

## Paris Masters - Overview

The final event on the main ATP Tour for 2009 and barring the odd player absent through injury (notably Andy Roddick) this was as competitive a field as could be assembled.

The top 16 seeds all received a bye into R2 so it was left to the 'also-rans' to start proceedings. A couple of notable matches saw James Blake bring an end to the career of Fabrice Santoro, the American winning in straight sets as he sent off the veteran Frenchman into retirement. However, a similar situation was averted when Marat Safin, also due to retire, saved three match points in his match with Thierry Ascione before taking it 7-6 in the third.

John Isner also saved three match points to beat Columbia's Alejandro Falla in a 2'18" match, Julien Benneteau also won a close three-setter with the German, Philipp Petzschner, and Albert Montanes completed a trio of close encounters with a come from behind win over Victor Hanesco.

Easier wins came for French qualifier David Guez over Stanislas Wawrinka, Arnaud Clement against Feliciano Lopez and Andreas Seppi who posted a creditable straight sets win over Philipp Kohlschreiber.

Something of a surprise to start R2, however, as Roger Federer was upset by Julien Benneteau. The world No.1 doesn't have a great record in this event but even so the manner of the Frenchman's win - battling all the way to see off the Swiss player in just short of two hours, a great performance.

A feat nearly achieved by Nicolas Almagro as well against Rafael Nadal. The underdog twice had the No.2 on the ropes in the match, only to let him back into the contest. Nadal saved five match points at 5-6 in the second set and then came back from 3-5 down in the decider to end up the winner of an amazing match 3-6 7-6 7-5 in 3'15".

However, Nadal's win highlighted a round almost bereft of shocks - apart from Federer of course - as Tommy Haas (No.16) was the only other seed to lose at this stage, falling to Arnaud Clement.

In all, 14 seeded players made it safely into R3, although some were made to fight hard before progressing. Andy Murray (No.4) took an age to see off James Blake, Juan Martin Del Potro (No.5) had a tough job seeing off Safin - in doing so, ending the Russian's extremely colourful career on tour - Fernando Verdasco (No.7) likewise, and Gilles Simon (No.11), were taken to deciding sets before they triumphed against their opponents - Ljubicic and Seppi respectively.

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Those victories meant that R3 was filled with any number of mouth-watering ties but, yet again, there were few real surprises.

The biggest shock, quite naturally, was the demise of Andy Murray to the Radek Stepanek (No.13). More so after the Scot breezed through the first set only to face a backlash from the Czech who eventually won with more than a little in hand. That apart, Robin Soderling (No.9) accounted for Nikolay Davydenko (No.6) - but the Swede was no stranger to beating the Russian after knocking him out of both the French and US Open this year - and Marin Cilic (No.12) came from a set down to beat Verdasco.

The rest of the QF line-up picked itself. Gael Monfils (No.15) brushed past Federer's conqueror, Benneteau, and Djokovic (No.3) ousted Clement.

They were joined in the last eight by Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (No.8), Rafael Nadal, who scraped past Tommy Robredo, and Juan Martin Del Potro who won a truly remarkable match against Fernando Gonzalez (No.10). The Chilean blew seven match points in the second set, having won the first 7-6, and upon losing that set 6-7 to Del Potro promptly retired with a leg injury!

The QF's were all keenly-contested affairs apart from the Stepanek-Del Potro match which lasted all of four games before the South American retired with an abdominal strain. Stepanek would now meet Gael Monfils in the SF's after the French player overcame Marin Cilic in a 2'22" match which saw the No.15 seed fight back after losing the first set.

The other two QF's produced more predictable results as Djokovic got the better of Robin Soderling in three sets and then Nadal finally produced a performance of some note, defeating Tsonga in straight sets - by far his best showing of the week.

Contrasting matches in those SF ties. Nadal had looked out of sorts all week and finally faced an opponent in Djokovic who wasn't going to let him get away with anything. The Serb won 6-2 6-3 in little over an hour. However, Monfils had to wear down Stepanek over 2'42" before finally securing a spot in the final with a break of serve at 4-4 in the third set.

Djokovic won the title - but only just. Having led 6-2 3-0 at one stage he eventually triumphed on a third set tie-break. 'Winning back-to-back titles on this level is a huge achievement for me' - he said after adding this title to the one in Basel the week before. The win took Djokovic to 16:11 overall in finals whilst Monfils dropped to 2:7 in ATP deciders.



## Paris Masters

November 09-14, 2009

Indoor, Hard - Masters Series

<b>R48 Roger Federer [1]</b>		<b>R48 Nikolay Davydenko [6]</b>	
R48 Bye		R48 Bye	
R48 Julien Benneteau	4 7 6	R48 wc-Michael Llodra	6 2 3
R48 Philipp Petzschner	6 5 3	R48 Benjamin Becker	3 6 6
R48 Stanislas Wawrinka	3 4	R48 Pablo Cuevas	6 4
R48 q-David Guez	6 6	R48 Ivo Karlovic	7 6
R48 Bye		R48 Bye	
<b>R48 Gael Monfils [15]</b>		<b>R48 Robin Soderling [9]</b>	
<b>R48 Marin Cilic [12]</b>		<b>R48 Tommy Haas [16]</b>	
R48 Bye		R48 Bye	
R48 Andreas Beck	4 6 4	R48 Feliciano Lopez	3 1
R48 q-Lukasz Kubot	6 3 6	R48 q-Arnaud Clement	6 6
R48 Philipp Kohlschreiber	3 3	R48 Jeremy Chardy	6 5
R48 Andreas Seppi	6 6	R48 Juan Monaco	7 7
R48 Bye		R48 Bye	
<b>R48 Fernando Verdasco [7]</b>		<b>R48 Novak Djokovic [3]</b>	
<b>R48 Andy Murray [4]</b>		<b>R48 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga [8]</b>	
R48 Bye		R48 Bye	
R48 James Blake	6 6	R48 Victor Hanescu	6 3 6
R48 Fabrice Santoro	4 3	R48 Albert Montanes	3 6 7
R48 Paul-Henri Mathieu <small>ret.d.</small>	6 0	R48 wc-Sebastien Grosjean	6 4
R48 Viktor Troicki	7 3	R48 Ivan Ljubicic	7 6
R48 Bye		R48 Bye	
<b>R48 Radek Stepanek [13]</b>		<b>R48 Gilles Simon [11]</b>	
<b>R48 Fernando Gonzalez [10]</b>		<b>R48 Tommy Robredo [14]</b>	
R48 Bye		R48 Bye	
R48 q-Alejandro Falla	6 6 5	R48 Tomas Berdych	6 7
R48 John Isner	4 7 7	R48 q-Vincent Millot	3 6
R48 q-Thierry Ascione	4 6 6	R48 Nicolas Almagro	6 6
R48 wc-Marat Safin	6 4 7	R48 sE-Marco Chiudinelli	2 4
R48 Bye		R48 Bye	
<b>R48 Juan Martin Del Potro [5]</b>		<b>R48 Rafael Nadal [2]</b>	

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
R64	16 matches	10-6	2.37	24.00
R32	16 matches	8-8	2.50	26.18
R16	8 matches	3-5	2.62	23.75

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<b>R32</b> Roger Federer	6 6 4	<b>R16</b> Julien Benneteau	4 3
<b>R32</b> Julien Benneteau	3 7 6	<b>R16</b> Gael Monfils	6 6
<b>R32</b> David Guez	4 5	<b>R16</b> Marin Cilic	3 6 6
<b>R32</b> Gael Monfils	6 7	<b>R16</b> Fernando Verdasco	6 3 4
<b>R32</b> Marin Cilic	6 6 6	<b>R16</b> Andy Murray	6 3 4
<b>R32</b> Lukasz Kubot	7 4 2	<b>R16</b> Radek Stepanek	1 6 6
<b>R32</b> Andreas Seppi	7 4 4	<b>R16</b> Fernando Gonzalez	retd. 7 6 0
<b>R32</b> Fernando Verdasco	6 6 6	<b>R16</b> Juan Martin Del Potro	6 7 0
<b>R32</b> Andy Murray	6 6 7	<b>R16</b> Nikolay Davydenko	3 6 4
<b>R32</b> James Blake	3 7 6	<b>R16</b> Robin Soderling	6 3 6
<b>R32</b> Viktor Troicki	4 0	<b>R16</b> Arnaud Clement	2 2
<b>R32</b> Radek Stepanek	6 6	<b>R16</b> Novak Djokovic	6 6
<b>R32</b> Fernando Gonzalez	7 7	<b>R16</b> Jo-Wilfried Tsonga	6 6
<b>R32</b> John Isner	5 6	<b>R16</b> Gilles Simon	2 3
<b>R32</b> Marat Safin	4 7 4	<b>R16</b> Tommy Robredo	3 6 5
<b>R32</b> Juan Martin Del Potro	6 5 6	<b>R16</b> Rafael Nadal	6 3 7
<b>R32</b> Nikolay Davydenko	6 6	<b>QF</b> Gael Monfils	3 6 6
<b>R32</b> Benkamin Becker	2 1	<b>QF</b> Marin Cilic	6 4 4
<b>R32</b> Ivo Karlovic	4 6	<b>QF</b> Radek Stepanek	4
<b>R32</b> Robin Soderling	6 7	<b>QF</b> Juan Martin Del Potro	retd. 0
<b>R32</b> Tommy Haas	7 3 6	<b>QF</b> Robin Soderling	4 6 3
<b>R32</b> Arnaud Clement	5 6 7	<b>QF</b> Novak Djokovic	6 1 6
<b>R32</b> Juan Monaco	3 5	<b>QF</b> Jo-Wilfried Tsonga	5 5
<b>R32</b> Novak Djokovic	6 7	<b>QF</b> Rafael Nadal	7 7
<b>R32</b> Jo-Wilfried Tsonga	6 7		
<b>R32</b> Albert Montanes	1 5	<b>SF</b> Gael Monfils	6 5 6
<b>R32</b> Ivan Ljubicic	3 6 6	<b>SF</b> Radek Stepanek	4 7 4
<b>R32</b> Gilles Simon	6 3 7	<b>SF</b> Novak Djokovic	6 6
<b>R32</b> Tommy Robredo	6 6	<b>SF</b> Rafael Nadal	2 3
<b>R32</b> Tomas Berdych	4 4		
<b>R32</b> Nicolas Almagro	3 6 5	<b>RU</b> Gael Monfils	2 7 6
<b>R32</b> Rafael Nadal	6 3 7	<b>W</b> Novak Djokovic	6 5 7

	<b>No. Matches</b>	<b>2 sets-3 sets</b>	<b>Ave. Sets/Match</b>	<b>Ave. Games/Match</b>
<b>QF</b>	4 matches	2-2	2.50	20.75
<b>SF</b>	2 matches	1-1	2.50	24.50
<b>F</b>	1 match	0-1	3.00	33.00

## Paris Masters - Facts & Figures

Market Leaders	Odds
Roger Federer [1]	5/2
Novak Djokovic [3]	5/1
Andy Murray [4]	6/1
Rafael Nadal [2]	7/1
Juan Martin Del Potro [5]	12/1
Jo-Wilfried Tsonga [8]	20/1
Nikolay Davydenko [6]	20/1
Robin Soderling	25/1
Fernando Verdasco [7]	40/1
Marin Cilic	40/1
Fernando Gonzalez	50/1
Gilles Simon	50/1
Radek Stepanek	50/1
Gael Monfils	66/1
Ivan Ljubicic	100/1

### Performance Of The Seeded Players

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>2009</b>	R2	SF	<b>W</b>	R3	QF	R3	R3	QF
<b>2008</b>	QF	QF	R3	QF	R2	SF	QF	RU
<b>2007</b>	R3	RU	R2	R3	QF	R3	R2	QF
<b>2006</b>	-	-	-	<b>W</b>	R2	SF	R3	QF
<b>2005</b>	SF	R2	QF	R2	R2	RU	QF	SF
<b>2004</b>	R3	QF	R3	-	-	<b>W</b>	R2	-

### Recent Winners/Leading Performers

	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing SF's
<b>2009</b>	Novak Djokovic (5/1)	Gael Monfils (66/1)	Nadal-Stepanek
<b>2008</b>	Jo-Wilfried Tsonga(33/1)	David Nalbandian (20/1)	Blake -Davydenko
<b>2007</b>	David Nalbandian (25/1)	Rafael Nadal (5/1)	Gasquet-Baghdatis
<b>2006</b>	Nikolay Davydenko (80/1)	Dominik Hrbaty (150/1)	Robredo-Haas
<b>2005</b>	TomasBerdych (66/1)	Ivan Ljubicic (13/2)	Stepanek-Roddick
<b>2004</b>	Marat Safin (8/1)	Radek Stepanek (200/1)	Canas-Mirnyi

## Betting - Paris Masters

### Pre-Tournament Briefing :-

Not often you find Roger Federer as big as 5/2. However, the Swiss player has been no great lover of Paris these past few years. Hot off the heels of a defeat to Djokovic, with two Grand Slams and two kids to show for 2009 he was easy to pass over.

The question, as ever, is who would beat him. Andy Murray (6/1) was an obvious candidate along with Juan Martin Del Potro (12/1) with possibly Cilic (40/1) and Gonzalez (50/1) as the big-priced alternatives.

With Rafael Nadal (7/1) appearing very much like Federer - attractive price but very unattractive form - the focus naturally fell on Novak Djokovic (5/1) as the main option in the bottom half of the draw.

He looked the pick of his quarter, notably ahead of Nikolay Davydenko (20/1), with Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (20/1) offering the best case for support in the fourth quarter. The rest really didn't figure much at all.

Given the form, draw and odds Djokovic and Murray had strong claims.

### Post-Tournament Review :-

And so it was that Djokovic triumphed. He played well for the second week running and beat some good players once again. Possibly a coming off age for the world No.3 - time to put some real pressure on the top two.

Monfils made the final almost unnoticed but his run capped off a much better year for the Frenchman - a guy who really should be top ten.

Federer, Nadal and Murray all proved something of a let-down, Del Potro also through injury. However, at the end of a long season how much we should read into this form is open to much debate.

### Pointers for 2010 :-

Not a place to back the top seeds. Their season's work is done by this point of the calendar and like the last stage of the Tour de France they're virtually allowed to coast over the line. For a Masters Series tournament there have been numerous big priced winners/finalists in the last few years so don't be afraid to take a more speculative approach - look at players from 5-20 in the world, not necessarily the top 3 or 4. Guys like Robin Soderling, Marin Cilic, and Gael Monfils, maybe Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who are still on the way up the rankings rather than already being at the top.