



PORSCHE

Press Release

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Play starts at the 41st Porsche Tennis Grand Prix on Saturday

World class players in the Porsche Arena

Stuttgart. The Porsche Tennis Grand Prix will this year offer its audience a quite special champions' reunion – with Maria Sharapova, Angelique Kerber, Julia Görges and Laura Siegemund in the main draw, it means four former Stuttgart winners will be appearing in the Porsche Arena. The 41st edition of the long-standing tournament, where eight Top 10 players and a total of 16 from the Top 20 will be competing for a Porsche 718 Boxster GTS as the main prize, will begin on Saturday with qualifying. The final will be played on April 29.

Headed by the current world No. 1 Simona Halep as the top seed, the world class field brings a whiff of a Grand Slam atmosphere to the Porsche-Arena. Other top 10 stars alongside the Romanian, the winner of the 2017 Porsche Race to Singapore, are Wimbledon champion Garbine Muguruza (Spain/No. 3), Elina Svitolina (Ukraine/No. 4), French Open winner Jelena Ostapenko (Latvia/No. 5), Karolina Pliskova (Czech Republic/No. 6), Caroline Garcia (France/No. 7), US Open winner Sloane Stephens (USA/No. 9) and Petra Kvitova (Czech Republic/No. 10). They will be joined by eight Top 20 players including the strong Frenchwoman Kristina Mladenovic, who lost last year's final after a tough three-setter against Laura Siegemund, plus the Americans Coco Vandeweghe and Madison Keys, the 2017 US Open finalist.

“This year, we will again be able to offer our spectators many exceptional tennis moments,” said Tournament Director Markus Günthardt. “Such a strong field is a dream. Especially pleasing is that so many Top 20 will be coming here. It promises

exciting and hard-fought matches straight away in the first round.”

Four Germans definitely in the main draw

As the current world No. 11, Julia Görges has never been ranked higher in her career. The 2011 Stuttgart winner and Angelique Kerber, who claimed the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix in 2015 and 2016, are however not the only Germans in the main draw. Title-holder Laura Siegemund has been given a wild card as has Antonia Lottner from Porsche Talent Team Germany. In the high class qualifying tournament, Carina Witthöft and Andrea Petkovic will be battling for one of the last four main draw berths. Qualifying would be an attractive tournament in itself. With the Frenchwoman Alizé Cornet and Zarina Diyas from Kazakhstan in the line-up, two Top 50 players will head the seedings. Thanks to a wild card, Katharina Gerlach, Katharina Hobgarski and Lena Ruffer from Porsche Talent Team Germany plus Julia Middendorf from Porsche Junior Team can put themselves to the test against world class players in qualifying and, in doing so, gain valuable experience.

Attractive premiere

The 41st Porsche Tennis Grand Prix will begin with a real highlight. Awaiting spectators in the Porsche Arena on Monday, April 23 is an attractive premiere – in the Turkish Airlines Tiebreak, a first- class tournament within the tournament, six top players will go head-to-head in a spectacular contest: Angelique Kerber, Julia Görges, Laura Siegemund, Kristina Mladenovic, Caroline Garcia and Coco Vandeweghe. Like the round robin system used at the WTA Finals in Singapore, each player plays a champions’ tie-break against each other in two groups of three. The group winners go through to the final. The prize for the winner is 1,000,000 bonus miles from Turkish Airlines.

Porsche Team Germany in Fed Cup

Kicking off the tennis week of superlatives in Stuttgart will be Porsche Team Germany’s attempt to reach the Fed Cup final in the tie against the Czech Republic on 21 and 22 April. The team captained by Jens Gerlach earned the chance with a sensational win

against last year's runner-up, Belarus. Porsche Team Germany and the Czech Republic last faced each other in the 2014 Fed Cup final in Prague when the hosts won. Now Angelique Kerber, Julia Görges and co. are looking to gain revenge.

Live broadcasts from the Porsche-Arena

The Porsche Tennis Grand Prix will be televised live from Monday, 23 April to Sunday, 29 April by Eurosport and the regional SWR channel as well as DAZN, the streaming service. The respective latest broadcasting times can be found at www.porsche-tennis.de.

Ticket info

Tickets for the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix are available from Easy Ticket Service by telephoning + 49 711 255 55 55 or in the Internet at www.easyticket.de.

Images and videos in the Porsche Newsroom (<http://newsroom.porsche.com>) and for journalists in the Porsche press database (<https://presse.porsche.de>)

718 Boxster GTS: fuel consumption combined 9.0 – 8,2 l/100km; CO₂ emissions 205 – 186 g/km

Porsche Tennis Grand Prix 2018: the main draw entry list

Name	Nation	Ranking *
Simona Halep	ROU	1
Garbiñe Muguruza	ESP	3
Elina Svitolina	UKR	4
Karolina Pliskova	CZE	5
Jelena Ostapenko	LAT	6
Caroline Garcia	FRA	7
Petra Kvitova	CZE	9
Angelique Kerber	GER	10
Julia Görges	GER	12
Sloane Stephens	USA	13
Madison Keys	USA	14
Kristina Mladenovic	FRA	15
Magdalena Rybarikova	SVK	17
Daria Kasatkina	RUS	19
Anastasija Sevastova	LAT	20
Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova	RUS	23
Barbora Strycova	CZE	25
Carla Suárez Navarro	ESP	27
Anett Kontaveit	EST	28
Kiki Bertens	NED	29
Coco Vandeweghe	USA	16 ***
Laura Siegemund	GER	32 **
Maria Sharapova	RUS	41 ***
Antonia Lottner	GER	150 **

They will be joined by four players that can book a place in the main draw via qualifying. The four top seeds all have a first round bye.

* as of entry deadline ** Wildcard *** Top 20 Wildcard