

# Dubai Duty Free gears up for tennis tournament



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World number one Simona Halep is eagerly looking forward to making a return to the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships for the first time in three years when play kicks off next month.

The Dubai Duty Free WTA Player Ambassador heads an incredible field that includes all but one of the top 10 as she seeks to regain the title she last claimed in 2015. Since then, she has become a Grand Slam champion at the French Open.

“We are thrilled to welcome back Simona Halep to the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships,” said Colm McLoughlin, Executive Vice Chairman and CEO of Dubai Duty Free. “It has been fascinating to watch her reach new heights since she was here in 2016, and we are sure that she will continue to be a major force in the game for many years to come. We wish her well as she attempts to add another title to her already wonderful collection.”

Among those competing alongside Halep for the title will be fellow 2018 Grand Slam winners Caroline Wozniacki, Angelique Kerber and Naomi Osaka as well as two-time Dubai champion Elina Svitolina, double Wimbledon winner Petra Kvitova and former Grand Slam champions Garbine Muguruza and Jelena Ostapenko.

“The challenge that Simona Halep faces is daunting, but she has shown that she can overcome any

challenge,” said Tournament Director Salah Tahlak. “We can look forward to a wonderful week of drama and excitement as she attempts to regain her title.”

The week of women’s tennis will be followed by a men’s extravaganza headed by seven-time champion Roger Federer.

The Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships, which is owned and organized by Dubai Duty Free and held under the patronage of H. H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, begins with the WTA event which takes place between February 17 and 23, and is followed by the ATP event between February 25 and March 2.

For details about the tournament, visit [www.dubaidutyfreetennischampionships.com](http://www.dubaidutyfreetennischampionships.com)