

February 23 - March 1, 2026 | WTA 500 | \$1,206,446

WTA Website: www.wtatennis.com | @WTA | facebook.com/wta
 Tournament Website: www.wtameridaopen.com
 WTA Media Information: wtastats@wtatennis.com

PREVIEW NOTES

Main draw dates: Mon. Feb. 23 – Sun. Mar. 1, 2026
Singles Final: Sunday, March 1
Doubles Final: Sunday, March 1
Venue: Yucatan Country Club
Status: WTA 500
Staging: 4th edition (2nd edition as a WTA 500 event)
Draw sizes: 28 singles / 16 doubles teams / 24 singles qualifying
Surface: Hardcourt (Solflex) / Outdoors
Tennis Ball: Wilson US Open Regular Duty
2025 Singles Final: [1] Emma Navarro d. [Q] Emiliana Arango, 6-0, 6-0
2025 Doubles Final: Piter/Sherif d. [1] Danilina/Khromacheva, 7-6(2), 7-5

SINGLES	\$	RANK POINTS
Winner	\$185,500	500
Runner-Up	\$114,500	325
Semifinalist	\$66,003	195
Quarterfinalist	\$33,475	108
Round of 16	\$17,795	60
Round of 32	\$12,700	1

DOUBLES	\$	RANK POINTS
Winner	\$61,540	500
Runner-Up	\$37,400	325
Semifinalist	\$21,720	195
Quarterfinalist	\$11,150	108
Round of 16	\$6,800	1

TOP 4 SEEDS – TOURNAMENT HISTORY

PLAYER	TOURNAMENT MAIN DRAW APPEARANCES	BEST TOURNAMENT RESULT
[1] Jasmine Paolini	1st	Making tournament debut
[2] Emma Navarro	2nd	2025 Champion
[3] Ann Li	2nd	2024 Runner-Up
[4] Marie Bouzkova	1st	Making tournament debut

TOURNAMENT HONOR ROLL

YEAR	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP	SCORE	LEVEL
2023	Camila Giorgi	[Q] Rebecca Peterson	7-6(3), 1-6, 6-2	WTA 250
2024	Zeynep Sonmez	Ann Li	6-2, 6-1	WTA 250
2025	[1] Emma Navarro	[Q] Emiliana Arango	6-0, 6-0	WTA 500

MAIN DRAW QUICK HITS

Main-draw wildcards : Katie Boulter, Jasmine Paolini, Marina Stakusic, Sloane Stephens

Youngest singles player: Marina Stakusic (21) | **Oldest singles player:** Tatjana Maria (38)

**does not include qualifiers*

- The WTA Tour heads to Mexico for the first time this year for the WTA 500 Merida Open. This is the fifth WTA 500 tournament of the season, following Brisbane, Adelaide, Abu Dhabi and the United Cup team event.
- The field is led by Top 10 player Jasmine Paolini, who is making her Merida debut as a main draw wild card. No.1 seed Paolini made two Grand Slam singles finals in 2024 and has finished the last two seasons inside the Top 8 of the PIF WTA Rankings, qualifying for the WTA Finals in both singles and doubles in 2024 and 2025. Italy's Paolini will try to boost her 2026 season here – she has lost her last 3 matches and is yet to make a Round of 16 this year.
- Defending champion Emma Navarro returns as this year's No.2 seed. The American took home her second WTA Tour title (and first at WTA 500-level) here last year, becoming the fifth player since 2000 to win a WTA Tour final 6-0, 6-0. Navarro is also hoping to bolster her 2026 win-loss record this week, as she enters Merida 4-6 on the year. Her best finish so far this season is a quarterfinal run at Adelaide.
- Another American, Ann Li, is this week's No.3 seed. Li has made six WTA Tour singles finals in her career (all on hard court, winning two titles) and one of those finals came at this very event in 2024. That year, Li dropped only 10 games total in her first three matches, and she eventually finished runner-up to Zeynep Sonmez.
- Seeded No.4 is Marie Bouzkova of the Czech Republic. Although this is her Merida tournament debut, Bouzkova has already had strong success in Mexico – she made two of her first three WTA Tour singles finals in this country (2020 Monterrey and 2022 Guadalajara 250) and also reached a WTA 1000 semifinal at 2022 Guadalajara 1000.
- 2024 champion Zeynep Sonmez is back in this year's main draw, as she aims to extend her excellent Merida record. Turkey's Sonmez is 7-1 at this event – after winning the WTA 250 title here two years ago, she returned last year at WTA 500-level and made the quarterfinals before her undefeated tournament record ended against eventual champion Navarro.
- Last year's runner-up Emiliana Arango is also back in Merida. The Colombian made it to the 2025 final as a qualifier, earning her Top 100 debut after her run. Later in 2025, Arango excelled again in Mexico, reaching another WTA 500 final at Guadalajara – and after that performance, she made her Top 50 debut in the PIF WTA Rankings.
- One main draw wild card went to 2017 US Open champion Sloane Stephens of the United States. Stephens was a Merida quarterfinalist at the inaugural edition in 2023 before losing to eventual champion Camila Giorgi. Like Bouzkova, former World No.3 Stephens has been very successful in Mexico, winning two of her eight WTA Tour singles titles in the country – 2016 Acapulco and 2022 Guadalajara 250 (defeating Bouzkova in the final).
- Katie Boulter of Great Britain is another of this week's main draw wild card recipients. Former Top 25 player Boulter is the lowest-ranked WTA Tour titlist so far this year, prevailing at Ostrava ranked No.120 for her fourth career WTA title. Boulter returned to the Top 100 following that triumph and is 6-2 on the year.

COUNTRY & REGION BREAKDOWN

Austria (1)	Anastasia Potapova
Brazil (1)	Beatriz Haddad Maia
Canada (1)	Marina Stakusic
Colombia (2)	Emiliana Arango, Camila Osorio
Croatia (1)	Donna Vekic
Czech Republic (1)	Marie Bouzkova
Germany (1)	Tatjana Maria
Great Britain (1)	Katie Boulter
Indonesia (1)	Janice Tjen
Italy (1)	Jasmine Paolini
Kazakhstan (1)	Yulia Putintseva
Mexico (1)	Renata Zarazua
Poland (2)	Magdalena Frech, Magda Linette
Spain (2)	Jessica Bouzas Maneiro, Cristina Bucsa
Turkey (1)	Zeynep Sonmez
Ukraine (1)	Dayana Yastremska
United States (3)	Ann Li, Emma Navarro, Sloane Stephens

**does not include qualifiers*

2026 SUMMARY

- Most Match Wins – Season: Elina Svitolina (15-3), Jessica Pegula (13-2), Victoria Mboko (13-4), Iva Jovic (13-4)
- Most Singles Titles – Season: 10 players with one title
- PIF WTA World No.1 Ranking – Singles: Aryna Sabalenka, 71 consecutive weeks (since Oct 21, 2024); Total Weeks at No.1 – 79 (including week of February 23)
- PIF WTA World No.1 Ranking – Doubles: Elise Mertens, returned to No.1 on February 2, 2026; Total Weeks at No.1 – 43 (including week of February 23)
- Youngest titlist: Mirra Andreeva, Adelaide (18)
- Oldest titlist: Sorana Cirstea, Cluj-Napoca (35)
- Lowest-ranked titlist: Katie Boulter, Ostrava (No.120)
- PIF WTA Top 50 Debuts: Cristina Bucsa (Jan 5), Janice Tjen (Feb 2), Tereza Valentova (Feb 2)
- PIF WTA Top 10 Debuts: Victoria Mboko (Feb 16)
 - On February 16, Mboko (19 years old) joined Mirra Andreeva (18) 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).

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2026 WTA TOUR SINGLES FINALS

END DATE	TOURNAMENT	LEVEL	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP
Jan 11	United Cup	WTA 500	Poland	Switzerland
Jan 11	Brisbane	WTA 500	[1] Aryna Sabalenka	[16] Marta Kostyuk
Jan 11	Auckland	WTA 250	[1] Elina Svitolina	[7] Wang Xinyu
Jan 17	Adelaide	WTA 500	[3] Mirra Andreeva	[8] Victoria Mboko
Jan 17	Hobart	WTA 250	[Q] Elisabetta Cocciaretto	[3] Iva Jovic
Feb 1	Australian Open	Grand Slam	[5] Elena Rybakina	[1] Aryna Sabalenka
Feb 7	Abu Dhabi	WTA 500	[Q] Sara Bejlek	[2] Ekaterina Alexandrova
Feb 7	Ostrava	WTA 250	Katie Boulter	Tamara Korpatsch
Feb 7	Cluj-Napoca	WTA 250	[3] Sorana Cirstea	[1] Emma Raducanu
Feb 14	Doha	WTA 1000	[14] Karolina Muchova	[10] Victoria Mboko
Feb 21	Dubai	WTA 1000	[4] Jessica Pegula	[7] Elina Svitolina