

Overview - Catella Swedish Open

The top four seeds enjoyed a bye into R2 of this event, probably no bad thing given how the rest of the seeded players fared in R1. Nicolas Almagro (No.5) beat Marat Safin but the other three seeds - Florent Serra (No.6), Christophe Rochus (No.7) and Maximo Gonzalez (No.8) - were all defeated.

Given the quality of the field, none probably deserved seeded status to begin with, illustrated by the fact that both Rochus and Gonzalez lost to players (Teimuraz Gabashvili and Juan Monaco) who could, and should, have been seeded ahead of them in the first place

However, Serra had less of an excuse, going down to the world No.460, Andreas Vinciguerra, in a three set 2'25" match where the Swede fought back from a set down to claim a fine victory.

The top four seeds entered the action in R2 with Fernando Verdasco (No.1) being the only one to struggle (saving a match point against Daniel Koellerer) whilst each of Soderling (No.2), Robredo (No.3) and Melzer (No.4) won with something to spare. Juan Monaco also made smooth progress into the QF's as did Nicolas Almagro who, after dropping the first set against the Italian, Potito Starace, raced through the rest of the match to win 2-6 6-1 6-1.

Gabashvili blew away Bjorn Phau in straight sets to make the last eight and then Vinciguerra, a tournament wild card, again made the most of his invite with a second fine performance, this time seeing off the very experienced Argentine, Guillermo Canas, in another stirring three-setter.

The QF's produced some good match-ups although the Monaco/Verdasco match was a 'no contest' after the Spaniard pulled a calf muscle in the very first game. He bravely battled on but to no avail. Tommy Robredo then crushed Teimuraz Gabashvili for the loss of just four games and Soderling proved too strong for Nicolas Almagro. Then, as per usual, Vinciguerra staged his customary three set, come from behind, win to beat Jurgen Melzer.

After this excitement the SF's proved non-events as Monaco blitzed Robredo in 65 minutes and Soderling took 19 minutes more to end Vinciguerra's run.

'It is a dream come true to win this tournament', Soderling said after winning his national title. Monaco wasted two set points in the second set but his Swedish opponent proved too strong for him yet again (Soderling moved to 4:0 against Monaco with this win). A first clay title, and a first outdoor win, for Soderling who improved to 4:7 in ATP Tour finals with this victory whilst the loss for Juan Monaco left his career mark at 3:5 in tournament deciders.



Swedish Open

July 13-19, 2009

Outdoor, Clay - ATP World Tour 250

R32	Fernando Verdasco [1]		R16	Fernando Verdasco	6 6 7
R32	Bye		R16	Daniel Koellerer	7 2 5
R32	Daniel Koellerer	1 6 6	R16	Victor Crivoi	0 6
R32	Steve Darcis	6 3 4	R16	Juan Monaco	6 7
R32	Victor Crivoi	6 6	R16	Tommy Robredo	6 6
R32	Denis Istomin	0 4	R16	Peter Luczak	2 3
R32	Juan Monaco	7 3 6	R16	Bjorn Phau	3 2
R32	Maximo Gonzalez [8]	6 6 1	R16	Teimuraz Gabashvili	6 6
R32	Tommy Robredo [3]		R16	Andreas Vinciguerra	6 6 6
R32	Bye		R16	Guillermo Canas	7 3 4
R32	Alberto Martin	2 2	R16	Daniel Gimeno-Traver	2 2
R32	q-Peter Luczak	6 6	R16	Jurgen Melzer	6 6
R32	wc-Daniel Berta	3 2	R16	Nicolas Almagro	2 6 6
R32	Bjorn Phau	6 6	R16	Potito Starace	6 1 1
R32	Teimuraz Gabashvili	4 6 6	R16	Kristof Vliegen	2 3
R32	Christophe Rochus [7]	6 1 0	R16	Robin Soderling	6 6
R32	Florent Serra [6]	7 3 4	QF	Fernando Verdasco <small>ret.</small>	1 1
R32	wc-Andreas Vinciguerra	6 6 6	QF	Juan Monaco	6 3
R32	wc-Grigor Dimitrov	3 6	QF	Tommy Robredo	6 6
R32	q-Guillermo Canas	6 7	QF	Teimuraz Gabashvili	4 0
R32	q-Danile Gimeno-Traver	6 6	QF	Andreas Vinciguerra	2 6 6
R32	Frederico Gil	1 4	QF	Jurgen Melzer	6 4 3
R32	Bye		QF	Nicolas Almagro	5 3
R32	Jurgen Melzer [4]		QF	Robin Soderling	7 6
R32	Nicolas Almagro [5]	6 7			
R32	Marat Safin	3 6	SF	Juan Monaco	6 6
R32	Julien Benneteau	6 3	SF	Tommy Robredo	0 2
R32	q-Potito Starace	7 6	SF	Andreas Vinciguerra	1 6
R32	Marcel Granollers	6 4	SF	Robin Soderling	6 7
R32	Kristof Vliegen	7 6			
R32	Bye		RU	Juan Monaco	3 6
R32	Robin Soderling [2]		W	Robin Soderling	6 7

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
R32	12 matches	8-4	2.33	22.08
R16	8 matches	5-3	2.37	21.62
QF	4 matches	3-1	2.25	18.75
SF	2 matches	2-0	2.00	17.00
F	1 match	1-0	2.00	22.00

Catella Swedish Open - Facts & Figures

Market Leaders	Odds
Robin Soderling [2]	9/4
Fernando Verdasco [1]	11/4
Tommy Robredo [3]	5/1
Nicolas Almagro [5]	9/1
Juan Monaco	12/1
Jurgen Melzer [4]	12/1
Florent Serra [6]	33/1
Frederico Gil	40/1
Marat Safin	40/1
Steve Darcis	50/1
Maximo Gonzalez [8]	50/1
Teimuraz Gabashvili	66/1
Julien Benneteau	66/1
Kristof Vliegen	66/1
Christophe Rochus [7]	80/1

Performance Of The Seeded Players

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

Recent Winners/Leading Performers

	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing SF's
2009	Robin Soderling (9/4)	Juan Monaco (12/1)	Vinciguerra-Robredo
2008	Tommy Robredo (8/1)	Tomas Berdych (16/1)	Ferrer-Verdasco
2007	David Ferrer (11/2)	Nicolas Almagro (13/2)	Volandri-Moya
2006	Tommy Robredo (11/2)	Nikolay Davydenko (11/2)	Nieminen-Calleri
2005	Rafael Nadal (8/11)	Tomas Berdych (50/1)	Gonzalez-Soderling
2004	Mariano Zabaleta (14/1)	Gaston Gaudio (4/1)	Moya-Robredo

Betting - Catella Swedish Open

Pre-Tournament Briefing :-

The problem with Verdasco (11/4) was the price. The Spaniard may have top 10 status but he simply doesn't win enough events to justify short odds - especially when the field offers half a dozen viable alternatives.

In the top half both Tommy Robredo (5/1) and Juan Monaco (12/1) looked better value - Robredo, in particular, having excellent tournament form. He, too, like Verdasco had a R1 bye but he also had a much weaker quarter to contend with. Almost double the price of Verdasco, Robredo looked a fair bet at the price ... or Monaco, should a more speculative approach be taken.

Soderling (9/4) was flavour of the month after his exploits in Paris. But for that would the Swede have been so short? No, he wouldn't. Still, it looked a straight fight between him and Almagro (9/1) for a SF spot with both Melzer (12/1) and Serra (33/1) offering no great incentive for support on the basis of current form or general tournament winning ability at this level.

Similar to the Robredo/Monaco scenario in the top half it would boil down to a value choice on the grounds of present (Soderling) or past (Almagro) form.

Post-Tournament Review :-

Two key matches determined this tournament. Soderling seeing off Almagro in the QF's and Monaco trouncing Robredo in the SF's. Close games on paper which, on another day, could easily have gone the other way.

Soderling, to be fair, played well. He didn't drop a set and was starting to look the top 10 player he has long been touted to be - time will tell. Monaco also proved himself, when on form, to be one of the game's top clay-courtiers.

Robredo and Almagro did well, up to a point, but Verdasco again let down his supporters at a short price. Credit also goes to Vinciguerra, another example along with Soderling, of a player performing above expectations on home soil.

Pointers for 2010 :-

A strong event where seeded, experienced clay-courtiers have dominated recent finals - this doesn't tend to be a 'breakthrough' event for players but one for proven tour winners. Soderling's win bucked the trend somewhat as he hadn't won on clay before and was neither Spanish nor South American - the origin of the players who have tended to do well here in recent times. Given this, better to look at players like Tommy Robredo, Juan Monaco and David Ferrer, all of whom have past form here in Bastad.