

Overview - Estoril Open

A reasonable tournament in terms of quality even if the seedings were a little strange - with, for example, Juan Monaco and Juan Carlos Ferrero both passed over for the lesser claims of Florent Serra and Albert Montanes.

This didn't seem to matter much in R1, however, as all the big names safely made it through ... except David Nalbandian. The Argentine, a former winner here, had an all too familiar off-day in crashing out horribly to the Chilean, Paul Capdeville. There was little other drama apart from another former champion, Gaston Gaudio, falling to Fabio Fognini, also in straight sets - the one-time French Open winner no longer the player he once was.

R2 saw good wins for Gilles Simon (No.1) and Nikolay Davydenko (No.2) as they both registered a second straight win without dropping a set. James Blake (No.4) showed improved clay court form to oust Marc Gicquel and each of Mardy Fish (No.6), Albert Montanes (No.7) and Florent Serra (No.8) progressed - Serra deserves a special mention for defeating the very useful Juan Monaco in a 2'04" struggle which went to a deciding set.

The QF's produced some good action as first up Albert Montanes, possibly justifying his ranking, beat the top seed, Gilles Simon. The Spaniard came back well from 5-7 2-4, and saved a match point, to edge out his French opponent courtesy of a deciding tie-break. Then, in another three set battle lasting over two hours, Paul Capdeville rallied to beat Oscar Hernandez and make his first ever SF.

The last two matches both went to form as James Blake showed good form in sweeping aside Serra in just 48 minutes and Nikolay Davydenko proved too strong for Mardy Fish, defeating the American, also in straight sets.

Rain intervened on the Saturday. In between the showers, Montanes was able to beat Capdeville, fighting back from 1-3 down in the second set to seal the win. The other match was halted by bad light with Davydenko 7-6 2-4 ahead and had to be completed early on the Sunday morning. Davydenko had a chance to win when he levelled the second set at 5-5 but Blake won the subsequent tie-break and then proved too strong for the Russian in the deciding set. The American was now 7:0 against Davydenko.

In the final, Montanes saved two match points at 6-7 4-5 before rallying to win the title in what he called '*an incredible match*'. Blake clearly suffered from playing twice in one day as he visibly faded in the third set to hand the No.7 seed the trophy. With the success Montanes improved to 2:4 in career finals whilst Blake dropped to 10:14.



Estoril Open

May 03-10, 2009

Outdoor, Clay - ATP Tour Masters 250

R32	wc-Gilles Simon [1]	67	R16	Gilles Simon	67
R32	Robert Kendrick	36	R16	Fabio Fognini	05
R32	Fabio Fognini	66	R16	Simon Greul	22
R32	wc-Gaston Gaudio	34	R16	Albert Montanes	66
R32	Simon Greul	66	R16	David Ferrer	24
R32	q-Ricardo Hocevar	14	R16	Oscar Hernandez	66
R32	q-Ryan Sweeting	16	R16	Maximo Gonzalez	623
R32	Albert Montanes [7]	67	R16	Paul Capdeville	266
R32	David Ferrer [3]	66	R16	Florent Serra	616
R32	Daniel Gimeno-Traver	41	R16	Juan Monaco	363
R32	Oscar Hernandez	717	R16	Marc Gicquel	62
R32	wc-Rui Machado	565	R16	James Blake	76
R32	Guillermo Garcia-Lopez	43	R16	Mardy Fish	266
R32	Maximo Gonzalez	66	R16	Ivan Navarro	614
R32	Paul Capdeville	66	R16	Juan Carlos Ferrero	52
R32	David Nalbandian [5]	22	R16	Nikolay Davydenko	76
R32	Florent Serra [8]	626	QF	Gilles Simon	746
R32	Diego Junqueira	463	QF	Albert Montanes	567
R32	Juan Monaco	66	QF	Oscar Hernandez	614
R32	q-Pablo Cuevas	24	QF	Paul Capdeville	466
R32	Pablo Andujar	64	QF	Florent Serra	41
R32	Marc Gicquel	76	QF	James Blake	66
R32	Frederico Gil	742	QF	Mardy Fish	43
R32	James Blake [4]	566	QF	Nikolay Davydenko	66
R32	Mardy Fish [6]	66			
R32	Teimuraz Gabashvili	34	SF	Albert Montanes	66
R32	Ivan Navarro	76	SF	Paul Capdeville	34
R32	Alberto Martin	54	SF	James Blake	676
R32	Juan Carlos Ferrero	76	SF	Nikolay Davydenko	763
R32	q-Mikhail Kukushkin	63			
R32	Andrey Golubev	16	RU	James Blake	760
R32	Nikolay Davydenko [2]	67	W	Albert Montanes	576

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
R32	16 matches	13-3	2.18	21.37
R16	8 matches	5-3	2.37	21.00
QF	4 matches	2-2	2.50	24.50
SF	2 matches	1-1	2.50	27.00
F	1 match	0-1	3.00	31.00

Estoril Open - Facts & Figures

Market Leaders	Odds
Nikolay Davydenko [2]	4/1
David Ferrer [3]	4/1
David Nalbandian [5]	9/2
Juan Monaco	13/2
Gilles Simon [1]	8/1
Juan Carlos Ferrero [7]	12/1
Frederico Gil	22/1
Albert Montanes [7]	28/1
Mardy Fish [6]	33/1
Florent Serra [8]	33/1
Oscar Hernandez	40/1
James Blake [4]	40/1
Marc Gicquel	40/1
Fabio Fognini	66/1
Teimuraz Gabashvili	80/1

Performance Of The Seeded Players

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

Recent Winners/Leading Performers

	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing SF's
2009	Albert Montanes (28/1)	James Blake (40/1)	Capdeville-Davydenko
2008	Roger Federer (8/11)	Nikolay Davydenko (4/1)	Gremelmayr-Serra
2007	Novak Djokovic (7/2)	Richard Gasquet (6/1)	Robredo-Mathieu
2006	David Nalbandian (7/4)	Nikolay Davydenko (12/1)	Portas-Moya
2005	Gaston Gaudio (7/2)	Tommy Robredo (18/1)	Garcia-Lopez-Moya
2004	Juan Ignacio Chela (12/1)	Marat Safin (9/2)	Mayer-Labadze

Betting - Estoril Open

Pre-Tournament Briefing :-

Several players deserved close inspection in the market but the draw seemed to point to Gilles Simon (8/1), a previous clay court winner, being the pick of those players in the first quarter. He appeared a better option than Albert Montanes (28/1) who despite a big price was hardly a regular winner on tour ... or so it seemed.

The second quarter provided both Ferrer (4/1) and Nalbandian (9/2) but the problem with backing either of them was that should they meet in the QF's, which was quite possible, it would be a real 50:50 call as to who would win - as it happens neither made it that far!

The bottom half had three seeds Fish (33/1), Serra (33/1) and Blake (40/1) who looked readily opposable on the surface. Juan Monaco (13/2) and Nikolay Davydenko (4/1) seemed much better options, and better ones than Ferrero (12/1) who although a recent winner in Morocco (his first title in six years) still didn't convince as a live threat in what was a competitive event.

Overall, the market seemed about right with the top five players between them offering a very strong case. One of them must win ...

Post-Tournament Review :-

Montanes saves a match point against Simon, Davydenko loses momentum overnight to Blake, Nalbandian, Ferrer and Monaco all slump to poor losses - this was a strange tournament producing questionable form.

Take little away from Montanes, he hung in there to win but the lasting feeling is that his victory was somewhat fortuitous. More so as he beat Blake in the final, who can hardly be classed as a top quality clay-courter.

Maybe the top players just took their eye off the ball playing, as they were, in a lesser event sandwiched on either side by Masters Series tournaments in Rome and Madrid. Not much of an excuse though it has to be said.

Pointers for 2010 :-

Some big names on the trophy here, as such Montanes should be seen as the exception rather than the norm. Despite this year's big prices, most winner/finalists are near the head of the market and priced below 10/1. Regular players here are Nikolay Davydenko and David Nalbandian along with Juan Monaco and Gilles Simon. They fit the profile of players who do well here - ranked in the top 20, previous clay winners with a good seeding.