

Overview - Brazil Open

With over a quarter of the field made up of players who had either qualified or been given a place in the draw, the standard of the tournament wasn't especially high. However, several players had played the previous week in Vina Del Mar so the expectation was for a keenly fought event.

That said, Albert Montanes (No.3) followed an early defeat the previous week with another all too brief showing this time around and the Spaniard was followed out in R1 by Potito Starace (No.8) who was beaten by home favourite, Thomaz Bellucci, in straight sets.

Elsewhere, Jose Acasuso (No.4) overcame a tough R1 assignment against fellow Argentine, Juan Monaco, in two close sets.

Moving into R2 and both Nicolas Almagro (No.1) and Tommy Robredo (No.2) recorded their second straight win without dropping a set and were joined in the QF's by Acasuso and Eduardo Schwank (No.6). The two other remaining seeds, Marcel Granollers (No.5) and Nicolas Devilder (No.7), were upset by Frederico Gil and Alberto Martin respectively. Performance of the round went to Bellucci who was 1-4 down in the final set to the Pole, Lukasz Kubot, but battled back to win 6-4 and book his place in the QF's.

In those QF's and the Brazilian did it again as he beat Juan Carlos Ferrero with another great win, lifted by the home support - *'I don't feel the pressure of playing at home. The crowd has been very supportive.'* he said after the best win of his career. Another big shock came as the Portuguese player, Frederico Gil, took out the top seed and favourite, Nicolas Almagro, in two tie-breaks.

The remaining QF's went according to the script as Jose Acasuso and Tommy Robredo both won - barely extended in the process either.

Gil made the SF's in Johannesburg the week before, and lost, and did so again here as Bellucci kept his dream alive with a hard fought win. Then, in a re-match of last week's Vina Del Mar SF, Robredo faced Acasuso. On that occasion Acasuso won in three sets, this time Robredo gained revenge with a crushing 62 minute win in which he dropped just three games.

Experience told in the final as Robredo held off a spirited Bellucci to win in three sets in a match lasting 2'13". The Spaniard moved to 8:7 in career finals and stated his desire to return next year by saying *'I hope to return many times to Costa do Sauipe.'* Bellucci confirmed his undoubted promise in this event and his first career final certainly won't be his last.



Brazil Open

February 9-14, 2009

Outdoor, Clay - ATP Tour World 250

R32	Nicolas Almagro [1]	77	R16	Nicolas Almagro	66
R32	wc-Ricardo Hocevar	65	R16	Martin Vassallo Arguello	44
R32	Martin Vassallo-Arguello	726	R16	Frederico Gil	736
R32	Nicolas Massu	664	R16	Marcel Granollers	563
R32	se-Frederic Gil	366	R16	Juan Carlos Ferrero	66
R32	Pablo Andujar	643	R16	Brian Dabul	12
R32	wc-Flavio Saretta	261	R16	Lukasz Kubot	744
R32	Marcel Granollers [5]	626	R16	Thomaz Bellucci	566
R32	Albert Montanes [3]	722	R16	Eduardo Schwank	277
R32	Juan Carlos Ferrero	666	R16	Rui Machado	666
R32	Paul Capdeville	ret'd. 1	R16	Pablo Cuevas	32
R32	Brian Dabul	6	R16	Jose Acasuso	66
R32	Daniel Gimeno-Traver	663	R16	Nicolas Devilder	26
R32	q-Lukasz Kubot	716	R16	Alberto Martin	67
R32	Thomaz Bellucci	66	R16	Fabio Fognini	22
R32	Potito Starace [8]	34	R16	Tommy Robredo	66
R32	Eduardo Schwank [6]	67	QF	Nicolas Almagro	66
R32	Diego Junqueira	15	QF	Frederico Gil	77
R32	Ivan Navarro	41	QF	Juan Carlos Ferrero	663
R32	q-Rui Machado	66	QF	Thomaz Bellucci	716
R32	se-Pablo Cuevas	466	QF	Eduardo Schwank	43
R32	Oscar Hernandez	641	QF	Jose Acasuso	66
R32	Juan Monaco	64	QF	Alberto Martin	22
R32	Jose Acasuso [4]	76	QF	Tommy Robredo	66
R32	Nicolas Devilder [7]	76			
R32	q-Daniel Silva	62	SF	Frederico Gil	66
R32	Alberto Martin	67	SF	Thomaz Bellucci	77
R32	Nicolas Lapentti	45	SF	Jose Acasuso	21
R32	q-Caio Zampieri	662	SF	Tommy Robredo	66
R32	Fabio Fognini	076			
R32	wc-Thiago Alves	42	RU	Thomas Bellucci	364
R32	Tommy Robredo [2]	66	W	Tommy Robredo	636

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
R32	16 matches	9-7	2.43	22.81
R16	8 matches	5-3	2.37	23.12
QF	4 matches	3-1	2.25	22.50
SF	2 matches	2-0	2.00	20.50
F	1 match	0-1	3.00	28.00

Brazil Open - Facts & Figures

Market Leaders	Odds
Nicolas Almagro [1]	5/2
Tomy Robredo [2]	4/1
Jose Acasuso [4]	11/1
Juan Monaco	12/1
Juan Carlos Ferrero	16/1
Marcel Granollers [5]	20/1
Potito Starace [8]	20/1
Albert Montanes [3]	20/1
Eduardo Schwank [6]	22/1
Thomaz Bellucci	25/1
Oscar Hernandez	40/1
Pablo Cuevas	50/1
Martin Vassallo Arguello	50/1
Paul Capdeville	50/1
Nicolas Massu	50/1

Performance Of The Seeded Players

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2009	QF	W	R1	SF	R2	QF	R2	R1
2008	RU	W	R1	R1	QF	R1	R1	R2
2007	RU	QF	QF	R1	R1	SF	R1	-
2006	R2	R1	R2	R2	QF	W	RU	QF
2005	-	R1	R2	R1	R1	W	QF	R2
2004	R1	R1	W	RU	R1	R1	R2	QF

Recent Winners/Leading Performers

	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing SF's
2009	Tommy Robredo (4/1)	Thomaz Bellucci (40/1)	Acasuso-Gil
2008	Nicolas Almagro (7/2)	Carlos Moya (5/1)	Fognini-Lapentti
2007	Guillermo Canas (12/1)	Juan Carlos Ferrero (10/1)	Chela-Saretta
2006	Nicolas Massu (9/1)	Alberto Martin (28/1)	Monaco-Patience
2005	Rafael Nadal (6/1)	Alberto Martin (50/1)	Mello-Luczak
2004	Gustavo Kuerten (6/1)	Agustin Calleri (14/1)	Acasuso-Horna

Betting - Brazil Open

Pre-Tournament Briefing :-

Nicolas Alamgro (5/2), the defending champion, had the identical profile as 12 months before and so had to be put into calculations.

And with both Granollers (20/1) and Montanes (20/1) looking weak alternatives the only other option to the Spaniard was the winner of the R1 match between Bellucci (25/1) who was an unknown quantity and Starace (20/1) who had experience but little winning form. Ferrero (16/1) hadn't won since '03 and always found 'one too good' these days.

The bottom section revolved around your view of who would win between Acasuso (11/1) and Monaco (12/1) in R1 - a very tough match to call - and then whether they could beat Robredo (4/1) in the SF. No other players mattered in the bottom section.

So, in essence, the event boiled down to a couple of decisions, could Alamgro repeat last year's win and/or could Robredo win his SF (after losing one the week before in Vina Del Mar to ... Acasuso).

Post-Tournament Review :-

Robredo came on for the previous week in Chile and won in good style. He didn't get his service broken until the second set of the final - no mean feat on clay - and took out Acasuso in the SF in clinical style.

After a poor '08 the Spaniard might well be back on the map as could the Argentine, Acasuso, who played well in both Vina Del Mar and again here.

Almagro blew it against Gil (taking just 2 of 11 break points) but his first two wins were nothing special anyway. He looked like this event came too early for him - even though his preparation was no different to the year before.

Bellucci was the star. The guy looks to have real potential and could prove more than just the 'local boy doen good'. Playing at home did lift his play but he still showed enough to suggest that he's one to follow in the future.

Pointers for 2010 :-

The Spaniards do well here with a finalist in each of the last five years, then again the South Americans must be respected. Clay-courtiers only need apply and a 'pipe-opener' the week before in Chile is no bad thing. You have to fancy Robredo and Bellucci on this year's showing whilst Almagro clearly likes it here. At a bigger price, Eduardo Schwank is also one to consider.