



PREVIEW NOTES

GRAND PRIX SON ALTESSE ROYALE LA PRINCESSE LALLA MERYEM RABAT, MOROCCO



May 18-23, 2026 | WTA 250 | \$283,347

WTA Website: www.wtatennis.com | @WTA | facebook.com/wta
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Main draw dates: Mon. May. 18 – Sat. May. 23, 2026
Singles Final: Saturday, May 23
Doubles Final: Friday, May 22
Venue: Union Sportive des Cheminots du Maroc
Status: WTA 250
Staging: 24th
Draw sizes: 32 singles / 16 doubles teams / 16 singles qualifying
Surface: Red Clay / Outdoors
Tennis Ball: Wilson Roland Garros Clay Court
2025 Singles Final: Maya Joint d. Jaqueline Cristian, 6-3, 6-2
2025 Doubles Final: Joint/Kalashnikova d. Moratelli/Rosatello, 6-3, 7-5

SINGLES	\$	RANK POINTS
Winner	\$37,390	250
Runner-Up	\$22,125	163
Semifinalist	\$12,331	98
Quarterfinalist	\$7,025	54
Round of 16	\$4,600	30
Round of 32	\$3,205	1

DOUBLES	\$	RANK POINTS
Winner	\$13,600	250
Runner-Up	\$7,650	163
Semifinalist	\$4,390	98
Quarterfinalist	\$2,620	54
Round of 16	\$2,020	1

[Click here to view this month's key WTA off-court and on-court storylines](#)

TOP 4 SEEDS – TOURNAMENT HISTORY

PLAYER	TOURNAMENT MAIN DRAW APPEARANCES	BEST TOURNAMENT RESULT
[1] Janice Tjen	1st	Making tournament debut
[2] Jessica Bouzas Maneiro	2nd	QF (1): 2025
[3] Tatjana Maria	6th	QF (1): 2017
[4] Yuliia Starodubtseva	1st	Making tournament debut



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MAIN DRAW QUICK HITS

Main-draw wildcards: Diae El Jardí, Yasmine Kabbaj, Yelyzaveta Kotliar, Sada Nahimana

Youngest singles player: Yelyzaveta Kotliar (19) | **Oldest singles player:** Tatjana Maria (38)

*(*does not include qualifiers)*

- The European clay-court swing on the WTA Tour continues this week with the 24th edition of the Grand Prix Sar La Princesse Lalla Meryem in Rabat, Morocco. It is the third WTA 250 clay-court tournament of the season, following events in Bogota (Colombia) and Rouen (France).
- Top seed this week is Janice Tjen, who is making her Rabat debut. The 24-year-old contested her first career Tour-level clay-court event earlier this season at Charleston, before earning her maiden Tour-level clay-court win at Madrid with a 1r victory over Charaeva. She is 1-3 on clay so far this year, recording 1r exits at Charleston and Rome alongside a 2r showing at Madrid. Tjen captured her first career WTA title at Chennai towards the end of 2025 (d Birrell in F), while her best result of the 2026 season to date is a R16 run at Dubai (l. Anisimova). Following that performance, she climbed to a career-high ranking of No.36 in February earlier this year.
- No.2 seed Jessica Bouzas Maneiro is making her second appearance at Rabat, having reached the quarterfinals on her tournament debut in 2025 (l. Tomljanovic), a result that marked the third Tour-level quarterfinal of her career. o far this clay-court season, the Spaniard has posted 2r finishes at Bogota and Madrid, alongside a 1r exit at Rome. She also arrives in Rabat fresh from a semifinal run at the WTA 125 event in Parma this week, where she fell to Yastremska in a tight three-set battle losing our 7-6 in the final set.
- No.3 seed Tatjana Maria returns to Rabat for the sixth time in her career. The 38-year-old's best result at the tournament is a quarterfinal showing in 2017. The German holds a 5-5 record on clay so far this season, highlighted by 2r appearances at Rome and Bogota, alongside 1r exits at Linz and Madrid. She also advanced to the third Tour-level clay-court semifinal of her career at Rouen last month, where she fell to eventual champion Kostyuk. Two of Maria's four career WTA titles have come on clay, both at Bogota in 2022 and 2023. Last season, she produced one of the standout runs of the year at London/Queen's Club, defeating four Top 15 players en route to the title as a qualifier ranked No.86, including Anisimova in the final. At 37, she became the oldest WTA singles champion since 38-year-old Serena Williams won Auckland in 2020.
- Another player making her Rabat debut this year is No.4 seed Yuliia Starodubtseva. The Ukrainian enjoyed a breakthrough run to her first career Tour-level final, on any surface, at Charleston last month (l. Pegula in F). En route, she notched the third Top 20 victory of her career with a win over No.18 Keys. That Charleston performance drove Starodubtseva to a new career-high ranking of No.53. Elsewhere during the 2026 clay-court season, she reached the 2r at Madrid as a lucky loser and suffered a 1r exit at Rome.
- Two of this year's wild cards have been awarded to Moroccan players Yasmine Kabbaj and Diae El Jardí. Both are bidding for their first career Tour-level main-draw win this week. El Jardí, currently ranked No.1014, made her Rabat debut as a wild card in 2018, falling in the 1r, while No.331 Kabbaj has also received wild cards into the event in each of the past two seasons, suffering 1r exits in both 2024 and 2025
- The remaining main-draw wild cards have been awarded to Yelyzaveta Kotliar and Sada Nahimana. 19-year-old Kotliar is making her second career WTA Tour-level appearance, having received a wild card into Rabat in 2025 where she fell in the 1r to eventual finalist Cristian. Nahimana, meanwhile, enjoyed a breakthrough at last year's edition of the tournament, when she earned her first career Tour-level win as a qualifier, defeating El Aouni in the opening round before losing to Bouzas Maneiro in the 2r. Both players are contesting their first WTA Tour-level main draws of the 2026 season.



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COUNTRY & REGION BREAKDOWN

Australia (1)	Ajla Tomljanovic
Austria (1)	Julia Grabher
Belgium (1)	Hanne Vandewinkel
Burundi (1)	Sada Nahimana
Colombia (2)	Emiliana Arango, Camila Osorio
Croatia (1)	Petra Marcinko
Czech Republic (1)	Tereza Martincova
Germany (2)	Tatjana Maria, Ella Seidel
Great Britain (1)	Francesca Jones
Hungary (2)	Anna Bondar, Panna Udvardy
Indonesia (1)	Janice Tjen
Japan (1)	Moyuka Uchijima
Montenegro (1)	Danka Kovinic
Morocco (2)	Diae El Jardi, Yasmine Kabbaj
Slovenia (1)	Polona Hercog
Spain (2)	Jessica Bouzas Maneiro, Angela Fita Boluda
Switzerland (2)	Jil Teichmann, Simona Waltert
Turkey (1)	Berfu Cengiz
Ukraine (3)	Anhelina Kalinina, Yelyzaveta Kotliar, Yuliia Starodubtseva
United States (1)	Alycia Parks

*(*does not include qualifiers)*

2026 WTA TOUR SINGLES FINALS

END DATE	TOURNAMENT	LEVEL	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP	DOUBLES CHAMPION
Jan 11	United Cup	WTA 500	Poland	Switzerland	
Jan 11	Brisbane	WTA 500	[1] Aryna Sabalenka	[16] Marta Kostyuk	[1] Hsieh/Ostapenko
Jan 11	Auckland	WTA 250	[1] Elina Svitolina	[7] Wang Xinyu	[2] Guo/Mladenovic
Jan 17	Adelaide	WTA 500	[3] Mirra Andreeva	[8] Victoria Mboko	[2] Siniakova/Zheng
Jan 17	Hobart	WTA 250	[Q] Elisabetta Cocciaretto	[3] Iva Jovic	Piter/Tjen
Feb 1	Australian Open	Grand Slam	[5] Elena Rybakina	[1] Aryna Sabalenka	[4] Mertens/Z.Shuai
Feb 7	Abu Dhabi	WTA 500	[Q] Sara Bejlek	[2] Ekaterina Alexandrova	Alexandrova/Joint
Feb 7	Ostrava	WTA 250	Katie Boulter	Tamara Korpatsch	[4] Detiuc/Santamaria
Feb 7	Cluj-Napoca	WTA 250	[3] Sorana Cirstea	[1] Emma Raducanu	[3] Rakhimova/Sorribes Tormo
Feb 14	Doha	WTA 1000	[19] Karolina Muchova	[13] Victoria Mboko	[4] Danilina/Krunic
Feb 21	Dubai	WTA 1000	[5] Jessica Pegula	[9] Elina Svitolina	[5] Dabrowski/Stefani
Mar 1	Merida	WTA 500	Cristina Bucsa	Magdalena Frech	[2] Bucsa/Jiang
Mar 1	Austin	WTA 250	[4] Peyton Stearns	[WC] Taylor Townsend	[1] Hunter/Townsend
Mar 15	Indian Wells	WTA 1000	[1] Aryna Sabalenka	[3] Elena Rybakina	[3] Siniakova/Townsend
Mar 29	Miami	WTA 1000	[1] Aryna Sabalenka	[4] Coco Gauff	[2] Siniakova/Townsend
Apr 5	Charleston	WTA 500	[1] Jessica Pegula	Yulia Starodubtseva	Krawczyk/McNally
Apr 5	Bogota	WTA 250	[1] Marie Bouzkova	[8] Panna Udvardy	[1] Dolehide/Khromacheva



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Apr 12	Linz	WTA 500	[1] Mirra Andreeva	Anastasia Potapova	[1] Cirstea/Zhang
Apr 19	Stuttgart	WTA 500	[1] Elena Rybakina	[7] Karolina Muchova	[4] Melichar-Martinez/Samsonova
Apr 19	Rouen	WTA 250	[1] Marta Kostyuk	[Q] Veronika Podrez	[4] Maleckova/Skoch
May 3	Madrid	WTA 1000	[26] Marta Kostyuk	[9] Mirra Andreeva	[2] Siniakova/Townsend
May 16	Rome	WTA 1000	<i>Singles final: [3] Coco Gauff vs. [7] Elina Svitolina</i>		<i>TBD</i>

2026 SUMMARY

- Most Match Wins – Season: Elena Rybakina (30-7), Mirra Andreeva (29-9), Jessica Pegula (28-6), Elina Svitolina (27-7), Aryna Sabalenka (27-3)
- Most Singles Titles – Season: 3, Aryna Sabalenka (Brisbane, Indian Wells, Miami)
- Most Doubles Titles – Season:
4, Katerina Siniakova – Adelaide (w/Zhang); Indian Wells, Miami Madrid (each w/Townsend)
4, Taylor Townsend – Austin (w/Hunter); Indian Wells, Miami, Madrid (each w/Siniakova)
- Singles / Doubles title sweep: Cristina Bucsa (Merida)
- Most Aces: Elena Rybakina – 244
- PIF WTA World No.1 Ranking – Singles: Aryna Sabalenka, 83 consecutive weeks (since Oct 21, 2024, including week of May 18); Total Weeks at No.1 – 91 (including week of May 18, 2026)
- PIF WTA World No.1 Ranking – Doubles: Katerina Siniakova, 183 total (including week of May 18, 2026)
- Youngest titlist: Mirra Andreeva, Adelaide (18)
- Oldest titlist: Sorana Cirstea, Cluj-Napoca (35)
- Lowest-ranked titlist: Katie Boulter, Ostrava (No.120)
- PIF WTA Top 100 Debuts (8): Sinja Kraus (Feb 23), Victoria Jimenez Kasintseva (Mar 2), Talia Gibson (Mar 16), Nikola Bartunkova (Mar 30), Daria Snigur (Mar 30), Hanne Vandewinkel (Mar 30), Lilli Tagger (Apr 13); Lanlana Tararudee (May 4)
- PIF WTA Top 50 Debuts (4): Cristina Bucsa (Jan 5), Janice Tjen (Feb 2), Tereza Valentova (Feb 2), Sara Bejlek (Feb 9)
- PIF WTA Top 10 Debuts (1): Victoria Mboko (Feb 16)
 - On Feb 16, Mboko (19 years old) joined Mirra Andreeva (18 years old) in the PIF WTA Rankings Top 10. This became the first time two teenagers were ranked in the Top 10 since the week of July 27, 2009 – No.8 Azarenka (19) and No.9 Wozniacki (19)
- First Time Title Winners: Sara Bejlek (Abu Dhabi), Cristina Bucsa (Merida)