

## Overview - Heineken Open

Not a great deal of quality in this field but just enough to produce several interesting matches as the tournament gradually progressed.

In R1 the top four seeds were granted byes which afforded the other four seeded players to get in a bit of match practice. That proved to be the case for Kohlschreiber (No.5), Querrey (No.6) and Monaco (No.8) but sadly for Albert Montanes (No.7) he faced a decent qualifier in John Isner - and the American duly defeated the Spaniard in two close sets.

Gilles Muller beat Florent Serra and YenHsun Lu knocked out Steve Darcis, both of which could be considered minor shocks, but those two matches and maybe Marc Gicquel toppling Aguston Calleri were the only talking points - elsewhere, an arm injury forced Nishikori to default against Ferrero.

R2 was noteworthy for the fact that every match went to three sets. The top four seeds all progressed with only David Ferrer (No.2) being really tested in the deciding set. The emerging Viktor Troicki produced the main surprise as he ousted Juan Monaco but John Isner also caught the eye with a good win over fellow American, Robby Ginepri, and Philipp Kohlschreiber came back from 2-4 down in the third set to see off Juan Carlos Ferrero.

By contrast the QF's were lightning quick affairs. Del Potro defeated Troicki in 83 minutes, then Querrey took out Nicolas Almagro in 63 minutes and finally Robin Soderling ran through Isner in less than an hour! The final place in the SF's went to David Ferrer after his opponent, and defending champion, Kohlschreiber withdrew from the event with a shoulder injury.

The first player through to the final was the top seed, Del Potro, as he calmly saw off the Swede, Soderling. The Argentine never faced a break point and broke once in each set to reach his sixth tour final. The other match was much more eventful. Ferrer drew first blood, Querrey levelled and in the decider Ferrer served for the match at 5-4, then had match points on his opponents serve at 5-6. He blew both chances and Querrey made it to the final - *'I just hung in there and tried to stay focussed on the big points ... I think it shows how my game is improving,'* said the American after his win.

Del Potro broke Querrey in the first game of the final and that set the tone for his straight sets win - he was never in any great danger during the 1'24" match. With this win the Argentine moved to 5:1 in finals (Querrey 1:1) and cemented his growing reputation in the game - *'All titles are special and this one is my first of the season. This is good for my future and I will try to win more.'* On this evidence he will certainly win again before too much longer.



## Heineken Open

January 12-17, 2009

Outdoor, Hard - ATP Tour World 250

<b>R32</b>	<b>Juan Martin Del Potro [1]</b>		<b>R16</b>	Juan Martin Del Potro	4 6 6
<b>R32</b>	Bye		<b>R16</b>	Ernests Gulbis	6 4 1
<b>R32</b>	Ernests Gulbis	6 6 6	<b>R16</b>	Viktor Troicki	3 6 6
<b>R32</b>	Marcel Granollers	4 7 1	<b>R16</b>	Juan Monaco	6 4 2
<b>R32</b>	Viktor Troicki	6 6	<b>R16</b>	Robin Soderling	6 4 6
<b>R32</b>	Igor Kunitsyn	1 2	<b>R16</b>	Bobby Reynolds	3 6 2
<b>R32</b>	Victor Hanescu	3 4	<b>R16</b>	Robby Ginepri	4 7 6
<b>R32</b>	<b>Juan Monaco [8]</b>	6 6	<b>R16</b>	John Isner	6 6 7
<b>R32</b>	<b>Robin Soderling [3]</b>		<b>R16</b>	Sam Querrey	3 6 6
<b>R32</b>	Bye		<b>R16</b>	Gilles Muller	6 3 4
<b>R32</b>	q-Oscar Hernandez	6 7 2	<b>R16</b>	Yen-Hsun Lu	7 3 2
<b>R32</b>	q-Bobby Reynolds	7 5 6	<b>R16</b>	Nicolas Almagro	6 6 6
<b>R32</b>	wc-Jose Statham	2 3	<b>R16</b>	Philipp Kohlschreiber	6 4 7
<b>R32</b>	Robby Ginepri	6 6	<b>R16</b>	Juan Carlos Ferrero	4 6 6
<b>R32</b>	q-John Isner	7 7	<b>R16</b>	Marc Gicquel	7 4 4
<b>R32</b>	<b>Albert Montanes [7]</b>	6 5	<b>R16</b>	David Ferrer	6 6 6
<b>R32</b>	<b>Sam Querrey [6]</b>	6 7	<b>QF</b>	Juan Martin Del Potro	6 6
<b>R32</b>	wc-Daniel Turner-King	4 5	<b>QF</b>	Viktor Troicki	3 2
<b>R32</b>	Florent Serra	3 4	<b>QF</b>	Robin Soderling	6 6
<b>R32</b>	q-Gilles Muller	6 6	<b>QF</b>	John Isner	4 4
<b>R32</b>	Steve Darcis	6 2	<b>QF</b>	Sam Querrey	6 6
<b>R32</b>	Yen-Hsun Lu	7 6	<b>QF</b>	Nicolas Almagro	3 2
<b>R32</b>	Bye		<b>QF</b>	Philipp Kohlschreiber w/o	
<b>R32</b>	<b>Nicolas Almagro [4]</b>		<b>QF</b>	David Ferrer	
<b>R32</b>	<b>Philipp Kohlschreiber [5]</b>	6 6			
<b>R32</b>	wc-Dominik Hrbaty	1 2	<b>SF</b>	Juan Martin Del Potro	6 6
<b>R32</b>	Juan Carlos Ferrero	5	<b>SF</b>	Robin Soderling	4 3
<b>R32</b>	Kei Nishikori	retd. 3	<b>SF</b>	Sam Querrey	3 6 7
<b>R32</b>	Agustin Calleri	6 4 4	<b>SF</b>	David Ferrer	6 3 6
<b>R32</b>	Marc Gicquel	3 6 6			
<b>R32</b>	Bye		<b>RU</b>	Sam Querrey	4 4
<b>R32</b>	<b>David Ferrer [2]</b>		<b>W</b>	Juan Martin Del Potro	6 6

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
<b>R32</b>	12 matches	9-3	2.25	21.08
<b>R16</b>	8 matches	0-8	3.00	30.12
<b>QF</b>	3 matches	3-0	2.00	18.00
<b>SF</b>	2 matches	1-1	2.50	25.00
<b>F</b>	1 match	1-0	2.00	20.00

## Heineken Open - Facts & Figures

Market Leaders	Odds
Juan Martin Del Potro [1]	11/4
Robin Soderling [3]	9/2
Philipp Kohlschreiber [5]	7/1
David Ferrer [2]	9/1
Ernests Gulbis	14/1
Sam Querrey [6]	16/1
Nicolas Almagro [4]	20/1
Kei Nishikori	20/1
Juan Carlos Ferrero	33/1
Victor Hanescu	40/1
Robby Ginepri	40/1
Viktor Troicki	50/1
Marc Gicquel	50/1
Florent Serra	66/1
Juan Monaco [8]	66/1

### Performance Of The Seeded Players

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

### Recent Winners/Leading Performers

	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing SF's
<b>2009</b>	Juan Martin Del Potro (11/4)	Sam Querrey (20/1)	Soderling-Ferrer
<b>2008</b>	Philipp Kohlschreiber (20/1)	Juan Carlos Ferrero (20/1)	Monaco-Benneteau
<b>2007</b>	David Ferrer (20/1)	Tommy Robredo (10/1)	Fish-Calleri
<b>2006</b>	Jarkko Nieminen (16/1)	Mario Ancic (10/1)	O.Rochus-Wawrinka
<b>2005</b>	Fernando Gonzalez (16/1)	Olivier Rochus (33/1)	Chela-Hernych
<b>2004</b>	Dominik Hrbaty (14/1)	Rafael Nadal (50/1)	Kuerten-Novak

## Betting - Heineken Open

### Pre-Tournament Briefing :-

Despite the lack of depth in the draw, the claims of Del Potro at 11/4 were weakened by the fact that (a) this was his first start of the year and (b) he might have to face Gulbis, Monaco, Soderling and Ferrer en route to the title.

However, the Argentine is clearly a talent, knows how to win (four titles in '08) and two of the seeds in his half, Monaco and Montanes (a strange choice and on offer at 100/1 with the bookmakers), lacked any recent form.

As such, the choice boiled down to the No.1 seed or Robin Soderling (9/2) who had done little wrong in defeat last time out in Brisbane. The only possibility would have been Ernests Gulbis (14/1) but the Latvian was no sort of a price for a tour maiden and a player who was taking time to progress.

The bottom half saw Ferrer (9/1) woefully short of form and Almagro (16/1) never at his best on hard courts. Both could go well but, given the conditions, the claims of Kohlschreiber (7/1) were better on account of his win here the previous year - although his quarter did include some potentially tough tests (Hrbaty, Ferrero, Nishikori, Ferrer). A better policy was to look at the third quarter where Sam Querrey (20/1) was a backable each-way price, had a gimme in R1 and with a big serve could take some stopping on a fast surface.

### Post-Tournament Review :-

Del Potro proved his worth as the top seed. He fought back well in R2 against Gulbis (about whom doubts still remained) and didn't drop a set thereafter. That's now five titles from six finals in under a year, the guy was clearly bound for the world's top 10 on this kind of form.

Soderling again found one too good (making him appear top 30 material, not top 20) whilst in the other half Querrey naturally caught the eye with good wins over Almagro and Ferrer. You might forgive Almagro due to the surface but Ferrer's form, despite making the SF's, was still way below his usual best.

### Pointers for 2010 :-

We see plenty of clay-courtiers here with a decent Spanish/South American presence on the roll of honour. Seeds also do pretty well also - Hrbaty '04 is the only non-seed to win in the last 10 years - but do note that the win and place odds are all at a fair mark. David Ferrer and Tommy Robredo are names to consider, plus Fernando Gonzalez, you could also look at both Philipp Kohlschreiber and Mario Ancic who have competed here several times. Kei Nishikori, injured here this year, could be a force in '10 as well.