

# Press Release

## Former World No.1 Simona Halep Surprise Inclusion for Inaugural Prudential Hong Kong Tennis 125

**(28 September 2024, HONG KONG)** Anticipation and excitement is building with a compelling mix of famous tour names and next-generation stars set to thrill Hong Kong tennis fans as the inaugural Prudential Hong Kong Tennis 125 gets set to get underway on Monday.

A real treat for tennis aficionados and in a major coup for the city's very first WTA 125 Tour event, sees the welcome return to the competitive tennis scene of two-time Grand Slam champion and former world No.1 Simona Halep.

The shock inclusion in the Prudential Hong Kong Tennis 125 field comes as a pleasant surprise to fans, who were not anticipating Simona's appearance in Hong Kong until the WTA 250 Prudential Hong Kong Tennis Open.

"I'm excited to be making my return to action in Hong Kong," said Simona Halep. "It has been a while since I stepped on the match court, but I'm feeling great so I'm really looking forward to getting back out there. I want to say a big thanks to the HKCTA for the wild card and I can't wait to experience the city of Hong Kong."

The thirty-three-year-old Romanian tennis star, who ranked World No. 1 in singles twice between 2017 and 2019 for a total of 64 weeks, is sure to be a major attraction for excited Hong Kong fans. A two-time Grand Slam singles title winner, at the 2018 French Open and the 2019 Wimbledon Championships, this is really the launch of her comeback to the WTA Tour after a nearly 2-year tennis hiatus.

"We are delighted that Simona has chosen the Prudential Hong Kong Tennis 125 to launch her comeback on the WTA Tour. It's been a long time coming," said Mr. Peter Johnston, Prudential Hong Kong Tennis 125 Tournament Director and Director of International Events of HKCTA. "Simona's star quality brings a fabulous boost to our very first WTA 125 tennis tournament, which represents the first event of our exciting new Hong Kong Tennis Series season. Not only do Hong Kong's tennis fans get a real tennis treat, but our young local elite players have an amazing opportunity to experience one of the true greats of the women's game."

Simona joins an exciting roster of established and new 'rising star' player entries set to join Hong Kong's new WTA 125 tennis tournament, which boasts an intriguing line-up of experienced WTA tour veterans and up-and-coming women's stars, most featuring in the WTA tennis top 100.

Commencing this Monday 30 September, the inaugural Prudential Hong Kong Tennis 125 runs from 30 September through to 6 October and is being held at the iconic Victoria Park Tennis Stadium. Tickets are still available, with pricing ranging from HK\$100 to HK\$400 for finals day, with entry free on 30 September and 1 October\*.



Public ticket sales are available through the online ticketing platform [tickets.tennishk.org](https://tickets.tennishk.org)\*\*. As an environmentally conscious green event, ticketing will be paperless. A 50% discount concession is available for children and the elderly\*\*\*.

Those unable to attend in person can still enjoy all the thrills and spills of the Prudential Hong Kong Tennis 125 games online at WTA Unlocked, a free streaming platform for fans to watch all WTA 125 tournaments live. Join WTA Unlocked for free at [www.wtatennis.com/unlocked](https://www.wtatennis.com/unlocked).

For tournament and ticketing details, please visit <https://www.hktennisopen.hk/en/wta125/>

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\* Free entry on a first-come, first served basis on site.

\*\* As a paperless ticketing event, ticketholders are required to access their e-tickets on HK Tennis Series Ticketing App, available for download on Google Play Store or App Store.

\*\*\* Concession tickets are available for children and elderly aged 60 or above.

**Released on behalf of the HKCTA by ActionHouse International Limited.**

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**About Hong Kong, China Tennis Association (HKCTA)**

The HKCTA is a National Sport Association formed in 1909 with 40 affiliated clubs, over 4,000 individual members and recognised by both the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF) and the International Tennis Federation (ITF). HKCTA's objectives are to promote tennis to all, to nurture talented players to compete at a regional and international level, and to raise the standard of the game in Hong Kong. To meet its objectives, HKCTA organises a number of local and international tennis tournaments as well as grassroots, junior and elite development programs, inter-club leagues, coaching certification courses and a Tennis-For-All open enrollment programme. For more information, please visit [www.tennishk.org](http://www.tennishk.org).

**About Prudential Hong Kong Limited**

Prudential has been serving the people of Hong Kong since 1964. Through Prudential Hong Kong Limited and Prudential General Insurance Hong Kong Limited, we provide a range of financial planning services and products including individual life insurance, investment-linked insurance, retirement solutions, health and medical protection, general insurance, and employee benefits to protect over 1.3 million customers in Hong Kong. In 2023, Prudential established its Macau branch to offer health insurance and financial solutions for the Macau community, completing its footprint in the Greater Bay Area. Please visit [www.prudential.com.hk](http://www.prudential.com.hk) for more information.

**About the Prudential Hong Kong Tennis 125**

The Prudential Hong Kong Tennis 125 will be held in Hong Kong for the first time, kicking off the brand new Hong Kong Tennis Series. The event aims to developing future women's tennis stars, providing an exciting new competitive opportunity for our elite local women players, along with other 'rising stars' from mainland China, Asia and internationally. This new WTA 125 event will be important springboard for the next-generation of women's players to the elite levels of the game (including WTA 250).



### About the WTA

Celebrating its 51<sup>st</sup> year, the WTA is the global leader in women's professional sports. The WTA is one of the world's most recognizable and high-profile sports organizations, consisting of more than 1650 players representing approximately 85 nations, all competing to earn WTA rankings points and prestigious tournament titles. The WTA Tour comprises of over 50 events and four Grand Slams, spanning six continents and nearly 30 countries and regions with a global audience of over 700 million. Further information on the WTA can be found at [www.wtatennis.com](http://www.wtatennis.com).