



PREVIEW NOTES

DUBAI DUTY FREE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS DUBAI, U.A.E.

February 19-February 25, 2023 | WTA 1000 | \$2,788,468



WTA Website: www.wtatennis.com | @WTA | facebook.com/wta
Tournament Website: www.dubaidutyfreetennischampionships.com | @DDFtenis
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DUBAI DUTY FREE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS – QUICK FACTS

Main draw dates:	Sunday, February 19 – Saturday, February 25, 2023
Singles Final:	Saturday, February 25, Not Before 7pm
Doubles Final:	Saturday, February 25, 5pm
Venue:	Dubai Duty Free Tennis Stadium
Status:	WTA 1000
Staging:	23 rd year
Draw sizes:	56 singles / 28 doubles teams / 32 singles qualifying
Surface:	Hard Court Deco Turf II / Outdoors
Tennis Ball:	Dunlop Australian Open
2022 Singles Final:	Jelena Ostapenko (LAT) d. V. Kudermetova 60 64
2022 Doubles Final:	[2] E. Mertens (BEL) / V. Kudermetova d. J. Ostapenko (LAT) / L. Kichenok (UKR) 61 63

SINGLES	\$	RANK POINTS
Winner	454,500	900
Runner-Up	267,690	585
Semifinalist	138,000	350
Quarterfinalist	63,350	190
Round of 16	31,650	105
Round of 32	17,930	60
Round of 64	12,848	1

TOURNAMENT TALKING POINTS

Wildcards: Sofia Kenin, Vera Zvonareva, Marta Kostyuk, Linda Fruhvirtova, Ipek Oz

Youngest singles player: Linda Fruhvirtova (17)

Oldest singles player: Kaia Kanepi (37)

- The 2023 season fully gets underway in Dubai with the first WTA 1000 level event of the year.
- The 23rd edition of the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships is headlined by nine of the Top 10 including World No.1 and last week's Doha champion, **Iga Swiatek**, as well as 2023 Australian Open champion, **Aryna Sabalenka** who is playing her first tournament since winning her maiden Grand Slam title in Melbourne. Swiatek has never reached beyond the Round of 16 here but lost to the eventual champion in both appearances in 2021 and 2022 and will take on either **Leylah Fernandez** or qualifier **Julia Grabher** in the second round.
- **Jelena Ostapenko** will look to defend her title after winning the event last year taking out three Grand Slam champions en route including the last defeat of **Swiatek** before the Polish player went on an historic 37-match win streak. The women's title here has been defended three times before, most recently Elina Svitolina in 2017-2018.
- Other former Dubai champions in the draw include **Petra Kvitova** (2013) and **Belinda Bencic** (2019) who has turned out to be one of the early in-form players of 2023 with two titles already and currently on a six-match win streak.
- Notable first round matches include a battle of Grand Slam champions with **Elena Rybakina** taking on **Bianca Andreescu** and the all-Czech match-up of **Karolina Pliskova** and **Marketa Vondrousova**. Another match to



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keep an eye on is the young Chinese player **Zheng Qinwen** when she takes on the veteran Chinese player **Zhang Shuai**.

- The doubles field is lead by the teams of **Coco Gauff** and **Jessica Pegula** and **Lyudmyla Kichenok** and **Jelena Ostapenko** with both teams appearing in last week's Doha final. The duo of Kichenok/Ostapenko also finished runner-up in the Dubai final last year.
- *One to Watch* – **Linda Fruhvirtova**. The Czech teenager is well on her way to becoming a star on the WTA Tour after reaching the Round of 16 at the Australian Open this year in just her second Grand Slam main draw appearance. The 17-year-old won her first title last year at Chennai defeating Magda Linette in the final and has already notched wins over the likes of Victoria Azarenka, Elise Mertens, Marketa Vondrousova and Alizé Cornet. She is set to play American No.42 Danielle Collins in the first round here and could break into the Top 50 herself with a good run this week.

TOP 4 SEEDS' TOURNAMENT HISTORY*

PLAYER	TOURNAMENT HISTORY	W/L	WIN %
[1] Iga Swiatek (POL)	3r: 2021 (I. Muguruza) 2r: 2022 (I. Ostapenko)	2-2	.500
[2] Aryna Sabalenka	QF: 2020 (I. Halep), 2021 (I. Muguruza) 3r: 2019 (I. Bencic) 2r: 2022 (as No.1 seed, I. Kvitova) 1r: 2017 (as qualifier, I. Bondarenko)	6-5	.545
[3] Jessica Pegula (USA)	QF: 2021 (I. Mertens) 2r: 2022 (I. Jabeur)	4-2	.667
[4] Caroline Garcia (FRA)	SF: 2016 (I. Strycova) QF: 2018 (I. Muguruza) 3r: 2021 (I. Mertens) 2r: 2015 (I. Radwanska), 2017 (I. Puig), 2019 (I. Brady) 1r: 2022 (I. Krejckikova)	10-8	.556

*Main draw matches only



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COUNTRY & REGION BREAKDOWN

A total of 21 countries and regions are represented in the main draw led by the United States with eight players:

Austria (1)	Julia Grabher
Brazil (1)	Beatriz Haddad Maia
Bulgaria (1)	Viktoriya Tomova
Canada (2)	Bianca Andreescu, Leylah Fernandez
China (2)	Zhang Shuai, Zheng Qinwen
Croatia (1)	Petra Martic
Czech Republic (7)	Marie Bouzkova, Linda Fruhvirtova, Barbora Krejckova, Petra Kvitova, Karolina Muchova, Karolina Pliskova, Marketa Vondrousova
Estonia (1)	Kaia Kanepi
France (2)	Alizé Cornet, Caroline Garcia
Germany (1)	Laura Siegemund
Greece (1)	Maria Sakkari
Italy (2)	Jasmine Paolini, Martina Trevisan
Kazakhstan (2)	Elena Rybakina, Yulia Putintseva
Latvia (1)	Jelena Ostapenko
Poland (1)	Iga Swiatek
Romania (3)	Ana Bogdan, Irina-Camelia Begu, Sorana Cirstea
Spain (2)	Paula Badosa, Rebeka Masarova
Switzerland (2)	Belinda Bencic, Jil Teichmann
Turkey (1)	Ipek Oz
Ukraine (4)	Anhelina Kalinina, Marta Kostyuk, Dayana Yastremska, Katarina Zavatska
United States (8)	Amanda Anisimova, Danielle Collins, Coco Gauff, Sofia Kenin, Madison Keys, Jessica Pegula, Bernarda Pera, Shelby Rogers

Ekaterina Alexandrova, Victoria Azarenka, Daria Kasatkina, Veronika Kudermetova, Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, Anastasia Potapova, Aryna Sabalenka, Liudmila Samsonova, Aleksandra Sasnovich, Vera Zvonareva

A SNAPSHOT OF 2023 SO FAR

- **Top-10 debuts (1):** Elena Rybakina (January 30)
- **Match wins leaders:** Belinda Bencic (14-2), Aryna Sabalenka (11-0), Jessica Pegula (11-3), Maria Sakkari (11-4), Caroline Garcia (11-5)
- **Aces leaders:** Elena Rybakina (104), Caroline Garcia (103), Zheng Qinwen (87), Aryna Sabalenka (81)
- **Most aces in a match (20):** Veronika Kudermetova (d. Victoria Azarenka at Adelaide 2)
- **Most singles titles (2):** Aryna Sabalenka (Adelaide 1, Australian Open), Belinda Bencic (Adelaide 2, Abu Dhabi)
- **Fewest games dropped en route to a title (5):** Iga Swiatek (Doha)
- **Lowest-ranked title winner (No.84):** Lauren Davis (Hobart)
- **Youngest title winner (18):** Coco Gauff (Auckland)
- **Oldest title winner (29):** Lauren Davis (Hobart)
- **Longest Match (3h 14m):** Martina Trevisan d. Maria Sakkari 6-3 6-7(4) 7-5 (United Cup)



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2023 WTA TOUR FINALS

Week of	Level	Tournament	Singles Final	Doubles Final
January 2	WTA 500 WTA 250	Adelaide Int 1 ASB Classic	[2] A. Sabalenka d. [Q] L. Noskova 63 76(4) [1] C. Gauff d. [Q] R. Masarova 61 61	[6] Townsend/Muhammed d. [1] Hunter/Siniakova 6-2 7-6(2) [3] Kato/Sutjiadi d. [WC] Fernandez/Mattek-Sands 16 75 10-4
January 9	WTA 500 WTA 250	Adelaide Int. 2 Hobart	[8] B. Bencic d. [5] D. Kasatkina 60 62 [Q] L. Davis d. E. Cocciaretto 76(0) 62	Stefani/Townsend d. Pavlyuchenkova/Rybakina 75 76(3) [1] Flipkens/Siegemund d. Golubic/Udvardy 64 75
January 16	GS	Australian Open	[5] A. Sabalenka d. [22] E. Rybakina 46 63 64	[1] Krejckikova/Siniakova d. Aoyama/Shibahara 64 63
January 30	WTA 250 WTA 250	Hua Hin Lyon	L. Zhu d. L. Tsurenko 64 64 A. Parks d. [1] C. Garcia 76(7) 75	H.Chan/Wu d. Xin.Wang/Zhu 61 76(6) Bucsa/Schoofs d. Danilovic/Panova 76(5) 63
February 6	WTA 500 WTA 250	Abu Dhabi Linz	[2] B. Bencic d. [8] L. Samsonova 16 76(8) 64 [8] A. Potapova d. [6] P. Martic 63 61	Stefani/Zhang d. Aoyama/H.Chan 36 62 10-8 Dzalamidze/Kuzmova d. Friedsam/N.Kichenok 46 75 12-10
February 13	WTA 500	Doha	[1] I. Swiatek d. [2] J. Pegula 63 60	[1] Gauff/Pegula d. [2] Ostapenko/L.Kichenok 64 26 10-7