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**QUARTERFINALS – FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27****Magdalena Frech (POL #57) vs. [4] Marie Bouzkova (CZE #34)****Tied 1-1*****Frech:***

- Making her second appearance at Merida, having lost in the first round last year
- Her career-best WTA 500 result is winning the 2024 Guadalajara title on hard court (d. Gadecki in final); this is her 5th career WTA 500 quarterfinal appearance overall (all on hard court)
- Seeking her first semifinal since her title run at 2024 Guadalajara
- Aiming to become the first Polish woman to make the Merida semifinals (best results by Poland at Merida are quarterfinal runs by Magda Linette in 2023 and Frech this year)

***Bouzkova:***

- Making her Merida Open tournament debut
- After first-round bye, ended a 3-match losing streak by advancing past 2025 runner-up Arango (via retirement)
- Into her first quarterfinal since making Monterrey semifinals last August (l. Alexandrova)
- Career-best result at a WTA 500 event is runner-up finish at Washington DC in 2024 (l. Badosa in final)
- Both of her two career WTA singles titles have come on hard court, at Prague in 2022 and 2025

**Zeynep Sonmez (TUR #81) vs. Cristina Bucsa (ESP #63)****First meeting*****Sonmez:***

- Making her 3rd appearance at Merida, where she won the WTA 250 title in 2024 (d. Li in final, and won a rematch vs. Li in yesterday's 2nd round)
- Holds a 9-1 career win-loss record at this event; she also made the quarterfinals here at WTA 500-level last year as a wild card (l. eventual champion Navarro)
- With her first-round win over qualifier Brace, she snapped a 4-match losing streak since her 2nd round win at the 2026 Australian Open
- Has reached her first Tour-level quarterfinal since her quarterfinal finish here in Merida last year

***Bucsa:***

- Making her Merida Open tournament debut
- Entered Merida on a 5-match losing streak, but snapped that with wins this week over Vekic and Stakusic
- Has made her first Tour-level quarterfinal since her runner-up finish at Hong Kong last November (l. Mboko in final)
- Has equaled her career-best WTA 500 result; she also reached a WTA 500 quarterfinal at Abu Dhabi in 2024 (l. eventual champion Rybakina)
- Aiming to become the first Spanish player to reach the Merida Open semifinals

**[Q] Victoria Jimenez Kasintseva (AND #122) vs. [Q] Zhang Shuai (CHN #86)****First meeting*****Jimenez Kasintseva:***

- Making her Merida Open tournament debut and is competing in her first Tour-level main draw of the year
- Contesting only her 2nd career WTA 500 main draw; in her previous WTA 500 main draw, made quarterfinals at 2025 Guadalajara 500 (l. eventual champion Jovic in 3rd-set tiebreak, held 1 match point)
- This is her 3rd career WTA quarterfinal (also 2022 Seoul and 2025 Guadalajara 500), and she is seeking her first career WTA semifinal
- This is the first time a player from Andorra has competed in the Merida Open main draw
- Projected to clinch Top 100 debut in Monday's updated PIF WTA Rankings if she wins in today's quarterfinals

***Zhang:***

- Is into her first Tour-level quarterfinal since semifinal run at Guangzhou last October (l. eventual champion Li)
- Her 2nd round win over No.2 seed and defending champion Emma Navarro was her 24th career Top 20 win (her last three Top 20 wins have all been over Navarro)
- Career-best WTA 500 results are semifinal finishes at 2014 Birmingham (l. eventual champion Ivanovic) and 2022 Tokyo (l. eventual champion Samsonova)
- All of her three WTA singles titles have come on hard court (2013 Guangzhou, 2017 Guangzhou and 2022 Lyon)
- Has become the first Chinese player to make the Merida Open quarterfinals

**[1] [WC] Jasmine Paolini (ITA #7) vs. [WC] Katie Boulter (GBR #69)****Paolini leads 3-2*****Paolini:***

- Making her Merida tournament debut, and has reached her first quarterfinal of the 2026 season
- After 1st round bye, defeated lucky loser Hon in 2nd round to end a 3-match losing streak
- Seeking her first semifinal on Tour since Ningbo last October (l. eventual champion Rybakina in semifinals)
- Attempting to make the 6th WTA 500 semifinal of her career
- Is No.1 seed this week; she has been the top seed at two WTA tournaments in her career (also 2023 Monastir, finished runner-up to No.2 seed Mertens)
- Best result by Italy at Merida was Camila Giorgi's run to the title at the inaugural edition in 2023

***Boulter:***

- Making her Merida Open tournament debut
- Contesting her first tournament since winning her 4th career WTA singles title at 2026 Ostrava (d. Korpatsch in final)
- She is currently on a 7-match winning streak, which is a career-best at Tour level
- Owns 4 wins in career over Top 10 players, most recently No.9 Paula Badosa at 2025 Wimbledon
- She has won one WTA 500 title in her career, at 2024 San Diego (d. Kostyuk in final)
- Has become the first player from the United Kingdom to reach the Merida Open quarterfinals



# MATCH NOTES

MÉRIDA OPEN - MÉRIDA, MEX  
2026-02-23 - 2026-03-01 | \$ 1,206,446



1  
WIN

2  
MATCHES  
PLAYED

1  
WIN



57

**MAGDALENA  
FRECH**  
POLAND

**MARIE  
(4) BOUZKOVA**  
CZECH REPUBLIC

34

1997-12-15	<b>Date of Birth</b>	1998-07-21
Lodz, Poland	<b>Residence</b>	Bradenton, FL, USA
Right-handed	<b>Plays</b>	Right-Handed (two-handed backhand)
5' 7" (1.71m)	<b>Height</b>	5' 11" (1.80m)
22	<b>Career-High Ranking</b>	24
\$4,338,120	<b>Career Prize Money</b>	\$6,625,839
\$207,989	<b>Season Prize Money</b>	\$257,291
0 / 1	<b>Singles Titles YTD / Career</b>	0 / 2
14-19 (Round of 16: 2024 AUSTRALIAN OPEN)	<b>Grand Slam W-L (best)</b>	21-27 (Quarter-Finalist: 2022 WIMBLEDON)
2-0 / 2-1 (Quarter-Finalist: 2026)	<b>YTD / Career MÉRIDA W-L (best)</b>	1-0 / 1-0 (Quarter-Finalist: 2026)
6-4 / 81-121	<b>YTD / Career W-L</b>	4-5 / 142-125



# MATCH NOTES

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**MAGDALENA  
FRECH**

**MARIE  
BOUZKOVA**

## HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

YEAR	TOURNAMENT	SURFACE	ROUND	WINNER	SCORE/ RESULT	TIME
2024	CINCINNATI	HARD	1r	Magdalena Frech	3-6 6-4 6-3	2h 14m
2024	AUCKLAND	HARD	1r	Marie Bouzkova	6-0 3-6 6-4	2h 14m

## RANKING HISTORY

TOP RANK	YEAR-END	YEAR	TOP RANK	YEAR-END
55	-	2026	37	-
24	59	2025	39	43
22	25	2024	34	45
63	63	2023	24	34
82	116	2022	26	26
99	102	2021	46	89
155	156	2020	46	51
149	198	2019	53	57
115	151	2018	142	142
165	166	2017	169	187



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**MAGDALENA  
FRECH**

**MARIE  
BOUZKOVA**

## TOURNAMENT HISTORY

### CURRENT TOURNAMENT

1r: d. M. TIMOFEEVA (#155) 6-4 7-6 (2h 15m)  
2r: d. J. BOUZAS MANEIRO (#48) 6-0 6-3 (1h 15m)

*Total time on court: 3h 30m*

### PLAYER NOTES

- Making 2nd appearance at Merida; she lost in last year's 1r to Avanesyan
- Defeated qualifier Maria Timofeeva and No.7 seed Jessica Bouzas Maneiro so far this week
- Has reached her 1st QF since Guadalajara last September (as defending champion, l. Bartunkova in that round)
- Seeking her 1st SF since her title run at 2024 Guadalajara
- Career-best WTA 500 result is winning the 2024 Guadalajara title (d. Gadecki in F); this week is her 5th career WTA 500 QF (all on hard court)
- Faces No.34 Marie Bouzkova in QF today; owns 23 wins in career over Top 50 players, most recently No.48 Jessica Bouzas Maneiro in the previous round
- Owns 7-10 career Tour-level record against players from Czech Republic (1-1 in 2026; at Brisbane, d. Vondrousova and l. Bouzkova)
- Career-best result on hard court is her run to the 2024 Guadalajara title
- One of 2 players from Poland in this week's main draw (No.8 seed Linette lost in 2r)
- Best results by Poland at Merida are QF runs by Magda Linette in 2023 and Frech this year
- Is currently ranked No.57; this time last year was ranked No.31. Reached career-high ranking of No.22 in October 2024

### CURRENT TOURNAMENT

2r: d. E. ARANGO (#59) 2-6 6-1 2-0 (1h 36m)

*Total time on court: 1h 36m*

### PLAYER NOTES

- Making Merida Open tournament debut
- After 1r bye, defeated last year's R-Up Emiliana Arango (via ret.) to reach her first QF since making Monterrey SF last August (l. Alexandrova)
- Snapped 3-match losing streak by advancing past Arango (l. Swiatek at Australian Open, l. Mboko at Doha, and l. Mertens at Dubai)
- Faces No.57 Magdalena Frech in QF today; Bouzkova is 2-0 in Tour-level matches this year vs. players ranked outside Top 50 (d. Zarazua at Australian Open; d. Arango this week)
- Owns 2-5 career Tour-level record against players from Poland (0-1 in 2026, l. Swiatek at Australian Open)
- Career-best result at a WTA 500 event is R-Up finish at Washington DC 2024 (l. Badosa in F)
- Her 2 career WTA singles titles have come on hard court, both at Prague in 2022 (d. Potapova in F) and 2025 (d. Noskova in F)
- Only player from Czech Republic competing in this year's main draw
- Best result by Czech Republic at Merida was SF run by Katerina Siniakova in 2023
- Is currently ranked No.34; this time last year was ranked No.49. Reached career-high ranking of No.24 in December 2022



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FRECH**

**MARIE  
BOUZKOVA**

## RECENT TOURNAMENT HISTORY

2025	Result	Rank: 31	Seed: 7
1r	L	E. AVANESYAN (#45) 4-6 6-3 6-3	

- Making her tournament debut in Main Draw Singles



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**MAGDALENA  
FRECH**

**MARIE  
BOUZKOVA**

## SEASON 2026 HISTORY

- Fell in 1r at Dubai (as LL, l. Stearns)
- Played 2r at Doha (as LL, l. Li)
- Made 2r at Australian Open (l. Paolini)
- Reached 2r at Hobart (withdrew through injury prior to her match vs. Raducanu)
- Made 2r at Brisbane (l. Noskova)

- Fell in 1r at Dubai (l. Mertens)
- Played 1r at Doha (l. eventual R-Up Mboko)
- Made 2r at Australian Open (l. Swiatek)
- Played 2r at Adelaide (as LL, l. eventual champion M.Andreeva)
- Made 2r at Brisbane (l. Badosa)

VALUE	WTA RANK	MATCH STATS	VALUE	WTA RANK
25	38	<b>Aces</b>	18	62
62.0%	72	<b>First serve %</b>	65.8%	36
66.0%	41	<b>First Serve points won %</b>	59.5%	98
46.9%	44	<b>Second serve points won %</b>	44.9%	60
58.7%	43	<b>Overall service points won %</b>	54.5%	87
70.0%	45	<b>Service games won %</b>	60.4%	86
60.7%	22	<b>Break points saved %</b>	59.1%	35
35.3%	76	<b>First serve return points won %</b>	36.9%	49
56.8%	42	<b>Second serve return points won %</b>	52.4%	87
44.2%	77	<b>Break points converted %</b>	42.2%	91
34.5%	58	<b>Return games won %</b>	29.0%	93
44.2%	47	<b>Return points won %</b>	42.2%	75



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BOUZKOVA**

## TITLES & GRAND SLAMS

### SINGLES FINALS

Champion (1)  
2024 - GUADALAJARA 500  
Runner-Up (1)  
2024 - PRAGUE

### SINGLES FINALS

Champion (2)  
2025 - PRAGUE  
2022 - PRAGUE  
  
Runner-Up (6)  
2024 - WASHINGTON DC, BOGOTA  
2023 - NANCHANG  
2022 - GUADALAJARA  
2021 - MELBOURNE 250  
2020 - MONTERREY

### DOUBLES FINALS

Champion (6)  
2025 - EASTBOURNE (w/Danilina)  
2023 - SEOUL (w/Mattek-sands), BEIJING (w/Sorribes Tormo)  
2022 - ISTANBUL (w/Sorribes Tormo)  
2021 - PRAGUE (w/Hradecka), BIRMINGHAM (w/Hradecka)  
  
Runner-Up (3)  
2024 - AUCKLAND (w/Mattek-sands)  
2021 - CHARLESTON (w/Hradecka)  
2020 - LEXINGTON (w/Teichmann)

AUSTRALIAN OPEN	ROLAND GARROS	WIMBLEDON	US OPEN		AUSTRALIAN OPEN	ROLAND GARROS	WIMBLEDON	US OPEN
2r				<b>2026</b>	2r			
3r	2r	1r	3r	<b>2025</b>	1r	3r	2r	1r
4r	1r	1r	1r	<b>2024</b>	1r	3r	2r	2r
	2r	1r	2r	<b>2023</b>	1r	1r	4r	3r
1r	1r	3r	1r	<b>2022</b>	2r	2r	QF	2r
				<b>2021</b>	1r	1r	1r	1r
				<b>2020</b>	1r	1r		1r
			1r	<b>2019</b>		1r	2r	1r
1r	2r			<b>2018</b>				1r



# MATCH NOTES

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**MAGDALENA  
FRECH**

**MARIE  
BOUZKOVA**

## CAREER MILESTONES

- Best results in 2025 were QF runs at Washington DC (l. Rybakina) and Guadalajara (l. Bartunkova). Registered second Top 10 win of her career over No.6 Mirra Andreeva at Berlin (after No.8 Navarro at Wuhan 2024)
- In 2024 reached a career-high ranking of No.22 by reaching her career-first final at Prague (l. Linette in final) followed by her first-ever title win at Guadalajara (d. Gadecki in final); also made QF at Wuhan (l. eventual champion Sabalenka) and at Nottingham (l. eventual champion Boulter) and achieved her best result to date at a Grand Slam (R16 at the Australian Open; l. Gauff)
- In 2023 reached back-to-back QF on grass at Nottingham (l. Burrage) and Birmingham (l. eventual champion Ostapenko); advanced to 3r at Miami (l. Gracheva) and posted 2r efforts at Indian Wells, Madrid, Rome, Guadalajara and Hong Kong; at the Slams, best results were 2r at Roland Garros (l. Rakhimova) and US Open (l. Muchova); ended season on career-high ranking of No.63 after winning a 100k ITF event in Spain (d. Errani in F)
- Highlight of 2022 season was 3r run at Wimbledon - best career result at a major. Also made 2r on nine occasions
- Broke into Top 100 on October 18, 2021, following run through qualifying to 2r at Indian Wells
- Advanced to 2r three more times last season and won titles at WTA 125K Series event in Concord and W60 Prague ITF Circuit event
- Campaign in 2020 was highlighted by maiden WTA QF, at Prague (as LL, l. eventual champion Halep) - first back-to-back main draw wins at a WTA event
- Only other WTA main draw appearance in 2020 was 1r exit at Lyon (as qualifier, l. Tomova); also won her fourth career singles title on ITF Circuit, at \$25K Bendigo-AUS and contested qualifying at Australian Open, Dubai and Doha
- Appeared in six WTA main draws in 2019, falling in 1r at Dubai (l. Kasatkina), Charleston (l. Buzarnescu), Lugano (l. Peterson), Nottingham (l. Mladenovic), US Open (l. Siegemund) and Guangzhou (l. Stojanovic)
- In 2018, made 2r at Roland Garros (as qualifier, l. Stephens), Rabat (l. Fett), Nottingham (l. Jakupovic) and San Jose (l. Tomljanovic). Also fell in 1r at six other tour-level events, including qualifying for Grand Slam debut at Australian Open
- In 2025, won second WTA Tour singles title of career at Prague (d. fellow Czech Noskova in final); also made SF at Monterrey and QF at Brisbane and Bogota, finishing inside the Top 50 for the fourth straight season. In doubles, won Eastbourne title w/Danilina
- Reached two WTA singles finals in 2024, at Bogota (l. Osorio) and Washington, DC (l. Badosa); finished season with SF run at Jiujiang (l. Golubic). In Grand Slam play, achieved best result at Roland Garros to date, advancing to 3r (l. Swiatek)
- Enjoyed success in second half of 2023 season with 4r at Wimbledon (l. eventual champion Vondrousova), 3r at US Open (l. Jabeur) and R-Up at Nanchang (l. Siniakova). Lifted two more doubles trophies in 2023 at Beijing (w/Sorribes Tormo) and Seoul (w/Mattek Sands)
- In 2022, won first WTA Tour singles title at Prague (d. Potapova in F) and made first Grand Slam QF at Wimbledon (l. Jabeur); finished R-Up at WTA 250 event in Guadalajara (l. Stephens in F), then had a SF run later in the year at the WTA 1000 event in the same city (l. Sakkari)
- Finished 2022 season ranked No.25 in singles, having started it only just inside Top 100. Also won her third career doubles title at 2022 Istanbul (w/Sorribes Tormo)
- Advanced to second career WTA singles final at 2021 Phillip Island Trophy in Melbourne, defeating No.8 Andreescu in SF (l. Kasatkina in F); followed up with SF at Guadalajara (l. Sorribes Tormo)
- In doubles in 2021, won first WTA titles of career, both w/Hradecka at Birmingham (d. Jabeur/Perez in F) and Prague (d. Stojanovic/Kuzmova in F); reached an additional final at Charleston (w/Hradecka, l. Melichar/Schuurs) and also made QF at Wimbledon and US Open
- Before tour's hiatus in March 2020, advanced to first career WTA singles final at Monterrey where she finished R-Up to Svitolina; broke into Top 50 at No.47 following the tournament
- Other highlights of 2020 came at Lexington, where she made the fourth Tour-level QF of her career (l. eventual champion Brady) and reached maiden WTA doubles final (w/Teichmann, l. Carter/Stefani)
- Standout performance of 2019 season was a SF run in her first Premier 5 appearance at Toronto (as qualifier, l. S. Williams in 3s); upset No.4 Halep and No.8 Stephens en route, her first career Top 20 wins

- Achieved career high singles ranking of No.115 after 2018 Roland Garros run (July 2, 2018)
- Won two of her four ITF singles titles in 2017, at \$25k ITF/Leipzig-GER and \$25k ITF/Braunschweig-GER - both on clay
- Played first WTA qualifying event at home tournament in Katowice in 2013, falling to Olaru. Made WTA main draw debut at Katowice the following year (as wildcard, l. Meusburger in 1r)

- Also in 2019, made QF at Guangzhou and was R-Up at WTA 125 Guadalajara. Lifted 12th and biggest title of career on ITF Circuit at \$80K Nur-Sultan-KAZ (d. Kostic in F), broke into the Top 100 for the first time at No.92 following the tournament (on July 22)
- Won first Grand Slam main draw match during 2r showing at 2019 Wimbledon (as LL, d. Barthel, l. Sakkari)
- Highlights of 2018 season were winning maiden Tour-level match during 2r showing at Quebec City (as qualifier, l. Lepchenko) and qualifying for first Grand Slam at US Open, where she fell in 1r (l. Bogdan)
- Fell 1r on WTA main draw debut at 2015 Acapulco (as wild card, l. Karatantcheva)
- Professional debut was opening round loss in qualifying at 2013 Katowice
- Girls' singles champion at 2014 US Open (d. Kalinina in F)

## OTHER INFORMATION

- Coached by Andrzej Kobierski
- Started playing tennis aged six

- Working with Antonin Bolardt
- Mother is Kveta. Has a younger brother, Benjamin Milan
- Began playing tennis at club owned by her parents in Prague. Moved to Florida at age 10 - initially trained at Bollietieri Academy for two years, continued to work with her dad and then Requeni from 2014
- Admires the play of Serena Williams and Rafael Nadal
- Has memorably played with the same type of giant water bottle courtside for more than 10 years
- Speaks Czech, English, Spanish and some German
- Favorite music is from Queen, ABBA, Roxette and Beatles, while favorite movies are Czech comedy classics
- Currently pursuing a degree in business administration through Indiana University East



# MATCH NOTES

MÉRIDA OPEN - MÉRIDA, MEX  
2026-02-23 - 2026-03-01 | \$ 1,206,446



FIRST MEETING

81

**ZEYNEP  
SONMEZ**  
TURKEY

**CRISTINA  
BUCSA**  
SPAIN

63

2002-04-30	<b>Date of Birth</b>	1998-01-01
	<b>Residence</b>	Cantabria, Spain
Right-Handed	<b>Plays</b>	Right-Handed
5' 7" (1.70m)	<b>Height</b>	5' 9" (1.76m)
69	<b>Career-High Ranking</b>	50
\$1,565,909	<b>Career Prize Money</b>	\$4,355,337
\$271,752	<b>Season Prize Money</b>	\$250,024
0 / 1	<b>Singles Titles YTD / Career</b>	0 / 0
5-6 (Round of 32: 2026 AUSTRALIAN OPEN; 2025 WIMBLEDON)	<b>Grand Slam W-L (best)</b>	12-17 (Round of 16: 2025 US OPEN)
2-0 / 9-1 (Champion: 2024)	<b>YTD / Career MÉRIDA W-L (best)</b>	2-0 / 2-0 (Quarter-Finalist: 2026)
4-4 / 23-26	<b>YTD / Career W-L</b>	3-5 / 48-80



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**ZEYNEP  
SONMEZ**

**CRISTINA  
BUCSA**

## HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

YEAR	TOURNAMENT	SURFACE	ROUND	WINNER	SCORE/ RESULT	TIME
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First career meeting

## RANKING HISTORY

TOP RANK	YEAR-END	YEAR	TOP RANK	YEAR-END
79	-	2026	50	-
69	113	2025	54	54
91	91	2024	56	71
146	159	2023	65	83
335	345	2022	104	107
530	531	2021	149	159
607	628	2020	154	161
652	663	2019	164	164
1211	-	2018	331	346
1208	1208	2017	398	415



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**ZEYNEP  
SONMEZ**

**CRISTINA  
BUCSA**

## TOURNAMENT HISTORY

### CURRENT TOURNAMENT

1r: d. C. BRACE (#204) 6-2 6-0 (1h 1m)  
2r: d. A. LI (#39) 3-6 7-6 6-4 (2h 31m)

*Total time on court: 3h 32m*

### PLAYER NOTES

- Making 3rd appearance at Merida, where she won the title at WTA 250-level in 2024 (d. Li in F; she also defeated Li in a rematch yesterday)
- At 22 years 187 days, she became the youngest player to win the title here at Merida
- Currently holds 9-1 record in Merida; she also made the QF at WTA 500-level last year as a wild card (l. eventual champion Navarro)
- Has reached her first Tour-level QF since her QF finish here last year
- Seeking her 2nd career Tour-level SF; her previous Tour-level SF came during her 2024 Merida title run
- Defeated qualifier Cadence Brace and No.3 seed Ann Li so far this week; she had lost 4 straight matches coming into Merida
- Faces No.63 Cristina Bucsa in QF today; Sonmez is 2-2 this year in Tour-level matches vs. players ranked outside Top 50
- Career-best result on hard court is her one career WTA title at 2024 Merida
- Her career-best WTA 500 result was making the QF here last year; she has equaled it this year
- Only player from Turkey competing in this year's main draw
- Best result by Turkey at Merida was Sonmez's 2024 title run
- Is currently ranked No.81; this time last year was ranked No.88. Reached career-high ranking of No.69 in October 2025

### CURRENT TOURNAMENT

1r: d. D. VEKIC (#100) 6-3 6-2 (1h 24m)  
2r: d. M. STAKUSIC (#142) 7-6 6-3 (1h 41m)

*Total time on court: 3h 5m*

### PLAYER NOTES

- Making Merida Open tournament debut
- Entered Merida on 5-match losing streak but snapped that with 2 wins this week
- Defeated Donna Vekic and wild card Marina Stakusic so far this week, making her 1st Tour-level QF since her R-Up finish at Hong Kong last November (l. Mboko in F)
- Faces No.81 Zeynep Sonmez in QF today; Bucsa is 3-2 this year vs. players ranked outside Top 50 (2 of those wins this came week, plus a win over Bondar at Brisbane)
- This is her first Tour-level meeting vs. a player from Turkey
- Has equaled her career-best result at a WTA 500 event, which is QF finish at Abu Dhabi in 2024 (l. eventual champion Rybakina)
- Best career Tour-level result on hard court is R-Up finish at Hong Kong 2025 (l. Mboko in F)
- One of 2 players from Spain in this week's main draw (Bouzas Maneiro lost in 2r)
- Best results by Spain at Merida are QF runs by Bucsa this year, Paula Badosa in 2025 and Sara Sorribes Tormo in 2024
- Is currently ranked No.63; this time last year was ranked No.99. Reached a career-high ranking of No.50 in January this year



# MATCH NOTES

MÉRIDA OPEN - MÉRIDA, MEX  
2026-02-23 - 2026-03-01 | \$ 1,206,446

**ZEYNEP  
SONMEZ**

**CRISTINA  
BUCSA**

## RECENT TOURNAMENT HISTORY

2025	Result	Rank: 88	Seed: -
QF	L	E. NAVARRO (#10)	6-4 6-2
2r	W	M. LINETTE (#37)	6-3 3-1
1r	W	M. SAKKARI (#30)	7-5 6-2

  

2024	Result	Rank: 127	Seed: -
F	W	A. LI (#111)	6-2 6-1
SF	W	A. KORNEEVA (#254)	7-6(5) 6-2
QF	W	R. ZARAZUA (#62)	3-6 6-3 6-4
2r	W	E. JACQUEMOT (#148)	7-6(3) 6-3
1r	W	M. CARLE (#90)	5-7 6-1 6-2

- Making her tournament debut in Main Draw Singles



# MATCH NOTES

MÉRIDA OPEN - MÉRIDA, MEX  
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**ZEYNEP  
SONMEZ**

**CRISTINA  
BUCSA**

## SEASON 2026 HISTORY

- Fell in 1r at Dubai (as WC, l. Bejlek)
- Played 1r at Doha (as WC, l. Sakkari)
- Fell in 1r at Abu Dhabi (as WC, l. Eala)
- Began 2026 season with 3r at Australian Open (as qualifier, l. Putintseva)

- Played 1r at Dubai (l. Seidel)
- Fell in 1r at Doha (l. Yastremska)
- Played 1r at Abu Dhabi (l. Kartal)
- Fell in 1r at Australian Open (l. Svitolina)
- Made 2r at Brisbane (l. eventual champion Sabalenka)

VALUE	WTA RANK	MATCH STATS	VALUE	WTA RANK
6	113	<b>Aces</b>	8	102
58.0%	105	<b>First serve %</b>	66.2%	29
58.0%	111	<b>First Serve points won %</b>	58.8%	106
45.8%	51	<b>Second serve points won %</b>	37.4%	117
52.9%	97	<b>Overall service points won %</b>	51.6%	110
58.1%	96	<b>Service games won %</b>	53.6%	111
52.0%	81	<b>Break points saved %</b>	36.1%	123
35.2%	78	<b>First serve return points won %</b>	38.9%	28
61.2%	5	<b>Second serve return points won %</b>	51.4%	104
42.3%	90	<b>Break points converted %</b>	50.0%	37
36.7%	46	<b>Return games won %</b>	36.9%	43
44.7%	36	<b>Return points won %</b>	44.4%	42



# MATCH NOTES

MÉRIDA OPEN - MÉRIDA, MEX  
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## TITLES & GRAND SLAMS

### SINGLES FINALS

Champion (1)  
2024 - MÉRIDA

### SINGLES FINALS

Runner-Up (1)  
2025 - HONG KONG

### DOUBLES FINALS

Champion (7)  
2025 - MONTERREY (w/Melichar-martinez),  
BOGOTA (w/Sorribes Tormo)  
2024 - CLEVELAND (w/Xu), STRASBOURG (w/  
Niculescu), MADRID (w/Sorribes Tormo), BOGOTA  
(w/Rakhimova)  
2023 - LYON (w/Schoofs)

Runner-Up (4)  
2026 - BRISBANE (w/Perez)  
2025 - MIAMI (w/Kato)  
2024 - OSAKA (w/Niculescu)  
2022 - PORTOROZ (w/Mihalikova)

AUSTRALIAN OPEN	ROLAND GARROS	WIMBLEDON	US OPEN		AUSTRALIAN OPEN	ROLAND GARROS	WIMBLEDON	US OPEN
3r				<b>2026</b>	1r			
1r	1r	3r	2r	<b>2025</b>	2r	1r	3r	4r
	1r			<b>2024</b>	1r	2r	2r	1r
				<b>2023</b>	3r	1r	2r	1r
				<b>2022</b>	1r	1r		2r
				<b>2021</b>				1r



# MATCH NOTES

MÉRIDA OPEN - MÉRIDA, MEX  
2026-02-23 - 2026-03-01 | \$ 1,206,446

**ZEYNEP  
SONMEZ**

**CRISTINA  
BUCSA**

## CAREER MILESTONES

- In 2025, made history for her country at Wimbledon, becoming first Turkish player to reach a Grand Slam 3r in Open Era; also made Merida QF, and notched first WTA 1000 main draw wins of career in Beijing 3r run; reached career-high No.69 on October 20
- During 2024, won first WTA Tour title at Merida, becoming first Turkish player to win WTA Tour singles title since Buyukakcay at 2016 Istanbul. Also made QF at Monastir and entered the Top 100 for the first time, ending the year at a career-high of No.89
- Made her WTA Tour main draw debut in 2023 at 's-Hertogenbosch with a 1r (l. Andreescu) and followed up with a 1r at Hamburg (l. Pera). Contested Grand Slam qualifying for the first time in 2023 at Wimbledon and US Open
- In 2023, reached her first WTA 125 final at Ljubljana (l. Bassols Ribera) and further reached a WTA 125 SF at Kozerki (l. Yastremska)
- In 2022, lifted two ITF titles at 15K Monastir and 25K Sozopol
- In 2020, lifted one ITF title at 15K Antalya
- Posted singles breakthroughs in 2025, reaching first WTA Tour final at Hong Kong (l. Mboko in final), making first Grand Slam R16 at US Open (l. eventual champion Sabalenka) and ending season at new career-high ranking of No.54; also won two doubles titles at Bogota (w/Sorribes Tormo) and Monterrey (w/Melichar-Martinez)
- Began 2024 at a career-high ranking of No.56 in January and posted her best singles results of the year in the first half of the season with quarterfinals at Abu Dhabi and Bogota. Achieved longest winning streak of the year at Beijing with three wins to reach R16 (l. Muchova)
- Her 2024 doubles results included a bronze medal at Paris Olympics (w/Sorribes Tormo), as well as four WTA Tour titles at Bogota (w/Rakhimova), Madrid (w/Sorribes Tormo), Strasbourg (w/Niculescu) and Cleveland (w/Xu)
- In 2023, made first Grand Slam 3r at Australian Open as qualifier (l. Swiatek); also notched first Top 20 victory (d. Bencic at Cincinnati) and won first WTA 125 title at Limoges (d. Jacquemot in final)
- Appeared in main draw at a Grand Slam for the first time at 2021 US Open, falling 1r (as qualifier, l. Teichmann)
- Scored first Tour-level win in 2r showing at 2021 Belgrade (d. Kovinic, l. Sasnovich)
- Fell 1r on WTA main-draw debut at 2021 Bogota (l. Parrizas Diaz)
- Made Tour-level qualifying debut at 2019 Wimbledon
- Won first ITF Circuit title in 2017, at W15 event in Santarem, Portugal
- Owns four titles in singles and nine in doubles on ITF Circuit

## OTHER INFORMATION

- Coached by Issam Jellali
- Fitness and mental coach is Mehmet Bayraktar
- Currently coached by Ion Bucsa (father)
- Trains and lives in Cantabria, Spain
- Hobbies include reading books and enjoying walks through nature
- Idolizes Serena Williams and Kim Clijsters
- Favorite surface is grass



# MATCH NOTES

MÉRIDA OPEN - MÉRIDA, MEX  
2026-02-23 - 2026-03-01 | \$ 1,206,446



122

**VICTORIA  
JIMENEZ  
KASINTSEVA (Q)**  
ANDORRA

**SHUAI  
(Q) ZHANG** 86  
CHINA

2005-08-09	<b>Date of Birth</b>	1989-01-21
Ordino, Andorra	<b>Residence</b>	Tianjin, China
Left-handed	<b>Plays</b>	Right-handed (two-handed backhand)
5' 11" (1.80 m)	<b>Height</b>	5' 10" (1.77m)
107	<b>Career-High Ranking</b>	22
\$867,474	<b>Career Prize Money</b>	\$12,372,093
\$44,362	<b>Season Prize Money</b>	\$468,427
0 / 0	<b>Singles Titles YTD / Career</b>	0 / 3
0-1 (Round of 128: 2025 US OPEN)	<b>Grand Slam W-L (best)</b>	40-50 (Quarter-Finalist: 2019 WIMBLEDON; 2016 AUSTRALIAN OPEN)
2-0 / 2-0 (Quarter-Finalist: 2026)	<b>YTD / Career MÉRIDA W-L (best)</b>	2-0 / 2-0 (Quarter-Finalist: 2026)
2-0 / 8-15	<b>YTD / Career W-L</b>	3-2 / 223-275



# MATCH NOTES

MÉRIDA OPEN - MÉRIDA, MEX  
2026-02-23 - 2026-03-01 | \$ 1,206,446

**VICTORIA  
JIMENEZ KASINTSEVA (Q)**

**SHUAI  
(Q) ZHANG**

## HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

YEAR	TOURNAMENT	SURFACE	ROUND	WINNER	SCORE/ RESULT	TIME
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First career meeting

## RANKING HISTORY

TOP RANK	YEAR-END	YEAR	TOP RANK	YEAR-END
107	-	2026	73	-
107	107	2025	102	102
146	151	2024	206	219
121	303	2023	22	208
124	129	2022	24	24
373	373	2021	35	63
-	-	2020	30	35
-	-	2019	31	46
-	-	2018	27	35
-	-	2017	23	36



# MATCH NOTES

MÉRIDA OPEN - MÉRIDA, MEX  
2026-02-23 - 2026-03-01 | \$ 1,206,446

**VICTORIA  
JIMENEZ KASINTSEVA (Q)**

**SHUAI  
(Q) ZHANG**

## TOURNAMENT HISTORY

### CURRENT TOURNAMENT

1r: d. Y. PUTINTSEVA (#77) 6-4 1-6 6-4 (2h 30m)  
2r: d. M. LINETTE (#47) 5-7 7-6 7-5 (3h 20m)

*Total time on court: 5h 50m*

### PLAYER NOTES

- Making her Merida Open tournament debut
- Is competing in her first Tour-level main draw of the 2026 season at Merida this week
- Contesting only her 2nd career WTA 500 main draw; in her previous WTA 500 main draw, made QF at 2025 Guadalajara 500 (l. eventual champion Jovic in 3rd-set TB, held 1 match point)
- Defeated Yulia Putintseva and No.8 seed Magda Linette to reach her 3rd career WTA QF; her previous WTA QFs came at 2022 Seoul (l. Ostapenko) and 2025 Guadalajara (l. Jovic)
- Faces No.86 Zhang Shuai in QF today; Jimenez Kasintseva is seeking her first career WTA SF
- Owns 1-0 career Tour-level record against players from China (d. Zhu Lin at 2024 Madrid)
- Career-best Tour-level results on hard court are her 2 previous QFs at 2022 Seoul and 2025 Guadalajara 500
- This is the first time a player from Andorra has competed in the Merida Open main draw
- One of 2 qualifiers through to the QF, alongside today's opponent Zhang
- Best results by qualifiers at Merida are Runner-Up finishes by Emiliana Arango in 2025 and Rebecca Peterson in 2023
- Is currently ranked No.122; this time last year was ranked No.149. Reached career-high ranking of No.107 in October 2025
- Projected to secure Top 100 debut on Monday with a QF win today; could possibly also make Top 100 debut with loss today, depending on results at other tournaments

### CURRENT TOURNAMENT

1r: d. V. LEPCHENKO (#152) 6-2 6-1 (1h 7m)  
2r: d. E. NAVARRO (#20) 6-4 6-4 (1h 23m)

*Total time on court: 2h 30m*

### PLAYER NOTES

- Making her Merida Open tournament debut
- Defeated qualifier Varvara Lepchenko and defending champion Emma Navarro to make her 1st Tour-level QF since SF run at Guangzhou last October (l. eventual champion Li)
- 2r win over No.2 seed Navarro was her 24th career Top 20 win (her last 3 Top 20 wins are all over Navarro)
- Faces No.122 Victoria Jimenez Kasintseva in QF today; Zhang is 1-1 this year in Tour-level matches vs. players ranked outside Top 100 (d. Lepchenko this week; l. Preston at Australian Open)
- First meeting vs. a player from Andorra
- Career-best WTA 500 results are SF finishes at 2014 Birmingham (l. eventual champion Ivanovic) and 2022 Tokyo (l. eventual champion Samsonova)
- All of her 3 career WTA singles titles have come on hard court (2013 Guangzhou, 2017 Guangzhou and 2022 Lyon)
- Only player from China in this week's main draw
- Has become the first Chinese player to make Merida Open QF
- One of 2 qualifiers through to the QF, alongside today's opponent Jimenez Kasintseva
- Best results by qualifiers at Merida are Runner-Up finishes by Emiliana Arango in 2025 and Rebecca Peterson in 2023
- Is currently ranked No.86; this time last year was ranked No.168. Reached career-high ranking of No.22 in January 2023



# MATCH NOTES

MÉRIDA OPEN - MÉRIDA, MEX  
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**VICTORIA  
JIMENEZ KASINTSEVA (Q)**

**SHUAI  
(Q) ZHANG**

## RECENT TOURNAMENT HISTORY

- Making her tournament debut in Main Draw Singles

- Making her tournament debut in Main Draw Singles



# MATCH NOTES

MÉRIDA OPEN - MÉRIDA, MEX  
2026-02-23 - 2026-03-01 | \$ 1,206,446

**VICTORIA  
JIMENEZ KASINTSEVA (Q)**

**SHUAI  
(Q) ZHANG**

## SEASON 2026 HISTORY

- Fell in 2r of Australian Open qualifying (l. Zhu Lin)

- Fell in 1r at Australian Open (l. Preston)
- Made 2r at Brisbane (l. Rybakina)

VALUE	WTA RANK	MATCH STATS	VALUE	WTA RANK
2	143	<b>Aces</b>	12	83
69.5%	0	<b>First serve %</b>	68.2%	17
58.0%	0	<b>First Serve points won %</b>	65.0%	54
43.5%	0	<b>Second serve points won %</b>	52.7%	10
53.5%	0	<b>Overall service points won %</b>	61.1%	19
62.5%	0	<b>Service games won %</b>	73.7%	20
52.0%	0	<b>Break points saved %</b>	57.1%	44
39.9%	0	<b>First serve return points won %</b>	33.0%	95
54.5%	0	<b>Second serve return points won %</b>	56.7%	43
47.8%	0	<b>Break points converted %</b>	44.2%	76
35.5%	0	<b>Return games won %</b>	33.3%	66
44.5%	0	<b>Return points won %</b>	41.8%	79



# MATCH NOTES

MÉRIDA OPEN - MÉRIDA, MEX  
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**VICTORIA  
JIMENEZ KASINTSEVA (Q)**

**SHUAI  
(Q) ZHANG**

## TITLES

### SINGLES FINALS

Champion (3)

2022 - LYON  
2017 - GUANGZHOU  
2013 - GUANGZHOU

Runner-Up (4)

2022 - BIRMINGHAM  
2021 - NOTTINGHAM  
2020 - HOBART  
2016 - ZHUHAI

### DOUBLES FINALS

Champion (17)

2026 - AUSTRALIAN OPEN (w/Mertens), ADELAIDE (w/Siniakova)  
2025 - WASHINGTON DC (w/Townsend)  
2024 - GUANGZHOU (w/Siniakova)  
2023 - ABU DHABI (w/Stefani)  
2022 - NOTTINGHAM (w/Haddad Maia)  
2021 - OSTRAVA (w/Mirza), US OPEN (w/Stosur), CINCINNATI (w/Stosur)  
2019 - AUSTRALIAN OPEN (w/Stosur)  
2018 - HONG KONG (w/Stosur), HIROSHIMA (w/Hozumi), ISTANBUL (w/Liang)  
2014 - PATTAYA CITY (w/Peng)  
2012 - GUANGZHOU (w/Tanasugarn), ESTORIL (w/Chuang)  
2011 - OSAKA (w/Date)

Runner-Up (20)

2025 - MONTREAL (w/Townsend), STUTTGART (w/Alexandrova), AUSTIN (w/Kessler), ABU DHABI (w/Mladenovic)  
2024 - SEOUL (w/Kato), US OPEN (w/Mladenovic), BIRMINGHAM (w/Kato)  
2022 - WIMBLEDON (w/Mertens), BIRMINGHAM (w/Mertens), STUTTGART (w/Gauff)  
2021 - COURMAYEUR (w/Hozumi)  
2020 - HOBART (w/Peng)  
2019 - NANCHANG (w/Peng), MIAMI (w/Stosur)  
2017 - ZHUHAI (w/Lu), BIRMINGHAM (w/Chan)  
2014 - HOBART (w/Raymond)  
2013 - OSAKA (w/Stosur), KUALA LUMPUR (w/Husarova)  
2012 - MONTERREY (w/Date)



# MATCH NOTES

MÉRIDA OPEN - MÉRIDA, MEX  
2026-02-23 - 2026-03-01 | \$ 1,206,446

**VICTORIA  
JIMENEZ KASINTSEVA (Q)**

**SHUAI  
(Q) ZHANG**

## GRAND SLAMS

AUSTRALIAN OPEN	ROLAND GARROS	WIMBLEDON	US OPEN	AUSTRALIAN OPEN	ROLAND GARROS	WIMBLEDON	US OPEN	
				2026	1r			
			1r	2025	2r	1r	1r	
				2024		1r	1r	
				2023	4r	1r	1r	
				2022	3r	1r	3r	4r
				2021	1r	1r	1r	2r
				2020	3r	4r		1r
				2019	3r	2r	QF	3r
				2018	2r	2r	1r	1r
				2017	2r	3r	1r	3r
				2016	QF	2r	1r	3r
				2015	1r	1r		
				2014	1r	1r	1r	1r
				2013				
				2012	1r	1r		
				2011	1r	1r	1r	1r
				2010		1r		
				2009				
				2008				1r



# MATCH NOTES

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**VICTORIA  
JIMENEZ KASINTSEVA (Q)**

**SHUAI  
(Q) ZHANG**

## CAREER MILESTONES

- Reached second career Tour-level QF in 2025 at Guadalajara (after Seoul 2022) and made Grand Slam main draw debut at US Open as a qualifier (l. Maya Joint in 1r). At WTA 125 level, made finals for the first time at Antalya #2 and Makarska. Posted a year-end ranking at a career high No.107
- 2024 season highlight was reaching 2r at WTA 1000 Madrid for the first time in her career (l. Paolini). Also made QF run at WTA 125 Ljubljana
- In 2023 competed in 1r main draw at Miami and Madrid and won fourth ITF career title at W25 Austin
- In 2022 produced a breakthrough performance at Seoul by reaching the semifinal (l. Ostapenko). Also played qualifying at all four Grand Slams and closed the season with a career high ranking of No.121 in November
- Ended 2021 campaign at No.375 after winning 22 of her last 30 matches
- In November 2021, won maiden ITF Circuit title at Aparecida de Goiania, Brazil, followed by SF run at WTA 125K Series event in Montevideo, Uruguay
- Fell in 1r on WTA main draw debut at 2021 Madrid (as WC, l. Bertens)
- Highlight of 2020 was winning girls' singles at Australian Open title (d. Baszak in F), becoming the first player representing Andorra - the 16th smallest country in the world - to win a Grand Slam title. Was the youngest player in the field at 2020 Australian Open (14-years-old)
- Also reached her first SF on the ITF Circuit in 2020 at \$15K ITF/Melilla-ESP
- Played first professional event of career on ITF Circuit in Spain in 2020
- Gained an ITF junior ranking for the first time in 2019, making her way to six titles from April to November
- In 2018, at just 12-years-old, won the Future Tennis Aces tournament held in conjunction with Roland Garros
- Strong singles results on Tour in home nation of China in 2025, making Guangzhou SF (first WTA Tour SF since 2022; l. eventual champion Li) and defeating No.14 Navarro to make Wuhan R16 (l. eventual champion Gauff)
- Also in 2025, posted Top 20 year-end ranking in doubles, winning Washington D.C. title (w/Townsend) and making four additional WTA Tour doubles finals
- In 2024, broke a streak of 24 losses to reach WTA 1000 quarterfinal at Beijing. In doubles, won her 14th career title at Guangzhou, paired with Katerina Siniakova for the first time
- Reached R16 at 2023 Australian Open (l. Pliskova) taking her ranking to a career-high of No.22; failed to win a singles match after Lyon in January and ended her season early after Montreal (l. Blinkova)
- In doubles, won the 2023 title at Abu Dhabi (w/Stefani) and reached semifinals at Doha (w/Olmos) and Wimbledon (w/Dolehide)
- In 2022, won third career singles title at Lyon (d. Yastremska in F) and 12th doubles title at Nottingham (w/Haddad Maia). Finished the season at No.24, very close to previous best career ranking of No.23 (Nov 14, 2016); in doubles climbed as high as No.2 on July 11, 2022
- Reached fourth singles final of career in 2021, finishing R-Up at Nottingham (l. Konta). Also advanced to SF at Palermo and QF at San Jose
- Enjoyed strong campaign in doubles in 2021, winning her 2nd Grand Slam title at US Open (w/Stosur), as well as additional titles at Cincinnati (w/Stosur) and Ostrava (w/Mirza). Qualified for WTA Finals (w/Stosur), however failed to progress from group stage
- Season highlight in 2020 was reaching third career WTA singles final (l. Rybakina in F) and finishing R-Up in doubles at Hobart (w/Peng), which marks the first time she made it through to the championship match in both singles and doubles at the same Tour-level event
- Also in 2020, made R16 at Roland Garros for the first time; now has advanced to second week at Grand Slams across hard, grass and clay
- Standout singles results of 2019 season were reaching second Grand Slam singles QF of career at Wimbledon (l. eventual champion Halep), finishing R-Up at WTA 125 event in Anning (l. S.Zheng) and closing out season by winning \$100k ITF/Tokyo-JPN (d.Paolini in F)
- Won first Grand Slam doubles title at 2019 Australian Open (w/Stosur; d. Babos/Mladenovic in F); also reached final at Miami w/Stosur (l.

Mertens/Sabalenka). Team qualified for WTA Finals in Shenzhen (Zhang's debut at the season finale) where they advanced to SF (l. eventual champions Babos/Mladenovic)

- Won her 2nd WTA Tour singles title at 2017 Guangzhou (d. Krunic in final)
- Enjoyed Grand Slam breakthrough at 2016 Australian Open, where she advanced to QF as qualifier (l. Konta). Run also marked first time winning back-to-back main draw matches since semifinal run at 2014 Birmingham
- In that 2016 Australian Open run, defeated No.2 Halep in 1r and No.17 Keys in R16; ranked No.133, became lowest-ranked player to advance to last eight at Australian Open since unranked Henin reached final in 2010, and first qualifier to do so since Gavaldon in 1990
- Contemplated retirement after ending 2015 ranked No.186, her lowest year-end finish since 2008 (No.212) and down from No.62 in 2014
- Won her 1st WTA Tour singles title at 2013 Guangzhou (d. King in final)
- First broke into Top 100 on August 9, 2010 and Top 50 on February 3, 2014
- Scored first Top 10 win over then No.1-ranked Safina in 1r at 2009 Beijing; at No.226, was the lowest-ranked player ever to beat a World No.1
- Made WTA qualifying debut at 2006 Beijing; made WTA main draw debut at 2006 Guangzhou
- Winner of 23 singles titles and eight doubles titles on ITF Circuit

## OTHER INFORMATION

- Coached by Joan Jimenez Guerra (father)
- Resides in Andorra with her family and she trains at Viktory Academy also in Andorra, her father's tennis academy
- Began playing tennis aged five and favorite surface is clay. Best tennis memory is winning Australian Open Junior in 2020 when she also became world number one at 14 years old. Current European Junior Champion
- Parents are Joan Jimenez Guerra (owner of tennis academy), and Yulia Kasintseva (business and tax consultant)
- Likes to listen to Taylor Swift
- Speaks five languages: English, Spanish, Catalan, Russian and French

- Coached by Liu Shuo
- Father, Zhang Zhi Qiang, was a soccer player; mother, Wang Feng Qin, was a basketball player. Started playing tennis aged five when parents took her to local club
- Started working with Chinese Tennis Association at age 12
- Idolized Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal
- Best tennis memory was playing mixed doubles with Pete Sampras in 2011, winning Australian Open doubles championship in 2019 with best friend Sam Stosur, and quarterfinals at 2016 Australian Open and 2019 Wimbledon
- Relaxes by listening to music, taking photos and exploring the places she travels to



# MATCH NOTES

MÉRIDA OPEN - MÉRIDA, MEX  
2026-02-23 - 2026-03-01 | \$ 1,206,446



**3**  
WIN

**5**  
MATCHES  
PLAYED

**2**  
WIN



**7** **JASMINE PAOLINI (WC) (1)**  
ITALY

**KATIE (WC) BOULTER 69**  
UNITED KINGDOM

1996-01-04	<b>Date of Birth</b>	1996-08-01
Bagni di Lucca, Italy	<b>Residence</b>	Leicester, Great Britain
Right-Handed	<b>Plays</b>	Right-handed (double-handed backhand)
5' 4" (1.63m)	<b>Height</b>	5' 11" (1.82m)
4	<b>Career-High Ranking</b>	23
\$14,915,001	<b>Career Prize Money</b>	\$4,092,182
\$624,009	<b>Season Prize Money</b>	\$138,788
0 / 3	<b>Singles Titles YTD / Career</b>	1 / 4
32-25 (Runner-Up: 2024 WIMBLEDON, ROLAND GARROS)	<b>Grand Slam W-L (best)</b>	15-19 (Round of 32: 2023 US OPEN, WIMBLEDON; 2022 WIMBLEDON)
1-0 / 1-0 (Quarter-Finalist: 2026)	<b>YTD / Career MÉRIDA W-L (best)</b>	2-0 / 2-0 (Quarter-Finalist: 2026)
4-4 / 165-131	<b>YTD / Career W-L</b>	8-2 / 89-83



# MATCH NOTES

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**JASMINE  
PAOLINI (WC)**

**KATIE  
(WC) BOULTER**

## HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

YEAR	TOURNAMENT	SURFACE	ROUND	WINNER	SCORE/ RESULT	TIME
2025	MADRID	CLAY	2r	Jasmine Paolini	6-1 6-2	1h 0m
2024	EASTBOURNE	GRASS	QF	Jasmine Paolini	6-1 7-6(0)	1h 35m
2024	LINZ	HARD	1r	Katie Boulter	6-2 6-2	1h 15m
2022	INDIAN WELLS	HARD	1r	Jasmine Paolini	6-3 6-2	1h 21m
2014	IMOLA	CARPET	QF	Katie Boulter	6-2 6-2	0m

## RANKING HISTORY

TOP RANK	YEAR-END	YEAR	TOP RANK	YEAR-END
7	-	2026	75	-
4	8	2025	23	100
4	4	2024	23	24
29	30	2023	50	58
44	59	2022	118	124
51	53	2021	148	148
93	95	2020	315	365
114	117	2019	82	352
130	190	2018	92	100
130	137	2017	199	199



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## TOURNAMENT HISTORY

### CURRENT TOURNAMENT

2r: d. P. HON (#136) 6-0 6-2 (1h 11m)

*Total time on court: 1h 11m*

### PLAYER NOTES

- Making her tournament debut as No.1 seed and a wild card
- After 1r bye, defeated lucky loser Priscilla Hon to reach her first QF of the 2026 season
- Is into her first QF since Ningbo last October, and is seeking her first SF since that same event (l. eventual champion Rybakina in SF)
- Snapped a 3-match losing streak with victory over Hon (l. Jovic in Australian Open 3r, l. Sakkari in Doha opener; l. Eala in Dubai opener)
- Faces No.69 Katie Boulter in QF today; Paolini is 4-1 this year vs. players ranked outside Top 50 (the 1 loss was to Sakkari at Doha)
- Owns 3-1 career Tour-level record against players from United Kingdom; last meeting vs. a British player was a win over Boulter at 2025 Madrid
- Career-best WTA 500 results are 5 SF finishes, most recently at 2025 Ningbo (l. eventual champion Rybakina)
- 2 of her 3 career WTA singles titles have come on hard court: WTA 1000 Dubai in 2024, and Portoroz in 2021
- Is No.1 seed this week; has been top seed at 2 WTA tournaments in her career (also 2023 Monastir, finished R-Up to No.2 seed Mertens)
- Only player from Italy in this week's main draw
- Best result by Italy at Merida was Camila Giorgi's run to the title at the inaugural edition in 2023
- Best result by a wild card at Merida was QF run by Zeynep Sonmez in 2025
- Is currently ranked No.7; this time last year was ranked No.6. Reached career-high ranking of No.4 in October 2024

### CURRENT TOURNAMENT

1r: d. B. HADDAD MAIA (#66) 6-4 6-4 (1h 54m)  
2r: d. C. OSORIO (#61) 6-3 (38m)

*Total time on court: 2h 32m*

### PLAYER NOTES

- Making her Merida tournament debut
- Contesting her first event since winning her 4th career WTA Tour singles title at 2026 Ostrava earlier this month (d. Korpatsch in F)
- Currently on a 7-match winning streak, her career-best at Tour level
- Defeated Beatriz Haddad Maia and Camila Osorio (via ret.) so far this week to improve to 8-2 on the season
- Faces No.7 Jasmine Paolini in QF today; owns 4 wins in career over Top 10 players, most recently No.9 Paula Badosa at 2025 Wimbledon
- Owns 2-4 career Tour-level record against players from Italy; her last meeting vs. Italian player was loss to Paolini at 2025 Madrid
- Has won one WTA 500 title in her career (2024 San Diego, d. Kostyuk in F)
- 2 of her 4 career WTA singles titles have come on hard court (2024 San Diego and 2026 Ostrava)
- One of 2 players from United Kingdom in this week's main draw (qualifier Watson lost 1r)
- First player from United Kingdom to reach Merida Open QF
- Best result by a wild card at Merida was QF run by Zeynep Sonmez in 2025
- Is currently ranked No.69; this time last year was ranked No.26. Reached career-high ranking of No.23 in November 2024



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## RECENT TOURNAMENT HISTORY

- Making her tournament debut in Main Draw Singles

- Making her tournament debut in Main Draw Singles



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## SEASON 2026 HISTORY

- Played 2r at Dubai (l. Eala)
- Made 2r at Doha (l. Sakkari)
- Reached 3r at Australian Open (l. Jovic)
- Kicked off 2026 going 1-1 in singles for Team Italy at United Cup

- Champion run at Ostrava (d. R-Up Korpatsch in F)
- Fell in 1r at Australian Open (l. Bencic)
- Opened the 2026 season with a 2r finish at Auckland (as WC, l. eventual champion Svitolina)

VALUE	WTA RANK	MATCH STATS	VALUE	WTA RANK
9	100	<b>Aces</b>	20	54
64.3%	53	<b>First serve %</b>	56.1%	118
59.7%	97	<b>First Serve points won %</b>	70.6%	17
49.7%	23	<b>Second serve points won %</b>	46.2%	48
56.1%	74	<b>Overall service points won %</b>	59.9%	27
64.3%	68	<b>Service games won %</b>	71.0%	40
62.7%	11	<b>Break points saved %</b>	61.4%	18
40.5%	15	<b>First serve return points won %</b>	42.1%	8
54.5%	65	<b>Second serve return points won %</b>	57.5%	35
45.6%	70	<b>Break points converted %</b>	52.3%	21
44.9%	11	<b>Return games won %</b>	47.9%	4
46.0%	21	<b>Return points won %</b>	47.9%	8



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## TITLES & GRAND SLAMS

### SINGLES FINALS

Champion (3)  
2025 - ROME  
2024 - DUBAI  
2021 - PORTOROZ  
Runner-Up (6)  
2025 - CINCINNATI  
2024 - WIMBLEDON, ROLAND GARROS  
2023 - MONASTIR, PALERMO  
2022 - CLUJ-NAPOCA

### DOUBLES FINALS

Champion (10)  
2025 - BEIJING (w/Errani), ROLAND GARROS (w/Errani), ROME (w/Errani), DOHA (w/Errani)  
2024 - BEIJING (w/Errani), OLYMPICS (w/Errani), ROME (w/Errani), LINZ (w/Errani)  
2023 - MONASTIR (w/Errani)  
2021 - HAMBURG (w/Teichmann)  
Runner-Up (3)  
2025 - BERLIN (w/Errani)  
2024 - ROLAND GARROS (w/Errani)  
2022 - MELBOURNE 250 #1 (w/Errani)

### SINGLES FINALS

Champion (4)  
2026 - OSTRAVA  
2024 - NOTTINGHAM, SAN DIEGO  
2023 - NOTTINGHAM  
Runner-Up (1)  
2024 - HONG KONG 250

AUSTRALIAN OPEN	ROLAND GARROS	WIMBLEDON	US OPEN		AUSTRALIAN OPEN	ROLAND GARROS	WIMBLEDON	US OPEN
3r				<b>2026</b>	1r			
3r	4r	2r	3r	<b>2025</b>	2r	2r	2r	1r
4r	RUP	RUP	4r	<b>2024</b>	2r	1r	2r	2r
1r	2r	1r	1r	<b>2023</b>			3r	3r
1r	1r	1r	1r	<b>2022</b>			3r	
1r	2r	1r	2r	<b>2021</b>	1r		2r	1r
1r	2r		1r	<b>2020</b>	1r			
	1r			<b>2019</b>	2r			
				<b>2018</b>			2r	
				<b>2017</b>			1r	



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## CAREER MILESTONES

- In 2025 earned second WTA 1000 title of her career on home soil at Rome, also winning the doubles title with Errani - became the first woman to sweep the Rome singles and doubles titles since Monica Seles in 1990
- Also in 2025 won her first Grand Slam title in any discipline, pairing with Errani to claim the Roland Garros women's doubles crown and qualified for the 2025 WTA Finals in both singles and doubles for the second time in her career after 2024
- Breakout 2024 season saw her win the biggest title of her career at WTA 1000 Dubai and also reach her first Grand Slam finals, finishing R-Up at Roland-Garros and Wimbledon. Qualified for her first WTA Finals in singles and doubles, broke into the Top 10 for the first time in her career and finished the season as the World No.4
- Finished 2023 by breaking into Top 30 for first time, achieving No. 29 on Oct 23, 2023 after becoming runner-up at Monastir (l. Mertens). Also achieved runner-up at Palermo and SF at Zhengzhou (l. Zheng both times) as well as QFs at Lyon (l. Garcia) and Cincinnati as a qualifier (l. eventual champion Gauff). Enjoyed two Top 10 wins (No.10 Garcia and No.4 Rybakina).
- In 2022, finished R-Up at Cluj-Napoca (l. Blinkova), while made back-to-back SF at Palermo (l. Bronzetti) and Warsaw (l. eventual champion Garcia); also reached QF at Lyon (l. Yastremska), Portoroz (l. eventual champion Siniakova) and Parma (l. Kovinic)
- Broke into Top 50 on January 31, 2021
- Posted near-Top 50 season finish in 2021 after capturing first WTA singles title of career at Portoroz (d. Riske in F)
- Strong season finish also brought SF run at Courmayeur (l. eventual champion Vekic) and QF effort at Linz (l. Halep); posted best win of season over No.18 Mertens en route to 3r at Indian Wells (l. Pegula)
- Also in 2021 won the WTA 125K event in Bol, Croatia (d. Rus in F) and was R-Up at the same level in Saint Malo (l. Golubic)
- Captured first WTA doubles title in 2021, at Hamburg (w/Teichmann)
- In 2021, for first time in career, contested the full suite of all four Grand Slam events; reached 2r at Roland Garros and US Open, equalling best previous Slam result
- In 2020, reached 2r four times at WTA tournaments, including Roland Garros (l. Kvitova)
- Highlights of 2025 were reaching QF on home grass at Nottingham (l. Kessler) and making QF with the Great Britain team at the United Cup (won two round robin matches and lost to Swiatek in QF). Also won a WTA 125 title at Paris
- 2024 season saw Boulter rise to a career high ranking of No.23, achieved on Nov 4, 2024. Successfully defended title at Nottingham (d. Ka. Pliskova in F) and won San Diego (d. Kostyuk in F). Made SF at Tokyo (l. Kenin) and wrapped up the year with a final run at Hong Kong (l. champion Shnaider)
- In 2023 captured first WTA singles title of career on home soil at Nottingham; made Top 50 debut at No.50 the week of September 11; advanced to 3r at Wimbledon for second year in a row (l. Rybakina), and at US Open for first time (l. Stearns)
- Also in 2023, reached 2r as qualifier at both Montreal and Beijing; on ITF Circuit won one singles title at Canberra and reached two finals in Japan; went 2-0 in singles in November's Billie Jean King Cup play-offs against Sweden
- During the 2022 grass court season, advanced to QF at Nottingham (ret. vs. Davis w/right elbow injury) and 2r at Wimbledon (l. Sabalenka)
- Opened 2021 season by reaching 3r at the Gippsland Trophy in Melbourne (l. Osaka); upset No.14 seed Gauff in 2r
- Ended 2020 by finishing R-Up at \$15k ITF/Sharm El-Sheikh-EGY. Earlier in the year, made 2r at Acapulco (l. Zhu) and fell 1r at Australian Open (l. Svitolina) in only Tour-level outings
- Suffered a stress fracture in her back which forced her out for much of 2019. Best results prior to injury were 2r showing at Australian Open and SF run at \$25K ITF/Solapur-IND (l. Raina)
- Won the WTA's first-ever 10-point match tie-break at a Slam to see off Makarova in 1r at 2019 Australian Open
- Reached career-high No.82 on February 18, 2019
- Broke into the Top 100 the week of October 15, 2018
- Made significant strides in 2018, reaching first WTA QF of career at Nottingham (l. eventual champion Barty) - defeated Stosur en route for her first win over a Grand Slam winner. Also enjoyed QF run at Tianjin (d. No.432 Sakkari, l. Ka.Pliskova) and R-Up finish at \$100K ITF/Southsea-GBR (l. Flipkens)
- Also in 2018, reached 2r for the first time at a major, at Wimbledon (d. Cepede Royg, l. Osaka)

- Highlights of 2019 included QF showings at Guangzhou and Palermo, a SF run at the WTA 125K Series event at Karlsruhe, lifting seventh, eighth and ninth ITF Circuit titles of her career, at \$60KBrescia-ITA, \$25K ITF/Curtiba-BRA and \$100K ITF/Tokyo-JPN, and qualifying for maiden Grand Slam main draw at Roland Garros (l. Kasatkina in 1r)
- Ended 2018 ranked No.180, with season highlight a maiden WTA singles QF at Prague (d. No.15 Kasatkina, l. Zhang)
- Made WTA main draw debut at 2017 Bastad (l. Suarez Navarro in 1r) and also fell 1r at Guangzhou and in qualifying a further three times
- Made WTA qualifying debut at 2015 Rome
- Made professional debut on ITF Circuit in Italy in 2011

- Fell in 1r on Tour-level main draw singles debut at 2017 Wimbledon (as WC, l. McHale)
- On ITF Circuit, winner of seven singles titles and four doubles titles
- Played first professional events of career on ITF Circuit in Great Britain in 2011
- Appeared in girls' singles at all four Slams, reaching 3r at Australian Open, Wimbledon and US Open, and was R-Up in doubles at 2014 Australian Open (w/Jorovic, l. Kalinina/Kulichkova). Other junior highlights include winning Lemon Bowl in Rome at age of 11, and reaching final at Junior Orange Bowl in Florida at age 14

## OTHER INFORMATION

- Coached by Danilo Pizzorno and Sara Errani
- Resides in Bagni di Lucca and trains in Forte dei Marmi, Italy
- Father is Ugo Paolini, mother is Jacqueline Gardiner and brother is William Paolini. Grandmother lives in Lodz, Poland. Mother is of Ghanaian/Polish descent
- Idolizes Roger Federer
- Favorite shot is her forehand and favorite surface is clay
- Speaks Italian, English and Polish

- Coached by Michael Joyce
- Formerly worked with Biljana Veselinovic
- Receives support from the LTA via their Pro Scholarship Programme and trains at National Tennis Centre in London
- Mother is Sue (ex-tennis coach), Father is David
- Began playing tennis aged 5; tennis idol is Serena Williams
- Hobbies include hockey, cycling, shopping and cooking; supports Leicester City football club