



MATCH NOTES

PRAGUE - CZECH REPUBLIC | Aug 10 - Aug 16, 2020 | \$225,500 | INTERNATIONAL

[1] SIMONA HALEP (ROU #2) vs. [3] ELISE MERTENS (BEL #23)

Head to Head: SIMONA HALEP leads 3-1

2020	AUSTRALIAN OPEN	HARD O	R16	SIMONA HALEP	6-4	6-4	97 mins
2019	DOHA	HARD O	F	ELISE MERTENS	3-6	6-4 6-3	133 mins
2018	ROLAND GARROS	CLAY O	R16	SIMONA HALEP	6-2	6-1	59 mins
2018	MADRID	CLAY O	R2	SIMONA HALEP	6-0	6-3	72 mins

SIMONA HALEP	WTA RANKING	ELISE MERTENS
2		23
4	PORSCHE RACE TO SHENZHEN LEADERBOARD	20
27-09-1991 (28)	DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)	17-11-1995 (24)
\$1,443,834	YTD PRIZE MONEY	\$323,334
\$36,551,855	CAREER PRIZE MONEY	\$6,279,979
1 / 20	SINGLES TITLES (YTD / CAREER)	0 / 5
0 / 1	DOUBLES TITLES (YTD / CAREER)	0 / 9
4-0	PRAGUE W-L (MD) *	4-0
14-2 / 384-170	YTD / CAREER W-L (MD) *	15-6 / 131-78
5-0 / 115-57	YTD / CAREER 3-SET W-L (MD) *	4-3 / 39-29
5-1 / 52-56	YTD / CAREER TIE-BREAK W-L (MD) *	3-1 / 26-29
4-0 / 124-45	YTD / CAREER CLAY W-L (MD) *	4-1 / 37-15
0-0 / 35-15	YTD / CAREER Left Hander W-L (MD) *	2-0 / 14-3
8-2 / 221-125	YTD / CAREER TOP 50 W-L (MD & Q) *	3-4 / 45-56
11-2 / 322-161	YTD / CAREER TOP 100 W-L (MD & Q) *	11-4 / 103-72

* Updated entering the 2020 Prague Final

ROAD TO THE FINAL

[1] SIMONA HALEP (ROU #2)

SF: d. IRINA-CAMELIA BEGU (ROU #82) 7-6(2),6-3 (1h31)

QF: d. MAGDALENA FRECH (POL #174) 6-2,6-0 (0h59)

R16: d. BARBORA KREJCIKOVA (CZE #118) 3-6,7-5,6-2 (2h05)

R32: d. POLONA HERCOG (SLO #46) 6-1,1-6,7-6(3) (2h30)

Total games: 92

Won/lost: 55-37

Sets won/lost: 8-2

Total time on court: 7h05

Average time on court: 1h46

Average rank of opponent: 105

[3] ELISE MERTENS (BEL #23)

SF: d. KRISTYNA PLISKOVA (CZE #69) 7-5,7-6(4) (1h56)

QF: d. EUGENIE BOUCHARD (CAN #330) 6-4,1-6,6-4 (2h17)

R16: d. CAMILA GIORGI (ITA #71) 6-4,6-2 (1h43)

R32: d. JASMINE PAOLINI (ITA #95) 7-5,4-6,6-3 (2h41)

Total games: 101

Won/lost: 56-45

Sets won/lost: 8-2

Total time on court: 8h37

Average time on court: 2h09

Average rank of opponent: 141

HALEP

- Playing Prague Open for the first time; previous appearance on Czech soil was during 2019's Fed Cup World Group quarterfinal, where she won singles rubbers against Siniakova and Ka.Pliskova to inspire Romania to a 3-2 victory
- No.1 seed this week; the top seed has prevailed once in Prague, during the inaugural staging in 2015 when Ka.Pliskova claimed the title
- Eventually closed out a hard-fought 1r victory over Hercog on her seventh match point on Tuesday. Followed this with another 3s victory, recovering from 2-0 down in the final set to beat Krejckova in 2r
- Defeated Frech in QF which was her 55th Tour-level QF win (55-25 record, and now 22-5 on clay)
- Overcame Begu in SF for the seventh time – last faced a fellow countrywoman at 2019 Wimbledon (d. Buzarnescu in 2r)
- Faces No. 3 seed Mertens in Final today – leads head to head 3-1 with two of those victories coming on clay
- Through to second final in 2020 and eight match win streak since February
- First final on clay since 2018 Roland Garros, and the 38th final of her career
- Fell in 1r of doubles this week w/Strycova (l. Kudermetova/Pavlyuchenkova)
- Used tennis's hiatus in 2020 to recover from a foot injury that had ruled her out of Indian Wells in March and spend time with her family (read more in her exclusive WTA Insider interview on wtatennis.com)
- Owns an excellent record on clay, winning seven titles on the surface; only two active players have won more –S.Williams (13) and V.Williams (nine)
- Including this week, has been ranked inside the Top 10 for 342 consecutive weeks –the 10th longest streak in WTA history
- In her final event before the tour's shutdown in March, lifted her 20th career title, drawing her level with Azarenka in fifth place on the list of active title winners (behind S.Williams, V.Williams, Clijsters and Kvitova); win over Jabeur en route to title was her 500th (including ITF Circuit and qualifying)
- Began 2020 season by reaching QF at Adelaide (l. Sabalenka) and SF at Australian Open (l. Muguruza)
- Ended 2019 ranked No.4 for sixth consecutive year in the Top 5; campaign highlighted by winning second career Grand Slam title at Wimbledon (d. S.Williams in F)
- Last season, also finished R-Up at Madrid (l. Bertens) and QF at Roland Garros (as defending champion, l. Anisimova) and Toronto (ret. vs. Bouzova w/Achilles pain)
- Ended 2018 as World No.1 for the second time in her career, with season highlighted by maiden Grand Slam title at Roland Garros (d. Stephens in F). Also won titles that year at Shenzhen (d. Siniakova in F) and Montréal (d. Stephens in F) and was R-Up at Australian Open (l. Wozniacki), Rome (l. Svitolina) and Cincinnati (l. Bertens)
- Won first career WTA doubles title at 2018 Shenzhen (w/Begu). Now 1-1 in career doubles finals
- Finished 2017 as the year-end World No.1, having ascended to the No.1 spot for first time in career on October 9, 2017 –became the 25th woman to reach the top spot, and the 13th to hold year-end No.1
- Defended Madrid title in 2017 (d. Mladenovic in F); reached four more finals in 2017: Rome, Roland Garros, Cincinnati and Beijing
- Lifted three titles in 2016, at Madrid, Bucharest and Montréal
- Between May 2013 and August 2014, improved ranking from No.64 to No.2, winning seven titles and finishing R-Up at 2014 Roland Garros
- Has qualified six times for WTA Finals in Singapore (2014-19, although withdrew injured in 2018), reaching final in 2014 (l. S.Williams, having defeated the World No.1 in the round robin stage)
- Named 2013 WTA Most Improved Player, winning her first six WTA titles and ending year ranked No.11
- Made WTA main draw debut at 2010 Marbella as a qualifier, reaching quarterfinals
- Reunited with long-time coach, Darren Cahill during offseason after taking a 12-month break. Formerly coached by Wim

Fisette and Victor Ionita

- Sponsorship portfolio includes deals with Mercedes and Unilever

MERTENS:

- Making debut appearance at Prague Open – never previously played on Czech soil (including on ITF Circuit)
- In rain-delayed 1r match on Tuesday broke serve six times to beat Paolini
- Survived an arduous first set to defeat Giorgi in 2r and reach third QF of the season – also made last-eight run in first two tournaments, at Shenzhen and Hobart
- Prevailed against No.330 Wildcard Bouchard in three-set QF battle on Friday
- Defeated Kr. Pliskova in SF to reach first final since lifting the title at 2019 Doha (d. Halep - this marks seventh WTA Tour Final
- Faces No.1 seed Halep in Final today; Halep leads head to head 3-1 (most recent match at 2020 Australian Open)
- Possesses fine clay court pedigree; won two titles (2018 Lugano and 2018 Rabat) on the surface and reached R16 at 2018 Roland Garros, also finished runner-up at 2017 Istanbul (l. Svitolina) and made SF run at 2017 Bastad (l. Wozniacki)
- After the tour's resumption, fell 1r at Palermo last week (l. Sasnovich),
- This year, followed QF runs at Shenzhen (l. Rybakina) and Hobart (l. Watson – 3h 33m match is the longest so far in 2020), with R16 showing at Australian Open (l. Halep) and 2r exits at Dubai (l. Sabalenka) and Doha (l. Putintseva)
- Ended 2019 ranked No.17 for second consecutive Top 20 finish
- Singles highlight was winning biggest title of career at Doha (d. No.3 Halep in final) – now has 5-1 record in finals. Also beat No.8 Bertens and No.6 Kerber in Doha, doubling career total Top 10 wins to six
- Advanced to QF at US Open for the first time (l. eventual champion Andreescu in 3s) and R16 at Wimbledon for the first time (l. Strycova, having led 6-4 5-2). Reached QF during defense of Rabat title (l. eventual champion Sakkari)
- Enjoyed standout season in doubles in 2020 - won maiden major doubles title at US Open w/Sabalenka (d. Azarenka/Barty in F). Also Completed 'Sunshine Double' in doubles (w/Sabalenka), lifting the back-to-back titles at Indian Wells (d. Krejckova/Siniakova) and Miami (d. Stosur/Zhang)
- Team qualified for Shiseido WTA Finals Shenzhen (went 1-2 in RR)
- Won three singles titles in 2018 (Hobart, Rabat and Lugano), one of six players on tour with three or more titles to their name last year - also Kvitova (5), Svitolina (4), Bertens (3), Halep (3) and Wozniacki (3)
- Also in 2018, advanced to first Grand Slam SF of career at 2018 Australian Open (l. eventual champion Wozniacki), going on to post 46 main draw match wins across the campaign – only Ka.Pliskova (49) and Kvitova (47) registered more. By contrast, prior to 2018 season owned only 36 wins at this level across entire career
- In doubles in 2018, won four titles and reached QF at WTA Finals (w/Schuurs)
 - Finished 2017 season at No.35, up from No.120 in 2016 – first Top 50 and Top 100 year-end finish 2017 season highlighted by first career singles title at Hobart (as a qualifier, d. Niculescu in F)
 - Registered first Top 10 win of career over No.10 Cibulkova in 1r at 2017 Beijing
 - Made WTA singles main draw debut at 2016 's-Hertogenbosch – made QF (as qualifier, l. Mladenovic)
 - Won first WTA title of any kind in doubles at 2016 Auckland (w/Mestach). Now has nine doubles titles – also 2017 Guangzhou (w/Schuurs), 2018 Hobart (w/Schuurs), 2018 Lugano (w/Flipkens), 2018 's-Hertogenbosch (w/Schuurs), 2018 Wuhan (w/Schuurs), 2019 Indian Wells-Miami double (w/Sabalenka) and 2019 US Open (w/Sabalenka)
 - Played first tour-level event of career at 2015 Antwerp (fell in qualifying)

- Has 11 singles and 14 doubles titles on ITF Circuit
- Played first events of career on ITF Circuit in Belgium in 2010
- Working once again with former coach Robbe Ceyskens having parted ways with David Taylor last March
- Earlier coaching history includes Belgian federation until early teens, as well as a year at the Mouratoglou Academy



SIMONA HALEP



ROU

[CLICK HERE FOR PLAYER PROFILE](#)

Simona Halep owns 19 WTA singles titles, including two Grand Slam titles at Roland Garros in 2018 and at 2019 Wimbledon, where she hit just four unforced errors in the championship match against Serena Williams. Her impressive title haul also includes three at the Premier Mandatory level in Madrid (2016 and 2017) and Indian Wells (2015).

The Romanian became the 25th player in WTA history to achieve the World No.1 ranking on October 9, 2017. In addition to her 2018 Roland Garros title, she is a three-time Grand Slam finalist (2014 and 2017 Roland Garros, 2018 Australian Open) and also advanced to the final stage at the 2014 WTA Finals in Singapore, where she defeated Serena Williams in round-robin play.

She isn't the tallest player on tour, but uses deep groundstrokes, speed, amazing court sense and directional control to seamlessly convert defense to offense.

Off the court, Simona has an analytical mind - speaking about her game openly and with unique technical detail. She loves shopping and finds great malls wherever she goes around the world. Not preferring the limelight, she lets her tennis do the talking, winning fans all over the globe, and is a phenomenon in her native Romania.



[CLICK HERE FOR WTA WEB FEATURES](#)

SOCIAL STATS



@simona_halep

372K followers



@simonahalep

1.6M followers



@simonahalep

1.6M followers

PARTNERS

NIKE
WILSON
AVON

MERCEDES BENZ
DORNA ROMANIA

STORYLINES

2018 Roland Garros and 2019 Wimbledon champion

Became the 25th player in WTA history to achieve the World No.1 ranking, and first from Romania

Three-time Grand Slam finalist (2014 and 2017 Roland Garros, 2018 Australian Open)

Has some of the most vocal and loyal fans in the world, there are always Romanians in the stands no matter where she plays

Represents Dubai Duty Free as a brand ambassador

As of August 16, 2020





ELISE MERTENS



BEL

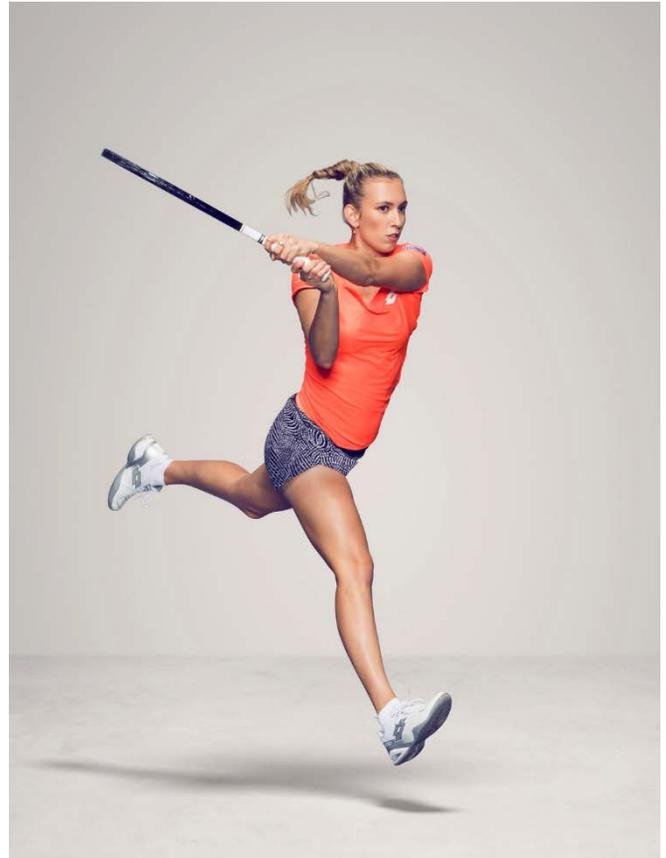
[CLICK HERE FOR PLAYER PROFILE](#)

Elise Mertens made a name for herself on the WTA Tour after capturing her first WTA singles and doubles titles in 2017, lifting the singles trophy at Hobart and doubles at Guangzhou. The Belgian jumped from World No.120 to No.35 from the end of 2016 to the close of the 2017 season.

Mertens improved on her success in 2018, successfully defending her title at Hobart and capturing two additional titles at Lugano and Rabat. She reached her first Grand Slam semifinal at the 2018 Australian Open to break into the Top 20 for the first time in her career, peaking at No.12 later that year. In 2019, Mertens lifted her fifth – and biggest singles title of her career - at Doha.

The young Belgian is also an accomplished doubles player, landing nine titles including 2019 Indian Wells, Miami and the US Open, and qualified for the WTA Finals in 2018 (w/Schuurs) and 2019 (w/Sabalenka).

Away from the court, Elise enjoys learning languages (speaks English, Dutch/Flemish and French) and is an animal lover – she has four dogs and a variety of birds as pets (pheasants, peacocks, chickens, cranes).



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SOCIAL STATS



@elise_mertens

18.6K Followers



@mertenselise17

16K Followers



@mertenselise

49K Followers

PARTNERS

LOTTO

HEAD

LUXILON

ETIXX SPORTS NUTRITION

VAN LANSCHOT

CONNECTIONS

LEDSREACT

STORYLINES

Owner of five WTA singles titles, capturing three in 2018, and nine doubles titles

Achieved career high singles ranking of No.12 on November 26, 2018

2019 Indian Wells, Miami and US Open doubles champion (w/Aryna Sabalenka)

Animal lover – owns four dogs and a variety of birds

Watch Elise Mertens: My Story by clicking [here](#).

As of August 15, 2020

