



2017 Qatar ExxonMobil Open Tennis Tournament: Bringing The Biggest Names In Tennis To Doha

Words by Wajeeha Malik
Images courtesy of the Qatar Tennis Federation
Selected photography by Jessie Palanca

Game, set, match! As tennis stars get ready to play in **the Qatar ExxonMobil Open** next year, find out who's playing, where to buy tickets, and what to watch out for.

The 2017 Qatar ExxonMobil Open brings the world's biggest names in professional men's tennis to Doha next year to compete against each other at the Khalifa International Tennis and Squash Complex.

The tournament, which will be held from January 2 to 7, promises to be an exciting one, featuring some of the world's best tennis players including World No. 1 Andy Murray and World No. 2 Novak Djokovic.

The six-day event marks the 25th anniversary of the Qatar Open, held consistently each year since 1993. From 1993 to 1997, the tournament was part of the ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) World

Series; from 1998 to 2008, the ATP International Series; and from 2009 to present, the ATP World Tour 250 Series.

Preparations are now underway to host crowds coming to see their favorite tennis stars play for the falcon-shaped trophy and over one million dollars of prize money.

The Qatar ExxonMobil Open is where many of the world's top players open their season campaigns. The 2016 tournament was won by 29-year old Serbian maestro Novak Djokovic. He will be defending the title from competitors such as Scotsman Andy Murray, who took the world title from Djokovic earlier this year.

Other players scheduled to compete include 2012 champion Jo-Wilfried Tsonga from France and Czech Republic's Tomas Berdych, as well as Jeremy Chardy, Ivo Karlovic, Fernando Verdasco, and David Goffin among others.

"We are happy to welcome the world once again to Doha. Qatar is the hub of global sport and we are passionate about tennis. I've no doubt that the 2017 Qatar ExxonMobil Open will surpass

the previous editions in all ramifications," Tournament Director Karim Alami said in a statement on the website.

According to the Qatar Tennis Federation, the Qatar ExxonMobil Open, as the first tournament of the season, gives players the opportunity to prepare for events like the Australian Open. (The Australian Open is chronologically the first of four Grand Slam tennis tournaments of the year, the other three being the French Open, Wimbledon, and the US Open.)

The qualifying rounds are being held from December 31, 2016 to January 1, 2017 with 32 players in the main draw and 16 teams in the Doubles. ■

Ticket prices: from QR 25 to QR 350

Bookings: Buy tickets at the 2017 Qatar ExxonMobil Open website (<https://dohatennis.msl.es/>) or inquire at mall pop-up booths.

Notices: Children under two years of age may come to the venue without a ticket, but must be accompanied by a ticketed adult; children over two years of age require a ticket to enter. Children under five years of age are not allowed into the stands of any court.

