’t always have to be perfect, it doesn’t always have to be perfect, but growing up I was quite small. A lot of the times I was playing against bigger stronger guys, and I had to find ways to problem solve. And I think being in Spain, playing on clay, it really helped me develop that side of my tennis and ultimately, it’s helped me become the competitor that I am right now.”

No place like home

Asked to name a favourite city, several spring to mind for the well-travelled De Minaur, including Tokyo, Rome, Paris and London, where he is now partly based with girlfriend and fellow professional Katie Boulter. At world No.58, the 27-year-old Boulter finished the 2023 season as Great Britain’s No.1 woman.

But returning to Australia will always hold a huge sentimental significance. De Minaur noted that “whenever I get the chance to play in Sydney, it’s pretty special” and Melbourne follows closely.

“Every year, I love staying there and I’ve been staying there for a very long time,” said the 24-year-old, who can often be found enjoying the coffee culture, and



many breakfast spots, in his favourite suburb of South Yarra when not at Melbourne Park. Any rare off-court hours could also see the renowned golf-lover sneaking in some tee time at one of the city’s stunning courses.

The primary focus in January, however, will always be his home Slam. De Minaur’s past two campaigns in Melbourne were both career-best second-week showings and all the signs point to even further success this year.

Dreaming big

The 2023 season was De Minaur’s best yet. Beginning with an upset of the prolific Rafael Nadal at the United Cup in Sydney, he went on to claim the biggest of seven career titles in Acapulco. There were six wins in 15 matches against top-10 opponents, including over two-time AO finalist Daniil Medvedev in Toronto.

“The one percenters all add up and it’s all about a couple of things just clicking, whether it’s mentally or physically,” he said. “Performing in the bigger events (is) something that I’ve always wanted to achieve. It’s probably been lacking in the past, but (in 2023), we’ve been able to accomplish that - getting the title in

“I learned how to win tennis matches from a very young age.”

Alex de Minaur



Acapulco, making the final of Toronto. They’re all big strides in the right direction and hopefully it’s just the beginning.”

Some notable observers agree. John Millman, who De Minaur names as a supportive early influence, believes his younger countryman will soon be celebrating greater successes.

“He’s really coming into his own. He’s got that confidence and getting those wins (over higher-ranked players) really helps,” Millman told Nine News in Brisbane when he announced his retirement from the tour late in 2023.

“(It) took him a while to beat your (Stefanos) Tsitsipas and your Medvedevs but once he started to knock them off, that confidence and that belief grew ... I think it’ll be only a matter of time before he goes deep inside that top 10 and when you’re there, you definitely have a chance to win a Grand Slam.”

It’s an outcome that De Minaur is tackling with trademark passion in Melbourne. “I would love to go deep,” he smiled as he considered the possibilities at the Australian Open. “I feel like I’ve been knocking on the door a couple of times now. Hopefully I can break through and have a deep run at the Aussie. That would be a dream of mine.” **AO**





# AUSSIE PRIDE

Meet the local contenders looking to keep a remarkable title streak alive at Australian Open 2024.

By LEIGH ROGERS

Recent history shows that Australian players thrive at their home Grand Slam. At least one local champion has been crowned each year in the past 12 editions, with these title-winning runs recorded across singles, doubles, wheelchair and junior events. The chances this incredible streak could continue at Australian Open 2024 look encouraging too. Almost 10 per cent of the world's top

100 singles players are Aussies, led by world No.12 Alex de Minaur. Storm Hunter finished 2023 as the world's No.1 woman in doubles, while five Aussie men featured in the year-end top 50 in doubles. This includes defending AO champions, Rinky Hijikata and Jason Kubler, as well as world No.4 Matt Ebden. Heath Davidson also begins the new season as a top-five player in singles and doubles of the quad wheelchair division.

**LEADING LOCALS:** Storm Hunter, Matt Ebden, Kimberly Birrell and Heath Davidson are among a strong contingent of Australian players.

## MAJOR CHAMPIONS

These Aussie stars enjoyed memorable 2023 seasons and are all looking to add to their Grand Slam collection.

**Heath Davidson**  
➤ Perseverance is certainly paying off for the 36-year-old from Melbourne. Davidson contested three Grand Slam finals in the quad wheelchair division during 2023, including his first major singles final at Wimbledon.

**Matt Ebden**  
➤ The 36-year-old from Perth rose to a career-high world No.4 during a stunning 2023 doubles season. Ebden was a US Open finalist, Wimbledon semifinalist and became the first Aussie in 22 years to contest four ATP Masters 1000 finals in a season.

**Rinky Hijikata**  
➤ The 22-year-old from Sydney skyrocketed to career-high

rankings of world No.70 in singles and No.23 in doubles in a breakout year. Hijikata won the AO 2023 doubles title and made the US Open fourth round in singles.

**Storm Hunter**  
➤ The 2023 season proved memorable for the 29-year-old. Hunter qualified at both Roland Garros and Wimbledon in singles. She excelled in doubles too, contesting the Wimbledon final and winning two WTA 1000 titles to become the first Aussie woman in 17 years to finish as year-end No.1.

**Thanasi Kokkinakis**  
➤ In his most consistent season to date, the 27-year-old from Adelaide achieved a new career-high singles ranking of No.65.

Kokkinakis also recorded his best Grand Slam singles result in eight years by reaching the third round at Roland Garros.

**Jason Kubler**  
➤ Winning the AO 2023 doubles title was a major highlight in Kubler's career-best season. The 30-year-old from Brisbane, a former world No.1 junior who has navigated multiple injury

setbacks, peaked at world No.63 in singles and No.27 in doubles.

**John Peers**  
➤ The enduring 35-year-old has won at least one ATP doubles title every year for the past 11 seasons. Peers maintained that streak with victory at Halle, helping the former AO ballkid record his 11th consecutive year-end top 50 finish in doubles.

**Max Purcell**  
➤ The 25-year-old from Sydney improved his singles ranking from outside the top 200 in February to make his top-40 debut in October. Purcell is also an accomplished doubles player, finishing inside the year-end top 50 for a fourth straight season.

**"Australian players thrive at their home Grand Slam."**



## MEN WITH MOMENTUM

For these Aussie men, career-best results in 2023 build a strong foundation for the new season.

**Aleksandar Vukic**  
➤ The 27-year-old from Sydney (pictured) soared from outside the top 200 to make his top-50 debut within the space of six months. Vukic's ranking peaked at world No.48 after contesting a maiden ATP singles final at Atlanta in August.

**Alex de Minaur**  
➤ With his peak at world No.11, the 24-year-old became the highest-ranked Australian man in singles since Lleyton Hewitt 17 years earlier. De Minaur also made his maiden ATP 1000 final appearance during a stellar season.

**Andrew Harris**  
➤ The 29-year-old from Melbourne is following in the

footsteps of his mother, former pro Anne Minter. Harris broke into the world's top 100 in doubles during in 2023, reaching a first ATP final and peaking at No.84.

**Chris O'Connell**  
➤ The 29-year-old from Sydney's hard work continues to pay off, rising to a career-high singles ranking of world No.53 in September. O'Connell's season highlights included a third-round run at Wimbledon and six ATP-level quarterfinal appearances.

**Alexei Popyrin**  
➤ The 24-year-old made history with a title-winning run at Umag, becoming the first Australian to win an ATP clay-court tournament in 14 years. This helped Popyrin,

who had started the season ranked No.120, rise to a career-high world No.39.

**Jordan Thompson**  
➤ Two top-10 victories (beating Stefanos Tsitsipas and Alexander Zverev) and a first ATP singles final appearance in four years at s-Hertogenbosch helped the 29-year-old from Sydney finish inside the year-end top-100 for an eighth consecutive year.

**Adam Walton**  
➤ In his first full season on tour, the 24-year-old from Brisbane achieved career-high rankings of world No.174 in singles and No.158 in doubles. Walton played US college tennis before turning professional in mid-2022.



HOME FAVOURITES

These promising young prospects are eyeing a Grand Slam breakthrough on home soil.

Charlie Camus

> The 17-year-old from Canberra finished 2023 as Australia's top-ranked junior boy. Camus was a Roland Garros boys' doubles semifinalist in 2023, which was the best result for an Aussie junior in Paris in seven years.

Hayden Jones

> The 17-year-old from the Gold Coast peaked at world No.23 in the ITF junior rankings during 2023 and made the US Open boys' doubles semifinals. This was the deepest run by an Aussie boy in New York since 2014.

Taylah Preston

> After breaking into the world's top 10 in juniors during 2022, Preston switched her attention to the professional tour in 2023. The 18-year-old from Perth made an impressive transition, winning four ITF singles titles to verge on the world's top 200.

Emerson Jones

> The 15-year-old from the Gold Coast (pictured) is one of the world's most promising 2008-born players. Jones made her top-10 debut in the junior rankings during 2023 and advanced to her first professional final at an ITF event in Caloundra.



IN-FORM WOMEN

These leading Aussie women return to Melbourne Park in career-best form.

Olivia Gadecki

> The 21-year-old from the Gold Coast (pictured) soared to career-high rankings of world No.127 in singles and world No.94 in doubles in 2023. The highly touted Gadecki scored her first Grand Slam main-draw singles win at AO 2023 and won her biggest ITF singles title later in a breakout season. She also won six ITF doubles crowns.

Destanee Aiava

> The 23-year-old Melburnian won seven ITF doubles titles in 2023 to break into the world's top 160. A resurgent Aiava also impressively halved her singles ranking and won multiple ITF singles

titles in a season for the first time since 2017.

Kimberly Birrell

> Eight top-100 victories helped the 25-year-old break into the world's top 100 in singles during a memorable season. Returning from a career-threatening elbow injury, Birrell recorded her biggest victory against world No.29 Kaia Kanepi in the AO 2023 opening round. This was her first major main-draw win in four years.

Ellen Perez

> A top-10 breakthrough in doubles proved a 2023 highlight for Perez. The 28-year-old also advanced to the doubles semifinals at Roland Garros and became the first Australian in 15 years to contest the doubles final at the prestigious WTA Finals.

RESILIENT COMPETITORS

These Aussie players are determined to continue rising in 2024 after overcoming injury setbacks.

James Duckworth

> The 31-year-old has not let nine surgeries throughout his career crush his determination. Duckworth finished the 2023 season strongly, claiming back-to-back ATP Challenger singles titles for the first time. This helped the former world No.46 verge on a top-100 return.

John Millman

> The Aussie favourite and former world No.33 is hoping to end his career on a high at his home Grand Slam. The 34-year-old announced in November that AO 2024 is the final tournament of his career, conceding that "unfortunately age has caught up to me."

Marc Polmans

> After missing six months of

the 2022 season following ankle surgery, the 26-year-old from Melbourne made an impressive tour return. The determined Polmans halved his singles ranking during 2023 to climb back inside the world's top 140.

Arina Rodionova

> The 34-year-old from Melbourne won six ITF singles titles during 2023, her biggest season haul to date. After missing six months in 2022 with a wrist injury, this helped Rodionova to record her highest year-end ranking in six years.

Daria Saville

> The former world No.20 made a promising comeback from knee surgery and subsequent nine-month stint on the sidelines. After returning to the tour in

June, Saville scored multiple top-100 wins and advanced to a WTA semifinal on clay at Hamburg.

Astra Sharma

> Ranked outside the world's top 280 in June, the athletic Sharma managed to finish a challenging 2023 season in red-hot form. The 28-year-old from Perth won two singles titles to skyrocket to world No.120 by year's end.

Ajla Tomljanovic

> The 30-year-old achieved a career-high singles ranking of No.32 in 2023, despite missing most of the year following knee surgery. Promisingly, the three-time major quarterfinalist won her biggest career singles title late in the season. **AO**

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# Evonne's Gong: 50 YEARS AN AO CHAMPION

Half a century since Evonne Goolagong Cawley was crowned Queen of Kooyong, the beloved Australian still sets a benchmark for the many athletes who follow her inspirational path.

By SUZI PETKOVSKI

"That '74 final,  
I was in the zone."

Evonne Goolagong  
Cawley

Aussie icons don't come any bigger or more beloved than Evonne Goolagong Cawley. A world No.1, Indigenous inspiration, flowing all-court stylist and Wimbledon-winning 'supermum', the Goolagong name stirs national pride. Australia must be doing something right if it can produce a champion like Evonne Goolagong Cawley.

The last time we saw Evonne at Rod Laver Arena, there was not a dry eye in the house as she handed over the Australian Open trophy she had won four times to Ash Barty, the first local winner in 44 years and her successor as an Indigenous world No.1. What a pinch-me moment for Australian sport.

At AO 2024, the 72-year-old living legend has been coaxed from her Noosa home again, this time to celebrate the 50th anniversary of her first Australian Open title.

For someone who never reads her press and didn't see herself on television until mid-career, how will she cope with the hoopla?

"I don't know how I'm going to handle it, actually," Evonne responds, with the giggle that punctuates her conversation. "It could be quite emotional. I just can't believe, first of all, that it's been 50 years since I won my first Australian Open - which makes me feel old! But it's a wonderful honour that they're doing all this just for me."

**FIRST OF FOUR:**  
Evonne Goolagong clasps the Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup, having prevailed in the Australian Open 1974 final.





“I’m still on a magical tour of discovery.”

Evonne Goolagong Cawley

The AO 2024 coin, tossed before each match, bears Evonne’s likeness. An art installation on the steps at Margaret Court Arena celebrates her milestone and Evonne will feature on First Nations Day and in a special on-court ceremony ahead of the women’s semifinals. A commemorative merchandise range has also been created with artist Lyn-Al Young, who is Evonne’s cousin.

In the zone

All this fanfare was unimaginable back on New Year’s Day 1974, when Goolagong (affectionately “Gong”), finally won her national title at Kooyong in her fourth straight decider.

In furnace heat at the old horseshoe-shaped stadium, the 22-year-old upset No.1 seed Chris Evert, in her Australian debut, 7-6(5) 4-6 6-0. It was the most thrilling of Evonne’s four final wins. “It was so special for me; it was up there with winning Wimbledon (in 1971), achieving my dream there,” Evonne considers. “I think more so than Wimbledon, to be honest. I just couldn’t

**PASSING THE BATON:** Goolagong Cawley presents Ash Barty with the trophy at AO 2022; as a rising talent in 1963; and with husband Roger Cawley in 2015.

believe that I won against Chris that easily in the third set.” For the ethereal Evonne, fuelled by enjoyment of the game more than purses and trophies, the enduring memory of that long-ago final is being in the blissful “zone”, with her on-court artistry in full flower. She ceded just 10 points in the final set and felt at the time that the standing ovation lasted about as long as the 18-minute third set. “That ‘74 final, I was in the zone,” she recalls. “The ball seemed so big, and I could see the lines of the court so clearly. I knew exactly where they were, they seemed so big. During that time when you’re in the zone, there’s dead silence. I can’t hear the crowd, it just kind of blocks out. Everything’s in slow motion and everything looks bigger, and your timing is perfect.” Even as a 19-year-old, the glacially competitive Evert was daunting. Hunting

her first major title, she had already beaten the older Australian five straight times. “Chris was a real fighter. And playing from the baseline, she was so consistent,” Evonne remembers. “She moved you around the court so much it was unbelievable. But I was willing to handle all that. “At one set all, coming off, I believed in myself. I thought, ‘Well, I can do this because I’m playing well’. I didn’t know then that when I went back on the court that I was going to be playing in the zone.”

Chasing destiny

For a title she felt “destined” to win, the Australian Open did not fall easily to even this most natural grass-courter. The 1974 victory was Evonne’s eighth attempt at her national title, stretching back to her 1967 debut as a 15-year-old at Adelaide in the amateur days. At 19, Evonne lost the 1971 final in her adopted hometown of Sydney, stricken with leg cramps while 5-2 up in the decider against newly crowned Grand Slammer Margaret Court. At



Kooyong in 1972, with Court on maternity leave, Evonne was top seed and heavy favourite but lost a tight decider 6-4 6-4 to Great Britain’s Virginia Wade, her first loss to a lower-ranked opponent at her national championship. Court returned in 1973 to inflict a third-straight final loss on the crowd darling, for her record 11th Australian title. Nine years older, the formidable Court went 4-0 in their Australian Open meetings - the only player to score multiple wins over Evonne at her home Slam. “I got to the final three times before I actually won,” Evonne recalls, with confirmation from husband Roger, the guardian of her tennis memories. “Margaret Court beat me most of the time. I mean, after losing to her so many times, in ‘74, I was going out there with all that experience. I had beaten Margaret a couple of times (including the 1971 Wimbledon final). So that gave me a lot of confidence within myself, and it made me believe that I can, I can win the Australian Open.” By 1974, Evonne was already an Aussie

hero; her existence something straight out of her childhood favourite *Princess* magazine. Roland Garros champion on debut in 1971 and at Wimbledon in her second outing - defeating Billie Jean King and Court back-to-back - she was judged world No.1 by several experts that season, in the days predating computer rankings. Her 1972 Wimbledon return came via Buckingham Palace, where she was presented her MBE by Queen Elizabeth II. But that breakthrough Australian title opened her reign as the Queen of Kooyong and cemented her status as an Aussie icon. A seven-time finalist in the 1970s, Evonne was synonymous with the Australian Open - a cool vision in her chic Fila separates, wet kerchief around her neck, gliding, slicing and smashing on the Kooyong lawns. No other player has won more Australian crowns at Kooyong. Evonne’s four-title, 20-match sweep stretched from January 1974 to December 1977. (She missed the January 1977 edition while pregnant with daughter Kelly.)

**Queen of Kooyong**

Her place as Queen of Kooyong is recognised with a mosaic of her flowing form on the wall of the old clubhouse, overlooking her old realm. “It was home support that really helped me win four in a row,” she maintains. “I always enjoyed playing in front of my Australian crowd and loved playing on grass courts, because most of the tournaments during those days were on grass. My home crowd pretty well urged me on, really.” The Australian Open was Evonne’s most successful major. She contested 18 Grand Slam finals between 1971 and 1980, for seven victories. Runner-up four times at Forest Hills in New York, the US Open was the only major to elude her. Repeating as Wimbledon champion in a magical 1980 run, hers was the biggest span between Wimbledon titles since the 1920s and she was the first mother to lift the Wimbledon trophy in 66 years. But Evonne’s legend extends beyond numbers and trophies. No player, this side of Roger Federer, served up so much viewing pleasure. The Goolagong game

was as natural as the wind moving over the wheat fields around her native Barellan. She played for the enjoyment of the game and transmitted much of that joy to audiences. Even opponents found her mesmerising. “I started watching her,” Billie Jean King once explained. “Then I’d remember all of a sudden that I had to hit the ball.” No champion shrugged off losses so easily. Talk about treating those two imposters, Triumph and Disaster, just the same. “When I first went onto the Wimbledon Centre Court (in 1970) and read those lines of Kipling’s, my reaction was: ‘Oh, Mum would like that guy!’” Evonne recalls with a laugh. “When I played junior tournaments around Barellan, as I was leaving the house Mum would say, ‘Bye, have a lovely day.’ I’d come back and she’d ask, ‘Did you have a lovely day?’ I never told her if I’d won or lost. Because it was more important for her to know that I’d had a lovely day.” In her touring days, Evonne would console opponents and rivals in the locker room, and puzzle over why players were so upset after a loss. “I always felt, whenever I went out on the court, that I was lucky,” Evonne explains. “Lucky to be there and be able to play. Lucky that I was found, in Barellan, and supported by the town with trips to Sydney as a junior. Lucky not to be taken away during the Stolen Generations. I used to hide under the bed, particularly in Griffith, where I was born. We used to go to the mission there in the early days, and whenever a shiny car came down the road, Mum said, ‘You’d better run and hide, you might be taken away.’ I remember that, it was terrifying. Hiding under the bed so you weren’t taken away. I just felt happy to be out there. Tennis was my own little world where no one could touch me.”

**Dream connections**

The Cawleys, married for 48 years, are an all-time team. English-born Roger, charming and articulate, endeavours to keep Evonne on the conversational track of her tennis career, with varying success.



# DEFINING VICTORIES

Evonne Goolagong Cawley is not the only superstar marking a memorable milestone at Australian Open 2024.

**Roy Emerson**

> Sixty years have passed since the Aussie legend produced one of the best seasons in history. Emerson won 117 of his 123 singles matches and collected 19 titles in 1964, which included victory at his home Grand Slam.

**Margaret Court**

> It is 60 years since the Aussie great won her fifth consecutive Australian women's singles title. Court went on to win seven straight women's singles titles, a feat that remains unmatched at the tournament.

**Chris Evert**

> Forty years ago, the American won her second Australian Open crown to complete a double career Grand Slam. During the 1984 tournament, Evert also became the first player in the Open era to win 1000 matches.

**Pete Sampras**

> It is 30 years since the big-serving American won his first Australian Open title. With his Melbourne Park breakthrough, Sampras became the first man in almost three decades to win three straight major singles titles.

**Roger Federer**

> The Swiss champion, who was 22 at the time, won the first of his six Australian Open titles 20 years ago. Federer's victory at AO 2004 also elevated him to world No.1 in the rankings for the first time.

**Li Na**

> With her title-winning run 10 years ago, Li became the first Chinese singles champion in Australian Open history. The fan favourite also became only the fourth women's singles winner to save a match point (in the third round).

**Stan Wawrinka**

> It has been 10 years since the Swiss star made an emphatic Grand Slam breakthrough at the Australian Open. He was the first man in more than a decade to defeat the top two seeds to clinch a major title.



**NATIONAL TREASURE:** Goolagong Cawley is honoured with the Order of Australia medal at Rod Laver Arena in 2018.

"I'm the sort of person who always likes to look ahead, think about the future, try to forget the bad things in the past and just get on in my life," she says. "And I'm really enjoying spending time with the grandkids."

The Cawleys dote on their three grandchildren. Son Morgan and wife Sophie, who live nearby in Noosa, will be at AO 2024 with their two children. So will daughter Kelly, who lives in Melbourne with her family.

For almost 30 years, the Evonne Goolagong Foundation has run camps for Indigenous children, "using tennis as a vehicle to achieve better education and health outcomes," Evonne explains. The foundation's motto is: Dream, believe, learn, achieve.

"I'll be there the first week of the Australian Open for the national camp. That's what I truly enjoy these days. It becomes like a big family, so I'm looking forward to seeing them all."

The Cawleys moved to Australia with their American-born children after the passing of Evonne's mother, Melinda, in 1991. "It affected me a lot when Mum died. I thought: 'That's it. I want to go home. I need to spend time with my family,'" she says. "We'd spent a lot of years in America, and I wanted to learn about

my family and really reconnect with my Aboriginality. That was a very big decision but an easy one at the time."

Evonne explored her Wiradjuri roots, started her foundation, served as Australia's Fed Cup captain and discovered her totem, the goanna. On a trip near Uluru, Evonne went through secret women's business and found life as a tennis star was no match for the stars in the outback sky.

"It was at night, all the big, beautiful stars were out and the singing was absolutely beautiful," she recalls. "All the women were laughing at me because of the expression on my face about what I was going through. Very powerful stuff. It connected me, not just to the culture, but the earth, the universe, the stars, the animals, everything."

"When I think back, that's why I came back to Australia. To connect to my country, connect to my culture, and I'm still learning. Basically I'm still on a magical tour of discovery."

*Sunshine Super Girl*, the stage version of Evonne's life based on her 1993 memoir, highlighted that her life has been far more epic than her tennis career. "I found that out too," she said. "A lot more powerful, let's put it that way."

The passing of time has only enhanced Evonne's legend. Her 50 years as an Australian Open champion affords tennis fans the pleasure of thanking and celebrating this living tennis treasure. **AO**



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# Lleyton joins the AUSSIE LEGENDS

Lleyton Hewitt will be inducted into the Australian Tennis Hall of Fame at Australian Open 2024.

Eight years after his singles farewell at Melbourne Park, Lleyton Hewitt will join the prestigious Australian Tennis Hall of Fame.

The former world No.1 will be celebrated in a special induction ceremony at Rod Laver Arena on the evening of Wednesday 24 January.

Already a member of the International Tennis Hall of Fame, Hewitt is a US Open and Wimbledon champion, a two-time Davis Cup title winner and two-time ATP Finals winner.

In 2001, Hewitt became the youngest man to rise to world No.1, at 20 years and eight months.

He is also the only Australian man in the 50 years of computer rankings to be No.1 for an entire season (in 2002).

"It's a great honour to be inducted into the Australian Tennis Hall of Fame, following in the footsteps of some of my great Australian idols," the 42-year-old commented at the AO 2024 launch in October.

"I've always been such a proud Australian and loved the rich tennis history we have in our sport."

The Adelaide-born firebrand holds a swag of Davis Cup records and powered Australia to victories in 1999 and 2003.

Following his singles retirement at AO 2016, Hewitt seamlessly transitioned to Davis Cup captain and mentor to young Australians, notably Alex de Minaur, who



spearheaded Australia's run to the 2022 and 2023 Davis Cup finals.

Five-set Hewitt epics were almost an annual ritual at Melbourne Park during his record 20 Australian Open campaigns from 1997-2016.

Among his best wins: a fascinating 2005 duel over a teenage Rafael Nadal and the famous all-nighter against Marcos Baghdatis in 2008, which ended at 4.33am.

His most brilliant win at Rod Laver Arena came not in the Australian Open but the 2003 Davis Cup semifinals against Roger Federer, in one of the all-time comebacks from two sets down.

From his debut at age 15 in 1997, Hewitt staged 20 consecutive campaigns at his home Grand Slam.

**ROLE MODEL:** Hewitt inspired Aussie No.1 Alex de Minaur. The fan favourite after his final AO singles campaign with daughters Mia and Ava, plus son Cruz, in 2016.

"I've always been such a proud Australian and loved the rich tennis history we have in our sport."

Lleyton Hewitt

He made an electrifying run to the final of the centenary Australian Open of 2005, defeating Nadal, David Nalbandian 10-8 in the fifth and world No.2 Andy Roddick before bowing in four sets to Marat Safin in the first men's night final at Melbourne Park.

Hewitt famously lost the title but won the heart of Bec Cartwright, to whom he proposed on the night of the final.

Their three teenaged children - daughters Mia and Ava and budding pro son Cruz - will again be celebrating their champion dad at Rod Laver Arena.

Cruz is proudly following in his famous father's footsteps. The 15-year-old is Australia's top-ranked 2008-born boy and will be one to watch in this year's Australian Open junior tournament. **AO**



**MAJOR COLLECTION:** Lleyton Hewitt's many feats include a starring role in two Davis Cup titles, his Grand Slam breakthrough at the 2001 US Open and the Wimbledon 2002 title.

## AUSTRALIAN TENNIS HALL OF FAME

Lleyton Hewitt becomes the 47th inductee into the Australian Tennis Hall of Fame.

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>1993:</b> Margaret Court, Rod Laver   | <b>2002:</b> Thelma Long, Mervyn Rose        | <b>2014:</b> Kerry Reid                               |
| <b>1994:</b> Roy Emerson, Neale Fraser, Evonne Goolagong Cawley                            | <b>2003:</b> Pat Cash                        | <b>2015:</b> David Hall                               |
| <b>1995:</b> Lew Hoad, Ken Rosewall  | <b>2004:</b> Brian Tobin                     | <b>2016:</b> Rex Hartwig                              |
| <b>1996:</b> John Bromwich, Sir Norman Brookes, Ashley Cooper, Harry Hopman, Frank Sedgman | <b>2006:</b> Daphne Akhurst                  | <b>2017:</b> Beryl Collier                            |
| <b>1997:</b> Jack Crawford, Gerald Patterson, Fred Stolle                                  | <b>2007:</b> Mark Edmondson                  | <b>2018:</b> Jan O'Neill                              |
| <b>1998:</b> Lesley Bowrey, John Newcombe, Adrian Quist, Tony Roche                        | <b>2008:</b> Pat Rafter                      | <b>2019:</b> Dianne Balestrat                         |
| <b>2000:</b> Ken McGregor  | <b>2009:</b> Wendy Turnbull                  | <b>2020:</b> John Fitzgerald                          |
| <b>2001:</b> Malcolm Anderson, Nancie Bolton   | <b>2010:</b> Todd Woodbridge, Mark Woodforde | <b>2021:</b> Mary Reitano                             |
|  | <b>2011:</b> Owen Davidson                   | <b>2022:</b> Joan Hartigan, Maude Margaret Molesworth |
|  | <b>2012:</b> Ken Fletcher                    | <b>2023:</b> James Outram Anderson                    |
|  | <b>2013:</b> Judy Dalton                     | <b>2024:</b> Lleyton Hewitt                           |



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# AO23

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# CHAMPIONS

### HONOUR ROLL



**Men's singles**  
Novak Djokovic (SRB)



**Women's singles**  
Aryna Sabalenka



**Men's doubles**  
Rinky Hijikata (AUS) &  
Jason Kubler (AUS)



**Women's doubles**  
Barbora Krejčíková (CZE) &  
Katerina Siniaková (CZE)



**Mixed doubles**  
Luisa Stefani (BRA) &  
Rafael Matos (BRA)



**Men's wheelchair singles**  
Alfie Hewett (GBR)



**Women's wheelchair singles**  
Diede de Groot (NED)



**Quad wheelchair singles**  
Sam Schröder (NED)



**Men's wheelchair doubles**  
Alfie Hewett (GBR) &  
Gordon Reid (GBR)



**Women's wheelchair doubles**  
Diede de Groot (NED) &  
Aniek van Koot (NED)



**Quad wheelchair doubles**  
Niels Vink (NED) &  
Sam Schröder (NED)



**Boys' singles**  
Alexander Blockx (BEL)



**Girls' singles**  
Alina Korneeva



**Boys' doubles**  
Learner Tien (USA) &  
Cooper Williams (USA)



**Girls' doubles**  
Renata Jamrichová (SVK) &  
Federica Urgesi (ITA)





# Men’s singles

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 6-16 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 6-3 6-6 3-6 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 18-16 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

YEAR	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP	SCORE
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
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

YEAR	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP	SCORE
1961	R. Emerson (AUS)	R. Laver (AUS)	1-6 6-6 3-7 5-6 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 6-6 3-1
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
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 6-7 3-6 6-1
1977 (Jan)	R. Tanner (USA)	G. Vilas (ARG)	6-3 6-6 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 6-6 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. McEir (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 6-12 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 6-17-6(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. Baghdatis (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(11)
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)	7-6(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 6-13 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)

# 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 8-6 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)	6-15-7 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 6-6 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. (Bourley) 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

YEAR	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP	SCORE
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
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

YEAR	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP	SCORE
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
2004	J. Henin-Hardenne (BEL)	K. Clijsters (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 (RUS)	6-1 6-2
2008	M. Sharapova (RUS)	A. Ivanovic (SRB)	7-5 6-3
2009	S. Williams (USA)	D. Safina (RUS)	6-0 6-3
2010	S. Williams (USA)	J. Henin (BEL)	6-4 3-6 6-2
2011	K. Clijsters (BEL)	Li Na (CHN)	3-6 6-3 6-3
2012	V. Azarenka (BLR)	M. Sharapova (RUS)	6-3 6-0
2013	V. Azarenka (BLR)	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 (RUS)	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. Kvitová (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 (AUS)	6-3 7-6(2)
2023	A. Sabalenka (BLR)	E. Rybakina (KAZ)	4-6 6-3 6-4



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# DJOKOVIC'S EXTRAORDINARY EFFORT

Novak Djokovic added to his sparkling record at Melbourne Park, capturing an incredible 10th Australian Open crown.

“This is probably the biggest victory in my life,” declared an emotional Novak Djokovic after securing an unprecedented 10th Australian Open men’s singles title.

A 6-3 7-6(4) 7-6(5) triumph against Greek star Stefanos Tsitsipas delivered a record-tying 22nd career Grand Slam title and propelled the 35-year-old Serbian back to world No.1.

Yet these accomplishments arguably paled in comparison to the resilience it took for Djokovic to salute, once again, at Melbourne Park.

The fourth seed entered the tournament under an injury cloud and later revealed he had competed throughout the fortnight with a three-centimetre tear in his left hamstring.

“I wasn’t really liking my chance in this tournament with the way I felt with my leg,” Djokovic admitted.

“It was just a matter of survival of every single match, trying to make it to the next round.

“Dealing with an injury, things happening off the court, as well, that could easily have been a big disturbance to my focus, to my game.

“It required an enormous mental energy really to stay present, to stay focused, to take things day by day.”

Remarkably, Djokovic conceded only a single set during his title-winning run, against French qualifier Enzo Couacaud in the second round.

“From fourth round onwards, I feel the leg was not bothering me as much,” Djokovic said.

“I felt my movement was much better ... The fourth round, quarterfinal, semifinals, (I was) really comfortable on the court, hitting the ball great.

“It’s honestly some of the best tennis I’ve played on this court.

“I would rank it right up there. Maybe top two, three of all time of performances at Slams in general, particularly here.”

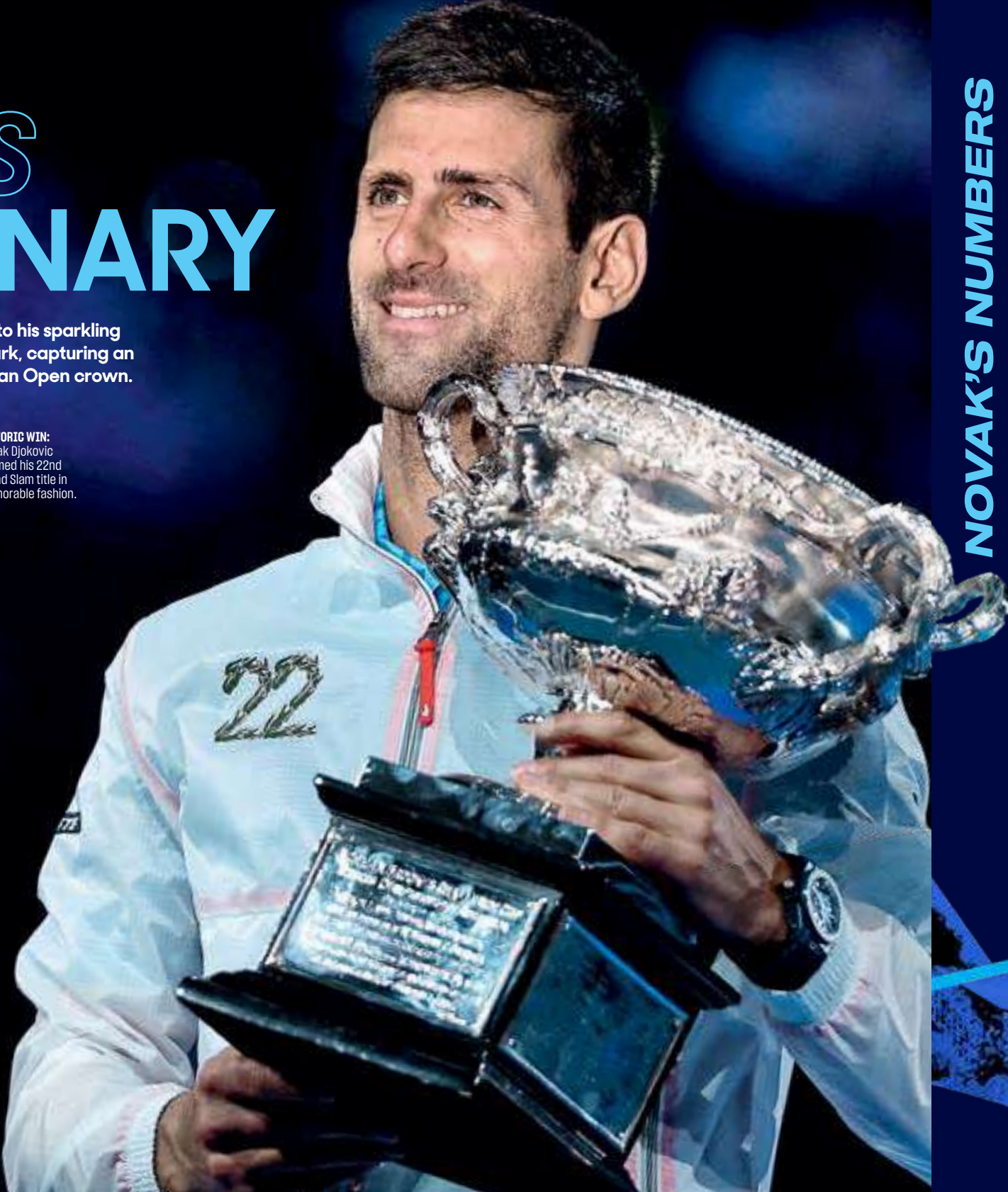
Djokovic described holding aloft the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup, 15 years after his breakthrough Grand Slam victory at

Melbourne Park, as “a huge relief.”

“You never know how much more time you have left. So, of course, I nurture and celebrate these moments of becoming No.1 again and (a) Grand Slam champion even more than I have maybe ever in my career. I don’t take it for granted,” said Djokovic, who was making his 18th Australian Open appearance.

“It hasn’t been smooth sailing, so to say, on and off the court in the last three to four weeks. That makes this victory even more special.” **AO**

**HISTORIC WIN:** Novak Djokovic claimed his 22nd Grand Slam title in memorable fashion.



## NOVAK'S NUMBERS

The statistics are staggering when Novak Djokovic's achievements are tallied. Already in elite company, the Serbian has a chance to further etch his name into the history books should he land an unprecedented 11th Australian Open title in 2024.

> Djokovic returns to the Australian Open on a 28-match winning streak at the tournament. His last loss at Melbourne Park was in the fourth round, against Korean Hyeon Chung, at AO 2018.

> Djokovic set a new record for most consecutive wins at Rod Laver Arena during AO 2023, extending his winning run to 28 matches.

> His winning percentage at Rod Laver Arena is 91.4 per cent. This is the highest among all male competitors, past and present, who have played a minimum of 10 matches on the centre court.

> With his victory in the AO 2023 final, Djokovic improved his tournament record to 89 singles wins from his 97 matches.

> Djokovic boasts an unbeaten record in semifinals and finals matches at the Australian Open.

> He is making his 73rd appearance in a Grand Slam men's singles main draw - a feat only bettered by Roger Federer and Feliciano Lopez, who both made 81.

> If Djokovic advances to the quarterfinals at AO 2024, he will tie Roger Federer for most final-eight Grand Slam appearances. He already is the outright leader for most men's singles semifinals and finals appearances.

> At age 36, Djokovic is the youngest active Australian Open men's singles champion competing on tour.

> Victory at AO 2024 would see Djokovic become the oldest champion at the tournament since a 37-year-old Ken Rosewall in 1972.

> Djokovic has been the top seed in an Australian Open men's singles draw on six previous occasions. He has won the title each time and built an imposing win-loss record of 42-0.

> Djokovic is aiming to win a 25th Grand Slam singles title and extend his Open-era record.



# SABALENKA'S BREAKTHROUGH MAJOR

Aryna Sabalenka captured her first Grand Slam singles title at Australian Open 2023.

Playing with newfound confidence, Aryna Sabalenka proved unstoppable at Australian Open 2023.

The determined 24-year-old returned to Melbourne Park in red-hot form, after scooping the Adelaide International title without dropping a set to open the season.

Sabalenka then charged into her first Grand Slam singles final in an equally ruthless fashion.

After recording 10 consecutive straight-sets victories, Sabalenka was tested by Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina in an absorbing championship match.

The fifth-seeded Sabalenka prevailed 4-6 6-3 6-4 in a two-hour and 28-minute encounter, widely considered one of the finest Australian Open women's singles final in recent history.

Australian Alicia Molik, who was commentating the match, labelled it "the biggest-hitting women's final I think I've ever seen."

"There were barely any unforced errors. They were beating each other with big hitting, consistently and constantly," said the former top-10 star.

After finishing the match with 51 winners, Sabalenka acknowledged the No.22 seed forced her to produce her best.

"(Rybakina) played unbelievable tennis. I fought so hard to win this one," beamed Sabalenka after clinching her maiden major singles title.

"I think (the) tennis was great. I'm really happy that it wasn't (an) easy match. I really enjoyed this battle."

As Sabalenka celebrated her Grand Slam breakthrough, she also reflected on the challenges that had thwarted her campaign a year earlier.

Crippling double faults proved her undoing at AO 2022, crushing her

confidence and evoking questions of whether she could ever fulfil her major potential.

"I really feel right now that I really needed those tough losses to kind of understand myself a little bit better," Sabalenka said.

"It was like a preparation, you know, for me. I actually feel happy that I lost those matches, so right now I can be a different player and just (a) different Aryna."

Leaving Australia on an 11-match winning streak, Sabalenka acknowledged a more measured approach was key.

"I learned that I have to be a little bit calmer on court and I don't have to rush things," she said. "I just have to play my game, be calm, and believe in myself, that I can actually get it." AO

**SWEET SUCCESS:**  
Aryna Sabalenka achieved her Grand Slam dream at Australian Open 2023.



## FIRST TITLES

Aryna Sabalenka joined exclusive company by winning her first major title at the Australian Open. The following players made their Grand Slam singles breakthroughs at Melbourne Park.

### Women's singles

Mary Pierce (1995)  
Martina Hingis (1997)  
Jennifer Capriati (2001)  
Amelie Mauresmo (2006)  
Victoria Azarenka (2012)  
Angelique Kerber (2016)  
Caroline Wozniacki (2018)  
Sofia Kenin (2020)  
Aryna Sabalenka (2023)

### Men's singles

Petr Korda (1998)  
Thomas Johansson (2002)  
Novak Djokovic (2008)  
Stan Wawrinka (2014)

## Double crown

Sabalenka previously experienced Australian Open success in doubles, winning the 2021 title alongside Belgium's Elise Mertens.

This victory propelled the then 22-year-old to world No.1 in doubles, but she has not played doubles at a Grand Slam tournament since, with Sabalenka opting to shift her focus purely to singles to "manage her energy" at the sport's biggest events.

This move paid off at AO 2023, where she became only the third woman to win both singles and doubles titles in Melbourne Park's rich 36-year history. Martina Hingis and Serena Williams are the other women to achieve this feat.

Sabalenka's subsequent rise to world No.1 in singles during the 2023 season saw her join even more exclusive company.

She is only the eighth woman to have topped the WTA Tour rankings in both singles and doubles, and the first since Serena and Venus Williams 13 years earlier.





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# Player PROFILES

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Note: Rankings at year-end 2023. All prize money listed in US dollars.

WOMEN'S PROFILES:  
Leigh Rogers

MEN'S PROFILES:  
Matt Trollope





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Iga Swiatek  
Poland

World No. 1

2024 Player Profiles Women's Singles

**Born** 31 May 2001  
**Warsaw, Poland**  
**Height** 176cm  
**Plays** Right-handed  
**2023 Prize Money** \$9,857,686  
**Career Prize Money** \$24,592,763  
**Singles Titles** 17  
**2023 Year-End Rank** No.1  
**Highest Singles Rank** No.1 (April 2022)  
**2023 Highlights** W Roland Garros, WTA Finals, Beijing, Doha, Stuttgart, Warsaw; F Dubai, Madrid; SF United Cup, Indian Wells, Montreal, Cincinnati, Bad Homburg; QF Wimbledon, Rome, Tokyo  
**AO Best Result** SF 2022

> Swiatek's star power continues to grow, both on and off the court. Time magazine even recognised the 22-year-old as among the 100 most influential people in the world in 2023. Impressively, Swiatek was the only tennis player to feature on this annual list. The Polish player also reinforced her status as the WTA Tour's best singles player, winning a tour-leading 68 matches during 2023 to record her second consecutive year-end No.1 finish. This level of dominance for a player aged under 23 has not been seen in the women's game since Swiss legend, and three-time Australian Open champion, Martina Hingis more than two decades earlier.

Swiatek lost only 11 matches during 2023, all against current or former top-10 players. Despite this imposing record, Swiatek did briefly surrender her top spot to fierce rival Aryna Sabalenka. This snapped a dominant 75-week reign, which was the third-longest in history for a first-time world No.1. But the steely Swiatek responded brilliantly to this disappointment, winning her final 11 matches of the season to reclaim the top ranking. "Coming back to world No.1, it's a dream come true," Swiatek declared after securing her return with victory at the elite WTA Finals. Tallying seven top-10 victories across title-winning runs at Beijing and Cancun

in her final two tournaments of the year, it was an emphatic return to form for the fan favourite. It took Swiatek's season haul to six titles, which included winning her third Roland Garros title. A self-described 'perfectionist', Swiatek admits her own lofty expectations are often hard to fulfil. "We care so much and we give ourselves to this sport that it's sometimes tough to find this balance," admitted Swiatek, whose father Tomasz represented Poland at the 1988 Olympic Games in rowing. "But I'm getting better at it, for sure." As she grows more comfortable in the spotlight, Swiatek's chances of winning a first Australian Open title have never looked brighter.

Grand Slam record						
Grand Slam / Year	Career	23	22	21	20	19
Australian Open	15-5	4R	SF	4R	4R	2R
Roland Garros	28-2	W	W	QF	W	4R
Wimbledon	9-4	QF	3R	4R	-	1R
US Open	16-4	4R	W	4R	3R	2R

AO 2023	
No.1 SEED	
1R d Niemeier, 2R d Osorio, 3R d [Q] Bucsa, 4R I [22] Rybakina	



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Aryna Sabalenka

World No. 2

2024 Player Profiles Women's Singles



Born 5 May 1998  
Minsk, Belarus

Height 182cm

Plays Right-handed

2023 Prize Money \$8,202,653

Career Prize Money \$20,377,563

Singles Titles 13

2023 Year-End Rank No.2

Highest Singles Rank No.1  
(September 2023)

2023 Highlights W Australian Open, Madrid, Adelaide 1; F US Open, Indian Wells, Stuttgart; SF Roland Garros, Wimbledon, WTA Finals, Cincinnati; QF Dubai, Miami, Beijing

AO Best Result Champion 2023

> Sabalenka elevated her game, and most notably her consistency, to a stunning new level in 2023. The powerful ball-striker progressed to the quarterfinals or better in 13 of her 16 tournaments and was a standout performer on the sport's biggest stages. Sabalenka impressively became the first woman in 17 years to advance to the semifinals at all four Grand Slam tournaments, as well as the elite WTA Finals, in the same season. "I'm super proud of myself and my team that we have been able to adjust to different conditions, different courts. We were able to bring this consistency in my game," the 25-year-old said. Sabalenka's efforts were

rewarded with a rise to the top of the WTA Tour rankings. "Becoming a world No.1, it's a huge improvement and achievement," said Sabalenka, who had begun her career-best year at world No.5. "All those years I have been working so hard helped me." She held the coveted No.1 position for eight weeks, before she was overtaken by Iga Swiatek in the final week of the 2023 season. While technical improvements to her service motion are often credited for Sabalenka's recent success, her calmer on-court mentality is arguably of equal importance. "I'm a really emotional person on court, but off court, it's really tough to make

me upset," explained the reigning Australian Open champion. "The goal was to bring this Aryna on court. I worked really hard with psychologists to get to know myself better." There's still room for improvement, as Sabalenka discovered during the US Open 2023 final. After taking the opening set against Coco Gauff, Sabalenka blamed "overthinking" for her inability to close out the match. "I guess it's a lesson for me," she surmised after the loss. "I will learn and then come back stronger." As Sabalenka attempts to become the first woman to defend an Australian Open singles title in 11 years, that is a daunting proposition for her opponents.

#### Grand Slam record

Grand Slam / Year	Career	23	22	21	20	19	18	17
Australian Open	15-5	W	4R	4R	1R	3R	1R	-
Roland Garros	12-6	SF	3R	3R	3R	2R	1R	-
Wimbledon	11-5	SF	-	SF	-	1R	1R	2R
US Open	21-6	F	SF	SF	2R	2R	4R	-

#### AO 2023

No.5 SEED
1R d Martincova, 2R d Rogers, 3R d [26] Mertens, 4R d [12] Bencic, QF d Vekic, SF d Linette, F d [22] Rybakina





AO

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## / Coco Gauff

United States

World No. **3**

2024 Player Profiles Women's Singles



**Born** 13 March 2004  
Delray Beach, USA

**Height** 175cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2023 Prize Money** \$6,669,622

**Career Prize Money** \$12,219,713

**Singles Titles** 6

**2023 Year-End Rank** No.3

**Highest Singles Rank** No.3  
(September 2023)

**2023 Highlights** W US Open, Auckland, Washington, Cincinnati; SF WTA Finals, Beijing, Dubai, Eastbourne; QF Roland Garros, Doha, Indian Wells, Montreal

**AO Best Result** 4R 2020, 2023

> Gauff has been a Grand Slam regular since her history-making debut as a 15-year-old qualifier at Wimbledon in 2019. This is the American's 18th major main-draw appearance. However, it is her first as a Grand Slam champion and last as a teenage competitor. Long touted as a future champion, the 19-year-old sensationally delivered on her major promise with a magnificent title-winning run at last year's US Open. Gauff, who became the world's top-ranked junior at age 14, won four three-set battles and defeated three Grand Slam champions to claim the crown in New York. "Right now, I'm just feeling happiness and a very, very

small bit of relief," Gauff declared after cementing her status as the sport's newest superstar. "I'm so grateful for this moment." It was a highlight in a dominant second half of the 2023 season for Gauff, who won three North American hard-court titles and built a career-best 16-match winning streak. She also progressed to the semifinals at the season-ending WTA Finals. "Honestly, I do feel more confident stepping on court," Gauff acknowledged. "The way I kind of started on the scene, a lot of people wanted that for me and expected that from me. I feel like now it's a little bit of a weight lifted and I'm able to play more freely." This helped Gauff

finish a phenomenal season at world No.3 in singles and doubles. She has been ranked as high as No.1 in doubles, spending a total of seven weeks in the coveted position. Considered one of the sport's most athletic competitors, the articulate and charismatic Gauff is equally respected as an off-court role model. Gauff actively uses her growing platform to make a difference. This ranges from supporting social justice causes, to encouraging the next generation. "I always try to tell young kids to dream big," said Gauff, who has more than three million social media followers. "You never know when your moment is going to happen."

### Grand Slam record

Grand Slam / Year	Career	23	22	21	20	19
Australian Open	7-4	4R	1R	2R	4R	-
Roland Garros	15-4	QF	F	QF	2R	-
Wimbledon	8-4	1R	3R	4R	-	4R
US Open	14-4	W	QF	2R	1R	3R

### AO 2023

No.7 SEED  
1R d Siniakova, 2R d Raducanu, 3R d Pera, 4R l [17] Ostapenko





## STRENGTH IN STRINGS

From power to precision and spin to comfort, top-ranked players have found enormous success with Yonex strings. In fact, as of February 2023, 18% of the top 200 men and women on the tour play with Yonex strings. At the 2023 Australian Open, Yonex had the second-most-used strings at the tournament.

### YONEX'S BEST-SELLING STRINGS



## Elena Rybakina

Kazakhstan



World No. 4

2024 Player Profiles Women's Singles

**Born** 17 June 1999  
Moscow, Russia  
**Height** 184cm  
**Plays** Right-handed  
**2023 Prize Money** \$5,493,437  
**Career Prize Money** \$11,854,395  
**Singles Titles** 5  
**2023 Year-End Rank** No.4  
**Highest Singles Rank** No.3 (June 2023)  
**2023 Highlights** W Indian Wells, Rome; F Australian Open, Miami; SF Montreal, Beijing; QF Wimbledon, Abu Dhabi  
**AO Best Result** Final 2023

> Rybakina's path to become a Grand Slam champion has been anything but conventional. She did not have an individual coach until she was 18, instead taking group lessons throughout her junior career. Encouraged by her father to attend US college rather than pursue a professional tennis career, a strong-willed Rybakina thankfully opted to chase her tennis dreams instead. "I think for every parent, it's difficult," Rybakina acknowledged. "But I knew that from the beginning, they believed in me no matter if I will lose first round or anything as a junior, because they saw also potential (and) how I loved the game." The Russian-born

Rybakina, who has represented Kazakhstan since 2018, delivered on that potential in sensational fashion at Wimbledon 2022. She won her first major title with a steely three-set victory over Ons Jabeur in the final and became the tournament's youngest champion in 11 years. The 24-year-old, known for her calm on-court disposition and measured celebrations, proved she is a legitimate Grand Slam contender again with a runner-up finish at Australian Open 2023. This made her the first singles finalist from Kazakhstan in tournament history. That effort, which included three consecutive victories against major champions and a

fourth-round upset of top seed Iga Swiatek, propelled Rybakina into the world's top 10 for the first time. Her ranking later peaked at world No.3 during a career-best 2023 season. She was the only woman to win multiple WTA 1000 singles titles last year, saluting at both Indian Wells and Rome, and scored a tour-leading four wins against a world No.1. Rybakina also finished the season with an impressive ace tally of 455. The quietly ambitious competitor begins the 2024 season looking to achieve even greater heights. "I think the biggest goal, of course, is to be No.1," she said. "There is still a long way to go, so this is the kind of end goal."

### Grand Slam record

Grand Slam / Year	Career	23	22	21	20	19
Australian Open	10-4	F	2R	2R	3R	-
Roland Garros	9-4	3R	3R	QF	2R	1R
Wimbledon	14-2	QF	W	4R	-	-
US Open	4-5	3R	1R	3R	2R	1R

### AO 2023

No.22 SEED
1R d Cocciaretto, 2R d Juvan, 3R d [13] Collins, 4R d [1] Swiatek, QF d [17] Ostapenko, SF d [24] Azarenka, F l [5] Sabalenka





Jessica Pegula  
United States

World No. 5

**Born** 24 February 1994  
Buffalo, USA

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**Height** 170cm

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**Plays** Right-handed

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**2023 Prize Money** \$5,967,890

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**Career Prize Money** \$12,383,246

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**Singles Titles** 4

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**2023 Year-End Rank** No.5

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**Highest Singles Rank** No.3  
(October 2022)

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**2023 Highlights** W United Cup, Montreal, Seoul; F WTA Finals, Doha, Tokyo; SF Dubai, Miami, Charleston, Washington; QF Australian Open, Wimbledon, Madrid, Eastbourne; 4R US Open, Indian Wells

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**AO Best Result** QF 2021, 2022, 2023

> Pegula is one of the hardest-working players on tour. The 29-year-old, who was born into one of America's richest families, contested 136 matches in 2023 (77 in singles, 48 in doubles and 11 in mixed doubles). "I like to keep playing and keep winning," Pegula said of her gruelling schedule. "I see a lot of benefits as well. I think it's made me a lot better player." That is clear in the rankings, with Pegula finishing a career-best season at world No.5 in singles and world No.3 in doubles. Yet Grand Slam success continues to elude the late-blooming Pegula, who persevered through multiple injury setbacks in her earlier years on tour. She has

proven a consistent performer at Grand Slam level since making her breakthrough as an unheralded 26-year-old at Australian Open 2021, when she advanced to the singles quarterfinals as the world No.61. Although Pegula is now entrenched near the top of the rankings, she is yet to progress beyond a major singles quarterfinal. Her best Grand Slam doubles results are runner-up finishes at Roland Garros 2022 (with Coco Gauff) and US Open 2023 (mixed doubles with Austin Krajicek). Winning a Grand Slam title remains the ultimate goal for the determined competitor, whose off-court interests include managing her own skincare range

and an animal charity she has set up with her husband, Taylor Gahagen. "It's so hard, especially in tennis because you have to be so selfish and dedicate so much time," Pegula noted of juggling these off-court ventures. "You get guilty. Then you still want to win, you're still trying to get better. You're kind of driving yourself literally insane with, like, 'how do I improve, how do I get to the next level?'" There are promising signs that the best is yet to come for Pegula, who briefly rose to world No.1 in doubles late in 2023. She also scored four top-10 wins to advance to the biggest singles final of her career at last year's season-ending WTA Finals.

Grand Slam record											
Grand Slam / Year	Career	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	
Australian Open	12-4	QF	QF	QF	1R	-	-	-	-	-	
Roland Garros	8-5	3R	QF	3R	1R	1R	-	-	-	-	
Wimbledon	7-4	QF	3R	2R	-	1R	-	-	-	-	
US Open	12-7	4R	QF	3R	3R	1R	-	-	1R	2R	



Ons Jabeur  
Tunisia

World No. 6

2024 Player Profiles Women's Singles

**Born** 28 August 1994  
Ksar El Hellar, Tunisia

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**Height** 167cm

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**Plays** Right-handed

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**2023 Prize Money** \$3,194,564

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**Career Prize Money** \$12,379,307

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**Singles Titles** 5

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**2023 Year-End Rank** No.6

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**Highest Singles Rank** No.2  
(June 2022)

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**2023 Highlights** W Charleston, Ningbo; F Wimbledon; SF Stuttgart, Adelaide 1; QF Roland Garros, Cincinnati, Zhengzhou; 4R US Open; 3R Indian Wells, Guadalajara

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**AO Best Result** QF 2020

> Jabeur's resilience was tested in multiple ways throughout a challenging 2023 season. After she was hampered by a right knee injury during the Australian summer, Jabeur underwent minor surgery. The 29-year-old made a promising return, scooping the Charleston title in her third tournament back on tour. However, that momentum proved short-lived after suffering a calf injury in her next event. This impacted Jabeur's clay-court season and forced her to miss Madrid, where she was the defending champion. The Tunisian returned to top form at Wimbledon, eliminating four consecutive Grand Slam champions to progress to the final

for the second year in a row. After entering the championship match as a red-hot favourite, Jabeur was heartbroken following a loss to the unseeded Marketa Vondrousova. "It's painful because you feel so close to achieving something that you want," Jabeur conceded. Illness then derailed her US Open campaign. Despite all these setbacks, the African trailblazer still managed to qualify for the WTA Finals and finish inside the year-end top-10 for a third consecutive year. It should come as no surprise, considering Jabeur has being defying the odds throughout her career to become the highest-ranked African and Arab player in history. "There

are not a lot of players from my country or from my continent," Jabeur acknowledged. "It is a big challenge and I believe that someone has to do it from the beginning to show that you can lead the way and you can be one of the great tennis players." As her profile grows, Jabeur is actively seeking even more ways to make a difference too. She invested in the North Carolina Courage during 2023, joining compatriot Naomi Osaka as a co-owner of the National Women's Soccer League team. "Soccer and female empowerment are my main passions outside of tennis," Jabeur explained of her motivations for this decision.

Grand Slam record											
Grand Slam / Year	Career	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14
Australian Open	7-6	2R	-	3R	QF	1R	1R	-	-	1R	-
Roland Garros	12-6	QF	1R	4R	4R	1R	-	3R	-	-	-
Wimbledon	17-6	F	F	QF	-	1R	2R	1R	-	-	-
US Open	16-8	4R	F	3R	3R	3R	1R	2R	-	-	1R

AO 2023											
No.2 SEED											
1R d Zidansek, 2R l Vondrousova											





# Marketa Vondrousova

Czech Republic

World No. **7**

**Born** 28 June 1999  
Sokolov, Czech Republic

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**Height** 172cm

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**Plays** Left-handed

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**2023 Prize Money** \$4,473,278

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**Career Prize Money** \$9,260,071

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**Singles Titles** 2

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**2023 Year-End Rank** No.7

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**Highest Singles Rank** No.6  
(September 2023)

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**2023 Highlights** W Wimbledon;  
SF Linz; QF US Open, Cincinnati,  
Adelaide 1, Berlin; 4R Indian Wells,  
Miami, Rome

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**AO Best Result** 4R 2021

➤ Vondrousova created history with her stunning victory at Wimbledon in 2023, becoming the lowest-ranked women's singles champion at the tournament in the Open era. The 24-year-old enjoyed a giant-killing run at the All England Club, defeating five seeded opponents to claim her maiden Grand Slam title. "When we came, I was just like, 'Try to win couple of matches'. Now this happened, it's crazy," said Vondrousova, who was ranked No.42 at the time. "I think nobody would have told you this before, when we were coming here, that I even have a chance to win." Although her triumph was unexpected, the Czech's talent

certainly was no secret. She was once the world's top-ranked junior and won the Australian Open 2015 girls' doubles title. At Roland Garros in 2019, she became the first teen to advance to a major women's singles final in almost a decade. However, Vondrousova did not get a chance to build on that breakthrough, undergoing left wrist surgery shortly after and missing six months of competition. She returned to score two top-10 wins and claim a silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics. But a second wrist surgery in 2022, and another subsequent six-month lay-off, curbed her momentum once again. "When I was coming back, I didn't know what's going to happen, if I

can play at that level again?" she admitted. Following a US Open quarterfinal appearance and a WTA Finals debut in late 2023, Vondrousova carries positive momentum into her seventh AO campaign. She was ranked No.86 last summer, but returns as a Grand Slam champion and top-10 star. "It's definitely more pressure and more people are talking about you," Vondrousova said of her new status among the game's elite. "It's really nice to see the kids and everybody just wants to meet you. It's a very nice feeling to have." The introverted Vondrousova enjoys spending time with her husband, Stepan, and their cat, Frankie, when not on tour.

Grand Slam record								
Grand Slam / Year	Career	23	22	21	20	19	18	17
Australian Open	9-6	3R	3R	4R	1R	2R	2R	-
Roland Garros	11-6	2R	-	4R	1R	F	1R	2R
Wimbledon	8-4	W	-	2R	-	1R	1R	1R
US Open	9-5	QF	-	2R	2R	-	4R	1R



# Karolina Muchova

Czech Republic

World No. **8**

**Born** 21 August 1996  
Olomouc, Czech Republic

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**Height** 180cm

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**Plays** Right-handed

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**2023 Prize Money** \$2,804,438

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**Career Prize Money** \$6,509,545

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**Singles Titles** 1

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**2023 Year-End Rank** No.8

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

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**2023 Highlights** F Roland Garros,  
Cincinnati; SF US Open; QF Dubai,  
Indian Wells, Auckland; 4R Rome;  
3R Miami, Montreal

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**AO Best Result** SF 2021

➤ A lot can change in a year, as Muchova demonstrated during 2023. The Czech began the season sitting outside the world's top 150 and ended it sparkling inside the top 10. This rapid rise was not particularly shocking, as Muchova's ability is unquestionable. She made the Wimbledon quarterfinals on debut in 2019 and memorably advanced to the AO 2021 semifinals, upsetting world No.1 Ash Barty along the way. But what was more surprising was the injury-prone Muchova's ability to play a fuller schedule in 2023. "That's a long story," Muchova laughed when asked about her history of injuries. "I think with my body, it

kind of needed some time, and then it was work to figure out how to keep myself healthy and not be injured after almost every match." When fit, Muchova has proven she is one of the world's best players. Muchova's ability to bamboozle opponents with her variety and all-court game was impressively on display at Roland Garros in 2023, where she scored two top-10 wins to advance to her first Grand Slam final. Swedish legend Mats Wilander, a three-time Australian Open champion who was commentating in Paris, declared Muchova "might be the most complete tennis player on the women's side in the world". The former world No.1

also predicted that "with a bit of confidence, which obviously she has now, she can disturb anyone". Muchova demonstrated that in Cincinnati, where she notched two top-10 wins on a march into the final. She also enjoyed a career-best run at the US Open, reaching the semifinals. However, a wrist injury forced the 27-year-old to withdraw from the WTA Finals. A fearless on-court competitor, Muchova is equally brave off court. She names skydiving as her ultimate bucket list item, despite being "super scared of heights". "I like to challenge myself," she explained. Her less adventurous off-court hobbies include visiting coffee shops and playing guitar.

Grand Slam record							
Grand Slam / Year	Career	23	22	21	20	19	18
Australian Open	7-4	2R	-	SF	2R	1R	-
Roland Garros	11-5	F	3R	3R	1R	2R	-
Wimbledon	8-4	1R	1R	QF	-	QF	-
US Open	12-6	SF	1R	1R	4R	3R	3R

AO 2023	
UNSEEDDED	
1R d [Q] Tsurenko,	
2R I [13] Collins	





/ Maria Sakkari  
Greece

World No. **9**

**Born** 25 July 1995  
Athens, Greece

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**Height** 172cm

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**Plays** Right-handed

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**2023 Prize Money** \$2,605,413

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**Career Prize Money** \$10,657,441

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**Singles Titles** 2

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**2023 Year-End Rank** No.9

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**Highest Singles Rank** No.3  
(March 2022)

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**2023 Highlights** W Guadalajara;  
F Washington; SF Indian Wells,  
Madrid, United Cup, Linz, Doha,  
Berlin, Tokyo; QF Beijing, San Diego;  
3R Australian Open, Rome

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**AO Best Result** 4R 2020, 2022

➤ It is no secret that Sakkari, the highest-ranked Greek woman in history, loves competing in Australia. “I think that it’s the perfect place to start the year,” the 28-year-old declared last summer. “The Australian culture is very special and unique. Everyone is really nice. There’s a large Greek community here too, so I do enjoy that a lot. I feel like I’m at home, especially in Melbourne, because everywhere I go, I can hear Greek.” Sakkari returns this year with a point to prove following a disappointing season at Grand Slam level. The athletic competitor recorded just two main-draw wins, both at Melbourne Park, during 2023.

“It’s not a lack of effort, for sure,” Sakkari lamented at the US Open after suffering a third consecutive opening-round exit at a major tournament. The Monte Carlo-based athlete still performed strongly at tour-level events, advancing to nine semifinals and recording eight top-20 wins. This helped her maintain her top-10 ranking throughout the year. A highlight came at the WTA 1000 event at Guadalajara in September, where Sakkari put Grand Slam disappointment behind her to win the biggest singles title of her career to date. “It’s very important that I could bounce back and find a way to find happiness on the court

again,” Sakkari said. This victory snapped a six-match losing streak in finals and ensured Sakkari, one of the stars of the Netflix series Break Point, recorded a third consecutive year-end top-10 finish. She names “fighting spirit” as her greatest quality. “I don’t give up,” she explained. “I would say I’m athletic too, so it’s tough to hit through me.” As Sakkari looks to use these qualities to her advantage at Australian Open 2024, she has some high-profile supporters in her corner. Her mother, Angeliki Kanellopoulou, is a former top-50 player, and her long-time partner, Konstantinos, is the son of Greece’s Prime Minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

Grand Slam record										
Grand Slam / Year	Career	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15
Australian Open	13-8	3R	4R	1R	4R	3R	1R	3R	2R	-
Roland Garros	11-7	1R	2R	SF	3R	2R	3R	1R	-	-
Wimbledon	8-7	1R	3R	2R	-	3R	1R	3R	2R	-
US Open	14-9	1R	2R	SF	4R	3R	2R	3R	1R	1R



/ Barbora Krejcikova  
Czech Republic

World No. **10**

**Born** 18 December 1995  
Brno, Czech Republic

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**Height** 178cm

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**Plays** Right-handed

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**2023 Prize Money** \$2,298,579

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**Career Prize Money** \$11,052,653

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**Singles Titles** 7

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**2023 Year-End Rank** No.10

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**Highest Singles Rank** No.2  
(February 2022)

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**2023 Highlights** W Dubai, San Diego; F Birmingham, Zhengzhou;  
4R Australian Open, Indian Wells, Miami, Madrid

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**AO Best Result** QF 2022

➤ Krejcikova is the only player in action this summer to have won Grand Slam titles across three different disciplines – singles, doubles and mixed doubles. A winner of 11 major titles in total, the crafty Czech has claimed five of these at the Australian Open. “I really love it in Australia. I always love coming here,” said Krejcikova, who in 2021 became the first woman in the Open era to win three consecutive Australian Open mixed doubles titles. “I love the culture, I love the fans. I mean, I love everything about the summer ... it’s a very special place for me.” Krejcikova returns this year as the two-time defending champion in the women’s doubles

competition, having secured the AO 2022 and AO 2023 titles alongside compatriot Katerina Siniakova. The 28-year-old also advanced to the second week in singles during her past two visits to Melbourne Park and has her sights set on progressing even deeper at AO 2024. “It’s a big challenge. (But) I really like playing the best ones in the world. That’s why I’m playing tennis, why I work hard every single day,” declared the Roland Garros 2021 singles champion, who was mentored by a Czech great, the late Jana Novotna, early in her career. Krejcikova recorded her best singles result during 2023 at Dubai, scoring four top-10

victories to snare her first WTA 1000 singles title. This helped her record a second year-end top-10 finish in singles. Krejcikova, who has achieved career-high rankings of world No.2 in singles and world No.1 in doubles, is often spotted courtside watching her peers compete during tournaments. “I love tennis, so I love watching it. I love all the matches. I watch women’s matches, but also the men’s matches,” said the Tokyo 2020 Olympic doubles gold medallist. “I can learn a lot of things ... it’s better than, I don’t know, sitting or laying down on a bed just doing nothing.” It also provides further inspiration as Krejcikova chases more AO glory.

Grand Slam record							
Grand Slam / Year	Career	23	22	21	20	19	18
Australian Open	9-4	4R	QF	2R	2R	-	-
Roland Garros	10-4	1R	1R	W	4R	-	1R
Wimbledon	6-3	2R	3R	4R	-	-	-
US Open	5-3	1R	2R	QF	-	-	-

AO 2023	
No.20 SEED	
1R d [Q] Bejlek, 2R d [Q] Burel, 3R d Kalinina, 4R I [3] Pegula	



# Beatriz Haddad Maia

Brazil



World No. **11**

➤ The late-blooming Haddad Maia created history in 2023, becoming the first Brazilian woman to achieve a top-10 singles ranking. She also made her top-10 debut in doubles. It was a well-earned reward for perseverance, after overcoming several setbacks throughout her career. A courageous semifinal run at Roland Garros proved a major singles highlight, with Haddad Maia winning four consecutive three-set battles to record the best result for a Brazilian woman at the tournament in 57 years. The 27-year-old also finished the season strongly, scoring four top-20 wins to claim the WTA Elite Trophy in Zhuhai. Haddad Maia's best Australian Open result to date was as a doubles finalist in 2022.

Born	30 May 1996
	San Paulo, Brazil
Height	185cm
Plays	Left-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$2,858,821
Career Prize Money	\$5,343,077
Singles Titles	3
2023 Year-End Rank	No.11
Highest Singles Rank	No.10 (June 2023)
2023 Highlights	W Zhuhai; SF Roland Garros, Abu Dhabi; QF Adelaide 2, Doha, Stuttgart, Rome, San Diego; 4R Wimbledon; 3R Indian Wells, Miami
AO Best Result	2R 2018, 2019, 2022
AO 2023	No.14 SEED
	1R I Parrizas Diaz

# Jelena Ostapenko

Latvia



World No. **13**

➤ Ostapenko burst into the spotlight at Roland Garros in 2017, becoming the tournament's first unseeded champion in 84 years. Since then, the Latvian has developed a cult following thanks to her powerful ball-striking and expressive on-court mannerisms. "With me it's never boring," the 26-year-old laughed during a career-best performance at AO 2023. She made two major quarterfinal appearances during 2023, scoring impressive fourth-round wins against top-10 opponents (Coco Gauff at the Australian Open and Iga Swiatek at the US Open) in her most consistent season to date. This helped the former ballroom dancer record her highest year-end ranking in six years.

Born	8 June 1997
	Riga, Latvia
Height	177cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$2,158,610
Career Prize Money	\$13,933,928
Singles Titles	6
2023 Year-End Rank	No.13
Highest Singles Rank	No.5 (March 2018)
2023 Highlights	W Birmingham; SF Rome; QF Australian Open, US Open, Eastbourne, Beijing; 4R Miami; 3R Dubai, Indian Wells, Madrid, Guadalajara
AO Best Result	QF 2023
AO 2023	No.17 SEED
	1R d Yastremska, 2R d Bondar, 3R d Baidl, 4R d [7] Gauff, QF I [22] Rybakina

# Madison Keys

United States



World No. **12**

➤ Keys is a proven threat at the Australian Open, with four top-10 victories and two semifinal runs from her 10 previous main-draw appearances. The 28-year-old returns with confidence too, after enjoying her best Grand Slam season in five years. Keys recorded her deepest Wimbledon run in eight years and then scored two top-10 wins to advance to her third US Open semifinal. "I'm playing with lower expectations and not putting as much pressure on myself," Keys explained of her resurgence. She also credits a unique coaching arrangement with her fiancé, fellow American pro Bjorn Fratangelo. The long-term couple began working together in mid-2023 while Fratangelo was sidelined with injury.

Born	17 February 1995
	Rock Island, USA
Height	178cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$2,406,458
Career Prize Money	\$17,366,870
Singles Titles	7
2023 Year-End Rank	No.12
Highest Singles Rank	No.7 (October 2016)
2023 Highlights	W United Cup, Eastbourne; SF US Open; QF Wimbledon, Dubai, Charleston, Washington; 4R Rome; 3R Miami
AO Best Result	SF 2015, 2022
AO 2023	No.10 SEED
	1R d Blinkova, 2R d Wang, 3R I [24] Azarenka

# Petra Kvitova

Czech Republic



World No. **14**

➤ Kvitova demonstrated she was still a major contender during 2023, when she won her biggest title in five years at Miami. This helped the two-time Wimbledon champion record a year-end top-20 ranking for the 12th time. The big-hitting Czech, who married her coach and former pro player Jiri Vanek during 2023, owns an enviable record in Australia. A winner of tour-level titles in Hobart, Brisbane and Sydney, she came close to adding Melbourne to that list with a compelling final run at AO 2019, where she battled Naomi Osaka for the title and world No.1 ranking. Making her 15th main-draw appearance at Melbourne Park, can Kvitova's unwavering determination finally earn her an AO crown?

Born	8 March 1990
	Bilovec, Czech Republic
Height	182cm
Plays	Left-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$2,488,381
Career Prize Money	\$37,252,032
Singles Titles	31
2023 Year-End Rank	No.14
Highest Singles Rank	No.2 (October 2011)
2023 Highlights	W Miami, Berlin; QF Adelaide 2, Indian Wells, Ningbo; 4R Wimbledon; 3R Dubai, Montreal
AO Best Result	Final 2019
AO 2023	No.15 SEED
	1R d Van Uytvanck, 2R I Kalinina



/ Zheng  
Qinwen  
China

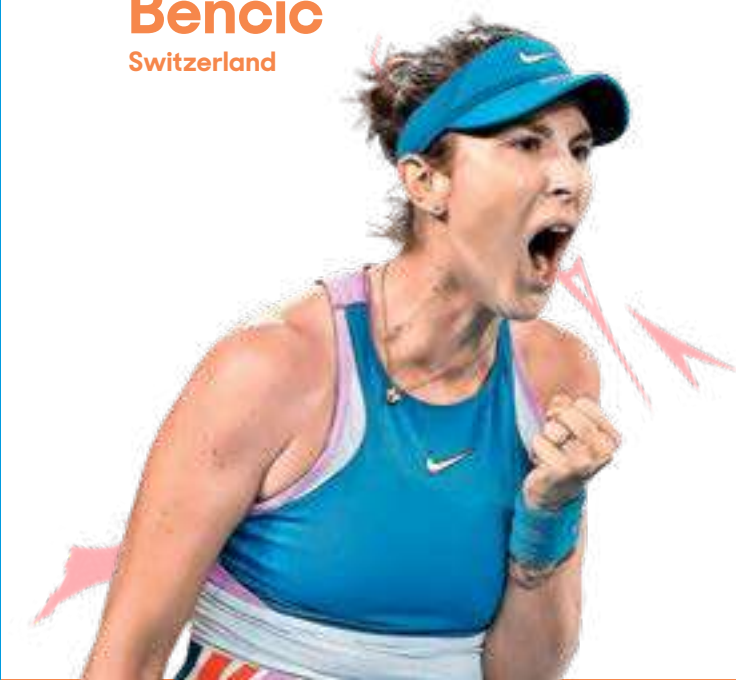


World No. **15**

➤ Voted the WTA Tour's Newcomer of the Year in 2022, Zheng continues to make waves. The 21-year-old, who names AO 2014 champion Li Na as her biggest inspiration, won two titles in 2023 and broke into the world's top 20. She also enjoyed an exciting Grand Slam breakthrough, advancing to the quarterfinals at the US Open. A fourth-round victory against Ons Jabeur in New York was one of three top-10 wins Zheng recorded for the season. Winning a gold medal at the Asian Games provided another major highlight. "My ultimate desire is to win a Grand Slam," Zheng declared after a title-winning run at Zhengzhou in October, where she sang karaoke on-court after the final much to the delight of Chinese fans.

Born	8 October 2002
Shiyan, China	
Height	178cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$1,688,512
Career Prize Money	\$2,746,918
Singles Titles	2
2023 Year-End Rank	No.15
Highest Singles Rank	No.15 (November 2023)
2023 Highlights	W Palermo, Zhengzhou; F Zhuhai; SF Abu Dhabi; QF US Open, Rome; 4R Miami; 3R Madrid, Cincinnati
AO Best Result	2R 2022, 2023
AO 2023	No.29 SEED
	1R d Galfi, 2R l Pera

/ Belinda  
Bencic  
Switzerland



World No. **17**

➤ Bencic was the world's top-ranked junior when she made her Grand Slam debut as a 16-year-old qualifier at AO 2014. The Swiss athlete has since established herself as a star of the sport, winning an Olympic gold medal at Tokyo 2020 and achieving a career-high ranking of world No.4. Bencic recorded a fifth year-end top-20 finish in 2023. However, the 26-year-old's quest for Grand Slam glory is currently on hold after announcing her pregnancy in November. Bencic revealed on social media she is expecting a "little miracle" with her fitness coach and long-term boyfriend, Martin Hromkovic. This means Bencic is missing the Australian Open for the first time since making her debut a decade ago.

Born	10 March 1997
Flawil, Switzerland	
Height	175cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$1,601,928
Career Prize Money	\$12,222,332
Singles Titles	7
2023 Year-End Rank	No.17
Highest Singles Rank	No.4 (February 2020)
2023 Highlights	W Adelaide 2, Abu Dhabi; F Charleston; QF Doha, Washington, Montreal; 4R Australian Open, Wimbledon, US Open; 3R Dubai, Miami
AO Best Result	4R 2016, 2023
AO 2023	No.12 SEED
	1R d Tomova, 2R d Liu, 3R d Giorgi, 4R l [5] Sabalenka

/ Liudmila  
Samsonova



World No. **16**

➤ Samsonova believes she would have pursued figure skating had her father, a former pro table tennis player, not relocated their family from Russia to Italy when she was six years old. Tennis instead became her sport of choice. This has worked out well for Samsonova, who peaked at world No.12 during 2023 and contested the biggest finals of her blossoming career at Montreal and Beijing. The 25-year-old gained valuable lessons from her first WTA 1000 finals appearances, noting the importance of playing without pressure. "When I'm mentally like that, I can play my best tennis," Samsonova said. Making her fifth AO main-draw appearance, she is now determined to prove her ability on the Grand Slam stage.

Born	11 November 1998
Olenegorsk, Russia	
Height	182cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$2,248,286
Career Prize Money	\$4,376,046
Singles Titles	4
2023 Year-End Rank	No.16
Highest Singles Rank	No.12 (February 2023)
2023 Highlights	F Montreal, Beijing, Abu Dhabi; SF Washington; QF s-Hertogenbosch, Bad Homburg; 4R Madrid; 3R US Open, Dubai, Miami, Rome
AO Best Result	2R 2021, 2022, 2023
AO 2023	No.18 SEED
	1R d Paolini, 2R l Vekic

/ Daria  
Kasatkina



World No. **18**

➤ Kasatkina is best known for her crafty on-court style, which has helped her reach the world's top 10. The 26-year-old's fan base is also growing thanks to her popular YouTube channel, where she provides insights into life on tour with her partner, former figure skating champion Natalia Zabilaiko. This engaging pastime did not impact Kasatkina's results in 2023, recording back-to-back top-20 year-end finishes for the first time in her career. Kasatkina advanced to two WTA finals, including at Adelaide, and made second-week appearances at Roland Garros and the US Open. Kasatkina is yet to progress that far at the Australian Open in eight previous appearances. Could this be her year to shine?

Born	7 May 1997
Togliatty, Russia	
Height	170cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$1,698,790
Career Prize Money	\$10,773,074
Singles Titles	6
2023 Year-End Rank	No.18
Highest Singles Rank	No.8 (October 2022)
2023 Highlights	F Adelaide 2, Eastbourne; SF Charleston, Zhengzhou, Zhuhai; QF Montreal, Abu Dhabi, Palermo, Tokyo; 4R Roland Garros, US Open, Madrid, Rome; 3R Wimbledon, Cincinnati
AO Best Result	3R 2016, 2022
AO 2023	No.8 SEED
	1R l Gracheva



# Veronika Kudermetova



World No. **19**

► Kudermetova scored two top-five victories to claim a WTA 500 title at Tokyo in September, defeating Iga Swiatek and Jessica Pegula during her impressive run. They were among six top-10 wins she recorded throughout the 2023 season. Kudermetova credits greater self-belief for these results. “It doesn’t matter who is on the other side, I try to fight and show my best tennis,” she said. This helped the 26-year-old finish inside the year-end top-20 for the second year in a row. Kudermetova, who has achieved a top-10 ranking in both singles and doubles, has plenty of support on tour. She is married to her coach, Sergey Demekhine, and her younger sister, 20-year-old Polina, also plays professionally.

Born	24 April 1997
Kazan, Russia	
Height	175cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$1,616,841
Career Prize Money	\$6,534,927
Singles Titles	2
2023 Year-End Rank	No.19
Highest Singles Rank	No.9 (October 2022)
2023 Highlights	W Tokyo; F s-Hertogenbosch; SF Adelaide 2, Doha, Madrid, Rome; QF Adelaide 1, Abu Dhabi, Berlin; 3R Indian Wells, Guadalajara, Beijing
AO Best Result	3R 2021, 2022
AO 2023	No.9 SEED
1R d	Zanevska, 2R l [Q] Volynets

# Ekaterina Alexandrova



World No. **21**

► The quiet-achieving Alexandrova advanced to the third round at all four Grand Slam tournaments during a consistent 2023 season. She recorded her best result at Wimbledon, progressing to a major fourth round for the first time. It was a highlight in an outstanding grass-court swing for the 29-year-old, who also defended her s-Hertogenbosch title and won 10 of her 12 matches. This included four top-20 victories. Alexandrova, who is coached by her father Evgeny, has been living and training in the Czech capital of Prague since she was 11 years old. Listing hard court as her favourite surface, Alexandrova makes her eighth consecutive AO main-draw appearance looking to build on her career-best form.

Born	15 November 1994
Chelyabinsk, Russia	
Height	175cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$1,405,561
Career Prize Money	\$5,611,301
Singles Titles	4
2023 Year-End Rank	No.21
Highest Singles Rank	No.16 (February 2023)
2023 Highlights	W s-Hertogenbosch; F Cleveland; SF Berlin; QF Miami, Charleston, Tokyo; 4R Wimbledon, Madrid; 3R Australian Open, Roland Garros, US Open, Guadalajara
AO Best Result	3R 2020, 2021, 2023
AO 2023	No.19 SEED
1R d	Bonaventure, 2R d [WC] Townsend, 3R l Linette

# Caroline Garcia

France



World No. **20**

► Two WTA finals appearances in 2023, among 12 quarterfinals in total, helped Garcia record a fourth year-end top-20 finish. However, this effort still paled in comparison to the dizzying heights the 30-year-old reached in 2022, when she won the prestigious WTA Finals title, was a US Open semifinalist and returned to a career-high world No.4. Garcia has been open with the challenges faced throughout her career, from dealing with expectations at a young age to more recently battling an eating disorder. This has all added to her fluctuating form. “We are still human and we go through a lot of emotion,” said the Frenchwoman, noting the resilience required to maintain a high level week-in, week-out.

Born	16 October 1993
Saint-Germain-en-Laye, France	
Height	177cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$1,867,095
Career Prize Money	\$16,931,236
Singles Titles	11
2023 Year-End Rank	No.20
Highest Singles Rank	No.4 (September 2018)
2023 Highlights	F Lyon, Monterrey; SF Guadalajara; QF Adelaide 2, Doha, Stuttgart, Berlin, Eastbourne, Cleveland, San Diego, Tokyo, Beijing; 4R Australian Open, Indian Wells; 3R Wimbledon, Madrid, Rome
AO Best Result	4R 2018, 2023
AO 2023	No.4 SEED
1R d	[Q] Sebov, 2R d Fernandez, 3R d Siegemund, 4R l Linette

# Victoria Azarenka



World No. **22**

► A resurgent Azarenka proved one of the biggest – and most heart-warming – stories of AO 2023, advancing to her first semifinal at Melbourne Park in a decade. That performance evoked memories of her steely title-winning runs in 2012 and 2013, which saw her become the first world No.1 singles player from her nation. Azarenka’s love affair with the Australian Open began even earlier, having won the girls’ singles title at the tournament in 2005. She is also a three-time AO doubles finalist. The passion clearly hasn’t waned either for the 34-year-old, who now travels on tour with her seven-year-old son, Leo, and is still determined to add to her major collection in her 14th AO main-draw appearance.

Born	31 July 1989
Minsk, Belarus	
Height	183cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$1,750,396
Career Prize Money	\$36,650,719
Singles Titles	21
2023 Year-End Rank	No.22
Highest Singles Rank	No.1 (January 2012)
2023 Highlights	SF Australian Open; QF Adelaide, Guadalajara; 4R Wimbledon; 3R Miami, Rome
AO Best Result	Champion 2012, 2013
AO 2023	No.24 SEED
1R d	Kenin, 2R d Podoroska, 3R d [10] Keys, 4R d Zhu, QF d [3] Pegula, SF l [22] Rybakina





**/ Donna Vekic**  
Croatia

World No. **23**

➤ Arriving at AO 2023 sporting her own new fashion range, Donna Sport, Vekic's 11th consecutive main-draw appearance proved her most memorable yet. As an unseeded world No.64, the Croatian progressed to a maiden quarterfinal at Melbourne Park. It was Vekic's best Grand Slam result in more than three years and a welcome form revival. Vekic, who revealed she had come close to retiring after struggling to recover from knee surgery in 2021, credits playing with less pressure as the key to her resurgence. As well as an interest in fashion, Vekic has her own luxury candle and fragrance line, DNNA, which raises revenue for bee conservation in Croatia.

<b>Born</b> 28 June 1996
<b>Osijek, Croatia</b>
<b>Height</b> 179cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$1,332,726
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$6,869,716
<b>Singles Titles</b> 4
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.23
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.19 (November 2019)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> W Monterrey; F Berlin; QF Australian Open, Linz; 4R Rome; 3R Wimbledon, Miami, Cincinnati
<b>AO Best Result</b> QF 2023
<b>AO 2023 UNSEED</b> 1R d [Q] Selekhmeteva, 2R d [18] Samsonova, 3R d Parrizas Diaz, 4R d L. Fruhvirtova, QF l [5] Sabalenka



**/ Elina Svitolina**  
Ukraine

World No. **25**

➤ Six months after welcoming her first child, daughter Skai, with husband Gael Monfils, Svitolina made a triumphant tour return in April 2023. The former world No.3 won a title at Strasbourg, in just her fourth WTA-level tournament as a mother, then advanced to the Roland Garros quarterfinals. Svitolina went even deeper at Wimbledon, beating four major champions to reach the semifinals. Ranked outside the top 1300 in April, Svitolina soared back into the world's top 25. "I'm very happy with the tournaments that I played and with the season," the 29-year-old said. A rejuvenated Svitolina is determined to keep climbing higher in 2024. "I have huge motivation to come back to the top," she declared.

<b>Born</b> 12 September 1994
<b>Odesa, Ukraine</b>
<b>Height</b> 174cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$1,457,493
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$22,876,442
<b>Singles Titles</b> 17
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.25
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.3 (September 2017)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> W Strasbourg; SF Wimbledon; QF Roland Garros, Washington; 3R US Open
<b>AO Best Result</b> QF 2018, 2019
<b>AO 2023</b> DID NOT PLAY



**/ Magda Linette**  
Poland

World No. **24**

➤ Linette went on a giant-killing run at Australian Open 2023, eliminating four seeds in a stunning march into the semifinals. This included three consecutive wins against top-20 opponents. It was the first time, in 30 main-draw appearances, that Linette had advanced to the second week at a Grand Slam tournament. "It's really rewarding because I really needed more than (a) couple (of) tries," said the Polish player, who was ranked No.45 at the time. This performance helped Linette soar to a career-high world No.19 during a career-best 2023 season. The 31-year-old was also a finalist in the Chinese city of Guangzhou in September, which has been her training base for many years.

<b>Born</b> 12 February 1992
<b>Poznan, Poland</b>
<b>Height</b> 171cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$1,846,117
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$5,998,100
<b>Singles Titles</b> 2
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.24
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.19 (March 2023)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> F Guangzhou; SF Australian Open, United Cup; QF Merida; 4R Miami; 3R Wimbledon, Madrid, Rome, Beijing, Charleston
<b>AO Best Result</b> SF 2023
<b>AO 2023 UNSEED</b> 1R d Sherif, 2R d [16] Kontaveit, 3R d [19] Alexandrova, 4R d [4] Garcia, QF d [30] Pliskova, SF l [5] Sabalenka



**/ Sorana Cirstea**  
Romania

World No. **26**

➤ Seeded at the Australian Open for the first time since 2014, the reinvigorated Cirstea makes her 16th main-draw appearance at the tournament with brimming confidence. The 33-year-old recorded her best Grand Slam result in 14 years at the US Open in September, sensationally scoring two top-15 wins to advance to the quarterfinals. The Romanian also enjoyed deep runs at Indian Wells and Miami earlier in the season, proving she is a hard-court threat with three top-five wins. Cirstea credits her recent success to a new coaching partnership with Swede Thomas Johansson, the AO 2002 men's singles champion, who is encouraging her to "just keep believing and keep putting in the work".

<b>Born</b> 7 April 1990
<b>Bucharest, Romania</b>
<b>Height</b> 176cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$1,506,584
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$8,982,091
<b>Singles Titles</b> 2
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.26
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.21 (August 2013)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> SF Miami; QF US Open, Indian Wells; 3R Wimbledon; 2R Adelaide 1, Dubai, Madrid, Rome, Washington, Montreal, Cincinnati
<b>AO Best Result</b> 4R 2017, 2022
<b>AO 2023 UNSEED</b> 1R l Putintseva



# / Anhelina Kalinina

Ukraine



World No. **27**

➤ Kalinina proved she is one to watch at AO 2023, beating Petra Kvitová in the second round to record the biggest win of her Grand Slam career. It was one of five top-20 victories in a noteworthy season for the 26-year-old. The Ukrainian posted her most impressive result at Rome, where she advanced to a maiden WTA 1000 final. During the tournament, an emotional Kalinina gave an insight into the reality of life in her war-torn homeland, relating how a bomb had just exploded near the tennis academy managed by her parents. On the 10-year anniversary of her AO 2014 girls' doubles title triumph, Kalinina is determined to create more happy memories at Melbourne Park.

Born	7 February 1997
	Nova Kakhovka, Ukraine
Height	180cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$1,148,054
Career Prize Money	\$2,978,112
Singles Titles	0
2023 Year-End Rank	No.27
Highest Singles Rank	No.25 (May 2023)
2023 Highlights	F Rome; QF Hobart; 3R Australian Open, Dubai, Indian Wells, Beijing
AO Best Result	3R 2023
AO 2023 UNSEED	1R d [Q] Vandeweghe, 2R d [15] Kvitová, 3R l [20] Krejčíková

# / Elise Mertens

Belgium



World No. **29**

➤ Since making the Australian Open semifinals on debut in 2018, Mertens has advanced to the third round or better in 20 of her past 22 Grand Slam tournaments. This exemplary consistency has been rewarded with six consecutive year-end top-30 finishes. The 28-year-old Belgian is also one of the world's best doubles players. She won the AO 2021 doubles title and has been a mainstay of the top-10 for the past five years. Mertens lists Australia as her favourite country to visit, which is not surprising considering three of her eight WTA singles titles have been won on Aussie soil. "It's always good to be back here," she said. "I only have good memories, and hopefully I can create some more this year."

Born	17 November 1995
	Leuven, Belgium
Height	179cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$1,854,209
Career Prize Money	\$12,795,852
Singles Titles	8
2023 Year-End Rank	No.29
Highest Singles Rank	No.12 (November 2018)
2023 Highlights	W Monastir; SF Monterrey; QF Hong Kong; 4R Roland Garros, Miami, Madrid; 3R Australian Open, US Open
AO Best Result	SF 2018
AO 2023 NO.26 SEED	1R d Muguruza, 2R d Davis, 3R l [5] Sabalenka

# / Anastasia Potapova



World No. **28**

➤ Four top-10 victories helped Potapova climb to a career-high world No.21 during a stellar 2023 season. "I'm happy to get these wins, because it's showing me that I can actually compete with the top 10," said the 22-year-old, who had started the year ranked No.43. "Maybe it means that I can be one of them ... I'm working for it so hard." The ambitious Potapova, whose top-10 victims during a career-best season included Coco Gauff and Ons Jabeur, finished her breakout year at world No.28. It was her sixth consecutive top-100 finish and highest year-end ranking. The former world No.1 junior also had a memorable year off court, celebrating her engagement to compatriot and fellow pro Alexander Shevchenko.

Born	30 March 2001
	Saratov, Russia
Height	175cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$1,093,092
Career Prize Money	\$2,994,949
Singles Titles	2
2023 Year-End Rank	No.28
Highest Singles Rank	No.21 (June 2023)
2023 Highlights	W Linz; SF Stuttgart, Birmingham; QF Miami, Lyon, San Diego; 3R Roland Garros, Wimbledon, Indian Wells, Rome, Madrid
AO Best Result	3R 2021
AO 2023 UNSEED	1R d Stephens, 2R l Parrizas Diaz

# / Jasmine Paolini

Italy



World No. **30**

➤ The Australian Open is yet to see the best of Paolini. The Italian returns without a singles win on her tournament record, having lost in the opening round on three occasions in qualifying and four times in the main draw. However, after a career-best 2023 season, she carries momentum into this year's Aussie summer. Paolini, whose mother is of Ghanaian and Polish descent, scored four top-20 victories in the second half of 2023 and was rewarded with a top-30 breakthrough. A highlight came at Zhengzhou in October, where Paolini saved four match points to upset world No.10 Caroline Garcia. With her rising self-belief, Paolini's chances of finally scoring a win at Melbourne Park have never been higher.

Born	4 January 1996
	Castelnuovo di Garfagnana, Italy
Height	163cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$842,547
Career Prize Money	\$2,649,401
Singles Titles	1
2023 Year-End Rank	No.30
Highest Singles Rank	No.29 (October 2023)
2023 Highlights	F Palermo, Monastir, Billie Jean King Cup; SF Zhengzhou; QF Cincinnati, Lyon; 3R Montreal, Beijing
AO Best Result	1R 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
AO 2023 UNSEED	1R l [18] Samsonova



# Lesia Tsurenko

Ukraine



World No. **31**

➤ A determined Tsurenko returned to form in 2023 and achieved her highest year-end ranking in five years. The Ukrainian was ranked No.134 at AO 2023 and had to win three qualifying rounds to earn her place in the draw. The former world No.23, who has been managing a chronic elbow injury, reached her first WTA-level final in four years at Hua Hin, before enjoying fourth-round runs at Roland Garros and Wimbledon. These were the 34-year-old's best Grand Slam results since reaching the US Open quarterfinals in 2018. Her motivation has been to earn more prize money to donate to her war-torn country. "I feel better when I do that because I still feel quite guilty that I'm not in Ukraine," she explained.

Born	30 May 1989
	Volodymyrets, Ukraine
Height	174cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$963,548
Career Prize Money	\$6,220,510
Singles Titles	4
2023 Year-End Rank	No.31
Highest Singles Rank	No.23 (February 2019)
2023 Highlights	F Hua Hin; SF Monastir; QF Zhengzhou; 4R Roland Garros, Wimbledon; 3R Indian Wells, Madrid, Rome
AO Best Result	3R 2013
AO 2023 QUALIFIER	1R I Muchova

# Sofia Kenin

United States



World No. **33**

➤ Kenin became a Grand Slam champion with a stirring run at AO 2020, which included a semifinal upset of world No.1 Ash Barty. Since then, the 25-year-old American has recorded just one win from her past three appearances at Melbourne Park. After a challenging three years dealing with injuries and confidence struggles, the former world No.4 showed promising signs in a strong finish to 2023. Kenin slashed her ranking from outside the world's top 100 in late-August to No.33 by year's end. Top-10 wins against Aryna Sabalenka and Coco Gauff during 2023 is further proof that Kenin is always dangerous. "I've been putting in some hard work and it's paying off," she said.

Born	14 November 1998
	Moscow, Russia
Height	170cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$851,958
Career Prize Money	\$8,922,953
Singles Titles	5
2023 Year-End Rank	No.33
Highest Singles Rank	No.4 (March 2020)
2023 Highlights	F San Diego; SF Hobart, Guadalajara; 3R Wimbledon, Miami, Rome
AO Best Result	Champion 2020
AO 2023 UNSEED	1R I [24] Azarenka

# Wang Xinyu

China



World No. **32**

➤ Wang lists the Australian Open as her favourite tournament. "I like Melbourne very much," she said. "People are very welcoming ... you feel kind of like home." Wang made her Grand Slam debut at AO 2018 as a 16-year-old wildcard, earned through winning an Asia-Pacific Wildcard Play-off. She also won the AO girls' doubles title that year. Wang returns this summer following a career-best season, which saw her make her top-50 debut and advance to the US Open fourth round. The 22-year-old also broke into the world's top 20 in doubles after winning the Roland Garros title. Inspired by Chinese legend Li Na, the AO 2014 champion, Wang is hoping to create even more happy AO memories of her own.

Born	26 September 2001
	Shenzhen, China
Height	182cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$1,350,013
Career Prize Money	\$2,272,941
Singles Titles	0
2023 Year-End Rank	No.32
Highest Singles Rank	No.32 (October 2023)
2023 Highlights	SF Hua Hin, Osaka; QF Hobart, Cleveland; 4R US Open; 3R Roland Garros, Indian Wells, Beijing
AO Best Result	2R 2022, 2023
AO 2023 UNSEED	1R d [WC] Hunter, 2R I [10] Keys

# Marie Bouzkova

Czech Republic



World No. **34**

➤ Four top-10 wins, including a third-round upset of world No.5 Caroline Garcia at Wimbledon, provided highlights in Bouzkova's consistent 2023 season. This helped the 25-year-old finish the year as one of eight Czech women inside the world's top 50. "For such a small country, I think it's very impressive," she said. While many of her compatriots rely on big hitting and variety, Bouzkova's fighting spirit is her biggest attribute. "I don't have the biggest weapons," Bouzkova acknowledged. "(But) I can always rely on my defence." Bouzkova, who moved to Florida as a 10-year-old to train, continues to improve her offensive game too. "The next step is to just be more aggressive," she said.

Born	21 July 1998
	Prague, Czech Republic
Height	180cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$1,461,991
Career Prize Money	\$4,310,862
Singles Titles	1
2023 Year-End Rank	No.34
Highest Singles Rank	No.24 (December 2022)
2023 Highlights	F Nanchang; QF Cincinnati, Seoul; 4R Wimbledon, Rome; 3R US Open, Miami, Madrid, Montreal
AO Best Result	2R 2022
AO 2023 No.25 SEED	1R I Andreescu



**Leylah Fernandez**  
Canada



World No. **35**

➤ Fernandez memorably shot to prominence at the US Open in 2021, scoring three top-five victories in a headline-making run to the final. Her attacking style quickly made her a fan favourite. However, Fernandez struggled to build on this breakthrough and was on the verge of falling outside of the top 100 in June 2023. Yet the 21-year-old soared back into the top 50 by season's end, with back-to-back final appearances in October providing a huge ranking boost. "The hard work is paying off," declared Fernandez after winning her first WTA title in 18 months. The AO 2019 girls' singles finalist ended an encouraging season on an ultimate team high, steering Canada to a first Billie Jean King Cup title.

<b>Born</b> 6 September 2002
<b>Montreal, Canada</b>
<b>Height</b> 168cm
<b>Plays</b> Left-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$1,084,152
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$4,316,523
<b>Singles Titles</b> 3
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.35
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.13 (August 2022)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> W Hong Kong, Billie Jean King Cup; F Nanchang; QF Guadalajara, Auckland, Cleveland; 3R Indian Wells, Montreal
<b>AO Best Result</b> 2R 2023
<b>AO 2023</b> UNSEEDDED
1R d Cornet, 2R l [4] Garcia

**Karolina Pliskova**  
Czech Republic



World No. **37**

➤ Pliskova, a two-time Grand Slam finalist and former world No.1, enjoyed a compelling run at AO 2023. The big-serving Czech advanced to her fourth quarterfinal at Melbourne Park without conceding a set. It proved a highlight in a disappointing year for the 31-year-old, who failed to reach a tour-level semifinal for the first time since 2012 and shut down her season early due to a left wrist injury. This meant Pliskova recorded her lowest year-end ranking in a decade. "It's the right decision to focus on my health and come back stronger next season," she explained. Pliskova, who won the AO 2010 girls' singles title, is making her 11th main-draw appearance at Melbourne Park.

<b>Born</b> 21 March 1992
<b>Louny, Czech Republic</b>
<b>Height</b> 186cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$1,061,629
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$25,356,224
<b>Singles Titles</b> 16
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.37
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.1 (July 2017)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> QF Australian Open, Dubai, Stuttgart; 4R Indian Wells; 3R Miami
<b>AO Best Result</b> SF 2019
<b>AO 2023</b> No.30 SEED
1R d Wang, 2R d Putintseva, 3R d Gracheva, 4R d [23] Zhang, QF l Linette

**Zhu Lin**  
China



World No. **36**

➤ A stellar 2023 season began at the Australian Open for Zhu, who eliminated two seeded opponents to make her maiden Grand Slam fourth-round appearance. This stunning run included a third-round upset of world No.6 Maria Sakkari, which was Zhu's first top-10 win. The late-blooming 29-year-old claimed a breakthrough WTA title in her next event, at Hua Hin in February. With six semifinal appearances for the season, Zhu finished inside the year-end top 50 for the first time. "It took me a long way to get here," Zhu said. "There was a lot of ups and downs." Zhu is hoping her trajectory continues to trend upwards in her seventh AO main-draw appearance.

<b>Born</b> 28 January 1994
<b>Wuxi, China</b>
<b>Height</b> 173cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$1,082,101
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$2,949,666
<b>Singles Titles</b> 1
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.36
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.31 (September 2023)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> W Hua Hin; F Osaka; SF Monterrey, Birmingham, Cleveland, Zhuhai; QF Auckland; 4R Australian Open; 3R US Open
<b>AO Best Result</b> 4R 2023
<b>AO 2023</b> UNSEEDDED
1R d Marino, 2R d [32] Teichmann, 3R d [6] Sakkari, 4R l [24] Azarenka

**Emma Navarro**  
United States



World No. **38**

➤ Navarro is competing at the Australian Open for the first time since 2019, when she was a girls' doubles finalist. The American went on to play US college tennis before turning professional in 2022. It didn't take the 22-year-old long to make her mark on the WTA Tour however, breaking into the world's top 100 in May last year and finishing the season inside the top 40. "I love to travel," said Navarro, whose 2023 highlights included two top-20 wins and two WTA semifinal appearances. "Getting to play in different environments is really cool. It's why I do what I do." Navarro's father, Ben, is a billionaire businessman and owns professional tennis tournaments in Charleston and Cincinnati.

<b>Born</b> 18 May 2001
<b>New York, USA</b>
<b>Height</b> 170cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$529,794
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$771,445
<b>Singles Titles</b> 0
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.38
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.32 (November 2023)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> SF Bad Homburg, San Diego; QF Strasbourg, Palermo; 3R Guadalajara
<b>AO Best Result</b> Making main-draw debut
<b>AO 2023</b> DID NOT PLAY



**/Marta Kostyuk**  
Ukraine



World No. **39**

➤ Luck wasn't on Kostyuk's side in 2023, with the 21-year-old drawing a seeded opponent in the opening round at all four Grand Slams. However, that didn't stop the Ukrainian from enjoying third-round runs at the Australian Open and Wimbledon. Kostyuk won her maiden career WTA singles title, at Austin in March, and achieved a career-high ranking of world No.32 in her best season to date. After getting married in November, Kostyuk is excited to begin the new season at Melbourne Park, where she already has a long history. Kostyuk won the AO 2017 girls' singles title as a 14-year-old and then reached the women's singles third round as a qualifier the next year. She also advanced to the doubles semifinals in 2023.

Born	28 June 2002
Kyiv, Ukraine	
Height	175cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$1,104,469
Career Prize Money	\$3,194,819
Singles Titles	1
2023 Year-End Rank	No.39
Highest Singles Rank	No.32 (August 2023)
2023 Highlights	W Austin; QF Adelaide 1, Hua Hin, Washington; 3R Australian Open, Wimbledon, Rome, Beijing
AO Best Result	3R 2018, 2022, 2023
AO 2023 UNSEEDED	1R d [28] Anisimova, 2R d [WC] Gadecki, 3R l [3] Pegula

**/Linda Noskova**  
Czech Republic

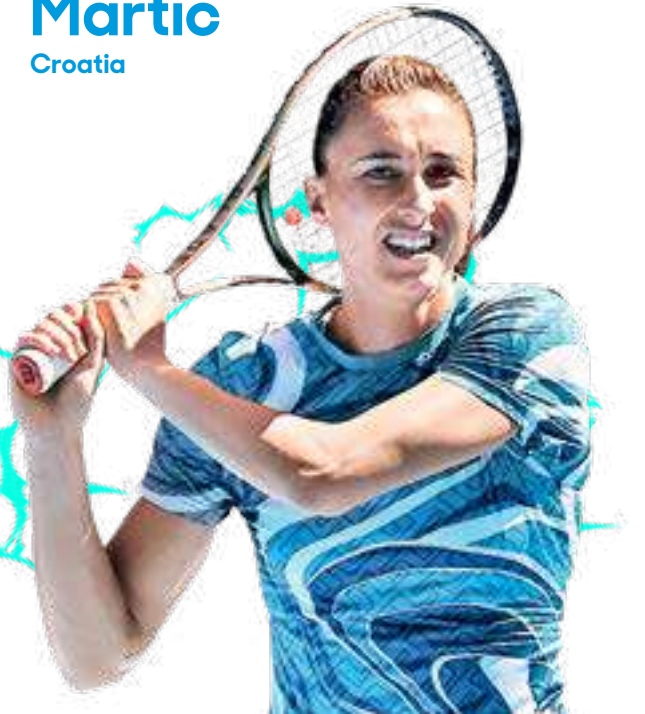


World No. **41**

➤ Noskova made a blistering start to the 2023 season, reaching the Adelaide final as a world No.102 qualifier. The Czech teen defeated six higher-ranked opponents, including two top-10 players, to become the youngest WTA 500 finalist in almost 15 years. She couldn't maintain that momentum at Melbourne Park though, exiting in the opening qualifying round. After her breakout season, Noskova returns this summer as one of the world's highest-ranked teens. The 19-year-old is now a two-time WTA finalist, having also made a final at Prague during 2023, and is determined to do well in her AO main-draw debut. With her aggressive game and calm on-court mentality, Noskova is widely considered a star on the rise.

Born	17 November 2004
Vsetin, Czech Republic	
Height	179cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$662,308
Career Prize Money	\$937,109
Singles Titles	0
2023 Year-End Rank	No.41
Highest Singles Rank	No.40 (October 2023)
2023 Highlights	F Adelaide 1, Prague; QF Lyon, Warsaw; 3R Indian Wells, Cincinnati
AO Best Result	Making main-draw debut
AO 2023 QUALIFYING	1QR l Sebov

**/Petra Martić**  
Croatia



World No. **40**

➤ Although more than 14 years have passed since Martić first broke into the world's top 100, she still remains a top-50 force. Of course, there have been challenges for the Croatian, who will celebrate her 33rd birthday at AO 2024. A back injury in 2016 almost proved career-ending, but Martić has fought back to scale new heights, including back-to-back year-end top-20 finishes in 2019 and 2020. The consistent competitor advanced to her sixth career WTA final at Linz in February, scoring a top-10 victory en route against Maria Sakkari. With only a single match win from her past three Australian Open campaigns, Martić returns hoping her 13th main-draw campaign proves more fruitful.

Born	19 January 1991
Split, Croatia	
Height	181cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$1,036,636
Career Prize Money	\$8,286,654
Singles Titles	2
2023 Year-End Rank	No.40
Highest Singles Rank	No.14 (January 2020)
2023 Highlights	F Linz; QF Madrid, Eastbourne; 3R Wimbledon, Miami; 2R Australian Open, Roland Garros, US Open, Montreal, Cincinnati
AO Best Result	4R 2018
AO 2023 UNSEEDED	1R d Golubic, 2R l [23] Zhang

**/Caroline Dolehide**  
United States



World No. **42**

➤ Dolehide is a dominant force in doubles, making eight quarterfinal appearances in her past 15 Grand Slam tournaments. This includes three at Melbourne Park. The 25-year-old American proved she is a singles contender in 2023 too, breaking into the world's top 50 after advancing to her first WTA 1000 final at Guadalajara in September. It was a rapid rise, considering Dolehide's singles ranking had dipped outside the world's top 200 less than eight months earlier. "I feel really proud of myself, proud of the work that I've put in," said Dolehide, who is a close friend of Australian Storm Hunter. The big-serving Dolehide made her only previous Australian Open singles main-draw appearance in 2022 as a qualifier.

Born	5 September 1998
Hinsdale, USA	
Height	178cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$726,650
Career Prize Money	\$2,287,221
Singles Titles	0
2023 Year-End Rank	No.42
Highest Singles Rank	No.41 (October 2023)
2023 Highlights	F Guadalajara; QF Monterrey; 3R Charleston
AO Best Result	1R 2022
AO 2023 QUALIFYING	1QR l [30] Boulter



# /Martina Trevisan

Italy



World No. **43**

➤ The late-blooming Trevisan has soared to incredible heights since making her Grand Slam main-draw debut as a 26-year-old qualifier at AO 2020. Once a promising junior, Trevisan stepped away from tennis for several years while battling an eating disorder. A return has reaped major rewards, with the Italian making her top-20 debut during the 2023 season. Two top-10 wins, both recorded on hard courts, provided further highlights. She also thrived in team events. Trevisan's best Grand Slam results so far have come on clay, reaching the Roland Garros quarterfinals in 2020 and semifinals in 2022. The 30-year-old credits being "happy on the court" for her recent renaissance. "I'm doing what I love," she said.

Born	3 November 1993
	Florence, Italy
Height	160cm
Plays	Left-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$1,193,094
Career Prize Money	\$3,527,489
Singles Titles	1
2023 Year-End Rank	No.43
Highest Singles Rank	No.18 (May 2023)
2023 Highlights	F United Cup, Billie Jean King Cup; SF Hong Kong; QF Miami, Rabat, Hamburg, Guadalajara; 4R Madrid; 3R Indian Wells
AO Best Result	2R 2022
AO 2023	No.21 SEED
1R d [Q]	Schmiedlova

# /Katerina Siniakova

Czech Republic



World No. **45**

➤ Siniakova is an accomplished doubles player with seven Grand Slam titles, an Olympic gold medal and 115 weeks at world No.1 on her resume. The 27-year-old is a consistent singles performer too, having maintained a top-100 ranking since July 2016. Siniakova won multiple singles titles in 2023, which was her best performance in six years. Back-to-back final appearances late in the season provides further momentum ahead of Siniakova's 11th consecutive Australian Open main-draw appearance. The two-time AO doubles champion, who lists this event as her favourite, is determined to improve a surprisingly lopsided 2-10 career win-loss record in singles at Melbourne Park.

Born	10 May 1996
	Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic
Height	174cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$1,204,460
Career Prize Money	\$10,414,970
Singles Titles	5
2023 Year-End Rank	No.45
Highest Singles Rank	No.31 (October 2018)
2023 Highlights	W Bad Homburg, Nanchang; F Hong Kong; SF Merida; QF Ningbo; 2R Wimbledon, Indian Wells, Adelaide 2
AO Best Result	2R 2015, 2018
AO 2023	UNSEEDD
1R l [7]	Gauff

# /Varvara Gracheva

France



World No. **44**

➤ A career-best season began in style at Australian Open 2023, with Gracheva recording her first top-10 win against Daria Kasatkina in the opening round. Ranked No.97 at the time, Gracheva went on to reach the third round. A maiden WTA final appearance at Austin provided another season highlight, along with fourth-round runs at Indian Wells and Miami (where she recorded a first top-five win against Ons Jabeur). This helped the 23-year-old, who lists drawing as her favourite hobby, halve her ranking and soar into the world's top 50. It was a transformative year off-court too for Gracheva, who obtained French nationality in June. Gracheva has lived and trained in the French resort town of Cannes since 2016.

Born	2 August 2000
	Moscow, Russia
Height	178cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$859,658
Career Prize Money	\$2,375,268
Singles Titles	0
2023 Year-End Rank	No.44
Highest Singles Rank	No.40 (August 2023)
2023 Highlights	F Austin; QF Strasbourg, Bad Homburg; 4R Indian Wells, Miami; 3R Australian Open
AO Best Result	3R 2023
AO 2023	UNSEEDD
1R d [8]	Kasatkina,
2R d [Q]	Stefanini,
3R l [30]	Pliskova

# /Mirra Andreeva



World No. **46**

➤ After recording a runner-up finish in the AO 2023 girls' singles competition, Andreeva returns as one of the sport's brightest young stars. The 16-year-old became the world No.1 junior in May and also charged into the WTA top 50 by the end of her first year on tour. Andreeva recorded four top-20 wins, including two in her maiden WTA appearance at Madrid, and made her Grand Slam debut at Roland Garros, where she reached the third round as a qualifier. Andreeva also qualified at Wimbledon, then progressed to the fourth round in her first grass-court tournament. Despite these incredible results, Andreeva claims she's "just a normal teenager". Her sister, 19-year-old Erika, also plays professionally.

Born	29 April 2007
	Krasnoyarsk, Russia
Height	171cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$750,477
Career Prize Money	\$776,288
Singles Titles	0
2023 Year-End Rank	No.46
Highest Singles Rank	No.46 (November 2023)
2023 Highlights	4R Wimbledon, Madrid; 3R Roland Garros, Beijing; 2R US Open, Hong Kong, Lausanne, Cleveland
AO Best Result	Making main-draw debut
AO 2023 Girls'	singles finalist



**Alycia Parks**  
United States



World No. **47**

➤ Parks was the top seed in the Australian Open 2023 qualifying draw - but was ousted in the second round. The American quickly put that disappointment behind her, claiming her maiden WTA singles crown in her next tournament. The big-serving Parks secured her breakthrough title at Lyon, scoring a first top-five victory against French favourite Caroline Garcia in the final. After breaking into the world's top 40 in August, Parks doesn't need to worry about qualifying this summer. The 23-year-old, who has served as a body double for her childhood idol Serena Williams in television commercials, returns determined to step into the spotlight herself and continue her rapid charge up the rankings.

<b>Born</b> 31 December 2000
<b>Atlanta, USA</b>
<b>Height</b> 185cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$772,731
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$1,164,351
<b>Singles Titles</b> 1
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.47
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.40 (August 2023)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> W Lyon; QF Rabat; 3R Madrid; 2R Wimbledon, Montreal, Guadalajara, Merida
<b>AO Best Result</b> Making main-draw debut
<b>AO 2023 QUALIFYING</b> 1QR d [WC] Bozovic, 2QR l Bejlek

**Mayar Sherif**  
Egypt



World No. **49**

➤ Sherif created history at AO 2021, becoming the first Egyptian woman to win a Grand Slam main-draw match. The trailblazer beat three seeded opponents to advance to her first WTA 1000 quarterfinal at Madrid during 2023. It was a highlight in a strong clay-court season for Sherif, who also won back-to-back WTA 125 titles in June. This propelled the 27-year-old to a career-high of No.31, making her the highest-ranked Egyptian player in the Open era. "It feels good to break another barrier, it gives me a lot of confidence," said Sherif, who grew up in Spain and played US college tennis before turning professional. She's now a household name in her homeland and sparking a new wave of interest in the sport.

<b>Born</b> 5 May 1996
<b>Cairo, Egypt</b>
<b>Height</b> 180cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$768,216
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$1,776,399
<b>Singles Titles</b> 1
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.49
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.31 (June 2023)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> SF Palermo; QF Madrid, Monterrey; 2R Roland Garros, Cincinnati, Lyon, Rabat, Bad Homburg
<b>AO Best Result</b> 2R 2021
<b>AO 2023 UNSEEDED</b> 1R l Linette

**Sloane Stephens**  
United States



World No. **48**

➤ More than a decade has passed since Stephens made a sensational Grand Slam breakthrough at AO 2013, stunning Serena Williams on her march into the semifinals. It proved no fluke run, with the American winning the US Open in 2017 and advancing to a Roland Garros final in 2018. However, the former world No.3 has struggled to produce her best at Melbourne Park in recent years, exiting in the opening round in her past four visits. This provides added motivation in Stephens' 12th Australian Open main-draw appearance. "I would like to win another Grand Slam," the 30-year-old has declared. "I mean, it was tough. (But) obviously it's doable because I did it, and I'd definitely like to do it again."

<b>Born</b> 20 March 1993
<b>Plantation, USA</b>
<b>Height</b> 170cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$748,591
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$17,972,351
<b>Singles Titles</b> 7
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.48
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.3 (July 2018)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> SF Rabat; QF Merida, Austin, Cleveland; 4R Roland Garros; 3R Montreal, Cincinnati; 2R Wimbledon, Rome
<b>AO Best Result</b> SF 2013
<b>AO 2023 UNSEEDED</b> 1R l Potapova

**Sara Sorribes Tormo**  
Spain



World No. **50**

➤ When a foot injury forced Sorribes Tormo to miss AO 2023, the Spaniard gained valuable new perspective. "When you're playing the Australian Open and you lose, you think the world stops. But (I realised) the world continues," she explained. "This really helps me now." The 27-year-old has thrived since returning from a six-month injury lay-off, recording her best Grand Slam result to date with a fourth-round run at Roland Garros and climbing back into the world's top 50. Sorribes Tormo also claimed her second WTA title at Cleveland in August. Her improved ability to bounce back from losses was evident at that tournament, where she became only the sixth player in WTA history to win a title as a lucky loser.

<b>Born</b> 8 October 1996
<b>Castellon, Spain</b>
<b>Height</b> 176cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$942,691
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$4,327,502
<b>Singles Titles</b> 2
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.50
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.32 (February 2022)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> W Cleveland; SF Palermo; QF Bogota, Hong Kong; 4R Roland Garros; 2R Wimbledon, US Open, Lausanne, Nanchang
<b>AO Best Result</b> 2R 2020, 2022
<b>AO 2023 DID NOT PLAY</b>



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Novak Djokovic  
Serbia



World No. 1

2024 Player Profiles Men's Singles

**Born** 22 May 1987  
Belgrade, Serbia

**Height** 188cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2023 Prize Money** \$15,936,097

**Career Prize Money** \$180,643,353

**Singles Titles** 98

**2023 Year-End Rank** No.1

**Highest Singles Rank** No.1 (July 2011)

**2023 Highlights** W Australian Open, Roland Garros, US Open, ATP Finals, Cincinnati, Paris, Adelaide 1

**AO Best Result** Champion 2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023

> So often for Djokovic, his AO performance sets the tone for a glittering year. It was the same in 2023, when he won an incredible 10th title at Melbourne Park, before completing one of the finest seasons in tennis history. Despite turning 36 in June, he looked as fit and fearsome as ever, winning three major titles - coming within a set of sweeping all four - and returning to world No.1. "These are the moments and the kind of emotions that I motivate myself with," Djokovic explained. "(I'm) occasionally asking myself, why do I need this still at this stage after all I have done? How long do I want to keep going? But knowing that I play at such a high

level still and I win the biggest tournaments ... I don't want to leave this sport if I'm still at the top." He took his momentum from winning the Adelaide International into the Australian Open, where he dropped just one set. Undeclared in his first 15 matches of the season, he earned major title No.23 - a men's Open-era record - at Roland Garros. His quest for a calendar Slam gathered steam at Wimbledon but in the final Carlos Alcaraz dealt Djokovic his first defeat on Centre Court in a decade. "I hope we get to play in the US Open. I think it's good for the sport, one and two in the world facing each other in almost a five-hours, five-set thriller," said a

philosophical Djokovic, energised by the rivalry. "Couldn't be better for our sport in general, so why not?" They didn't meet there but did clash again in the Cincinnati final, where Djokovic gained revenge in a glorious battle. It was the boost he needed ahead of the US Open, where he reigned supreme to equal Margaret Court's all-time record of 24 major singles titles. But he didn't stop there, closing the season in imperious fashion with titles at Paris and the ATP Finals. A group-stage win over Holger Rune in Turin sealed the year-end No.1 ranking, before he outplayed Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner to record statement victories over his younger rivals.

Grand Slam record																				
Grand Slam / Year	Career	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	09	08	07	06	05
Australian Open	89-8	W	-	W	W	W	4R	2R	W	W	QF	W	W	W	QF	QF	W	4R	1R	1R
Roland Garros	92-16	W	QF	W	F	SF	QF	QF	W	F	F	SF	F	SF	QF	3R	SF	SF	QF	2R
Wimbledon	92-11	F	W	W	-	W	W	QF	3R	W	W	F	SF	W	SF	QF	2R	SF	4R	3R
US Open	88-13	W	-	F	4R	4R	W	-	F	W	SF	F	F	W	F	SF	SF	F	3R	3R

AO 2023	
No.4 SEED	
1R d Carballes Baena, 2R d [Q] Couacaud, 3R d [27] Dimitrov, 4R d [22] De Minaur, QF d [5] Rublev, SF d Paul, F d [3] Tsitsipas	



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/ Carlos  
**Alcaraz**  
Spain

World No. **2**

2024 Player Profiles Men's Singles

**Born** 5 May 2003  
El Palmar, Spain

**Height** 183cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2023 Prize Money** \$10,753,431

**Career Prize Money** \$22,583,074

**Singles Titles** 12

**2023 Year-End Rank** No.2

**Highest Singles Rank** No.1  
(September 2022)

**2023 Highlights** W Wimbledon,  
Indian Wells, Madrid, Barcelona,  
Queen's, Buenos Aires; F Cincinnati,  
Rio de Janeiro; SF Roland Garros,  
US Open, ATP Finals, Miami, Beijing

**AO Best Result** 3R 2022

> Australian fans will see Alcaraz compete at Melbourne Park for the first time since 2022. In the two intervening years, he has transformed from rising star into one of the game's most unstoppable forces. At just 20 years of age, Alcaraz is already a two-time major champion and the youngest man to ever hold the world No.1 ranking. He has also proved he is a player capable of extraordinary feats across all surfaces. In between semifinal finishes at Roland Garros and the US Open, Alcaraz became a Wimbledon champion, conquering the sport's highest mountain in Novak Djokovic. Alcaraz's pulsating five-set win

in the final snapped Djokovic's 34-match unbeaten streak at the All England Club and made him the first player to beat Djokovic on Centre Court in 10 years. "Beating Novak at his best, in this stage, making history, being the guy to beat him after 10 years unbeaten on that court, is amazing for me. It's something that I will never forget," Alcaraz said. "It's great for the new generation, as well, I think to see me beating him and making them think that they are capable to do it." Alcaraz also won the Queen's Club title, a rare double that saw him go a perfect 12-0 on grass in 2023. Those two trophies were among a six-title haul for the Spaniard in

2023, helping him complete the season with an impressive winning rate of almost 85 per cent, and with titles across three playing surfaces. Alcaraz's development has been overseen by another former world No.1 Spaniard in coach Juan Carlos Ferrero, an experienced, measured influence who also recognises the need to allow his young charge to play with continued freedom. As a result, Alcaraz possesses a command of all shots, plus flair for improvisation and injections of pace, that makes him one of the sport's most watchable players. These combined assets put a third Grand Slam trophy well within reach at AO 2024.

#### Grand Slam record

Grand Slam / Year	Career	23	22	21
Australian Open	3-2	-	3R	2R
Roland Garros	11-3	SF	QF	3R
Wimbledon	11-2	W	4R	2R
US Open	16-2	SF	W	QF

#### AO 2023

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/ Daniil  
Medvedev

World No. **3**

2024 Player Profiles Men's Singles

**Born** 11 February 1996  
Moscow, Russia

**Height** 198cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2023 Prize Money** \$9,239,679

**Career Prize Money** \$35,840,061

**Singles Titles** 20

**2023 Year-End Rank** No.3

**Highest Singles Rank** No.1  
(February 2022)

**2023 Highlights** W Miami, Rome,  
Rotterdam, Doha, Dubai; F US Open,  
Indian Wells, Beijing, Vienna; SF  
Wimbledon, ATP Finals, Adelaide 1

**AO Best Result** Final 2021, 2022

> Season 2023 was one in which Medvedev reminded us of his extraordinary qualities - a successful campaign especially impressive given his form and results 12 months earlier. Medvedev ended 2022 with four straight losses and his ranking was trending south as the new year began; a third-round loss at AO 2023 saw him fall outside the top 10 for the first time since mid-2019. Yet almost immediately, he wrested control of the slide and rediscovered his fire. He collected consecutive titles in Rotterdam, Doha and Dubai then advanced to the Indian Wells final, building a 19-match winning streak and winning 38 of 43 sets. In the blink

of an eye, he was back in the top five. This purple patch reaffirmed his hard-court credentials, further highlighted in an iconic exchange with an Indian Wells chair umpire in which he described himself as a "specialist" of the surface. But he made strides on other surfaces, winning his first clay-court title at the Rome Masters. "In a way (this achievement ranks) No.1 just because it's the first one on clay and it's unbelievable," he said. "This one is special because I didn't think it was going to be able to happen." He also notched his first Wimbledon semifinal on grass. Despite a heavy loss to Carlos Alcaraz there, and in the Indian Wells final, Medvedev

avenged those defeats in the US Open semifinals to reach his first major final since Australian Open 2022. It marked another milestone in Medvedev's stunning 2023 resurgence, during which he briefly returned to world No.2 and won more than 70 matches, the last coming to earn a semifinal spot at the ATP Finals. It's easy to see why; Medvedev's exceptional serve, plus elite defence and relentless consistency, give opponents few weaknesses to attack. This combination makes Medvedev one of the favourites for the title at Melbourne Park, where he is especially motivated to go one better following runner-up finishes in 2021 and 2022.

## Grand Slam record

Grand Slam / Year	Career	23	22	21	20	19	18	17
Australian Open	21-7	3R	F	F	4R	4R	2R	1R
Roland Garros	7-7	1R	4R	QF	1R	1R	1R	1R
Wimbledon	13-5	SF	-	4R	-	3R	3R	2R
US Open	29-6	F	4R	W	SF	F	3R	1R

## AO 2023

No.7 SEED
1R d Giron, 2R d [WC] Millman, 3R l [29] Korda





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Jannik Sinner  
Italy

World No. 4

2024 Player Profiles Men's Singles



**Born** 16 August 2001  
San Candido, Italy

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**Height** 188cm

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**Plays** Right-handed

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**2023 Prize Money** \$8,298,379

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**Career Prize Money** \$14,936,562

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**Singles Titles** 10

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**2023 Year-End Rank** No.4

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**Highest Singles Rank** No.4 (October 2023)

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**2023 Highlights** W Toronto, Beijing, Montpellier, Vienna, Davis Cup; F ATP Finals, Miami, Rotterdam; SF Wimbledon, Indian Wells, Monte Carlo

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**AO Best Result** QF 2022

> Much like his on-court demeanour, Sinner's progress is measured, methodical and purposeful. Rather than exploding into the headlines with a seismic result, the Italian continues to take steady strides. In July 2023, he ticked an important box with a first Grand Slam semifinal at Wimbledon. Just one month later, he ticked another with his first ATP Masters 1000 title in Toronto. In October, Sinner beat Daniil Medvedev for the first time to win the title in Beijing, cracking the top five after beginning the season ranked 15th. Then came maiden wins over Holger Rune and Novak Djokovic en route to the ATP Finals decider on home

soil in Turin. These are milestones made possible by his electrifying ball-striking and phenomenal athleticism, yet also reward for his dedication and professionalism. Ever since switching to tennis - relatively late, at age 13 - after competitive skiing, Sinner has attracted positive commentary from experts. "His consistency has been extraordinary. By 21, he'd been in all four major quarterfinals. He's now been into a semi," said Australian doubles legend Todd Woodbridge. "The next step for him is to win a major." From 2019 to 2021, Sinner ended the year, respectively, inside the top 100, top 50 and top 10. At age 22, he's already made

14 ATP finals, winning 10. Among the ATP's exciting new generation of talent, he has been slightly overshadowed by 20-year-old Carlos Alcaraz, already a two-time major winner. Yet Sinner now leads the head-to-head series, beating his young rival in Miami and Beijing and becoming the first player to beat Alcaraz four times. Even more exciting for Sinner fans is his scope for further improvement; he continues to add muscle to his increasingly powerful frame and in mid-2022 made the savvy decision to appoint esteemed Australian coach Darren Cahill. Their results in 2023 speak for themselves. They could speak even more loudly in 2024.

Grand Slam record						
Grand Slam / Year	Career	23	22	21	20	19
Australian Open	8-4	4R	QF	1R	2R	-
Roland Garros	11-4	2R	4R	4R	QF	-
Wimbledon	9-3	SF	QF	1R	-	-
US Open	10-5	4R	QF	4R	1R	1R

AO 2023	
No.15 SEED	
1R d Edmund, 2R d Etcheverry, 3R d Fucsovics, 4R I [3] Tsitsipas	



# Google Pixel 8 Pro



Andrey Rublev

World No. 5

2024 Player Profiles Men's Singles



**Born** 20 October 1997  
Moscow, Russia

**Height** 188cm

**Plays** Right-handed

**2023 Prize Money** \$5,120,571

**Career Prize Money** \$20,472,394

**Singles Titles** 14

**2023 Year-End Rank** No.5

**Highest Singles Rank** No.5  
(September 2021)

**2023 Highlights** W Monte Carlo, Bastad; F Shanghai, Dubai, Halle, Banja Luka; SF Paris, Vienna; QF Australian Open, Wimbledon, US Open, Doha; 4R Indian Wells

**AO Best Result** QF 2021, 2023

> For a player who is only 26, Rublev feels like a seasoned tour veteran, possibly because he turned pro in 2014, or made his first Grand Slam quarterfinal more than six years ago. He reached three more last year, his most in in one season, and completed his Grand Slam quarterfinal set at Wimbledon. While he remains yet to clear that barrier - he is a collective 0-9 at this stage of Slams - he continues to create opportunities for himself, as he did at AO 2023 when he won an unforgettable fourth-round encounter, from match points down, against Holger Rune. "That's why I'm laughing, because today mental was out of control," he

smiled afterwards, in his typical self-deprecating style. His candid personality, authenticity and sense of humour are reasons why he's one of the game's most well-liked players. And it's why his Monte Carlo victory - again over Rune, three months after that AO epic - was such a popular triumph. "After struggling so much, so many times, losing in the finals, semifinals, losing even earlier, yeah, struggled so much to win first Masters 1000 and finally I did it," Rublev said. Striking the ball forcefully and cleanly, he came extremely close to winning a second ATP Masters 1000 crown, holding a match point in the Shanghai final against Hubert

Hurkacz before losing in three sets. But the result - his sixth final of the year - helped him equal his career-best ranking of world No.5, a lofty position also made possible by the fact he won more Grand Slam and ATP Masters 1000 matches in 2023 than he has in any other season. "I can take as a positive thing to keep basically working the same way because the last months, I felt that I'm doing everything right, I'm playing well," he said, before closing his season with a pair of semifinals at Vienna and Paris, then an appearance at the ATP Finals. "It's just matter of time when I will be able to show this game on the tournament."

## Grand Slam record

Grand Slam / Year	Career	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15
Australian Open	16-7	QF	3R	QF	4R	1R	3R	2R	-	-
Roland Garros	10-5	3R	QF	1R	QF	-	-	1R	-	-
Wimbledon	9-4	QF	-	4R	-	2R	-	2R	-	-
US Open	21-8	QF	QF	3R	QF	4R	1R	QF	-	1R

## AO 2023

No.5 SEED
1R d [WC] Thiem, 2R d Ruusuvuori, 3R d [25] Evans, 4R d [9] Rune, QF l [4] Djokovic



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Stefanos  
Tsitsipas  
Greece

World No. 6

2024 Player Profiles Men's Singles



Born 12 August 1998  
Athens, Greece

Height 193cm

Plays Right-handed

2023 Prize Money \$4,700,015

Career Prize Money \$27,983,896

Singles Titles 10

2023 Year-End Rank No.6

Highest Singles Rank No.3  
(August 2021)

2023 Highlights W Los Cabos;  
F Australian Open, Barcelona;  
SF Rome, Paris, Antwerp, Vienna,  
United Cup; QF Roland Garros,  
Monte Carlo, Madrid

AO Best Result Final 2023

> Into the second half of his 20s and entering his ninth season as a professional, Tsitsipas admits his perspective has shifted. "The top isn't everything. I was addicted to this target when I was younger and this deprived me of something," he revealed in a translated interview with Greek outlet *Kathimerini*. "This doesn't mean that I'm not happy with what I have accomplished; I do want to improve as a player. But the key is finding a balance." During 2023 he began a happy relationship with WTA star Paula Badosa, while his family ties remain as strong as ever; after a stint working with Australian Mark Philippoussis, Tsitsipas has reinstalled father

Apostolos as his primary coach. He also competes regularly at doubles tournaments with younger brother Petros, and together they won their first ATP doubles title at Antwerp in October. While Tsitsipas fell slightly from the level which took him to world No.3 and two major finals, he has remained a force in the top 10 for more than four-and-a-half years - the longest uninterrupted stint of any current top 10 player except Novak Djokovic. His 2023 season peaked in Australia, where he was undefeated in his first 10 matches before falling in the Australian Open final to Djokovic. Other highlights included a Roland Garros quarterfinal finish, a 10th

career ATP title at Los Cabos, a late-season run of European semifinal appearances in Antwerp, Vienna and Paris, and almost 50 singles match wins. Should Tsitsipas' form ever need a shot in the arm, he can almost guarantee he'll get that in Australia, which has long been a happy hunting ground. At AO 2019, he burst into international prominence with his fourth-round upset of Roger Federer, going on to make his first major semifinal. It's a stage of the tournament the popular Greek has now reached four times - more than any other major - and he has a winning rate of 78 per cent at Melbourne Park, again the best of the four Grand Slams.

#### Grand Slam record

Grand Slam / Year	Career	23	22	21	20	19	18	17
Australian Open	21-6	F	SF	SF	3R	SF	1R	-
Roland Garros	22-7	QF	4R	F	SF	4R	2R	1R
Wimbledon	8-6	4R	3R	1R	-	1R	4R	1R
US Open	6-6	2R	1R	3R	3R	1R	2R	-

#### AO 2023

No.3 SEED
1R d Halys, 2R d [WC] Hijikata, 3R d Griekspoor, 4R d [15] Sinner, QF d Lehecka, SF d [18] Khachanov, F l [4] Djokovic



# Alexander Zverev

Germany

World No. **7**



**Born** 20 April 1997  
Hamburg, Germany

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**Height** 198cm

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**Plays** Right-handed

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**2023 Prize Money** \$4,820,664

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**Career Prize Money** \$37,830,158

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**Singles Titles** 21

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**2023 Year-End Rank** No.7

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**Highest Singles Rank** No.2  
(June 2022)

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**2023 Highlights** W Hamburg, Chengdu; SF Roland Garros, Cincinnati, Dubai, Halle, Beijing, Geneva; QF US Open, Bastad, Vienna

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**AO Best Result** SF 2020

> Zverev's return to the top 10 was a significant achievement, given the perilous position in which the German found himself in mid-2022. In that year's Roland Garros semifinals, he was pushing eventual champion Rafael Nadal to the limit in a gruelling battle, but wrenched his ankle when moving out wide to play a forehand. The damage was severe. Three torn ligaments ruled him out for the rest of the season. The 26-year-old appeared a shadow of himself when he returned in January 2023, reaching the quarterfinal stage at just two tournaments in his first five months. Ranked world No.2 in the aftermath of his injury, he tumbled as low as No.27 by May

2023. Symbolically, his fortunes turned a corner at Roland Garros, where he beat Frances Tiafoe and Grigor Dimitrov to reach the semifinals. Since then, Zverev has been an increasingly consistent force on tour. Six weeks after Roland Garros, Zverev won the Hamburg title, and claimed another title during the Asian swing at Chengdu, both results part of an impressive span that saw him win 33 of 40 matches. A US Open quarterfinal finish - he upset Toronto champion and sixth seed Jannik Sinner in the fourth round - helped restore his top-10 ranking, and he would go on to qualify for the elite eight-player ATP Finals to conclude the season.

Zverev won six of his final nine matches for the year and it took a top-10 rival - Andrey Rublev in Vienna, Stefanos Tsitsipas in Paris and Daniil Medvedev in Turin - to stop him at each of his last three tournaments. Armed with devastating power from his long levers, as well as the ability to defend and grind out rallies from deep in the court, Zverev is a modern blend of offence and defence, at his best on clay and slow hard courts. A successful tennis career seemed predestined given all members of his immediate family - father Alexander Sr, mother Irina and older brother Mischa - also played the sport professionally.

Grand Slam record										
Grand Slam / Year	Career	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15
Australian Open	20-8	2R	4R	QF	SF	4R	3R	3R	1R	-
Roland Garros	28-8	SF	SF	SF	4R	QF	QF	1R	3R	-
Wimbledon	13-7	3R	-	4R	-	1R	3R	4R	3R	2R
US Open	22-8	QF	-	SF	F	4R	3R	2R	2R	1R

# Holger Rune

Denmark

World No. **8**



**Born** 29 April 2003  
Gentofte, Denmark

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**Height** 188cm

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**Plays** Right-handed

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**2023 Prize Money** \$4,141,419

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**Career Prize Money** \$7,170,408

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**Singles Titles** 4

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**2023 Year-End Rank** No.8

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**Highest Singles Rank** No.4  
(August 2023)

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**2023 Highlights** W Munich; F Monte Carlo, Rome; SF Acapulco, Queen's, Montpellier, Basel; QF Roland Garros, Wimbledon, Paris

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**AO Best Result** 4R 2023

> Rune's 2023 season was a tale of two halves. The Dane continued to prove why he is one of the more highly rated prospects in tennis, reaching ATP Masters 1000 finals at Monte Carlo and Rome before back-to-back major quarterfinals. By mid-July he'd already notched 37 match wins, and soon after hit a career-high ranking of world No.4. Yet those wins dried up, as it emerged in September that he had been managing back pain caused by a bulging disc. Rune will nonetheless have banked unshakable confidence from his success in the past two years. He was named 2022 ATP Newcomer of the Year after winning three titles, the biggest at the Paris Masters

where he beat five top-10 players in a resounding week. There were few signs of a 'sophomore slump' in 2023; the 20-year-old repeated his Paris Masters final win over Novak Djokovic in the quarterfinals of the Rome Masters, one of four top-10 wins he recorded in April and May. He defended his ATP title at Munich - saving match points in a thrilling final - and reached the Roland Garros quarterfinals for the second straight year. "Currently I don't see weaknesses; I only see opportunities to continue to make that better," said Todd Woodbridge of the former junior world No.1. "What I love about him is that he's not scared to win. I see him as the game's new antagonist; I think

he's bringing really big energy to matches." Fans are attracted to his competitive fire, cheekiness and combative edge, plus the fact he is unintimidated facing more established stars. With lofty ambitions and an intense work ethic, he also signalled a new direction in October when it was revealed he had added German legend Boris Becker to his team. There were already signs his health had improved late in the season where, with Becker in his corner, he reached the Basel semifinals and Paris quarterfinals before a strong showing in Turin. This bodes well for Rune's AO prospects, where in 2023 he came within a point of the quarterfinals.

Grand Slam record			
Grand Slam / Year	Career	23	22
Australian Open	3-2	4R	1R
Roland Garros	7-2	QF	QF
Wimbledon	4-2	QF	1R
US Open	1-3	1R	3R

AO 2023	
No.9 SEED	
1R d Krajinovic, 2R d Cressy, 3R d Humbert, 4R I [5] Rublev	



/Hubert Hurkacz  
Poland

World No. **9**



**Born** 11 February 1997  
Wroclaw, Poland

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**Height** 196cm

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**Plays** Right-handed

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**2023 Prize Money** \$3,805,176

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**Career Prize Money** \$12,733,903

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**Singles Titles** 7

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**2023 Year-End Rank** No.9

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**Highest Singles Rank** No.9  
(November 2021)

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**2023 Highlights** W Shanghai, Marseille; F Basel; SF Cincinnati, Stuttgart, United Cup; QF Paris, Dubai; 4R Australian Open, Wimbledon; 3R Roland Garros

---

**AO Best Result** 4R 2023

➤ Season 2023 was one of realignment for the Polish star. Two years ago, Hurkacz broke out in a big way with his first ATP Masters 1000 title at Miami, and best Grand Slam performance by reaching the Wimbledon semifinals. He cracked the top 10 that year after winning three titles, peaking at world No.9. While he finished 2022 at No.10, the highs were not as lofty, and in August 2023 he almost exited the top 20. It was at that moment he rebounded, charging down the home straight to win 21 of his last 27 matches to earn an alternate spot at the prestigious season-ending ATP Finals. He ended up playing one match and pushed

eventual champion Novak Djokovic to three sets behind 24 aces. His victory at the Shanghai Masters in October - where the 26-year-old saved a match point to beat Andrey Rublev in a dramatic final - reminded us of the dominant serve and all-court weaponry that helped him to those glittering achievements of 2021. “Just amazing week here in Shanghai,” said Hurkacz, who comes from a family of tennis players. “Ultimately, (my team and I) just want to get better every single day and improve, enjoy those moments.” That result vaulted him back to world No.11, and he would go on to finish a third straight year in the top 10. Along with

Iga Swiatek, Hurkacz’s rise has reinvigorated a passionate Polish fanbase, whom Hurkacz has said he hopes to inspire. Those fans have had plenty to get excited about with the duo teaming up at the United Cup, and, likely, again later in 2024 at the Paris Olympics. The player nicknamed ‘Hubi’ is the best male player Poland has produced, and he continues to trend upwards after winning more matches at Grand Slam and ATP Masters 1000 tournaments in 2023 than any other season. Second-week finishes at the Australian Open - his deepest run yet at Melbourne Park - and Wimbledon set the stage for even bigger things in 2024.

Grand Slam record							
Grand Slam / Year	Career	23	22	21	20	19	18
Australian Open	5-5	4R	2R	1R	2R	1R	-
Roland Garros	6-6	3R	4R	1R	1R	1R	2R
Wimbledon	10-5	4R	1R	SF	-	3R	1R
US Open	5-6	2R	2R	2R	2R	1R	2R

/Taylor Fritz  
United States

World No. **10**



**Born** 28 October 1997  
Rancho Santa Fe, USA

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**Height** 196cm

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**Plays** Right-handed

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**2023 Prize Money** \$3,380,455

---

**Career Prize Money** \$13,538,244

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**Singles Titles** 6

---

**2023 Year-End Rank** No.10

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**Highest Singles Rank** No.5  
(February 2023)

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**2023 Highlights** W Delray Beach, Atlanta; SF Monte Carlo, Acapulco, Washington, Dallas, Munich, Geneva; QF US Open

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**AO Best Result** 4R 2022

➤ Last year was one of impressive consolidation for Fritz, as he maintained a place in the top 10 plus his position as the No.1 American man. With more than 50 match wins, Fritz was productive all over the globe but at his best on home soil, winning two ATP titles there before recording his best result at his home Grand Slam. The first title came at Delray Beach in February - helping him briefly crack the top five - while the second, at Atlanta, commenced a memorable North American summer. He won 15 of 19 matches, posted a semifinal in Washington and a quarterfinal in Cincinnati, then advanced to the last eight in New York. “It feels

amazing (to be here). Since my last (major) quarterfinal I’ve had a lot of struggles at Slams, so there’s no other place I’d rather do it than to go on a run obviously in the US,” Fritz said after matching his Wimbledon 2022 quarterfinal. The 26-year-old was destined for success at the highest levels of the sport, given his tennis lineage. Mother Kathy May is a former WTA top-10 player and major quarterfinalist, while father Guy also played professionally. Fritz first picked up a racquet at age two, and now works with a coaching team including former world No.12 Paul Annacone, notable for previous stints with Pete Sampras and Roger Federer.

Yet it’s not all about time on the court for Fritz, who has invited fans inside his life away from it as one of the stars of Netflix tennis docuseries *Break Point*. The series also features his girlfriend Morgan Riddle, an influencer in the fashion and lifestyle space. It’s a space in which Fritz increasingly enjoys dabbling, most recently as a model during New York Fashion Week in September 2023. “It’s something that I definitely want to do more of to build my brand,” Fritz said. “I remember saying to one of my friends when we were 15 or 16 that if tennis didn’t work out I would model, and obviously tennis has opened the door to do a lot of things.”

Grand Slam record									
Grand Slam / Year	Career	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16
Australian Open	10-7	2R	4R	3R	3R	3R	-	1R	1R
Roland Garros	7-7	3R	2R	2R	3R	2R	1R	-	1R
Wimbledon	9-7	2R	QF	3R	-	2R	2R	1R	1R
US Open	10-8	QF	1R	2R	3R	1R	3R	2R	1R

AO 2023	
No.8 SEED	
1R d Basilasvili, 2R I [WC] Popyrin	



## / Casper Ruud

Norway



World No. **11**

➤ Ruud maintained a top-10 ranking for almost the entire 2023 season, and until November enjoyed the third-longest unbroken stint in this elite group of all current top-10 players. A win away from becoming world No.1 before last year's US Open final loss to Carlos Alcaraz, Ruud appeared in a third major final at Roland Garros, his second straight final in Paris. At his best on clay, all four of Ruud's 2023 semifinals came on that surface. A driven competitor renowned for his fitness and work ethic, Ruud also appreciates balance in his life. The Norwegian even has a second Instagram account - find it at @casper\_golfer - where he posts "videos and pictures of my friends and I playing golf".

Born 22 December 1998  
Oslo, Norway  
Height 183cm  
Plays Right-handed  
2023 Prize Money \$3,121,453  
Career Prize Money \$16,200,772  
Singles Titles 10  
2023 Year-End Rank No.11  
Highest Singles Rank No.2 (September 2022)  
2023 Highlights W Estoril; F Roland Garros, Bastad; SF Rome; QF Beijing, Geneva, Hamburg; 4R Shanghai  
AO Best Result 4R 2021  
AO 2023 No.2 SEED  
1R d Machac, 2R I Brooksby

## / Tommy Paul

United States



World No. **13**

➤ Long tapped for success thanks to his stellar junior results and reputation as one of the game's best athletes, Paul took the biggest strides yet in 2023. His season began brilliantly at Melbourne Park, where he progressed to his first Grand Slam semifinal and cracked the top 20. But he didn't stop there, reaching two ATP finals before beating world No.1 Carlos Alcaraz en route to the Toronto Masters semifinals. The 26-year-old enjoyed another second-week Grand Slam showing at the US Open and later peaked at world No.12 - becoming one of four US men inside the top 15. A skilful return game, plus admirable consistency and fitness, helped Paul record almost 50 match wins in a career-best season.

Born 17 May 1997  
Voorhees, USA  
Height 185cm  
Plays Right-handed  
2023 Prize Money \$2,533,223  
Career Prize Money \$6,308,114  
Singles Titles 1  
2023 Year-End Rank No.13  
Highest Singles Rank No.12 (October 2023)  
2023 Highlights F Acapulco, Eastbourne; SF Australian Open, Toronto; QF Tokyo, Delray Beach, Lyon, Newport, Los Cabos; 4R US Open, Indian Wells, Miami, Shanghai  
AO Best Result SF 2023  
AO 2023 UNSEED  
1R d [Q] Struff, 2R d [30] Davidovich Fokina, 3R d Brooksby, 4R d [24] Bautista Agut, QF d Shelton, SF I [4] Djokovic

## / Alex de Minaur

Australia



World No. **12**

➤ The passionate Aussie consolidated his position as the nation's top player thanks to added firepower in his game and an ever-improving record against the game's best. Before 2023, De Minaur had earned seven wins against top-10 players, a tally he nearly matched (with six) in the past year. One of the most notable came against third-ranked Daniil Medvedev en route to his first ATP Masters 1000 final in Toronto. That, along with a first ATP 500 title in Acapulco and fourth-round finishes at the Australian and US Opens, helped push De Minaur to the brink of the world's top 10. He also continued to proudly represent Australia in his beloved Davis Cup, leading the team to back-to-back finals.

Born 17 February 1999  
Sydney, Australia  
Height 183cm  
Plays Right-handed  
2023 Prize Money \$2,850,099  
Career Prize Money \$10,782,647  
Singles Titles 7  
2023 Year-End Rank No.12  
Highest Singles Rank No.11 (October 2023)  
2023 Highlights W Acapulco; F Toronto, Queen's, Los Cabos, Davis Cup; QF Paris, Rotterdam, Barcelona, Tokyo, Marseille, s-Hertogenbosch, Atlanta; 4R Australian Open, US Open  
AO Best Result 4R 2022, 2023  
AO 2023 No.22 SEED  
1R d [Q] Hsu, 2R d Mannarino, 3R d Bonzi, 4R I [4] Djokovic

## / Grigor Dimitrov

Bulgaria



World No. **14**

➤ In a resurgent season, the 32-year-old Bulgarian reached his first ATP Masters 1000 final in six years at Paris, plus the second week at Roland Garros and Wimbledon. He fell to world No.33 before a confidence-boosting run to the Geneva final set him back on course. From that tournament, Dimitrov won 26 of his next 36 matches and reached semifinals in Washington, Chengdu and Shanghai, upsetting Carlos Alcaraz at the latter. Regarded as one of the tour's nicest players, Dimitrov attracts many fans thanks to stylish shotmaking, fluid one-handed backhand and athletic court coverage. He will hope to carry his strong form into Melbourne Park, where he was a set away from the 2017 final.

Born 16 May 1991  
Haskovo, Bulgaria  
Height 191cm  
Plays Right-handed  
2023 Prize Money \$2,703,137  
Career Prize Money \$24,700,429  
Singles Titles 8  
2023 Year-End Rank No.14  
Highest Singles Rank No.3 (November 2017)  
2023 Highlights F Paris, Geneva; SF Shanghai, Rotterdam, Chengdu, Washington; QF Queen's, Beijing, Marseille; 4R Roland Garros, Wimbledon; 3R US Open  
AO Best Result SF 2017  
AO 2023 No.27 SEED  
1R d Karatsev, 2R d Djere, 3R I [4] Djokovic



# / Karen Khachanov



World No. **15**

➤ Khachanov rebounded well from a back stress fracture in 2023, which ruled him out for three months between Roland Garros and the US Open and caused him to experience difficulty walking. In just the second tournament of his return, he won Zhuhai - his first ATP trophy since the 2018 Paris Masters. Executing a powerful game from his almost two-metre-tall frame, Khachanov started the year brilliantly by reaching the AO 2023 semifinals, his second straight major semifinal. A quarterfinal at Roland Garros followed, after strong showings at the Miami and Madrid Masters events. Those results helped Khachanov briefly return to the top 10 for the first time in almost four years.

Born 21 May 1996
Moscow, Russia
Height 198cm
Plays Right-handed
2023 Prize Money \$2,445,635
Career Prize Money \$14,988,795
Singles Titles 5
2023 Year-End Rank No.15
Highest Singles Rank No.8 (July 2019)
2023 Highlights W Zhuhai; SF Australian Open, Miami; QF Roland Garros, Paris, Madrid, Vienna, Adelaide 1, Adelaide 2
AO Best Result SF 2023
AO 2023 No.18 SEED
1R d Zapata Miralles, 2R d [WC] Kubler, 3R d [16] Tiafoe, 4R d [31] Nishioka, QF d [29] Korda, SF l [3] Tsitsipas

# / Frances Tiafoe

United States



World No. **16**

➤ After an electrifying US Open semifinal run in 2022 made him a household name, Tiafoe almost repeated the feat when he returned to the quarterfinals in 2023. It was his best Grand Slam result of the year, but not the only highlight. His victory at the ATP tournament in Stuttgart - his first career title on grass, which meant he had won titles on all surfaces - led to his top-10 debut in June. The 25-year-old, coached by former world No.6 Wayne Ferreira, stars in the Netflix tennis docuseries *Break Point*, which premiered last January. With his inspirational backstory and stunning shotmaking ability, Tiafoe's reputation continues to grow as one of the game's most watchable players.

Born 20 January 1998
Hyattsville, USA
Height 188cm
Plays Right-handed
2023 Prize Money \$2,588,010
Career Prize Money \$9,916,722
Singles Titles 3
2023 Year-End Rank No.16
Highest Singles Rank No.10 (June 2023)
2023 Highlights W Houston, Stuttgart, United Cup; SF Indian Wells; QF US Open, Acapulco, Washington, Vienna, Dallas; 3R Australian Open, Roland Garros, Wimbledon, Miami, Madrid, Rome
AO Best Result QF 2019
AO 2023 No.16 SEED
1R d Altmaier, 2R d [Q] Shang, 3R l [18] Khachanov

# / Ben Shelton

United States



World No. **17**

➤ Shelton's rapid emergence was one of the stories of 2023, and incredibly, he was most impactful at the biggest tournaments. In his first trip outside the United States last January, he stormed into the Australian Open quarterfinals. An even bigger result followed on home soil when he became a US Open semifinalist, gaining attention for his huge serve, big-stage composure and energetic celebrations. The 20-year-old initially struggled with the grind of tour life after two years at college, but quickly adjusted as the season progressed, winning his first ATP title at Tokyo in October. Guided by father and former pro Bryan Shelton and already a top-20 player, he has plenty of room to grow in 2024.

Born 9 October 2002
Atlanta, USA
Height 193cm
Plays Left-handed
2023 Prize Money \$2,323,394
Career Prize Money \$2,796,667
Singles Titles 1
2023 Year-End Rank No.17
Highest Singles Rank No.15 (October 2023)
2023 Highlights W Tokyo; SF US Open; QF Australian Open, Shanghai
AO Best Result QF 2023
AO 2023 UNSEED
1R d Zhang, 2R d [Q] Jarry, 3R d [WC] Popyrin, 4R d Wolf, QF l Paul

# / Cameron Norrie

Great Britain



World No. **18**

➤ Norrie admits he lost form and confidence as 2023 unfolded, but told *The AO Show* podcast: "I'm very close to finding it and clicking again." That high level, which saw him reach his first major semifinal at Wimbledon in 2022, defined the early stages of his 2023 season. The highlight was a win over world No.2 Carlos Alcaraz in the Rio de Janeiro final, after he had reached finals in Auckland and Buenos Aires. Norrie won 21 of his first 24 matches and while his level dipped, there is deep-seated belief from winning Indian Wells in 2021 and peaking at world No.8 in September the following year. The lefty is a citizen of the world, born in South Africa, raised in New Zealand by British parents and living in the US during college.

Born 23 August 1995
Johannesburg, South Africa
Height 188cm
Plays Left-handed
2023 Prize Money \$2,089,231
Career Prize Money \$10,132,007
Singles Titles 5
2023 Year-End Rank No.18
Highest Singles Rank No.8 (September 2022)
2023 Highlights W Rio de Janeiro; F Auckland, Buenos Aires; SF Lyon; QF Indian Wells, Queen's, Zhuhai; 4R Rome; 3R Australian Open, Roland Garros, US Open, Madrid
AO Best Result 3R 2021, 2023
AO 2023 No.11 SEED
1R d [WC] Van Assche, 2R d Lestienne, 3R l Lehecka



# / Nicolas Jarry

Chile



World No. **19**

➤ Season 2023 was a career-best for Jarry, the towering Chilean whose power game proved effective across all surfaces. He began the year outside the top 150 yet cracked the top 20 after winning more than 40 matches, plus two ATP titles – his first tour-level trophies since 2019. The second of those, in Geneva, came thanks to successive victories over Casper Ruud, Alexander Zverev and Grigor Dimitrov. He carried that form into Roland Garros, notching his first appearance in a Grand Slam second week. The 28-year-old has enjoyed the support of wife Laura and almost two-year-old Juan – the eldest of his two sons – who joined him on court to celebrate one of Jarry’s wins in Shanghai.

<b>Born</b> 11 October 1995
Santiago, Chile
<b>Height</b> 198cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$1,717,463
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$4,173,762
<b>Singles Titles</b> 3
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.19
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.19 (November 2023)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> W Santiago, Geneva; SF Rio de Janeiro; QF Shanghai, Halle, Beijing, Los Cabos; 4R Roland Garros
<b>AO Best Result</b> 2R 2023
<b>AO 2023</b> QUALIFIER
1R d (26) Kecmanovic, 2R l Shelton

# / Francisco Cerundolo

Argentina



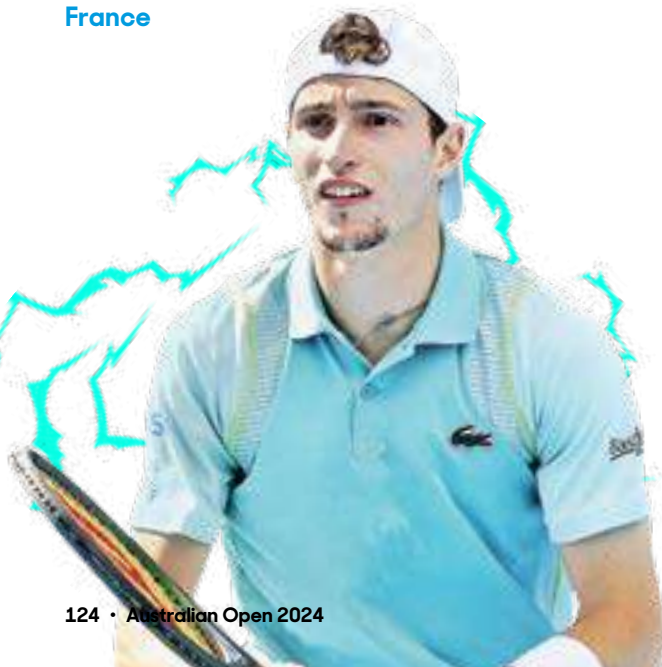
World No. **21**

➤ There was no letdown for the 25-year-old, who continued to thrive after a breakout 2022 season. That year, Cerundolo jumped 100 ranking places after reaching the Miami semifinals and winning his first ATP title in Bastad to end the year in the top 30. It’s where he stayed in 2023, after reaching Masters quarterfinals in Miami and Rome then producing his best Slam performance with a fourth-round run at Roland Garros. Those results, as well as wins over five top-10 opponents, helped the top Argentine’s ranking peak at No.19. Cerundolo, who hails from a family of former and current professional tennis players, is well-rounded. He lists numbers, stats and singing among his many passions.

<b>Born</b> 13 August 1998
Buenos Aires, Argentina
<b>Height</b> 185cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$1,900,945
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$3,537,297
<b>Singles Titles</b> 2
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.21
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.19 (June 2023)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> W Eastbourne; F Lyon; SF Bastad; QF Miami, Rome, Barcelona, Cordoba, Buenos Aires; 4R Roland Garros, Shanghai
<b>AO Best Result</b> 3R 2023
<b>AO 2023</b> No.28 SEED
1R d Pella, 2R d Moutet, 3R l [6] Auger-Aliassime

# / Ugo Humbert

France



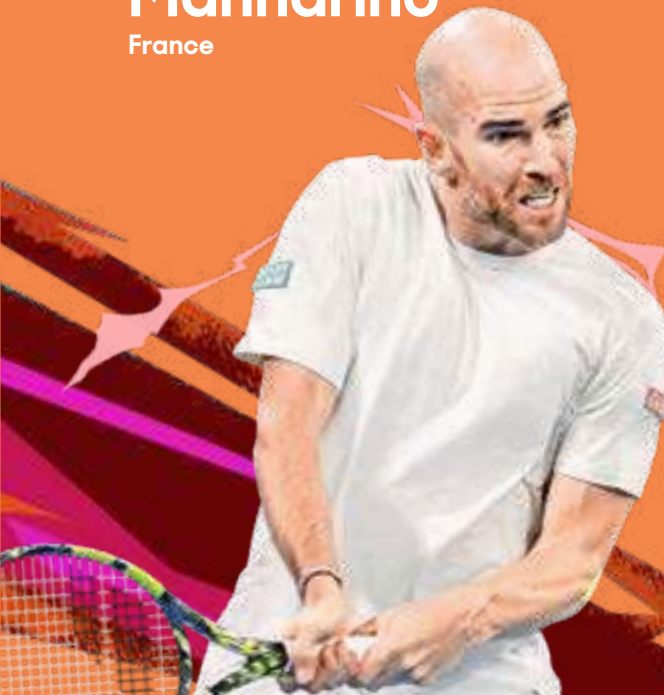
World No. **20**

➤ The left-hander, an accomplished pianist, competes with a distinct energy and is an archetypal big-match player. Wins over sixth-ranked Andrey Rublev in Beijing and seventh-ranked Stefanos Tsitsipas at the Shanghai Masters improved his then-record against top-10 opponents to an impressive 9-9. Those results also boosted his ranking to a new peak inside the top 20. Humbert’s 2021 season was derailed by injury and the loss of confidence that followed in 2022 saw him fall outside the top 100. Ranked 106th at AO 2023, his resurgence was a big story for French tennis; he’s now the nation’s top-ranked man and was especially potent on the Davis Cup stage in 2023.

<b>Born</b> 26 June 1998
Metz, France
<b>Height</b> 188cm
<b>Plays</b> Left-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$1,456,294
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$4,839,177
<b>Singles Titles</b> 4
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.20
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.20 (November 2023)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> W Metz; SF Basel, Newport, Atlanta; QF Shanghai, Washington, Beijing; 3R Australian Open, Indian Wells
<b>AO Best Result</b> 3R 2023
<b>AO 2023</b> No.28 SEED
1R d Gasquet, 2R d [LL] Kudla, 3R l [9] Rune

# / Adrian Mannarino

France



World No. **22**

➤ It’s uncommon for a player to enjoy their best season at age 35. But that’s exactly how it was in 2023 for Mannarino, who won more titles and tour-level matches in a year than ever before in a pro career approaching 20 years. The unorthodox Frenchman, whose finesse and flat left-handed strokes are at their best on grass, won the Newport title and reached the Mallorca final on that surface, plus the indoor hard-court crown at Astana. He also notched just his second Masters 1000 quarterfinal, in Cincinnati. His season-ending triumph in Sofia helped him equal his career-best ranking of No.22, originally set more than five years ago. In an era where careers are extending longer, Mannarino’s best may still be to come.

<b>Born</b> 29 June 1988
Soisy-Sous-Montmorency, France
<b>Height</b> 180cm
<b>Plays</b> Left-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$1,674,315
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$11,375,820
<b>Singles Titles</b> 5
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.22
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.22 (March 2018)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> W Newport, Astana, Sofia; F Mallorca; QF Cincinnati, Queen’s, Dallas, Delray Beach, s-Hertogenbosch, Stockholm; 4R Miami; 3R US Open, Indian Wells
<b>AO Best Result</b> 4R 2022
<b>AO 2023</b> UNSEED
1R d Isner, 2R l [22] De Minaur



## / Tallon Griekspoor

Netherlands



World No. **23**

➤ Despite turning 27 mid-season, 2023 proved a breakout year for the late-blooming Dutchman. Griekspoor won his first ATP titles, notched his best Grand Slam result and hit his highest ranking. A career-best run at AO 2023, where he was stopped in the third round by No.3 seed Stefanos Tsitsipas, came hot on the heels of his maiden ATP title in Pune. Those results boosted Griekspoor inside the top 60, and he kept rising. He won a second ATP title before a rapturous home crowd in s-Hertogenbosch to make his top-30 debut. Deceptively powerful, Griekspoor memorably notched upset wins over Taylor Fritz, Frances Tiafoe, Hubert Hurkacz, Alex de Minaur and Alexander Zverev in the past 12 months.

<b>Born</b> 2 July 1996
Haarlem, Netherlands
<b>Height</b> 188cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$1,500,660
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$3,198,810
<b>Singles Titles</b> 2
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.23
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.21 (November 2023)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> W Pune, s-Hertogenbosch; F Washington; SF Rotterdam; QF Halle, Basel, Marrakech, Astana, Stockholm
<b>AO Best Result</b> 3R 2023
<b>AO 2023</b> No.28 SEED
1R d [LL] Kotov, 2R d [32] Van de Zandschulp, 3R l [3] Tsitsipas

## / Sebastian Korda

United States



World No. **24**

➤ A wrist injury derailed a brilliant start to 2023, sidelining Korda for almost four months. When healthy, the smooth-striking American is one of the game's most dangerous players. He was one point from beating Novak Djokovic in the Adelaide final last summer then upset Daniil Medvedev and Hubert Hurkacz en route to the AO 2023 quarterfinals. There he succumbed to the wrist injury. He managed to recapture his form, especially post-US Open, when he reached the Astana final and Shanghai Masters semifinals. Son of AO 1998 champion Petr Korda and former WTA player Regina Rajchrtova, and brother to pro golfers Nelly and Jessica Korda, his sporting genes are undeniable.

<b>Born</b> 5 July 2000
Bradenton, USA
<b>Height</b> 196cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$1,545,830
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$4,263,033
<b>Singles Titles</b> 1
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.24
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.23 (October 2023)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> F Adelaide 1, Astana; SF Shanghai, Queen's, Winston-Salem, Zhuhai; QF Australian Open
<b>AO Best Result</b> QF 2023
<b>AO 2023</b> No.29 SEED
1R d Garin, 2R d [Q] Watanuki, 3R d [7] Medvedev, 4R d [10] Hurkacz, QF l [18] Khachanov

## / Jan-Lennard Struff

Germany



World No. **25**

➤ The German charged into the Madrid Masters final in May as a lucky loser, then came close to stunning Carlos Alcaraz in the final. Ranked 167th at AO 2023, having struggled with a foot injury in 2022, his ascent into the top 25 made him one of the biggest improvers of the past 12 months. This confirmed the danger he poses to opponents with his height, booming serve and all-out attack, which frequently sees him close at the net. A second final of the season on grass in Stuttgart followed, where he came within a point of lifting his first ATP trophy before he was pipped by Frances Tiafoe. Struff, who peaked at No.21 two months after turning 33, is targeting his first main-draw win at Melbourne Park since 2018.

<b>Born</b> 25 April 1990
Warstein, Germany
<b>Height</b> 193cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$1,343,119
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$9,086,898
<b>Singles Titles</b> 0
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.25
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.21 (June 2023)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> F Madrid, Stuttgart; SF Sofia; QF Monte Carlo, Zhuhai
<b>AO Best Result</b> 2R 2018
<b>AO 2023 QUALIFIER</b>
1R l Paul

## / Alejandro Davidovich Fokina

Spain



World No. **26**

➤ The Spaniard rose to the cusp of the world's top 20 in August shortly after reaching the Toronto semifinals, his best ATP Masters 1000 result in 2023. It was further confirmation of Davidovich Fokina's talent. The former Wimbledon junior champion previously reached the Roland Garros 2021 quarterfinals and Monte Carlo final in 2022. A unique personality on tour, he competes in odd socks and is described by his coach as having volcanic on-court energy. That energy emerges in his incredible athleticism, which can also lead to entertaining tumbles and dives. As well as his watchable style, Davidovich Fokina has also endeared many fans thanks to his work launching a pet adoption program in Spain.

<b>Born</b> 5 June 1999
Malaga, Spain
<b>Height</b> 183cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$1,810,831
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$5,372,099
<b>Singles Titles</b> 0
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.26
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.21 (August 2023)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> SF Toronto; QF Indian Wells, Barcelona, Adelaide 2, Doha, Estoril; 4R Madrid; 3R Roland Garros, Wimbledon, US Open, Miami, Rome
<b>AO Best Result</b> 2R 2020, 2022, 2023
<b>AO 2023</b> No.30 SEED
1R d Bublik, 2R l Paul



## / Lorenzo Musetti

Italy



World No. **27**

► The talented Italian, the AO 2019 boys' singles champion, dazzles fans - and frequently appears in highlight reels - with inventive tennis and his stylish single-handed backhand. Those weapons are strongest when he has time to set up for shots on clay. On his favourite surface, he upset Novak Djokovic to reach the Monte Carlo quarterfinals, and also advanced to the Barcelona semifinals and the last 16 at Roland Garros. Those results helped him briefly crack the top 15. Just 21 years of age, Musetti is something of an old soul, with a passion for classic rock music. While his momentum tapered in late 2023, Musetti always gets a boost from a return to Australia, where he helped Italy reach the United Cup final in 2023.

<b>Born</b> 3 March 2002
Carrara, Italy
<b>Height</b> 185cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$1,918,308
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$4,681,289
<b>Singles Titles</b> 2
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.27
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.15 (June 2023)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> W Davis Cup; F United Cup; SF Barcelona, Bastad, Chengdu; QF Monte Carlo, Queen's, Buenos Aires, Marrakech, Stuttgart, Hamburg; 4R Roland Garros, Rome
<b>AO Best Result</b> 1R 2022, 2023
<b>AO 2023</b> No.17 SEED
1R I Harris

## / Sebastian Baez

Argentina



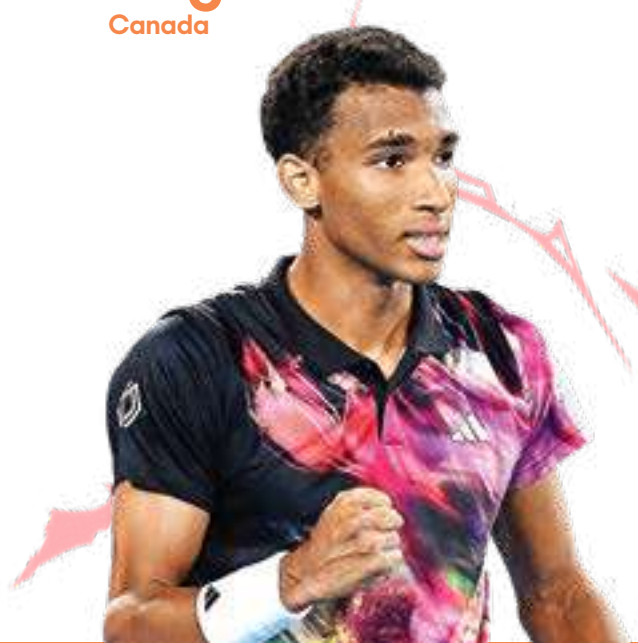
World No. **28**

► The Argentine, mentored by major-winning compatriot Juan Martin del Potro, completed a season of extremes in 2023, repeatedly rebounding from adversity. Baez entered the Cordoba ATP event having lost 17 of his previous 18 matches, only to produce an emotional title victory on home soil. Another lean run followed from May to July, when he lost six of seven matches and fell outside the top 70. He responded by winning two more ATP titles in Kitzbuhel and Winston-Salem, as well as recording his best Slam result with a US Open third-round run. A 12-match winning streak helped set a career-high ranking. The former world No.1 junior produces fearsome forehand power from his diminutive frame.

<b>Born</b> 28 December 2000
Buenos Aires, Argentina
<b>Height</b> 170cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$1,252,472
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$2,593,937
<b>Singles Titles</b> 4
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.28
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.27 (September 2023)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> W Cordoba, Kitzbuhel, Winston-Salem; SF Santiago; QF Rio de Janeiro, Estoril, Lyon; 3R US Open, Shanghai
<b>AO Best Result</b> 2R 2022
<b>AO 2023</b> UNSEED
1R I [WC] Kubler

## / Felix Auger-Aliassime

Canada



World No. **29**

► Although Auger-Aliassime did not win consecutive matches from April to September, his form and fortunes took an upswing late in 2023, boding well for a restorative run at AO 2024. Last season's performances would resemble a U-shape on a graph; he began with a second-week run at AO 2023 and quarterfinals in Rotterdam and Indian Wells, either side of a Doha semifinal. At his best, Auger-Aliassime is a sight to behold, combining power, spin, textbook technique and balanced movement. These weapons took him to the US Open semifinals in 2021 and a peak ranking of No.6 in 2022, the same season he won his first four ATP titles. The Canadian, whose father was born in Togo, speaks French and English.

<b>Born</b> 8 August 2000
Montreal, Canada
<b>Height</b> 193cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$1,637,948
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$11,938,111
<b>Singles Titles</b> 5
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.29
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.6 (November 2022)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> W Basel; SF Doha; QF Indian Wells, Rotterdam, Tokyo, Lyon; 4R Australian Open
<b>AO Best Result</b> QF 2022
<b>AO 2023</b> No.6 SEED
1R d Pospisil, 2R d Molcan, 3R d [28] Cerundolo, 4R I Lehecka

## / Tomas Martin Etcheverry

Argentina



World No. **30**

► The rangy Argentine powered his way to several breakthroughs in 2023, most of which came on clay. At Roland Garros - the same name he christened his dog - he reached his first major quarterfinal, beating top-20 players Alex de Minaur and Borna Coric along the way. That result came after the 24-year-old appeared in his first tour-level finals, on the clay courts of Santiago and Houston. Etcheverry names Juan Martin del Potro and Novak Djokovic as idols, and the latter has been something of a north star. After earning his first ATP point in 2016, Etcheverry noted the difference between himself and incumbent No.1 Djokovic at almost 13,000 ranking points - a gap he's been tracking, and narrowing, ever since.

<b>Born</b> 18 July 1999
La Plata, Argentina
<b>Height</b> 196cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$1,438,980
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$2,236,278
<b>Singles Titles</b> 0
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.30
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.30 (June 2023)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> F Santiago, Houston; SF Kitzbuhel; QF Roland Garros, Basel, Buenos Aires, Zhuhai
<b>AO Best Result</b> 2R 2023
<b>AO 2023</b> UNSEED
1R d Barrere, 2R I [15] Sinner



## Jiri Lehecka

Czech Republic



World No. **31**

► The Czech talent emerged on the radar with his runner-up performance at the 2022 Next Gen ATP Finals and he carried that momentum into 2023 by winning 13 of his first 16 matches. The highlight was a breakthrough at the Australian Open, where he beat three seeded opponents to reach his first major quarterfinal. Two more top-20 victories followed when he advanced to the second week at Wimbledon. Confident and ambitious, Lehecka hails from an impressive sporting family and has benefitted from the addition of former world No.4 Tomas Berdych to his team. Berdych will no doubt have been impressed by his countryman's five singles wins when representing their nation in Davis Cup during 2023.

Born 8 November 2001
Mlada Boleslav, Czech Republic
Height 185cm
Plays Right-handed
2023 Prize Money \$1,603,119
Career Prize Money \$2,642,860
Singles Titles 0
2023 Year-End Rank No.31
Highest Singles Rank No.29 (August 2023)
2023 Highlights F Winston-Salem; SF Doha; QF Australian Open, Banja Luka, Umag, Astana; 4R Wimbledon
AO Best Result QF 2023
AO 2023 UNSEEDDED
1R d [21] Coric, 2R d [WC] Eubanks, 3R d [11] Norrie, 4R d [6] Auger-Aliassime, QF l [3] Tsitsipas

## Laslo Djere

Serbia



World No. **33**

► While at his strongest on clay - his best 2023 result was reaching the Hamburg final - Djere's best showing at the Grand Slams came on other surfaces. At the US Open, he led eventual champion Novak Djokovic by two-sets-to-love in the third round, in what was his compatriot's toughest test of the fortnight. He also made the Wimbledon third round after beating big-serving Americans Maxime Cressy and Ben Shelton. Demonstrating his increasing completeness, Djere went deep on Stockholm's indoor hard courts and earned his biggest win of the year, over world No.3 Casper Ruud, on Auckland's hard courts. Djere has a Hungarian background and speaks the language, as well as Serbian and English.

Born 2 June 1995
Senta, Serbia
Height 188cm
Plays Right-handed
2023 Prize Money \$1,286,152
Career Prize Money \$5,234,216
Singles Titles 2
2023 Year-End Rank No.33
Highest Singles Rank No.27 (June 2019)
2023 Highlights F Hamburg; SF Kitzbuhel, Stockholm; QF Auckland, Santiago, Banja Luka, Winston-Salem; 4R Rome; 3R Wimbledon, US Open
AO Best Result 2R 2023
AO 2023 UNSEEDDED
1R d [Q] Bergs, 2R l [27] Dimitrov

## Alexander Bublik

Kazakhstan



World No. **32**

► Watching Bublik compete is an entertaining thrill-ride. It's hard to predict what the gifted Kazakhstani will produce. He could dish up an underarm serve or unleash a huge second serve, and flummoxes opponents with abrupt changes of pace and trajectory on his forehand side. Outside the top 50 at Roland Garros, Bublik soared in the second half of the season, winning the Halle grass-court title and building an eight-match winning streak to appear in the second week of Wimbledon - his best Grand Slam result. A career-high ranking followed later in July, as did a second title of the season in Antwerp. In an astonishing serving performance, he dropped only 12 of 148 first-serve points for the entire week.

Born 17 June 1997
Gatchina, Russia
Height 196cm
Plays Right-handed
2023 Prize Money \$1,570,556
Career Prize Money \$5,895,243
Singles Titles 3
2023 Year-End Rank No.32
Highest Singles Rank No.25 (July 2023)
2023 Highlights W Halle, Antwerp; SF Marseille; 4R Wimbledon; 3R Rome, Paris
AO Best Result 2R 2017, 2021, 2022
AO 2023 UNSEEDDED
1R l [30] Davidovich Fokina

## Christopher Eubanks

United States



World No. **34**

► The towering American's breakout 2023 season hung on three key tentpoles. The first was his run to the Miami quarterfinals as a qualifier, a campaign which saw him overcome with emotion as it was confirmed he would become a top-100 player. The second was his first ATP title in Mallorca, which infused him with the confidence and momentum for the third - a headline-grabbing quarterfinal run at Wimbledon, where he upset Stefanos Tsitsipas in five sets. A product of the US college system, the late-bloomer is a popular figure on tour and has earned many fans with his love for the big stage and attacking style. He smacked a tournament-record 321 winners at Wimbledon last year.

Born 5 May 1996
Atlanta, USA
Height 201cm
Plays Right-handed
2023 Prize Money \$1,384,763
Career Prize Money \$2,620,900
Singles Titles 1
2023 Year-End Rank No.34
Highest Singles Rank No.29 (July 2023)
2023 Highlights W Mallorca; QF Wimbledon, Miami, Atlanta; 3R Shanghai, Washington
AO Best Result 2R 2023
AO 2023 WILDCARD
1R d Kwon, 2R l Lehecka



# / Aslan Karatsev



World No. **35**

➤ A former top-15 player who reached the Australian Open 2021 semifinals, Karatsev fell to world No.129 last April before surging back within Grand Slam seeding contention. He won seven straight matches as a qualifier to reach the Madrid semifinals - his best ATP Masters 1000 result - and later advanced to his first tour-level final in almost two years at Tokyo. When clicking, Karatsev is among the game's most potent ball-strikers, and in 2023 he notched five wins over top-20 players, including No.3 Daniil Medvedev at Madrid. A global citizen, the 30-year-old spent much of his childhood in Israel - he speaks Hebrew as well as Russian and English - and has had training bases throughout Europe.

Born	4 September 1993
	Vladikavkaz, Russia
Height	185cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$1,253,157
Career Prize Money	\$4,653,943
Singles Titles	3
2023 Year-End Rank	No.35
Highest Singles Rank	No.14 (February 2022)
2023 Highlights	F Tokyo; SF Madrid, Pune, Zhuhai; 3R US Open
AO Best Result	SF 2021
AO 2023	UNSEEDDED 1R I [27] Dimitrov

# / Borna Coric

Croatia



World No. **37**

➤ After considerable injury struggles, Coric last year played all four Grand Slam events in a single season for the first time since 2018. His best result was reaching the third round at Roland Garros, concluding a clay-court purple patch that also included a semifinal in Madrid, a Rome quarterfinal, and at one point saw him win nine of 11 matches. Those results elevated him inside the top 15 and helped him maintain a top-40 ranking for the second straight year. Yet minor niggles still affected him at points in 2023, and he did not play a match after the US Open. The Croatian says if not for tennis he would have liked to be a boxer, and names Mike Tyson as his favourite sporting personality.

Born	14 November 1996
	Zagreb, Croatia
Height	188cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$1,418,121
Career Prize Money	\$11,536,029
Singles Titles	3
2023 Year-End Rank	No.37
Highest Singles Rank	No.12 (November 2018)
2023 Highlights	SF Madrid, Los Cabos, Winston-Salem; QF Rome, Dubai, Montpellier; 3R Roland Garros
AO Best Result	4R 2019
AO 2023	No.21 SEED 1R I Lehecka

# / Arthur Fils

France



World No. **36**

➤ In 2023, one of the game's most exciting young talents was unearthed in the form of Fils, who began the season outside the world's top 250 before surging up the rankings. Back-to-back ATP semifinals on home soil in February put the teenager on the cusp of the top 100, and he cracked that elite group with his first title, as a wildcard, at Lyon. This made Fils the youngest Frenchman in almost 20 years to win an ATP trophy. There he earned his first of three top-10 wins in 2023 and later enjoyed a run to the final at Antwerp. Built for the big stage, Fils has shown glimpses of an outrageous shot-making ability. If he can attain that level consistently, big things lie ahead.

Born	12 June 2004
	Bondoufle, France
Height	185cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$842,404
Career Prize Money	\$985,555
Singles Titles	1
2023 Year-End Rank	No.36
Highest Singles Rank	No.36 (October 2023)
2023 Highlights	W Lyon; F Antwerp; SF Montpellier, Marseille, Hamburg; 3R Shanghai
AO Best Result	Making main-draw debut
AO 2023	DID NOT PLAY

# / Dan Evans

Great Britain



World No. **38**

➤ The 33-year-old picked up his first ATP title in over two years at Washington, ending a lean run of form and reminding his rivals just how dangerous he can be. It also helped him better his previous career-high ranking of No.22, set in September 2021. The Brit may be one of the smaller top players, but possesses an intelligent all-court game and command over all strokes, including a delightfully struck backhand slice, which makes him a joyful watch for tennis purists. Having achieved his best results since turning 30, another feather in Evans' cap was guiding Great Britain into the 2023 Davis Cup quarterfinals, an event he considers his favourite. He is also a talented golfer, with a single-digit handicap.

Born	23 May 1990
	Birmingham, England
Height	175cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$1,519,445
Career Prize Money	\$7,893,720
Singles Titles	2
2023 Year-End Rank	No.38
Highest Singles Rank	No.21 (August 2023)
2023 Highlights	W Washington; SF Barcelona, Marrakech; 3R Australian Open, US Open, Shanghai
AO Best Result	4R 2017
AO 2023	No.25 SEED 1R d Bagnis, 2R d Chardy, 3R I [5] Rublev



# / Roman Safiullin



World No. **39**

➤ Ranked outside the top 100 in May, Safiullin charged up the rankings in the back half of 2023. Safiullin's talent was obvious when he won the AO 2015 boys' singles title, and almost a decade later, he translated that to the professional Grand Slam stage with a quarterfinal run at Wimbledon. Having come through qualifying at several ATP events, Safiullin gained confidence from more than 40 match wins in 2023. He appeared in his first ATP-level final at Chengdu in September. He later shocked world No.2 Carlos Alcaraz en route to the last 16 in Paris. Safiullin is motivated to emulate the success of junior rivals and current top countrymen Daniil Medvedev, Andrey Rublev and Karen Khachanov.

<b>Born</b> 7 August 1997
<b>Podolsk, Russia</b>
<b>Height</b> 185cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$1,183,000
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$2,058,566
<b>Singles Titles</b> 0
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.39
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.39 (November 2023)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> F Chengdu; QF Wimbledon; 3R Madrid, Rome, Shanghai, Paris
<b>AO Best Result</b> 2R 2021
<b>AO 2023</b> UNSEEDDED
1R I [LL] Kudla

# / Alexei Popyrin

Australia



World No. **40**

➤ A remarkable 2023 season saw Popyrin begin the year ranked 120th and end it inside the top 40. This rise was made possible by consistently harnessing his considerable weapons, which led to career-best results. Popyrin equalled his bestshowing with a third-round run at AO 2023, thanks to a thrilling five-set upset of No.8 seed Taylor Fritz. A fourth-round run at Rome and a Cincinnati quarterfinal were his best ATP Masters 1000 performances. Popyrin also beat Stan Wawrinka for the Umag title and notched three top-10 wins last year. Rising to become the No.2 Australian, he helped the nation reach the 2023 Davis Cup final. Popyrin currently divides his time between Australia, France and Dubai.

<b>Born</b> 5 August 1999
<b>Sydney, Australia</b>
<b>Height</b> 196cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$1,070,148
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$3,725,349
<b>Singles Titles</b> 2
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.40
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.39 (October 2023)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> W Umag; F Davis Cup; QF Cincinnati, Tokyo, Adelaide 1; 4R Rome; 3R Australian Open
<b>AO Best Result</b> 3R 2019, 2020, 2023
<b>AO 2023</b> WILDCARD
1R d Tseng, 2R d [8] Fritz, 3R I Shelton

# / Mackenzie McDonald

United States



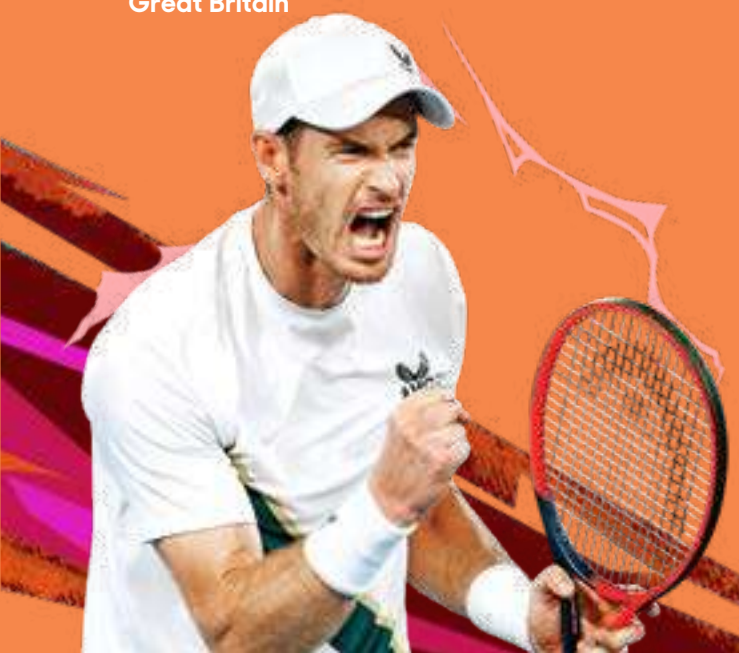
World No. **41**

➤ A career-best season saw McDonald notch his first ATP Masters 1000 quarterfinal at Toronto, and finish inside the world's top 50 for the first time. That Toronto performance was one of seven times the American reached tour-level quarterfinals in 2023 - three of those coming on grass - which was as many as the previous three seasons combined. One of the shorter players inside the top 50, McDonald nevertheless packs a punch, beating four top-10 players last year - including an injury-hampered Rafael Nadal, who was the top seed and defending champion, at AO 2023. In college tennis, he was an NCAA champion in singles and doubles representing UCLA, where his sister was a college gymnast.

<b>Born</b> 16 April 1995
<b>Piedmont, USA</b>
<b>Height</b> 178cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$1,245,066
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$5,124,748
<b>Singles Titles</b> 0
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.41
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.37 (October 2023)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> SF Delray Beach, Eastbourne; QF Toronto, Acapulco, s-Hertogenbosch, Newport, Zhuhai; 3R Australian Open
<b>AO Best Result</b> 4R 2021
<b>AO 2023</b> UNSEEDDED
1R d Nakashima, 2R d [1] Nadal, 3R I [31] Nishioka

# / Andy Murray

Great Britain



World No. **42**

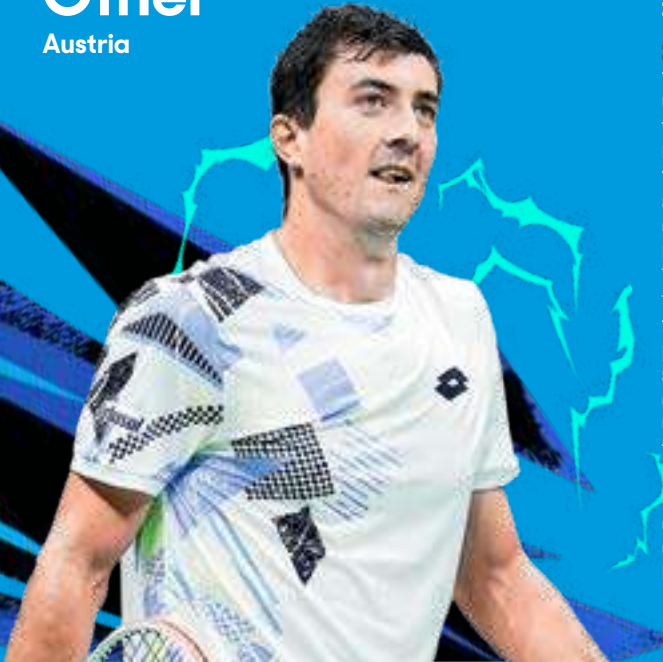
➤ One of Murray's primary goals is to be seeded again at Grand Slam events. Although the former world No.1 didn't quite get there in 2023, he improved his ranking from No.70 last February to a 2023 high of No.36 just two weeks out from the US Open. That was helped by reaching an ATP final in Doha, and the success he experienced dropping back to ATP Challenger level, where he won three titles. The three-time major champion is almost five years removed from career-saving hip surgery and, remarkably, remains as competitive as ever. He scored three top-20 wins in 2023 and posted two steely five-set wins to memorably advance to the Australian Open third round.

<b>Born</b> 15 May 1987
<b>Glasgow, Scotland</b>
<b>Height</b> 191cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$989,396
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$64,246,026
<b>Singles Titles</b> 46
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.42
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.1 (November 2016)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> F Doha; 3R Australian Open, Indian Wells, Toronto, Washington
<b>AO Best Result</b> Final 2010, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2016
<b>AO 2023</b> UNSEEDDED
1R d [13] Berrettini, 2R d Kokkinakis, 3R I [24] Bautista Agut



# / Sebastian Ofner

Austria



World No. **43**

➤ Ofner began 2023 just inside the top 200 and playing mostly at ATP Challenger level. The confidence the 27-year-old accrued from reaching four finals there paved the way for his career-best run at Roland Garros, where as a qualifier he won six straight matches to appear in the last 16. That result pushed him inside the top 100, and he kept rising; two more ATP Challenger finals, plus a first tour-level semifinal since 2017 in Astana, saw him crack the top 50. The Australian Open remains the only major that Ofner, who is coached by Dominic Thiem's father Wolfgang, has never contested the main draw. Following five unsuccessful qualifying campaigns, by virtue of his ranking, that changes in 2024.

Born	12 May 1996
Bruck An Der Mur, Austria	
Height	191cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$804,727
Career Prize Money	\$1,758,802
Singles Titles	0
2023 Year-End Rank	No.43
Highest Singles Rank	No.43 (November 2023)
2023 Highlights	SF Astana; QF Bastad, Sofia; 4R Roland Garros; 2R US Open, Shanghai
AO Best Result	Making main-draw debut
AO 2023 QUALIFYING	1QR d Meligeni Alves, 2QR d [1] Tabilo, 3QR l Lokoli

# / Max Purcell

Australia



World No. **45**

➤ Purcell was one of the biggest improvers of 2023, reaching the top 40 after beginning the season at world No.220 and winning more than 50 matches. The foundation for his rise was laid in India, where he scooped three consecutive ATP Challenger titles to crack the top 100. Tour-level success followed on North American hard courts, where Purcell outplayed Felix Auger-Aliassime, Casper Ruud and Stan Wawrinka to reach his first ATP Masters 1000 quarterfinal at Cincinnati. A Wimbledon doubles champion, Purcell has caught the eye of Todd Woodbridge, who believes his all-court style poses an increasing threat in singles. "He's becoming capable of creating an upset in the majors," the Aussie great said.

Born	3 April 1998
Sydney, Australia	
Height	185cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$817,031
Career Prize Money	\$2,845,578
Singles Titles	0
2023 Year-End Rank	No.45
Highest Singles Rank	No.40 (October 2023)
2023 Highlights	F Davis Cup; QF Cincinnati, Winston-Salem; 2R Roland Garros, Toronto, Beijing
AO Best Result	1R 2020, 2023
AO 2023 QUALIFIER	1R l Ruusuvuori

# / Matteo Arnaldi

Italy



World No. **44**

➤ Beginning last season ranked well outside the top 100, rising star Arnaldi soon established himself as among a strong Italian contingent inside the top 50. An extraordinary mover and slightly unorthodox shotmaker, his wins at tour level, in qualifying rounds and on the ATP Challenger circuit delivered him a total of 50 in 2023. A highlight was a breakthrough fourth-round run at the US Open, while his biggest win came over world No.4 Casper Ruud en route to the third round at the Madrid Masters. "I think this year, for me, is the experience year, to be able to play my best tennis maybe next year," he said. Given his starring role in Italy's Davis Cup victory, he'll be one to watch in his Australian Open main-draw debut.

Born	22 February 2001
Sanremo, Italy	
Height	185cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$936,895
Career Prize Money	\$1,218,683
Singles Titles	0
2023 Year-End Rank	No.44
Highest Singles Rank	No.41 (October 2023)
2023 Highlights	W Davis Cup; F Umag; 4R US Open; 3R Madrid, Shanghai
AO Best Result	Making main-draw debut
AO 2023 QUALIFYING	1QR d Ritschard, 2QR d Bolt, 3QR l Purcell

# / Dusan Lajovic

Serbia



World No. **46**

➤ After dipping to world No.90 in mid-February last year, Lajovic hauled himself back inside the top 50 after an incredible week in Banja Luka. He beat top-10 stars Novak Djokovic and Andrey Rublev to win his second career title and first in four years. The 33-year-old, who plays with an elegant one-handed backhand, also thrived on clay during the Latin swing and remains a force on tour 16 years after turning pro. Nicknamed 'Dutzee', Lajovic owns a coffee shop in Belgrade, which perhaps bodes well for his 11th main-draw appearance in Melbourne, a city renowned for its coffee culture. It's also where he achieved his best Grand Slam result of the past nine years, with a fourth-round run at AO 2021.

Born	30 June 1990
Belgrade, Serbia	
Height	183cm
Plays	Right-handed
2023 Prize Money	\$924,020
Career Prize Money	\$8,801,340
Singles Titles	2
2023 Year-End Rank	No.46
Highest Singles Rank	No.23 (April 2019)
2023 Highlights	W Banja Luka; QF Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires, Santiago; 3R Miami, Madrid, Cincinnati, Shanghai
AO Best Result	4R 2021
AO 2023 UNSEED	1R l [20] Shapovalov



# /Lorenzo Sonego

Italy



World No. **47**

➤ Sonego has remained a consistent top-50 force for the past four seasons, one of four Italians inside this bracket. The 28-year-old has thrived most on home soil, winning one of his three career ATP titles in Sardinia and reaching the Rome semifinals in 2021, his best ATP Masters 1000 result. That was where we also got a glimpse of Sonego's penchant for entertainment; he sometimes dances on court after victories and he also loves singing, having released three singles on Spotify - one of which earned more than one million streams. With second-week appearances at Roland Garros and Wimbledon during 2023, Sonego is determined to match that in his sixth Australian Open main-draw appearance.

<b>Born</b> 11 May 1995
<b>Turin, Italy</b>
<b>Height</b> 191cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$1,270,396
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$5,631,707
<b>Singles Titles</b> 3
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.47
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.21 (October 2021)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> W Davis Cup; SF Umag; QF Dubai, Montpellier, Metz; 4R Roland Garros, Miami; 3R Rome, Shanghai
<b>AO Best Result</b> 3R 2022
<b>AO 2023</b> UNSEEDDED
1R d Borges, 2R l [10] Hurkacz

# /Alexander Shevchenko



World No. **49**

➤ Beginning 2023 outside the world's top 150, Shevchenko reached three ATP Challenger finals - winning two - and made his top-100 debut all within the first four months of the season. Tour-level success followed on clay; the 23-year-old reached back-to-back third rounds at the Madrid and Rome Masters events, then won his first Grand Slam main-draw match at Roland Garros. Shevchenko, engaged to WTA player Anastasia Potapova, flourished during the late-season indoor swing, upsetting Stan Wawrinka and Taylor Fritz to reach the Basel quarterfinals, then 15th-ranked Karen Khachanov en route to his first ATP final in Metz. These results helped Shevchenko, who is making his main-draw debut at Melbourne Park, crack the top 50.

<b>Born</b> 29 November 2000
<b>Rostov-On-Don, Russia</b>
<b>Height</b> 185cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$714,693
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$913,125
<b>Singles Titles</b> 0
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.49
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.49 (November 2023)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> F Metz; QF Basel; 3R Madrid, Rome, Washington; 2R Roland Garros, Barcelona, Bastad, Astana, Antwerp
<b>AO Best Result</b> Making main-draw debut
<b>AO 2023</b> QUALIFYING
1QR l Struff

# /Yoshihito Nishioka

Japan



World No. **48**

➤ As part of an excellent start to 2023, the diminutive Japanese lefty enjoyed his best results at the majors, reaching the second week at the Australian Open and Roland Garros. Those performances, plus a semifinal to open the year in Adelaide, helped the 28-year-old attain a career-high ranking. He also overcame a lean period mid-season to finish strong, reaching a fifth career final in Zhuhai and winning nine of his last 14 matches. Currently the No.1-ranked Japanese man, Nishioka has won more matches at the Australian Open than at any other Grand Slam. He also reached the third round at Melbourne Park in 2020 - the same year he donated generously to Australia's Red Cross bushfire relief.

<b>Born</b> 27 September 1995
<b>Mie, Japan</b>
<b>Height</b> 170cm
<b>Plays</b> Left-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$1,224,203
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$5,668,415
<b>Singles Titles</b> 2
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.48
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.24 (June 2023)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> F Zhuhai; SF Adelaide 1; 4R Australian Open, Roland Garros; 3R Madrid, Barcelona
<b>AO Best Result</b> 4R 2023
<b>AO 2023</b> No.31 SEED
1R d M.Ymer, 2R d [Q] Svrcina, 3R d McDonald, 4R l [18] Khachanov

# /Stan Wawrinka

Switzerland



World No. **50**

➤ At age 38, Wawrinka is the oldest man in the top 100, yet remains dangerous after rising almost 100 ranking places in 2023. The three-time major champion has been plagued by injuries in recent years and began last season at No.148. He quickly restored his top-100 ranking by winning nine of his first 14 matches, and later advanced to his first ATP final in almost four years at Umag. There were also third-round runs at Wimbledon and the US Open, and two top-10 victories. Wawrinka's heavy power is best demonstrated by his devastating one-handed backhand, and he continues to be motivated by the process of pushing himself to improve, as well as playing before big crowds.

<b>Born</b> 28 March 1985
<b>Lausanne, Switzerland</b>
<b>Height</b> 183cm
<b>Plays</b> Right-handed
<b>2023 Prize Money</b> \$1,185,643
<b>Career Prize Money</b> \$36,558,554
<b>Singles Titles</b> 16
<b>2023 Year-End Rank</b> No.50
<b>Highest Singles Rank</b> No.3 (January 2014)
<b>2023 Highlights</b> F Umag; QF Rotterdam, Marseille; 4R Indian Wells; 3R Wimbledon, US Open, Cincinnati
<b>AO Best Result</b> Champion 2014
<b>AO 2023</b> UNSEEDDED
1R l Molcan





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**T**his summer marks the beginning of a new era in Australian tennis, with refreshed formats creating more opportunities for fans of all ages to play.

"As we head into a huge summer of tennis, we are excited to roll out our new look across the country and get more people playing our great sport," Tennis Australia Chief Tennis Officer Tom Larner said.

Much-loved formats Hot Shots Tennis and Cardio Tennis have both undergone major changes.

"For more than 15 years, Hot Shots Tennis has provided Aussie kids a fun introduction to tennis with a modified format making it easier to play from the first time they pick up a racquet," Larner said.

"We have spent the past 12 months looking at ways to ensure its future success by working with coaches, parents, kids, players, clubs and event organisers around the country to adapt the program to suit today's kids and their parents."

"The new look Hot Shots Tennis program offers greater flexibility and choice, with a specific focus on engagement and fun at every stage, age and ability. In addition, the program will now place a bigger emphasis on values and life skills to create good people and good players."

The integration of Match Play into the Hot Shots Tennis program allows coaches to offer a fun, friendly introduction to competition as part of their regular sessions too.

"We have also made some exciting updates to the Cardio Tennis

program, which will see the launch of four streams - Lite, Classic, Play and Max - designed to suit the varying motivations and confidence of participants," Larner continued.

Fitness and fun, rather than technique and competition, is the focus of Cardio Tennis. The creation of these new streams, which range in intensity, provides participants with even more choice.

For fans wanting to experience these new-look programs, it has also never been easier to sign up.

Tennis Australia's Play Tennis website ([play.tennis.com.au](http://play.tennis.com.au)) allows fans to find exactly where these programs are offered and book a spot online.

This easy-to-use website is also the place to sign up for coaching lessons or to hire a court for those wanting to hit with friends.

There are thousands of programs and venues across every Australian state and territory available, so why not hit the courts today? **AO**

Find your way to play, by visiting [play.tennis.com.au](http://play.tennis.com.au)





**"It is our hope that through tennis,  
the Australian Tennis Foundation  
inspires brighter futures."**

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

**The Australian Tennis Foundation is the official charity of  
the Australian Open and aims to inspire brighter futures for  
disadvantaged young people through tennis.**

**A**mong the many thousands of visitors to Melbourne Park this summer, will be some very special young people facing challenging life circumstances.

The Australian Tennis Foundation works closely with several children's charities, including My Room, Little Dreamers, Sony Foundation, Ronald McDonald House and Reclink, to provide this opportunity through its *Brighter Days* program.

The *Brighter Days* program aims to create meaningful memories for these kids and their families, by allowing them to step away from their daily challenges and enjoy an unforgettable day at the Australian Open.

As part of their visit to Melbourne Park, they receive special gift bags and an official group photograph to treasure, as well as having the opportunity to pick up a racquet and play tennis too.

This builds on Australian Tennis Foundation's proud legacy of delivering tennis-based programs and opportunities for disadvantaged young people.

Supporting and uniting communities devastated by natural disasters is also a focus for the foundation.

In the lead in to Australian Open 2024, the *Rally as One* program supported more than 20 regional communities impacted by floods and bushfires, offering free community events and tennis activities to lift the spirits of local residents.

"Reducing disadvantage and increasing social cohesion is at the heart of the foundation's ongoing work," Australian Tennis Foundation's Executive Director Vicki Reid said.

"It is our hope that through tennis, the Australian Tennis Foundation inspires brighter futures."

Visit [australiantennisfoundation.com.au](https://australiantennisfoundation.com.au) to learn more about the foundation.

## Your chance to win

> The Australian Tennis Foundation's annual lottery is back bigger and better this summer.

By purchasing a \$20 ticket, you can help the foundation's ongoing quest to support communities and disadvantaged youth. You will also go into the draw to win an array of exciting prizes, which includes a money-can't-buy Australian Open 2024 finals experience, a home-living package worth \$10,000 and an ultimate tennis lovers' package valued at \$7000.



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Australian Open 2024

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EVENT GUIDE

## HITS LIKE A MELBOURNE SUMMER

The Australian Open continues to evolve as a three-week extravaganza of tennis and entertainment.

**W**hen Australian tennis greats Lleyton Hewitt, Sam Stosur and Todd Woodbridge united for the official Australian Open 2024 launch in October, they had much to discuss.

This included the high-profile comebacks happening this summer and a promising new wave of Aussie contenders, as well as Hewitt's induction into the Australian Tennis Hall of Fame.

All agreed, however, they are most excited to soak up the amazing atmosphere across Melbourne Park this summer.

This is especially the case for Stosur, who ended her stellar playing career at AO 2023.

"I'm most looking forward to getting around the grounds, I've never really been

able to do that," the two-time Australian Open doubles champion said.

"Obviously I've seen the tournament from the players' side, and that's always been incredible, but now I'm really looking forward to seeing all the other unique experiences that there are at the Australian Open. I'll be trying the dining, having a few drinks, getting into Garden Square and spending some time with friends. I can't wait to get out and experience it every day like a fan."

As Australia's Davis Cup captain, Hewitt spends a lot of his time at Melbourne Park sitting courtside supporting Aussie men.

The former world No.1 loves the tournament's increasing "festival feel".

"It doesn't matter if you're out on centre court at Rod Laver Arena or

at some of the back courts," Hewitt explained. "There's music, entertainment. It's a real party atmosphere."

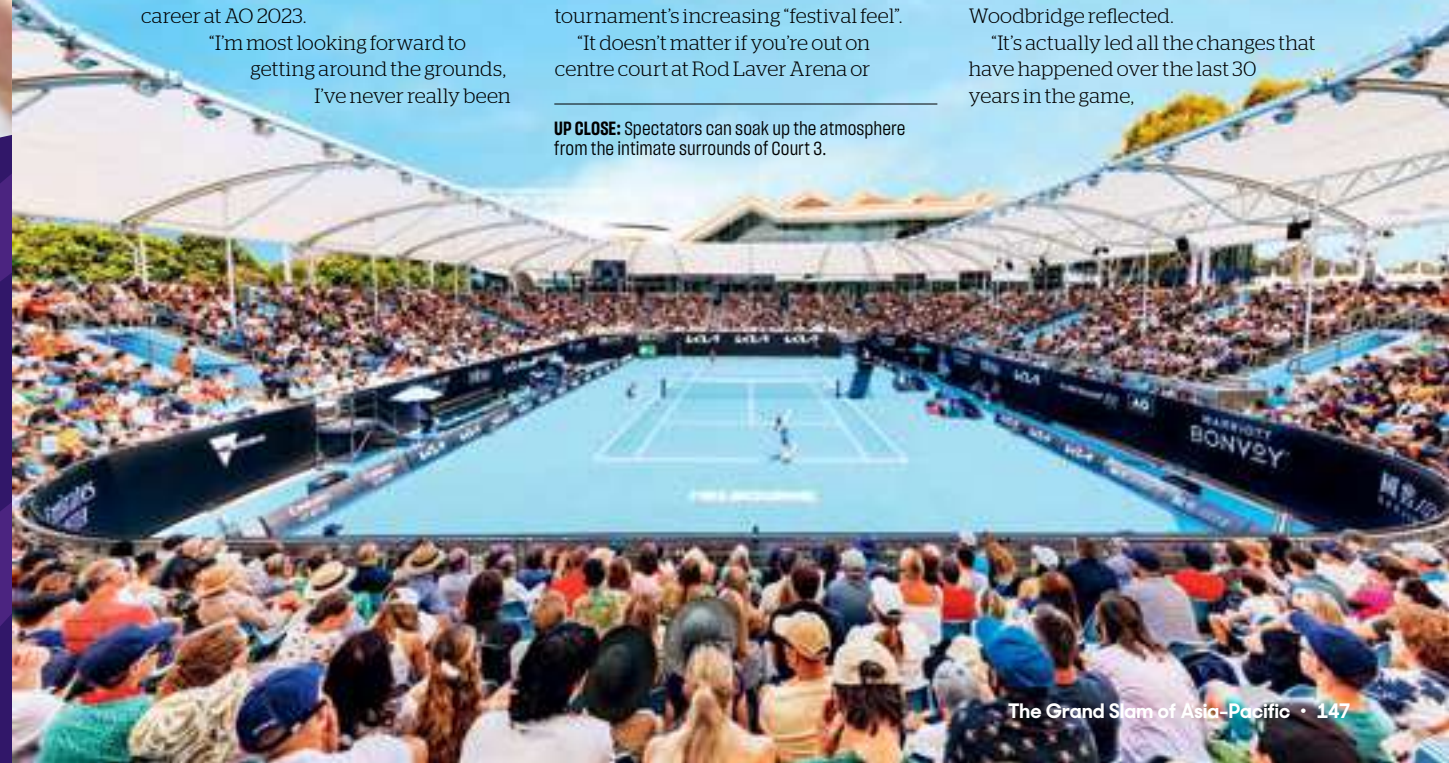
Woodbridge holds the distinction of winning the first Australian Open main-draw match completed at Melbourne Park, when the tournament relocated in 1988.

This long-standing association makes the four-time Australian Open doubles champion one of the most qualified to appreciate the tournament's evolution. It is now the world's biggest sports and entertainment event in January.

"I think one of the unique things about the Australian Open is how it has created its own identity in the tennis world," Woodbridge reflected.

"It's actually led all the changes that have happened over the last 30 years in the game,

**UP CLOSE:** Spectators can soak up the atmosphere from the intimate surrounds of Court 3.





from the roofed stadiums to LED screens at the back of the court, to that unbelievable party atmosphere that the fans love.

“The middle weekend is an amazing time when you walk around the grounds and there’s just the most incredible buzz between the anticipation of the tennis, people having a good time and a very Australian summer feel.”

These glowing endorsements are pleasing for Australian Open organisers, who continually look for new ways to bring fans closer to the action.

An expanded Opening Week offering, the introduction of an AO Courtside Bar and a revamped Garden Square are among exciting initiatives enhancing the fan experience at AO 2024.

“Presenting new and exciting ways for fans to enjoy the AO, and creating memorable moments is a signature of our event,” Tennis Australia’s Chief Commercial Officer Cedric Cornelis said.

“It’s a big part of our point of difference and we can’t wait to deliver more terrific experiences in 2024.

**“I can’t wait to get out and experience it every day like a fan.” Sam Stosur**

“The new AO Courtside Bar is literally ‘raising the bar’ in our food and beverage offerings and we know fans will love the wining, dining and tennis from this new, elevated perspective at Court 6.

“Garden Square, an icon of the AO and home to the Australian Tennis Hall of Fame, has also been reimagined. A stunning new shade pavilion and the rolling expanse of lawn makes it an oasis at the heart of the AO, where fans can comfortably enjoy an unforgettable day at the tennis.”

The hugely popular AO Finals Festival

expands to a three-day event, taking over John Cain Arena across the final days of the tournament.

A sensational line-up of musical acts, including international headliners Groove Armada (UK), Rudimental (UK) and Yaeji (USA), along with Aussie favourites Peach PRC and Ruel, will entertain fans and further enhance the party atmosphere across the precinct.

Providing family-friendly offerings is an ongoing priority as well.

The AO Ballpark presented by Emirates is a magical world of wonder

and play for young fans. Fun activities include a Splash Zone and an eight-metre Emirates Cloud Catcher experience.

The introduction of Hot Shots HQ means there are more opportunities for kids to pick up a racquet and play too.

Adults are also encouraged to get active, with the brand-new Totem Tennis Forests at Garden Square and Grand Slam Oval sure to be a hit for those wanting to enjoy a little healthy competition.

An incredible culinary line-up that caters for all tastes and budgets ensures fans also have more choice than ever across the precinct.

Meanwhile, the historic Sunday start, extending the tournament’s main-draw action to an unprecedented 15 days, provides even further opportunities for fans to experience this year’s event.

“We want everyone to be able to come and join in the fun at the AO,” Tournament Director Craig Tiley said.

“Whether it’s sampling world-class tennis or taking advantage of the entertainment across the precinct with a great-value ground pass, there’s truly something for everyone at AO 2024.”



**HAVING A BALL:** The opportunity to play tennis is always a hit with young fans.

**UNMISSABLE  
AO 2024 FAN  
EXPERIENCES**

Spread across three weeks, the Australian Open has never been more inclusive or accessible.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Opening Week**

➤ Four star-studded exhibition and charity matches, daily open practice sessions at Rod Laver Arena, as well as qualifying matches on the outside courts, ensures there are plenty of ways for fans to enjoy tennis action before the main-draw competition even begins.

**Kids Tennis Day**

➤ Presented by Emirates, the popular family event takes over Melbourne Park on Saturday 13 January. This provides thousands of kids with an opportunity to play tennis and enjoy entertainment across the precinct.

**First Nations Day**

➤ First Nations culture is recognised and celebrated at Melbourne Park on Wednesday 17 January.

**All Abilities Day**

➤ A showcase of the different opportunities for players of all abilities to enjoy tennis takes place on Tuesday 23 January.

**Pride Day**

➤ Get your rainbow flags ready for Thursday 25 January, as the annual Pride Day returns bigger and brighter than ever.



FAN FAVOURITES

A visit to Melbourne Park is not complete without stopping by these always popular locations.

- Garden Square**

> The traditional heart of Melbourne Park has undergone a dramatic transformation, with additional shade and entertainment enhancing the fan experience. A brand-new European marketplace is serving up some delicious treats too.
- Grand Slam Oval**

> The fan viewing experience at Grand Slam Oval is elevated this summer, with a mega screen displaying anamorphic illusions. As always, an enticing selection of bars and food enhance the summer festival vibes at this popular meeting spot.

- AO Superstore**

> For fans wanting to take home a piece of the Australian Open, the choice has never been greater. A new-look AO Superstore, located at Centrepiece, is the equivalent of four tennis courts in size and houses an extensive range of AO merchandise.



**AFTER DARK:** Fans can choose from a wide selection of bars and food outlets across the Melbourne Park precinct.



FUN AND GAMES

Excitement levels are moving up a notch for fans of all ages.

- AO Ballpark**

> Presented by Emirates, the always popular AO Ballpark is an adventure wonderland for young fans. Fun and games are on the schedule, with water activities, stage shows and the addition of Hot Shots HQ.
- Totem Tennis Forests**

> Who says that fans can't play too at the Australian Open? Located at Grand Slam Oval and Garden Square, the new Totem Tennis Forests allow fans to get active and show off their competitive sides with friends.

- AO Finals Festival**

> From Thursday 25 January, a stellar line-up of international and local music artists performs at John Cain Arena. Headline acts include Groove Armada (UK), Rudimental (UK), Yaeji (USA), Peach PRC and Ruel. Get ready to party at the expanded AO Finals Festival!



TASTY SERVES

Mouthwatering food and beverage options cater for all tastes and budgets.



- AO Courtside Bar**

> Overlooking Court 6, this is a chance for fans to experience tennis in a unique way. The brand-new two-storey bar is serving up a delicious drinks menu, as well as DJs and live entertainment throughout the tournament.
- Bar Atrium**

> Located on the eastern concourse and offering picturesque views of the Yarra River and city skyline, Bar Atrium is open to the public and serving up a delectable three-course brunch. As the sun sets, the bar's 'After Eight' experience is the place to enjoy cocktails with friends.

- Premium dining**

> For fans wanting to experience the Australian Open in style, an extensive premium dining offering includes Rockpool Bar and Grill, Penfolds' Restaurant, Stokehouse and Shane Delia's Maha.



ON-COURT ACTION

There are many different competitive events on the schedule this summer.

- Australian Open Wheelchair Championships**

> The world's best wheelchair athletes take to the court from Tuesday 23 January to Saturday 27 January. In a tournament first, the quad wheelchair singles event expands from eight players to 16.
- Australian Open Junior Championships**

> See the stars of tomorrow in action from Saturday 20 January to Saturday 27 January. Past winners include Victoria Azarenka, Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, Marta Kostyuk, Nick Kyrgios, Alexander Zverev, Sebastian Korda and Lorenzo Musetti.
- Australian Open Legends**

> Former champions and retired fan favourites return to Melbourne Park in this invitational round-robin event. Played from Monday 22 January to Friday 26 January, it's a must-see for nostalgic fans.

- Glam Slam**

> The finals of the Glam Slam, an amateur tournament ran by the Gay and Lesbian Tennis Alliance, take place at Melbourne Park on Sunday 28 January. The Australian Open is the only Grand Slam to host a concurrent LGBTI+ community event.
- Australian Tennis Championships**

> The world's best PWII (players with an intellectual impairment) and DHoH (deaf and hard of hearing) athletes compete at Melbourne Park from Friday 26 January to Sunday 28 January.



OFF-COURT GUIDE

Handy tips to make your visit to Melbourne Park memorable.

- Courtside courtesy**

> Please remain quiet during points and only move seats at the change of ends, when players are seated.

> Please turn phones onto silent mode and don't answer calls while watching matches.

> Seats for all outside courts (including some sections at John Cain Arena) are part of general admission and available on a 'first-in' basis. Arriving early increases chances of finding a seat. Unreserved seats can be held for no longer than three change of ends.

> Stay sun smart by regularly applying sunscreen. Free drinking water and misting stations are located throughout the precinct to help fans stay hydrated.
- > Free mobile phone charging stations are located on concourses at Rod Laver Arena, Margaret Court Arena and John Cain Arena.

> Engage with AO fans all over the world using #AusOpen on social media. Join the conversation on the following platforms:

  - AustralianOpen
  - @AustralianOpen
  - @australianopen
  - Australian Open TV
  - @AustralianOpen
  - weibo.com/australianopenchina
  - Australian.Open

- Public transport**

> Melbourne Park is a short walk from the Richmond and Flinders Street train stations, while tram route 70 stops at the site.

> There is a designated rideshare pick-up and drop-off zone at Olympic Boulevard, outside John Cain Arena. A time limit applies.

> A taxi rank is located further down Olympic Boulevard, adjacent to the Grand Slam Oval entrance.





# Event Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>Jan 8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>AO Opening Week begins</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 and exhibition matches	<b>AO Opening Week</b> > Men's and women's qualifying singles, second round > Open practice sessions and exhibition matches	<b>AO Opening Week</b> > Men's and women's qualifying singles, final round > Open practice sessions and exhibition matches	<b>AO Opening Week</b> > Open practice sessions and exhibition matches	<b>Kids Tennis Day presented by Emirates</b> 	> Men's and women's singles, first round
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</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>First Nations 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	> Men's and women's singles, third round > Men's and women's doubles > Mixed doubles > Juniors 	<b>Kia Surprise Sunday</b> > Men's and women's singles, fourth round > Men's and women's doubles > Mixed doubles > Juniors
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
> Men's and women's singles, fourth round > Men's and women's doubles > Mixed doubles > Juniors > Legends 	<b>All Abilities Day</b> > Men's and women's singles, quarterfinals > Men's and women's doubles > Mixed doubles > Wheelchairs > Juniors > Legends 	> Men's and women's singles, quarterfinals > Men's and women's doubles > Mixed doubles > Wheelchairs > Juniors > Legends > Australian Tennis Hall of Fame induction	<b>Pride Day</b> > Women's singles, semifinals > Women's doubles > Mixed doubles, final > Wheelchair doubles, finals > Junior singles > Junior doubles, finals > Legends 	> Men's singles, semifinals > Women's doubles > Mixed doubles, final > Wheelchair doubles, finals > Junior singles > Junior doubles, finals > Legends	> Women's singles, final (N) > Men's doubles, final (N) > Wheelchair singles, finals > Junior singles, finals > AO Finals Festival 	> Men's singles, final (N) > Women's doubles, final > Glam Slam, finals > AO Finals Festival

(D) Day (N) Night

Schedule correct at time of printing, but subject to change.



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