

Press Release

World No.8 Emma Navarro Joins Stellar Line-up of Inaugural Prudential Hong Kong Tennis 125

(29 September 2024, HONG KONG) The arrival of world No. 8 Emma Navarro today in Hong Kong represents a second major coup for this week's inaugural Prudential Hong Kong Tennis 125 after the organiser had earlier secured the participation of Simona Halep, a former world No. 1 and two-time Grand Slam champion. Navarro and Halep are set to headline one of the strongest fields assembled for a WTA 125 event in recent memory.

A stellar tournament line-up

Navarro started 2024 in blistering form, reaching the WTA 250 Auckland semifinal before capturing her maiden tour title at the WTA 250 Hobart. She continued with a semifinal showing at the WTA 500 San Diego, semis at WTA 500 Bad Homburg, and reached her first Grand Slam quarterfinal at Wimbledon. She then reached the WTA 1000 Toronto semifinal before defeating Coco Gauff and Paula Badosa to secure her first Grand Slam semifinal at the US Open, elevating her to a new career-high No. 8 in the rankings. Her current hot-streak puts her firmly in the frame for a great run here in Hong Kong.

She is joined by Ajla Tomljanović, who is looking to regain lost ground that saw her peak at No. 32 last April. She came storming back at the end of last year by winning the WTA 125 Florianopolis and has featured in all four Grand Slams in 2024. She also reached her fifth career tour final at the WTA 250 Birmingham earlier this season as well as the quarterfinals of the W100 Surbiton. Hong Kong's tennis aficionados will recognise her as one of the players who starred in Netflix's docuseries, *Break Point*.

Also in the field are former two-time Asian Games and National Games women's singles gold medalist, Wang Qiang; and members of Team Hong Kong, China, including Eudice Chong, Cody Wong and Tiffany Wu.

The Prudential Hong Kong Tennis 125 is an event that showcases world-class women's tennis, while being part of a professional circuit aimed at developing future WTA stars. It is part of the Hong Kong Tennis Series (HKTS), a platform aimed at raising the international profile of Hong Kong as an event destination. The HKTS kicks off with the Prudential Hong Kong Tennis 125, followed by the WTA 250 Prudential Hong Kong Tennis Open in late October, and culminating with the ATP 250 in January.

The Official Draw of the Prudential Hong Kong Tennis 125 took place earlier today at 4pm. Emma Navarro and Simona Halep were drawn in the same quarter of the draw. They could potentially face off in the quarterfinals.

"We are thrilled that the new Prudential Hong Kong Tennis 125 tournament has proved such a major attraction to so many well-known names and new stars, and many top 100 players on the WTA Tour," explained **Mr. Michael Cheng, President of Hong Kong, China Tennis Association**. "The main draw features a compelling mix of both established and future stars, providing the perfect competitive environment for developing the future of women's tennis,

both for visiting international and importantly our local players, whilst inspiring and attracting a new generation of young audiences to the play and watch the game.”

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*.

As part of the HKCTA’s community programme, the organiser will be offering complimentary tickets to underprivileged children and families in Hong Kong, ensuring everyone from every walk of life has the opportunity to experience this exciting sport.

Public ticket sales are available through the online ticketing platform 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 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.

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.

Download link for high-res photos and player’s profiles: <https://bit.ly/4gKJEH2>

Photo Captions:

Emma Navarro	
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Mr. Michael Cheng, President of the Hong Kong, China Tennis Association, attended the Draw Ceremony along with Guests of Honor.

Mr. Michael Cheng, President of HKCTA (Left third)

Mr. Lam Siu Wai, Vice President of HKCTA (Right third)

Mr. Peter Johnston, Tournament Director of Prudential Hong Kong Tennis 125 and Director of International Events of HKCTA (Right second)

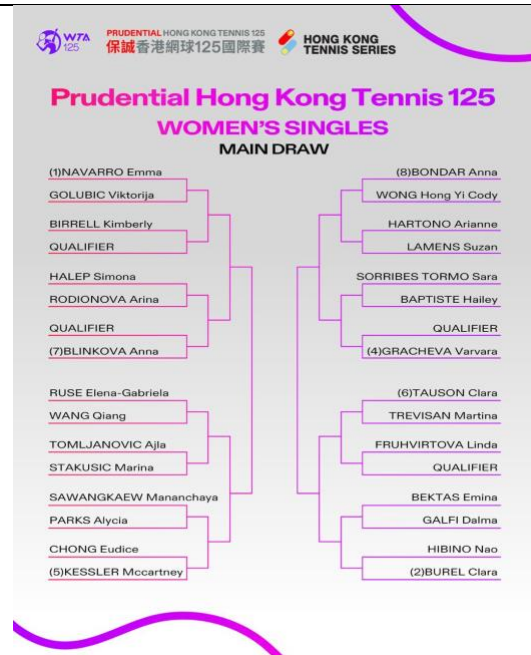
Mr. Chen Shu, Supervisor of WTA (Right first)

Eudice Chong, player of Team Hong Kong, China (Left second)

Zhang Ling, Captain of Team Hong Kong, China (Left first)



Maindraw Singles



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.

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 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 51st 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.