

## WTA STORYLINES

### ROME, STRASBOURG, RABAT / MAY & JUNE 2026

#### Setting The Scene

Tournament	Champion	Runner-Up
Credit One Charleston Open	Jessica Pegula (USA)	Yuliia Starodubtseva (UKR)
Copa Colsanitas Colsubsidio (Bogota)	Marie Bouzkova (CZE)	Panna Udvardy (HUN)
Upper Austria Ladies Linz	Mirra Andreeva	Anastasia Potapova (AUT)
Porsche Tennis Grand Prix (Stuttgart)	Elena Rybakina (KAZ)	Karolina Muchova (CZE)
Open Capfinances Rouen Metropole	Marta Kostyuk (UKR)	Veronika Podrez (UKR)
Mutua Madrid Open	Marta Kostyuk (UKR)	Mirra Andreeva

#### Off-Court Storylines

- The home of the Internazionali BNL d'Italia – the **Foro Italico** – has benefitted from several **major upgrades** for the 2026 edition of the tournament, including a higher seating capacity of **7,500** on Grand Stand Arena and a new capacity of **3,000 fans** on the SuperTennis Arena
- Players will benefit directly from the innovative **Zerobody Dry Float** system which allows athletes to recover both physically and mentally by simulating a **zero-gravity environment**
- In April the WTA announced a new WTA 250 tournament would take place in **Athens, Greece**, during the week of July 13. The **Athens Open** replaces the Jiangxi Open which had been scheduled in early November
- **Aryna Sabalenka** was crowned **2026 Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year** last month following an outstanding and dominant year on Tour
- Following fan feedback, the **WTA website** has released a new feature that creates an alert when **Player Entry Lists** are released and **Main Draws are published**
- The **Strasbourg** tournament is supporting the city's **Tennis Health / Presci-Mouv** concept which allows **medical doctors to prescribe exercise** – now including tennis – to patients with the local government covering all costs for sessions
- Strasbourg, is also celebrating its **40<sup>th</sup> anniversary** this year following its first edition in 1987, and will once again continue its commitment towards **sustainability** - read about their innovative sustainable development approach [here](#)
- It's **25 years since the first WTA Tour event was held in Morocco**. The first staging in 2001 was held in **Casablanca**, and over the years, the Grand Prix de SAR La Princesse Lalla Meryem has also been hosted in Fez and Marrakech. **Rabat** has been home to the event since 2016; former champions include Francesca Schiavone, Kiki Bertens, Elina Svitolina and Elise Mertens

#### Partnerships / Commercial

- **WTA Ventures CEO Marina Storti** was at the **SportsPro London** conference in April to deliver a key-note talk on the momentum behind the WTA's landmark partnership with Mercedes-Benz. Read more [here](#)

- **Sarah Swanson**, WTA Ventures' Chief Brand Officer, recently sat down with **Front Office Sports** to discuss the business behind the Tour's incredible global growth and the brand-first approach that is driving the WTA's success on and off the court. [Watch the interview here](#)

### Siniakova Reclaims Doubles No.1 Ranking

- On Monday May 4 **Katerina Siniakova** reclaimed the **PIF WTA World No.1 Doubles Ranking** having lifted the Mutua Madrid Open trophy - the ninth WTA 1000 doubles title of her career
- Siniakova first reached the elite ranking position in doubles in October 2018, and the week of May 4 marks her **181st overall week** in the top spot which is the third-most in WTA history, sitting only behind Martina Navratilova (237) and Liezel Huber (199)
- The 29-year-old has enjoyed an outstanding 12-months on the WTA Tour driven by Mercedes-Benz, highlighted by completing the *Sunshine Double* by **winning back-to-back WTA 1000 tournaments** at the BNP Paribas Open (Indian Wells) and the Miami Open presented by Itaú earlier this year (both with Taylor Townsend)

### WTA Legends Milestones

- It's 10 years since **Serena Williams** defeated **Madison Keys** to win her fourth and final Rome title in 2016 (also triumphed in 2002, 2013-14)
- It's 25 years since **Jelena Dokic** defeated Amelie Mauresmo to win the biggest title of her career at Rome (2001)
- It's 30 years since **Conchita Martinez** won her fourth successive Rome title; she's the only player to win four in a row here (1993-96)
- It's 50 years since Slovenian great **Mima Jausovec**, a trailblazer for the former Yugoslavia, won the Italian Open title (defeating Australia's Lesley Hunt in the final of 1976)

### WTA Coaches

- The WTA and **Italian Tennis Federation** (FITP) will hold a joint press conference on **Wednesday, May 6 onsite in Rome** to announce the newest version of the Coach Inclusion Program. All credentialed media are welcome to attend. The press conference will take place at 3:15pm local time
- The **WTA Coach Inclusion Program** is geared towards attracting, training, and developing women coaches, with the goal of **breaking down barriers** and providing opportunities for women entering professional tennis at the coaching level. The Program currently operates in North America, France, Great Britain, the Middle East, and the APAC-Region

### WTA 125 Snapshot

- A **mini-China swing** is currently underway on the 125 circuit which featured events at **Huzhou** on clay (April 27 – May 3) and now **Jiujiang** on hard courts (May 4 - 10)

## Race to the WTA Finals

- **Mirra Andreeva** continues her steady climb and has cemented herself among the Top 8 on the Leaderboard following her runner-up finish in **Madrid**, and currently sits in the No.4 position. **Andreeva** started the clay-court swing at No.8, and has enjoyed winning the title at **Linz** and a semifinal run at **Stuttgart**, both of which are WTA 500 events
- Following her first WTA 1000 crown in Madrid, **Marta Kostyuk** now sits just outside the automatic qualification places at No.9. She also has a title at WTA 250 **Rouen** adding vital points
- In doubles, **Katerina Siniakova and Taylor Townsend** continued their impressive form with their **third WTA 1000 title in a row** at Madrid, also extending their unbeaten match run to 15 having also triumphed at Indian Wells and Miami. They sit in second on the Leaderboard, trailing **Aleksandra Krunic and Anna Danilina** by just over 300 points