



# EMPIRE

Tennis Academy

# 2017

CLUB • ACADEMY • INTERVIEWS • SUCCESSES • OFFER FOR THE PARTNERS





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### OFFER

The International EMPIRE Tennis Academy in Trnava is on the scene more than 3 years and during its activity the academy has seen outstanding achievements led by Daria Kasatkina from Russia. Daria moved from 370th place to 24th place ranking WTA during two years in the academy. This result is also success of Academy's head coach Vladimir Platenik. The team of coaches was expanded by famous names such as Karol Beck, Daniel Trocka, Jaroslav Levinsky, Mislav Hizak or Martin Hromec. Elina Svitolina (Ukraine), Belinda Bencic (Switzerland), Lucie Safarova (Czech Republic), Kateryna Kozlova (Ukraine), Andrej Martin & Igor Zelenay (both Slovakia) and young players like Tereza Mihalikova, Rebecca Sramkova (both Slovakia) and Anhelina Kalinina, Anna Blinkova, Artem Dubrivny are also the members of the Academy.

For more information about the EMPIRE Tennis Academy in Trnava, Slovak Republic, please contact us via e-mail, telephone, our social networks or in person. Contact: Nina Hlavnova, Academy Manager, mobile: +421 908 859 000, e-mail: nina.hlavnova@tcepire.sk

**Price offer** — from **650€** — week  
 Tennis trainings: **3 hours per day** — Fitness trainings: **4 hours per week** — Physiotherapy: **1 hour per week**

This price includes tennis and fitness trainings, physiotherapy, accommodation and food.



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## Head coach Vladimir Platenik is working on the next phase of the development for Academy in Trnava

# Our players were successful

Vladimir Platenik, head coach at Trnava Academy, has good reason to smile. Together with his colleagues he teamed up solid squad consist of really successful players at 2017 season. Ukrainian Elina Svitolina has won five WTA tournaments this year, her compatriot Kateryna Kozlova jumped back to the first Top 100 and Tunisian player Ons Jabeur set her personal best in this season. Czech Lucia Safarova together with Swiss Belinda Bencic are the new faces of the team. Also we need to admire the way how Bencic was able to return to Top 100 after injury after her preparation in EMPIRE Tennis Academy.

**The Trnava Academy was set up in 2014. How is club's reputation right now?**

"Let's have a look back the last three year. We proved to build really good team. Of course, we

want to be still more professional, but I see there is a huge interest of academy players. I feel, we are going the right way. We have got offers not just from the players, but also coaches, who want to cooperate with us. These offers are not only from Slovakia or Czech coaches. Some of them came also from abroad. I am glad, we have already stabilized the children's category due to coach Jaroslav Kormys. This moment is very important for me. That is the point, we should start, have a professional concept from this age. We are still growing, having more and more members. I am looking forward also for the building of academy, it will be completed in a few months. Now according to agreement with Mr. Miroslav Hlavna, we would launch the second phase of the Academy development. We are getting ready for it, and now I'm going to be a bit more involved with management, I want to be more active in this."

**Where do you see the main positives of the Academy in the last period?**

"Svitolina, Kozlova and Jabeur made the international success, Kasatkina maintained her position, Bencic successfully returned to the tournaments. Elina had a perfect season and this really surprise me. But the biggest breakthrough came with Jabeur as she was able to move from the end of the place about 200th to 83rd. But I am also glad that Kateryna Kozlova with the coach Jaroslav Levinsky made Top 100 ranking. They deserve it very much, because they worked for the changes. I think we were very successful in the women's category. "

**And what about men?**

"Andrej Martin has found a new coach at the end of the season. During the year, he remained in the Top 200. Igor Zelenay had a good double results, but he needs to find more stable partner for the games. He needs to play grand slam or ATP tournaments to have a chance reaching more points. He has potential acquire more points, he is a solid guy. In my opinion cooperation between Japanese Onishi and Miloslav Grolmus brings also some progress. They had some good results at Futures tournaments. Karol Beck and Artem Dubrivnyy also try to go up. They have to go through the Futures tournaments together, I know it's hard. "

**How do you see Ons Jabeur move up in the ranking?**

"It is the merit of Mislav Hizak, who works with Ons. He is the man I had spoken a year ago at US Open in New York. I have a chance to see how much enthusiasm he is giving to his work. He has experiences, he is a good tennis player, an educated man. He really knows how to help players around No. 200 in the ranking. He knows they can not afford his own coach, but despite this fact, he provided Ons with interesting package of services. He made a great job."

**How do you like cooperation between Kozlova and Czech coach Jaroslav Levinsky?**

"It is a very respectable cooperation between them and us, too. Kateryna is very nice, I want to keep people like her in the academy as long as possible. Both were able to keep our plans, which is great. Both will stay with us still."

**The new face in the academy is former world No. 7 Belinda Bencic, who has Slovak roots. He made comeback after the surgery and started her preparation at Trnava's club. Did you expect such a great return for her?**

"I do not like the expectations because expectations bind players. It needs to be more modest, when you would like to have good results. We were worrying about her, because she had an operation in May. She was not fit, tried to work with different trainers, changed some sparing partners. The only thing we could do was to meet her expectations. To give her what she was looking for. Belinda is communicative independent girl, she was able to solve many things herself. Now is important just one thing – to have good team around, which will be able to get her back to top positions. I know, it will be tough, but there is no limit as she was already at Top Ten. I believe she is able to do it again."

**Why is so good for her to stay at Trnava?**

"She likes our academy, her grandmother lives nearby, so she has a family background here. There is no speech barrier for her, she feels good with us, I hope. And last but not least, she has really good conditions for training at academy. I see she is happy, play tennis for herself with goal to come back to Top 10. She has a great sparing players here, a fitness trainer, a physiotherapist. We will be happy to help her return to the higher positions."

**Elina Svitolina ended the year as the World No. 4, it was her best season ever. How her performances surprised you?**

"She had a great season. She is a girl who with tremendous will and is a great warrior. She really deserves her position as she worked for it very hard. She has strong will, discipline and sometimes is really enough to move up. I was surprised, but as I say, she deserves it."

**Is it possible to get any other players from abroad?**

"Of course. I have got also some offers, when I finished to cooperate with Kasatkina. I have decided to work with Ukraine Anhelina Kalinina. The reason is I know her little bit. And I want to train somebody who is independent, mature but is still out of elite players. In that group the players are no willing to make so many changes in their



game. Kalinina was great junior player, but unfortunately she was injured after that period. She undergone shoulder operation two years ago. But I think, if she will be working for year or more here in Trnava, she will be able to reach Top 100. But I am just started my cooperation with her. We are also negotiating with other players from the Top 100, but so far it is open. For example, Mislav Hizak, former Jabeur's coach had several offers and he started to cooperate with Anna Blinkova."

**The previous work with Daria Kasatkina not start very well in 2017. She had lost at Australian Open in the first round, than came another defeats but than came breakthrough with tournament victory at Charleston.**

"Daria had chances for better results, but it didn't happen. She was injured at Rome, unfortunately."

It was unhappy situation. After having some good trainings with Maros Molnar she started to play better, but still, it wasn't her season. She is talented girl, but she must be able to keep discipline. She is with us for three years and she moves definitely on higher positions. She continues to work with Maros Molnar still, she stays also a member of our academy. Also her brother Alex helped her at Trnava, where she has really good conditions, great background. Everywhere else it would be more complicated for her."

**What will be your focus in the upcoming season?**

"I want to solve the management issues related to the academy, help Slovak players including Rebecca Sramkova and Tereza Mihalikova. But I'm also open to helping kids, younger players, I will have more time for this activity since now."



Star of the Academy Elina Svitolina had the best year in her career

# She was surprised, what she found in Trnava



to train hard. You don't have so many distractions. You can really focus on tennis. I have found here all this kinds of vital things which professional tennis player needs. I think this is the perfect place to improve your game."

**Are you enjoying coming back to Trnava?**

"Yes, it's really nice. I have got here very warm welcome. I have good feeling when I am traveling to this club. For me, it is important to know that everything is professional on this place."

**Are you satisfied with the last season?**

"Of course I am happy with the season but I always want more. I want to finish even higher in the ranking. It didn't happen, but I still have a lot of time. I am so glad I was handling tough moments, play solid under pressure so for me it was great season. I can say it."

**How difficult it is for you to play under pressure?**

"Every player has their own unique way how to handle it. For me, it is important to adjust the

game little bit. To be really focused on what you have to do against the other player. You have to be mentally tough and ready but it's just the part of tennis. You need to live with it. I'm trying to work very hard with my team and improve every aspect of my game. I am very happy that we are moving the right way."

**Do you remember the feeling when you became for the first time in your career No. 3 in the world?**

"Great feeling, but this kind of ranking wasn't surprise for me as I won the five tournaments during the season. It was obvious I am going higher. But this a was good moment and brought me a lot of confidence. But still I have big goal in my mind – to be No. 1 one day."

**How far is from the player like you to jump from No. 3 to No. 1?**

"I hope that is not so far and it will be possible. But you need to be very consistent. To play good and be ready on the each tournament in your calendar. Be healthy and show your best game during whole season. I will aim for this in the next



Ukrainian member of EMPIRE Tennis Academy Elina Svitolina has reached No. 3 at WTA ranking in September 2017, but she still has a big goal in her mind. She wants to be on the top of the ranking one day. With the team she hired at December 2016, she was able to win five tournaments last season, but 23 year old player wants more. That's the reason why Elina has worked so hard during off season, too. Although she is very busy, she was willing to speak with us in Trnava at the beginning of December when she was visiting the club.

**You are a player of EMPIRE Tennis Academy at Trnava. How did you get there?**

"It was two years ago. I was training here and spotted this club had all the conditions I needed



season but I know very well it's gonna be very tough. But I think I am ready."

**Do you really feel it's possible to go higher?**

"Of course. Otherwise I wouldn't play. To be No. 1 is something very special for all the athletes. Everyone is aiming for this. Is it big goal for everyone."

**You have become not only No. 3 in the ranking during last season, but also first Ukrainian women at Top 10 ever. Which moment do you prefer?**

"Maybe to be No. 3, but the other moment was also sweet."

**You have won five tournaments this year – Taiwan Open at Taipei, at Dubai, Istanbul, Rome and Toronto. Which one was the most difficult for you?**

"Rome was very tough. The prestige of the tournament was very high. You always have lot of pressure, when you play this kind of tournament. Also winning title in Toronto, where I beat four players from Top Ten, was very tough. All the matches I have played there were extremely difficult to win, but I went through this. For me it was one of the best moments this season."

**What is the difference between Elina Svitolina from 2016 and Elina Svitolina from 2017?**

"The difference is not the age but the work I did with my team. I was able to change the structure of my trainings to play big tournaments. Of course, there is still a room for improvement. I am looking forward to start the new season. Although I am having the off season now, I am

training very hard. I need to play well and to be ready for big moments. I have also had a new team since December last year. You always need time when you have the new team. Is does not happen overnight to find out what you need to do with new members. But now I really have the proper time with my team and my coach."

**Who are the members of your team?**

"My main coaches are Thierry Ascione, the former coach of Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and Gabriel Urpi from Spain. Both of them are helping me a lot. And also a fitness coach Oliver Fawls from England is with me. My sparring partner Andrew Bettles is also Englishman. He always travels with me. Then I have a physio as well. It's quite a big team."



**Why did you decide to change the team before 2016 season? To split with the main coach Ian Hughes?**

"I did it because when you see your improvement has stopped you need to change something. It always takes time to be as one all together, but now, everything is OK. I am very happy with it this moment. You need to have fresh things."

**What is your big goal for this season? What is you plan for the upcoming months?**

"It is always the same. I want to give one hundred percent into the next match at each tournament."

**What are you doing when you have spare time?**

"I like to go home because I don't spend so much time there. I am yearning to spend some moments with my family. During tournaments, it is not possible because I really focus on the games and rest a lot. I think it's the big part of tennis – to recover and be ready mentally and physically. You have to do that properly. But I am still a normal girl. I still like to go out with my friends, go sightseeing, when I am in new city. I like new things. Also I read a lot, it helps me lot and changes my head out of tennis."

**Your father Mikhaylo Svitolin was a successful wrestler, which sport – beside tennis – are you fond of?**

"Soccer as many other Ukrainians."

# Charleston title was the highlight of the season for Daria Kasatkina Ready for Top 20

Daria Kasatkina (20) has been a member of EMPIRE Tennis Academy for more than three years. She has moved up more than 300 places in the WTA rankings during that time, she is a member of Top 30 in the world, she has made an enormous progress when she cooperated with Vladimir Platenik from the same tennis academy. Now, with a new coach, she is looking forward to new challenges.

**It wasn't a bad season, because you reached 24th position in the WTA rankings, but did you hope that it would be even better one?**

"The season was quite similar to the last one, in 2016. There were a lot of ups and downs this year. But I'm really happy that I have won my first WTA tournament in my career and I think I have finished the year pretty good – quarterfinals in China or the final in Moscow. When I think that I was also injured in the first part of the season, it wasn't a bad season."

**How important was it for you to gain first WTA singles title?**

"It was very important for me because the start of the season was pretty bad. I didn't expect to win the title. Because before that I had lost at the tournaments early, so this was great. It was even Premier category tournament, not the lowest one so I was really excited about it."

**When did you have the feeling that you were playing the best tennis? Was it in Charleston or at another place?**

"Yes, it was Charleston, that's for sure but also in Wuhan when I beat Simona Halep. That match was unbelievable for me. I was playing really good. In my mind, in the beginning, I was just playing the regular match but in the end I just dominated. It was very important moment and win for me."

**What was the end of the season like for you? It looked like you had found your game...**

"Yeah, I came there (in Moscow) without any expectations. I was with my new coach but we have just started our cooperation. I was playing good and it is my hometown, tournament is in my city, so it was nice to finish the season like that."

**What was your plan after the last tournament of the year?**

"After vacation it was more about fitness preparation. I'm still playing tennis but not that much. I will play more tennis during pre-season tennis camp in Florida in December. In November it was more about fitness preparation."

**What do you expect from your new coach Philippe Dehaes?**

"I can't say that I expect something special

right now. I just need a new view from the other side, other person.. We used to work together three years ago. I'm really excited about our cooperation. Because we have more or less the same view of my game, style of thinking, so I'm looking forward to see how the cooperation will go during the next tournament in the new season."

**What were the three years of work with Vladimir Platenik like? You moved up more than 300 places in the WTA rankings, you are a member of Top 30 in the world, you have made enormous progress during this phase of your career...**

"For sure, I made a great step forward. He gave me a lot of important information, about the Tour, about tennis, about other players, that's it. I'm thankful for that."

**What are your goals for the next season, if you have any?**

"As always, it is about improving my game. I feel like I am prepared for the Top 20 level, I want to go further and further, to win the tournaments. I don't want to say exactly I want to be this No. or another, but I want to do my best and we will see what is going to happen. But for sure I want to go for something big!"

**What do you need to get into the Top 10, for example, to become one of those players...**

"I need more experience, that's for sure. Now it is for me more about mental preparation, it is the key and some tactical skills on which we will work with my new coach."

**You spent your vacation in Barcelona, your favorite city. How was it?**

"Unbelievable. The best vacation ever. I love the city, the atmosphere, everything -Spain, food, soccer. Everything I need is in this city. I saw everything, I walked about 172 kilometres in 10 days. I was just enjoying walking in Barcelona. It was tough to say good bye to the city but I had to go to work again (smile)."

# Kateryna Kozlova reached the career high during the 2017 year



**Ukrainian Kateryna Kozlova (23) was the member of the Top 100 in the 2016 but after one more year she made it to the 71st position in the WTA rankings. She had to change a lot of things in her game and to adapt to them but the cooperation with coach Jaroslav Levinsky also from the EMPIRE Tennis Academy seems like a very good decision because she is on the path of progress. The 2018 year could be again the best in her career and she is looking forward to it.**

**Tell us more about your season. Are you satisfied with your results?**

"It was a tough year, there were a lot of ups and downs. Beginning of the year was not great for me, I had bad results. I was starting to work with my new coach Jaroslav Levinsky. He changed a lot of things in my game, in my style. It was complicated to use it during the match, to transfer it from the practice to matches. But then I started to play better, I got my confidence back – especially during summer season and after that. If we take the start of the season and the end of the season, I'm not going to say that I'm satisfied but I have made the step forward. Because I had dropped to 260th position, but now I'm back in the Top 100 now. I'm happy that my game is improving."

**What is more important? The fact that you won two singles titles in Rome and Dalian or that you made it to the main draw at Roland Garros and US Open?**

"Grand slams are, of course, the most important. But without other results you're not going to win

# Important & successful year

the matches at Grand slams. I think it is kind of connected. The victory in Rome gave me the confidence to get some results later. Wins at the US Open, when I have advanced from the qualifying to the 2nd round into the main draw, were also important because then I won in Dalian, China."

**Do you have one or two matches this year that make you feel satisfied with your game and the result?**

"I felt very well after I played against Begu from Romania in the US Open 1st round. I was really nervous, I've played really well until 5-2 in the second set but then I got nervous because I had never passed the first round in New York and I really wanted to win that match. I was already 6-5 down in the set and 6-2 down in the tiebreak. But I kept the set and won the match. But I played very well until 5-2 in the second set. Also in Dalian, China, I played well, I had a plan and I managed to stick to it. The final against Zvonareva, a very experienced player, was tough but also the game against Zarina Diyas in the semi-final was very tough, she was in a good shape back then."

**How was the cooperation with your coach Jaroslav Levinsky from the EMPIRE Tennis Academy?**

"At the beginning, it was tough to show my game after changes we made together. But everything went well, I think we understand each other. We have very good connection, good communication on the court and I think we understand each other pretty good. That's the key between coach and the player. We have also similar vision of tennis..."

**Is it possible to specify how he helped you?**

"It is not easy to say because there are a lot of specific things. We changed my forehand, I started to play more aggressively. Generally, I'm trying

to change the style of my game, because I played more defensively before. If I can give you short version of what we are trying to do, it is this."

**What kind of coach and what kind of person is he?**

"He is a nice person, calm. At the same time, he is funny. I like that he is not so emotional on the court and not so negative. I know that coaches sometimes want so much that they are getting more emotional and more negative, but that is not working with me. I like the fact that he is a calm and outside the court, he is funny, he has sense of humor which I really like. We have good connection and we are continuing to the next season."

**Do you have any special goal for the next season?**

"You know I don't want to say anything about the ranking, to put this kind of pressure on me. I know my goal deep inside. But I don't want to say like I will be the No. this or this. I want to play as many matches as possible from the beginning of the year. I would like to start the season much better than the last year. I want to improve my game, to be more confident, this is the best way and the most important thing for me right now. Then when I win, the results will come and the rankings will come along."

**Why is it good for you to be a member of the EMPIRE Tennis Academy in Trnava?**

"It is great because there is a very nice club in Trnava. I like the facilities they already have. And when they finish the new gym, new building with new indoor hardcourts, swimming pool, it will be perfect for me. It has very calm environment, we have everything we need for practice and the conditions are perfect. And when it is finished, it is going to be one of the best clubs and academies in Europe."

## Swiss Bencic fought her way back to TOP 100 after preparation in EMPIRE Tennis Academy

# Perfect comeback



**Former No. 7 Belinda Bencic (20) is a member of EMPIRE Tennis Academy from August 2017. She injured her wrist and had to undergo a surgery in May, but despite her fear, everything turned out great. Surgery was a success as well as her comeback. She won three tournaments during three months and went back to WTA Top 100 in singles. All because she trained in Trnava club EMPIRE.**

### When you discovered academy in Trnava?

"I heard about it from my friends Dasha Kasatkina and Vladimir Platenik. I won an international tournament here when I was 14, back in 2010, but it was not an academy yet. I saw photos on the Academy's official Instagram and heard it's great here. Also Elina Svitolina and Lucie Safarova train here too."

### Do you remember your winning tournament here in 2010?

"I was 13 years old, we played on clay, and part

of Tennis Europe series. I remember these things pretty well. Our hotel was right next to court and we watched matches from balcony. That's why I remember it."

### Why did you made the decision to become member of the EMPIRE Tennis Academy?

"When I was still injured, I came here personally. Even Oliver Nagy, who was my sparring at the time, told me that we could give a training week here. I came here, I liked it, I found good conditions here. I know a lot of people in this place, I felt good, I said why not to come here. Now I prepare myself here before every tournament."

### Have you met your expectations even after weeks of preparation?

"I've got everything I need. I had great training here before I started playing tennis. The club gave me everything they could."

### Is there similar academy in Switzerland as ours?

"In Switzerland, there is a federal national ten-

nis center in Biel, where everyone trains. There are plenty of tennis halls, but there are tennis schools, for example children's academy. There are no big academies where players from other countries can come. Each parent takes child where it is closest to them."

### When you underwent an operation in May 2017, what was the most difficult for you during the first weeks?

"I had gypsum and I did not know much about how it would evolve. I was sad about it. I could not play or do anything to do, run. I was depressed."

### Who operated on you?

"Frederik Verstreken, he works in Antwerp, he also operated Clijsters, Flipkens, Goffin. And many more players. Magda Rybarikova, who I then began to ask more about what it was like. She said it was great and she was happy. Then I went to see him, he made a good impression on me. He had everything under control, he knew everything. He tried to explain it, but he did not push me into anything. Agents from Nishikori or Kuznetsova were already calling me, they were curious about it. I recommended him, he's a wrist specialist."

### When did you miss fears of returning and started to believe?

"It was still hurting from the beginning. Every day I had to work with a physiotherapist. I called the doctor every day whether it was normal or ok, I was stressed. When I played the first backhands in August, I was also cautious, but the pain was gone. I begin to believe it would be okay. Now I believe it completely and I do not have to tape it."

### How did rehabilitation look like? And when was the first full-time training?

"My physiotherapist came to see the doctor who will be operated me. On the spot, they agreed what he can move, in which time horizon. We wanted to strengthen our muscles, we did classical exercises with a dumbbell up, down, with an expander."



### You came back in big style in September, you just won the tournament in Petrohrad. What was the return to the lower ITF?

"I did not mind, I played ITF events in the past, I had to fight through them. For me, the WTA tournament in Linz was amazing. Less sponsored tournaments were well organized. And what I liked best is that I played better without getting the same attention everywhere. I did not want it to be resolved as a big story of return. I wanted to focus on how to hold my wrist. I could also use protected ranking to get wild cards into main competitions, but I did not want it."

### And it might not have gone so well...

"It could not, it could have started hurting me again. I would have to explain to everybody what happened. When I chose such a return, it was more relaxed, easier for me. I wanted to fight it like this. We agreed with the coach, we had the same opinion."

### Which winnings do you value the most after returning? Saint Petersburg, Hua Hin or Taipei?

"I'm most proud of the first of St. Petersburg because I did not expect it at all. When I was on the court, I was excited that I could play at all. At that time I felt the best."

### What would you say to someone in the summer of 2017 if he would have told to you that you would return to the Top 100 for three months and you would qualify for the Australian Open main draw?

"I would be very careful. I would not even think it was real or possible. I was glad when I got into the singles qualification - I did not count on it. It's a bonus, but I was ready to play a qualifying."

### In January 2018 you will play again the Hopman Cup with Federer. Are you excited?

"It is such a highlight that I was looking forward to. I am nervous, but Roger is totally cool. Playing with him helps. I feel very good with him on the court. We would like to play even better at Hopman Cup than ever before. His matches were different, the night duels were played. There were a lot of people, a real atmosphere. Australians truly live for sport."

### Are you satisfied with coach Ian Hughes?

"I am very happy, I felt great about his training. I like the style of his training. He tries to get to know me, to learn about things. It is very good. He is rather a peaceful, tactical type. He is very helpful

in the game, he shows me the details I can work on. It is going well."

### How do you like to train with Slovak sparring like Oliver Nagy and Martin Blasko from our academy?

"Great, I practice my Slovak at least (smile). We trained with Oliver for almost a year, it was also great. I am very grateful to him, he is part of my successful return. Even with Blasko it was perfect, in Asia we were together in the two tournaments I have won. He plays great, intense."

### Do you have any idea how many tournaments would you like to play in the 2018 season?

"Definitely less than I played. In the past, I had a lot of tournaments, but I did not win as much. When I started winning, I continued on, comfortably. So when I win some, I'll take a break. I want to plan more carefully for my body to be okay. The advantage is that most of the year I do not have to defend tournament points."



## Ons Jabeur: I can beat anyone if I play like in Shenzhen

# Top 50 is waiting

Tunisian member of the EMPIRE Tennis Academy Ons Jabeur (23) is another player from our Academy who had pretty good season. She was No. 193 in the WTA rankings in the end of the 2016 season but after one year she moved up more than 100 places. One of the best results which she had achieved was in Paris during the Roland Garros where she became the first Arab woman to make the third round at a grand slam beating also the world champion Cibulkova.

### What is your opinion about the season 2017 and your results?

"Yeah, it was pretty good season. The start was a little bit rough, I was at the No. 193 position in the WTA rankings, but after it was good and progressive. I had to work harder to get the confidence. Roland Garros was pretty good, it was one of the best tournaments I had. I want to be even better in the future, but I think that hard work paid off. I am now in the level which is much more complicated, so in the 2018 season I'll try to go higher, to win the matches and improve my rankings."

### What was the highlight of the season for you, Roland Garros probably? You won the qualifying and then you beat also Dominika Cibulkova in the 2nd round, which was surprising... You became the first Arab woman to make the third round at a grand slam.

"Yes, the crowd was amazing, I felt like home because there were some Tunisian fans there, they were rooting for me and I was happy to see them. It was more emotional for me than the other grand slams. The French Tunisians are close to me, for me it was about good atmosphere, a lot of emotions, I liked it so much."

### Was it a big thing in Tunisia?

"It was, but I didn't have a chance to go to Tunisia right after that. The minister in Tunisia, she wanted to meet me there, she wanted to come to the airport to pick me up and staff, so it would be an

honor for me. They cared about me, they wanted to see me, but unfortunately I had to prepare for the other tournaments and I didn't have a chance to go back. But lately, the Tunisian soccer team has qualified for the World Cup, so they were busier with them, not with me. It is a kind of sad but it is ok (smile)."

### How important was it for you to reach Top 100 for the first time in your career?

"It was very important, because it was one of goals which I wanted to reach since like long time ago, for years. It took a long time to get to



Top 100, but since I stopped thinking about the ranking, it has been easier for me. Now I'm happy with that. I don't need to think about the ranking anymore, I learned it from my previous experience. My goal is to improve my game now and ranking would eventually come."

### Could you pick one or two matches that you were especially satisfied with?

"At the beginning of the year, when I played Shenzhen, I was pretty happy with my game. I played so good that I even didn't recognize myself. So, if I can maintain that level, I can beat anyone. I was playing so good, I was so relaxed, no pressure, I was forcing other players to follow my game... For me, it was like one of the best tournaments I have played. I played so good in Taipei, I think it has something to do with tournaments in Asia. Or with noodles. I don't know (smiling). And Roland Garros.. Yes, I won against good players but I didn't feel the same way as in Shenzhen or in Taipei."

### Do you have special goals in the 2018 season?

"Yes, but I don't want to focus on the rankings and count every point. But if I can say numbers I would say Top 50 in the next season, if it were be better, it would be great. But I have to do it step by step. I had to maintain good level, confidence and the results will come. "

### Did you have the time for your family after the season?

"Before the fitness camp, I was in France. And before that I was at my sister's wedding, I enjoyed the wedding. I was with my husband on one island in Tunisia, it was good. We had fun. But I didn't want to travel a lot because I travel all the year. For me, it was like stupid to travel again. So I wanted to stay in Tunisia (smile)."

### Where do you spend most of your time during the year?

"My brother lives in Paris, so there and sometimes in Tunis. And if I can I come to Trnava in Slovakia, where is EMPIRE Tennis Academy."

## Mihalikova has changed a lot of things and she is going higher

# New season, new coach

What does not kill you, makes you stronger. That is the case of a young girl from Topolcany - Tereza Mihalikova, who failed to start the last season well. She struggled, but then she showed the world she knows very well how to fight.



Slovak coach Martin Hromec has agreed with the EMPIRE Tennis Academy on a 5-year contract and with Mihalikova on a one-year deal. "She's young and when she was a junior, she has had a huge success. For me, I can say that I did not understand why she is not higher in the WTA rankings. It does not match her performance. My primary task will be to move her as high as possible," Hromec explained and he also revealed why he likes Trnava Academy.

"I have seen a lot of academies in the world, but this, what was built by the owner Mr. Miroslav Hlavna in Trnava, is an absolute top. There is also a high-quality team of coaches and players, it is a high level. With the completion of another international academy building, it will be perfect," he added.

"I wasn't able to beat any opponents. I was deep down," admitted Mihalikova (19). The man who pulled her up, was her personal coach at EMPIRE Tennis Academy Stefano Vukov. And it was hard for both at the beginning. "They were definitely tough days for me. Full of arguing, leaving some trainings. But finally I was able to overcome it. I am glad, these days are gone," says promising Slovak tennis talent.

However, it was not the only problem for her during these months. The other came, when Stefano Vukov, former Croatian tennis player, who lives in USA, had to come back to the States. Due to family problems. Three months before his departure, Mihalikova knew her coach would go away. Despite this fact it was still difficult rather difficult for her to adapt to the new situation. "We didn't split on bad terms, quite the opposite. We remained friends. Nevertheless, I still don't like to change coaches. I don't like to find myself in the position of going to a tournament with a completely new person. But, I must admit, it went great this time.

My new coach Martin Hromec is a good man and I am also happy that he is Slovak. Why? Because Stefano spoke to me using Croatian English. I sometimes made mistakes afterwards and answered my parents' in English. Plus at that time I started reading a Czech book, so sometimes I was totally confused. Now everything is in terms of the language much easier," smiled Mihalikova. Who is Martin Hromec? A former coach of Martin Kližan's for example. "At the beginning he said to me I am much quieter comparing the guys who he had coached before. So it's time for me to be slightly more aggressive. At least on the court. I will try to learn it, I promise. We will see what he thinks about me in six months' time," says Tereza. As for the EMPIRE Tennis Academy at Trnava Tereza Mihalikova, the junior champion of Australia 2015, has no reason to complain. "I am very satisfied here. I have my own coach here, a fitness coach and great girls for sparring. And top of that Bratislava is not that far from Trnava. I like this place," admitted Slovakian player, who is now



on 446-th place at WTA Tour ranking. Tereza's current goal is to jump to the the first 200 at the rankings. "I do not have to defend any points in the first months, so at least I want to get into the grand slam qualification. I hope it won't be so difficult to jump higher. Is not so far from my current position," dreams Mihalikova.

Answering the question during which game of the last season she played her best tennis took a while to come. "I really don't know what to say. I only started to play well after changing my racket. Upon doing so, some better results came. Maybe I was playing my best in the game with the Russian Vera Zvonareva at the beginning of July in Egypt. Although I lost (5-7 in the third set), I played well. It was maybe the best tennis I have ever played. But it wasn't quite enough for the victory at that time. I hope I will have a chance for a revenge," said Mihalikova.

The only Mihalikova's ITF tournament victory last season came in Egypt in Sharm El Sheikh in October. "I am happy I did it, because before that game I had lost in some finals," concluded the interview Mihalikova. With new positive approach in her mind she believes the next season will be much better for her than the others having one wild dream. "Sometimes in the future I would like break into Top 5 at WTA Tour. I know it looks crazy but you need to have wild dreams."

# PLAYERS & COACHES OF TC EMPIRE TRNAVA CLUB 2018

## WOMEN



## MEN:

## MEN



## JUNIORS

## JUNIORS



## U14



## U14



## U14



## U14



## ŽIACTVO:



## COACHES



## CHILDREN



## COACHES



## PHYSIO



# Czech player is a new member of EMPIRE Tennis Academy

## Safarova: I like this project



**EMPIRE Tennis Academy women's team with new power. Four times Grand Slam champion, four times winner of FedCup trophy**

**with Czech team and Roland Garros singles finalist in 2015 Lucie Safarova became new member of the EMPIRE Tennis Academy thus joined other pillars and players.**

Czech Lucie Safarova is one of the latest EMPIRE Tennis Academy team addition. She has with her American partner Bethanie Mattek-Sands won her 4th doubles title at the Australian Open 2018 Grand Slam tournament in Melbourne. "I really look forward to Trnava since I wanted to see everything here and to play here. So far, my busy schedule did not allow that. I decided to enter the project I liked. And I think there are great people in Trnava who are interested in the progress of young tennis players and also tennis in general," said Safarova for [www.empire-tennis-academy.com](http://www.empire-tennis-academy.com).

Vladimir Platenik, who is a head-coach in Trnava, informed her about the Tennis Academy itself. "We know each other for a long time from WTA circuit, but apart from him I heard good references from the other players, too. Tennis player does not spend much time at home, but when I'll be at home, I'll be glad to go to Trnava for practice opportunity. There is an ideal environment for professional training. And Trnava is not far from Brno! We look forward to our future cooperation," said winner of 7 WTA tournaments in singles and 13 in doubles.

### Andrej Martin



#### Major achievements in 2017

- **singles winner**, ATP challenger, San Luis Potosi Challenger, Prize Money 50 000\$, San Luis Potosi, Mexico, clay, outdoor (April)
- **singles quarterfinalist**, ATP challenger, CHINA INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGER QINGDAO 2017, Prize Money 125 000\$, Qingdao, China, clay, outdoor (April)
- **singles quarterfinalist**, ATP Challenger, NECKARCUP, Prize Money 64 000€, Heilbronn, Germany, clay, outdoor (May)
- **singles winner**, ATP Challenger, Advantage Cars Prague Open 2017 by Zenova, Prize Money 43 000€, Prague, Czech, clay, outdoor (July)
- **won one point in singles**, Davis Cup: Slovakia - Poland, Bratislava, Slovakia, clay, outdoor (September)
- **singles semifinalist** ATP Challenger, Milo Open, Prize Money 50 000\$, Cali, Colombia, clay, outdoor (October)

### Igor Zelenay



#### Major achievements in 2017

- **doubles winner** (partnering Mikhail Elgin (RUS)), Open BNP Paribas Banque De Bretagne, ATP Challenger, Prize Money 43 000€, Quimper, France, hard, indoor (February)
- **doubles winner** (partnering Roman Jebavy (CZE)), ATP Challenger Tour, Prize Money 43 000€, Cherbourg, France, hard, indoor (February)
- **doubles winner** (partnering Julian Knowle (AUT)), ATP challenger, INTERNAZIONALI DI TENNIS D'ABRUZZO, Prize Money 43 000€, Francavilla al Mare, Italy, clay, outdoor (April)
- **doubles winner** (partnering Julian Knowle (AUT)), ATP Challenger, Sparkassen Open, Prize Money 127 000€, Braunschweig, Germany, clay, outdoor (July)
- **member of Davis Cup team**, Davis Cup: Slovakia - Poland, Bratislava, Slovakia, clay, outdoor (September)

### Artem Dubrivnyy



#### Major achievements in 2017

- **singles & doubles winner** (partnering Ondrej Styler (CZE)), The 24th Slovak Junior Indoor U18 2017, Grade 2, Senec, Slovensko, hard, indoor (January)
- **singles semifinalist & doubles runner-up** (partnering Alejandro Fokin (ESP)), RPM Junior Open 2017, Grade 1, Vestec, Czech Republic, carpet, indoor (January)
- **junior Grand Slam**, Roland Garros, Paris, France, clay, outdoor (June)
- **junior Grand Slam**, Wimbledon, Great Britain, grass, outdoor (July)
- **singles runner-up**, ITF Futures, EMPIRE Futures Trnava 2017, Prize Money 15 000 USD, Trnava, Slovakia, clay, outdoor (July)
- **runner-up**, European Summer Cups U18, La Rochelle, France, clay, outdoor (August)
- **singles quarter-finalist**, ITF Futures, Summer Cup, Prize Money 15 000 USD, Moscow, Russia, clay, outdoor (August)

# THE COMPLEX

## OF TENNIS CENTRE EMPIRE TRNAVA



On Hajdoczyho street in Trnava we have available a modern tennis complex, the largest in Slovakia, which certainly stands up well also in international competition. With completion of four new clay courts performed in 2011, the complex with 13 courts gets the first place in Slovakia. Three courts in the EMPIRE hall with the Plexipave Plexicushion Prestige surface, also used on the Grand Slam Australian Open, must be considered as well.

The four-star Hotel EMPIRE creates a dominant feature of the complex. It offers players with great conditions not only during the tournaments but also during the preparation in the EMPIRE Tennis Academy. In the hotel they – as well as the other clients – can find everything they need for fitness training (fitness centre), regeneration (wellness centre) and the restaurant Strawberries with top quality food.

The restaurant and the hotel rooms have direct views of the clay courts. Even children can have a lot of fun using a mini-court, reflective wall with and jungle gyms. The complex includes green areas, rest areas with gazebo and a petanque field.



The complex TC EMPIRE Trnava gets into the minds of tennis fans thanks to major domestic and international tournaments. The most important of them include the largest women's tournament in Slovakia EMPIRE Slovak Open with Prize Money of 100.000 USD (May), men's international tournament EMPIRE Futures Trnava with Prize Money

of 15.000 USD (July) or the latest indoor tournament EMPIRE Women's Indoor, Prize Money 15.000 USD (February). Men players and women players of the World Top 100 or 200 ATP/ WTA rankings regularly participate at the above mentioned tournaments.

# TC EMPIRE TRNAVA CLUB

The tennis complex on Hajdoczyho Street is the home of the top club TC EMPIRE Trnava. Its history dates back to 1972 when organized tennis began to flourish on the courts of the former Slavia. Until 2009 the club worked under the name of TC Slavia Trnava. Transformation of the club from the civic association into a joint stock company, which took place in September 2006, is considered a significant milestone in the his-

tory of the club. It allowed the construction of a beautiful tennis complex as well as organization of major international tennis events. In 2013 the club TC EMPIRE Trnava reached the third place in the ranking of Slovak clubs. In 2014 it finally became the most successful club in Slovakia and it was repeated in the seasons 2015, 2016 & 2017, too.

Our main goal is to offer complex facilities and provide professional sports training for children and players of the club and to enlarge the player base with emphasis on children preparation. The club organizes the largest number of tournaments in Slovakia during the year, altogether 17 tournaments.





Miloslav Grolmus appreciates the attitude of his Japanese trainee Ken Onishi

# We are working on his weapons

Miloslav Grolmus leads the 21-year-old Japanese tennis player Ken Onishi from May 2017. The former No. 28 ITF junior is on a way to his career maximum. "He was very compact when he arrived, but he did not have any weapon. That is our goal what we're working on now. In men's tennis, there is no secret, the player must have a good forehand on clay," says Grolmus, who wants Ken to hit the challenger category in the new season, and has already managed the Futures level.

**You cooperated with Ken Onishi since May 2017. What is the difference between Ken from May and Ken in December 2017?**

"First of all I want to say that Ken was solid in May when he came. Japanese coaches made it easy for me, he came up very technically prepared. He was very compact, but he was missing a gun for what we do. In male tennis, there is no secret, the player must have a great forehand on clay. For instance, he has a very good kick. We also focus on the length of strike. His style will always be that he needs to the opponents to hold back, have to go with them over long rally and lay them down. He is getting used to it. At some of the tournaments that we were in Asia at the end of the year, he played great forehand, but he is not used to it yet. We want him to be confident in it."

**What are you still working on?**

"On physical condition. In November he was at a fitness camp in Liptovsky Jan. I think that with regard to his dynamics on the court, he has the great potential in this. It must be dynamic, explosive. When he wants to be a top player, he must be an animal. In the season he played two semi-finals, overcame several tennis players



around No. 300 in the ranking, but he said himself he needed to move up physically. His matches are long sometimes, sometimes two and a half up to three hours. Having played a semi-final after such a game, the problem is to keep the rally. When he is physically fit, he will be able to

play 5-6 matches in one week. Week after week. This is what wins the match."

**What is his approach to training and the match?**

"He has discipline, he has clear goals and he

stands behind them. At his age he is very clever. He can plan many things himself, think ahead. Many players are still in puberty at his age, it does not apply to him. He's a professional, he's doing a lot of things alone. At times, of course, we have talks when something is not going the way we want, why it has not been possible to work on it. He thinks and communicates, asks. That's fine, because I have my feedback. "

**What was the most positive experience for you in 2017?**

"It was a stay in Asia at the end of the season and his family's behaviour towards me. In the second tournament in Malaysia, he played the semi-finals after he did not get well in the first tournament and went through a tiny crisis. I appreciate this. He was able to play on the hard courts to play aggressively, made points with forehand, with solid net play. The game had dynamic and aggressive parameters. The last match of the season was played with a friend in the doubles at the Kobe Challenge. They played in the quarterfinal on center court against the favourite players, later winners McLachlan / Uchiyam and he played excellent."

**How did he deal with coming to Slovakia. Was that a big change?**

"I think well. We have done so much for his good adaptation along with club management. This included temporary stay, visas, accommodation, travel to fitness exercises, day planning. We did everything professionally. Personally, I invited him to Slovak restaurants, tasted also halusky, pork neck, dumplings. He was interested in it. This transition also depends on how people around him can help. He is also glad to be in a small town where he has space to prepare. He is not crowded with a big city. He's not in the stress, he's relaxed."

**What will be your goal next year?**

"To win the Futures category, move to the Top 500 of the ATP rankings. He himself said he was not ready for this in the 2017 season. He played 18 tournaments, he was in two semi-finals, played in the quarter-finals, many of the second



rounds, but there are not enough points to enter the first five hundred. We will also try to play challengers, in January we are going to Australia and he will be playing also the Japanese league. "

**Where do you see his potential?**

"I can't say, it cannot be predicted, he can get under unnecessary pressure. The goal is to get in the first five in 2018. But he realizes that this is not the question of one year and that he would have to fight for it."

**How did you get used to traveling? Is it as much as when you played?**

"Maybe more. I have been doing this work for ten years. I'm a professional coach, I don't put much thought towards it. I have to be able to respond to the demands of my protege. It is part of my profession. It is important that he would be cared for, that he has enough information from me about tactics to match, analyse, statistics, and move forward."



# 10th EDITION ITF Women's Circuit, Prize Money 100.000 USD EMPIRE Slovak Open 2018

## ABOUT THE TOURNAMENT

In the season 2018 the tournament EMPIRE Slovak Open held in May in Slovakia shall be the largest women's tennis event which has been proud of the name International Women's Tennis Championship of Slovakia since 2013. During the past nine years the event has brought excellent performances of many Top 100 WTA Ranking Players and gained a stable place not only in Slovakia but also on the world stage. Due to its increased Prize Money of 100.000 USD it belongs to the world's largest and best ITF tournaments.

Recently, the top players already presented their mastery on clay courts of our tennis complex, for example Anna Karolina Schmiedlova, Daria

Kasatkina, Karolina & Kristyna Pliskova, Barbora Strycova, Magdalena Rybarikova, Marketa Vondrousova, Veronica Cepede-Royg, Jana Cempelova, Simona Halep, Klara Koukalova, Janette Husarova, Urszula Radwanska, Cagla Buyukakcay, Lesia Tsurenko, Yvonne Meusburger, Yarina Wickmayer, Sandra Zahlavova, Anastasija Sevastova, Michaela Krajicek, Shahar Peer, Karin Knapp, Lucie Hradecka, Julia Glushko, Tereza Smitkova, Denisa Allertova, Jovana Jakšić, 2015 winner Danka Kovinic or 2016 edition winner Katerina Siniakova. Every year the top young talents of this sport from Slovakia are given the opportunity to play besides the well-known names.

EMPIRE Slovak Open has reached the hearts of not only the players, but also of all the fans who create excellent atmosphere during the tournament.

Reportages on the event regularly appear on the screen of the largest Slovak TV stations as well as in the press or on the global websites.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE			
Day	Date	Time	
Saturday	12th May	10.00	Qualifying 1st round
Sunday	13th May	10.00	Qualifying 2nd round
Monday	14th May	11.00	Qualifying Final and 1st round of the Main Draw
Tuesday	15th May	11.00	Main Draw 1st round Singles and Doubles
Wednesday	16th May	11.00	Singles 1st and 2nd round and 1st round of Doubles
Thursday	17th May	11.00	Singles 2nd round and Doubles Quarter-Finals
Friday	18th May	12.00	Singles Quarter-Finals and Doubles Semi-Finals
Saturday	19th May	13.00	Singles Semi-Finals
			Not before 16.00 Doubles Final
Sunday	20th May	11.00	Singles Final

## EVENTS DURING THE TOURNAMENT

### Player's party

During the tournament, Tuesday evening after 19:00 is always dedicated especially to players that have the opportunity to get to know each other as well as to know the partners and the organizers of the tournament. The party takes place in the attractive atmosphere of the Hotel EMPIRE\*\*\*\* and the Restaurant Strawberries. As an inseparable part of the evening there are, of course, gastronomic delicacies and delicious drinks accompanied by nice music.

### The day with the stars

The jubilee 10th EMPIRE Slovak Open 2018 will also bring an extraordinary meeting of fans with tennis celebrities. On the occasion of the anniversary of the tournament there is an exhibition of famous players of the local EMPIRE Tennis Academy. In Trnava, we also welcome a number of past winners of our tournament, which undoubtedly entered the history of the biggest women's tennis event in Slovakia.

### Day for Families with Children

A day full of entertainment is held every year on

Saturdays from early morning and it is open for all visitors who come to the Tennis Centre EMPIRE Trnava. There is a bouncy castle, face painting, animators with lots of games, sports and physical competition and mini-tennis available for children. Family Day will culminate by the Singles Semi-Finals and the Doubles Final.

### VIP Day, Partners Day

Saturday belongs to the partners of the event for which we have prepared the Doubles Tournament. At the end of the day there will be an evening reception held in the Restaurant Strawberries at the Hotel EMPIRE. Besides the refreshments there will be the Award Ceremony held for the VIP Tournament Winners.

## THE OFFER FOR THE PARTNERS

Tennis has long been among the most popular in-

### BASIC INFORMATIONS

Tournament name: EMPIRE Slovak Open 2018  
Organizer: TC EMPIRE Trnava  
Prize Money: 100.000 USD  
Venue: TC EMPIRE Trnava Complex  
Date: 12 - 20 May 2018  
Number of players: 32 in main draw and 32 in qualifying



dividual sports with great marketing potential, as evidenced by the ranking of the world's best tennis players and women tennis players at the top ranks of the best earning sportsmen. Tennis is a sport of gentlemen and besides maintaining physical fitness it is also a great opportunity for making new friendships and maintaining existing ones. EMPIRE Slovak Open tournament has gained a stable position not only in the calendar of ITF professional circuit, but also in the program of the players and the audience. The aim of the TC EMPIRE Trnava organizing team is to improve constantly the conditions for the players and to be the most important tennis event in Slovakia. Advertis-

ing partnership offer at the tournament EMPIRE Slovak Open offers a unique opportunity for effective marketing promotion of your company at the most significant women's tennis tournament in Slovakia. Our offer includes a wide range of marketing tools while the exclusive partner is offered the possibility to join its company name with the official name of the tournament. Thus it will be featured on the ITF website as well as in the media with national broadcasting. EMPIRE Slovak Open is an ideal opportunity to make new personal and business contacts with potential partners, invited guests and tennis supporters. We believe that jointly we will organize the top tennis event again.






# PARTNERSHIP OFFER

	EP					GAP					MAP					AP					MP									
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Name of the Partner in the tournament name</b>	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>TA3 (40 spots)</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Radio Jemne melodie (40 spots)</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Mestska televizia Trnava/Trnava Local TV Station (TV shots on the news and on the web site www.mtt.sk)</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Bilboards</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Daily Paper Sport (2 x 1/2 page)</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Tennis Arena (1 page A4 + web)</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>My Trnavske Noviny/Trnava Local Newspaper (2 x 1/2 page)</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>portal www.trnava-live.sk advertising article</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Trnavske ECHO/Trnava Local Newspaper (2 x 1/2 page)</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Advertisement on the bulletin back page (200 pcs)</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Advertising leaflets A3 at the Trnava City advertising spaces (30 pcs)</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Advertising Banner in Trnava City</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Internet advertising campaign</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Posters A3 (50 pcs)</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Posters A4 (50 pcs)</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Posters A5 (500 pcs)</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Advertising Banners (central court)</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Advertising Banners (side courts)</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Roll Ups in shopping centres in Trnava (2 pcs)</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Partner Speech at the Final Winners Ceremony</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Winners Awarding Ceremony</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Advertising Banner at www.empireslovakopen.sk</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Tennis Centre Services (free entries for tennis)</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

EP - Exclusive Partner   GAP - General Advertising Partner   MAP - Main Advertising Partner   AP - Advertising Partner   MP - Media Partner

# WINNERS OF TRNAVA WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT



**EMPIRE Slovak Open 2017**  
**(9th Annual)**  
**Prize Money: 100 000 USD**  
**Date: 13 – 21 May**  
**Singles Winner: Marketa Vondrousova** (Czech Republic)  
**Doubles Winners: Heather Watson, Naomi Broady** (both Great Britain)



**EMPIRE Slovak Open 2016**  
**(8th Annual)**  
**Prize Money: 100 000 USD**  
**Date: 7 – 15 May**  
**Singles Winner: Katerina Siniakova** (Czech Republic)  
**Doubles Winners: Anna Kalinskaya** (Russia) **Tereza Mihalikova** (Slovakia)



**EMPIRE Trnava Cup 2012**  
**(4th Annual)**  
**Prize Money: 50 000 USD**  
**Date: 30 July – 5 August**  
**Singles Winner: Anastasija Sevastova** (Latvia)  
**Doubles Winners: Elena Bogdanova** (Romania) **Renata Voracova** (Czech Republic)



**EMPIRE Slovak Open 2015**  
**(7th Annual)**  
**Prize Money: 100 000 USD**  
**Date: 2 – 10 May**  
**Singles Winner: Danka Kovinic** (Montenegro)  
**Doubles Winners: Julia Beygelzimer** (Ukraine) **Margarita Gasparyan** (Russia)



**EMPIRE Trnava Cup 2011**  
**(3rd Annual)**  
**Prize Money: 50 000 USD**  
**Date: 1 – 7 August**  
**Singles Winner: Yvonne Meusburger** (Austria)  
**Doubles Winners: Janette Husarova** (Slovakia) **Renata Voracova** (Czech Republic)



**EMPIRE Slovak Open 2014**  
**(6th Annual)**  
**Prize Money: 75 000 USD**  
**Date: 5 – 11 May**  
**Singles Winner: Anna Karolina Schmiedlova**, (Slovakia)  
**Doubles Winners: Stephanie Vogt** (Liechtenstein) **Saisai Zheng** (China)



**EMPIRE Trnava Cup 2010**  
**(2nd Annual)**  
**Prize Money: 25 000 USD**  
**Date: 8 – 15 August**  
**Singles Winner: Sandra Zahlavova** (Czech Republic)  
**Doubles Winners: Iveta Gerlova** (Czech Republic) **Lucie Kriegsmannova** (Czech Republic)



**EMPIRE Slovak Open 2013**  
**(5th Annual)**  
**Prize Money: 75 000 USD**  
**Date: 6 – 12 May**  
**Singles Winner: Barbora Zahlavova-Strycova** (Czech Republic)  
**Doubles Winners: Mervana Jugic-Salkic** (Bosnia a Herzegovina) **Renata Voracova** (Czech Republic)



**EMPIRE Trnava Cup 2009**  
**(1st Annual)**  
**Prize Money: 25 000 USD**  
**Date: 10 – 16 August**  
**Singles Winner: Yvonne Meusburger** (Austria)  
**Doubles Winners: Sandra Klemenschits** (Austria) **Vladimira Uhlova** (Czech Republic)

# Plan of tournaments and events 2018

	TOURNAMENT / EVENT	DATE
January	<b>The Slovak Indoor Tennis Championship U12</b> 32 girl players U12 meet to win the title of the Slovak Indoor Champion	13.-16. 1. 2018
February	<b>EMPIRE Women's Indoor 2018</b> The International Women's Tournament with Prize Money 15.000 USD	3.-11. 2. 2018
March	<b>EMPIRE Cup U18 2018</b> International Tennis Tournament, Grade 4	3.-11. 3. 2018
	<b>EMPIRE Kids Cup 2018</b> The National Indoor Kids Tournament U8	17. 3. 2018
April	<b>Day of the Open Doors</b> The Presentation Day of the tennis club TC EMPIRE Trnava full of fun and competitions for children connected with the start of the summer tennis season and also with recruiting of children to tennis preparation.	7. 4. 2018
	<b>Trnava Cup 2018</b> The U14 International Tennis Tournament of the second highest category	22.-29. 4. 2018
May	<b>Extra League</b> The most prestigious Slovak Men and Women Team Competition	30.4. - 4.5. 2018
	<b>EMPIRE Slovak Open 2018</b> The International Women's Championship of Slovakia, Prize Money 100.000 USD	12.-20.5. 2018
June	<b>Trnava Mayor's Cup 2018</b> The Doubles Open Tournament of the veterans of Trnava Tennis League	26. 5. 2018
	<b>MT&amp;O - Doubles OPEN</b> The Doubles Open Tournament of the non-professional players of Trnava Tennis League	02. 6. 2018
	<b>Slovak U16 Championship 2018</b> 48 best boy and girl players U16 in Slovakia meet to win the title of the Slovak Indoor Champion	11.-15. 6. 2018
July	<b>Slovakia Open 2018</b> Prestigious international wheelchair tournament of the third highest category	21.-24. 6. 2018
	<b>EMPIRE Juniors Cup 2018</b> The U18 National Tournament of the second highest category	19.-22. 6. 2018
July	<b>EMPIRE Trophy Cup U14 2018</b> The U14 National Tournament of the highest category	30.6.-04.7. 2018
	<b>MT&amp;O - Singles Veteran Players</b> The Amateur Singles Tournament of the veterans of Trnava Tennis League	7. 7. 2018
	<b>Summer Tennis Camp</b> The weekly tennis camp for all children	9.-13. 7. 2018

	TOURNAMENT / EVENT	DATE
July	<b>EMPIRE Cup U16 2018</b> The International Tournament U16 of the third highest category	15.-22. 7. 2018
	<b>EMPIRE Futures Trnava 2018</b> The International Men's Tournament, Futures category, Prize Money 15.000 USD	21.-29. 7. 2018
August	<b>Memorial of JUDr. Ivan Cierny 2018</b> The U12 National Tournament of the second highest category	3.-6. 8. 2018
	<b>EMPIRE Kids Cup U10 2018</b> The U8 National Tournament of the children	11. 8. 2018
	<b>Summer Tennis Camp</b> The weekly tennis camp for all children	13.-17. 8. 2018
	<b>MT&amp;O - Doubles Veteran Players</b> The Doubles Tournament of Trnava Tennis League Veterans 35+	18. 8. 2018
	<b>Summer Tennis Camp</b> The weekly tennis camp for all children	20.-25. 8. 2018
September	<b>MT&amp;O - Doubles OPEN</b> The Open Singles Tournament of Trnava Tennis League Amateurs	1. 9. 2018
	<b>Regional Round of Kids Davis Cup and Fed Cup</b> The U10 Team Competition for Children	08.-9. 9. 2018
	<b>Day of the Open Doors</b> The Presentation Day of the tennis club TC EMPIRE Trnava full of fun and competitions for children connected with the start of the summer tennis season and also with recruiting of children to tennis preparation.	15. 9. 2018
	<b>40th Anniversary of the Trnava Tennis League Amateurs</b> <b>Tournament for Parents and the Club's Friends</b> Ending of the tennis season for parents, the Club friends and donors	22. 9. 2018 29. 9. 2018
November	<b>Team's tournament</b> Ending of the tennis season for the members of TC EMPIRE Trnava teams (all categories)	9. 11. 2018
December	<b>St. Nicolas Day</b> Giving presents at the sporting day full of children's pleasure and fun	1. 12. 2018
	<b>The West Slovak Regional Indoor Tennis Championship</b> 24 best boy players meet to win the title of the West Slovak Regional Champion	8.-11. 12. 2018

# The place and moment of Jana Šindelová



Jana Šindelová is an artist, critic, and curator. Since 1996 she has displayed her works at numerous solo and group exhibitions in the Czech Republic and abroad. Her works are part of many prominent public and private collections (The National Gallery of Art Washington, D. C). Since 2003 she has collaborated as a curator with the artist Václav Cigler and the architect Michal Motyčka.

The exhibition featured in the EMPIRE Tennis Club presents the themes of Jana Šindelová's previous works have been remarkable in that they were not set in space and time, but in place

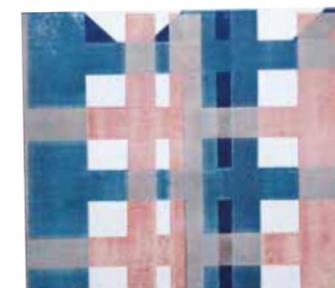
and moment, text and graphism. In Průhledy (View Through) she studied the movement of passing through, which complicated things for itself and became movement in a labyrinth. It became at the same time an unendingly complicated process of doubting... Miroslav Petříček wrote: "Disorientation helps us to become aware of direction. It is important, however, that the author was able to transfer this reflection without reserve to the medium of graphic art, and to show that she can imprint it in a sculptural form. Through this method she made a connection with land-art, but was apparently inspired by different experiments with less usual materials and technologies. It is fundamental that she converted the theme of place and moment into a record

of personal experience and that her 'print' is not only marked by technique, but has above all a literal meaning: an active capturing of experiences while they are occurring." It is not easy to photograph a firework. It is too late to release the shutter the moment the firework explodes. You have to have the instinct to release the shutter a little earlier, but then again, the firework may not go off when and where you expect. Hunting in darkness with light as your quarry is quite an adventure. Fireworks are fiery and explosive constructions created from individual points, circles and squares, a simple geometry which she has always interested.



**Das Blaue Wunder II., 2002,** mixed media, 790 x 1070 mm

My work entitled "Blue Miracle" is inspired by a landmark in Dresden - dominant, but at also delicate structure of a bridge that was the only one to survive the bombing in the Second War, being the only route across the Elbe river - DAS BLAUE WUNDER. The prints were made during my stay in Dresden and stem from the design of East German linoleum, a strange aesthetic that I subconsciously know but can't explain.



**Průhled I.- XII., 2001,** linocut, 1000 x 700 mm

The linocut technique inspires many creative possibilities; it is clearly defined in my work, not only from the perspective of technique but also in the printing itself. I work with many variants of reduction linoleum block printing and I also combine relief and intaglio techniques. Most of the time I do not have an exact idea of what the final print will look like; I approach the final stage intuitively. Out of the prints I create graphic cycles, which are auto's prints or series printed in very low editions.

## Rent of the tennis courts



The club TC EMPIRE Trnava offers the general public excellent playing conditions for tennis throughout the whole year. Besides providing training facilities for all players of TC EMPIRE Trnava, the club organises many important domestic and international tournaments, and club is available for the public throughout the year. We offer a wide range of playing facilities for the public, 13 courts in summer and 6 courts in winter, with a range of options from hourly entry, season tickets or to booking tennis lesson with a renowned tennis trainer of the TC EMPIRE Trnava. After playing tennis you can relax in our restaurant or club bar. We are looking forward to your visit. Everyone has a possibility to use season-ticket during the whole winter or summer season for a competitive price.

Reservation of season-tickets:  
+421 911 170 738, Tomas Boleman, sport director

Reservation of the courts in the hall and reservation of clay courts:  
By telephone: 033/59 20 800 – reception of the hotel EMPIRE or by internet on [www.tcmpeire.sk](http://www.tcmpeire.sk)

Opening hours of the air-inflated hall in summer season:

**Whole week: 07:00 AM - 08:00 PM**

Opening hours of the air-inflated hall in winter season:

**Monday to Friday: from 07:00 AM - 09:00 PM**

**Weekends: from 8:00 AM - 09:00 PM**

Opening hours of the tennis hall in the hotel EMPIRE during both winter and summer seasons:  
**from 07:00 AM to 10:00 PM.**

## Partnership Proposal

GENERAL PARTNER	MAIN ADVERTISING PARTNER	ADVERTISING PARTNER	MEDIA PARTNER
40 000 €	20 000 €	10 000 €	3 000 €
Advertising surface: outdoor courts tennis hall EMPIRE	Advertising surface: outdoor courts tennis hall EMPIRE	Advertising Partner: outdoor courts tennis hall EMPIRE	Advertising surface: outdoor courts
Hotel services wellness fitness gym restaurant	Media campaign YES	Media campaign YES	Media campaign YES
Seasonal ticket YES	Seasonal ticket SUMMER WINTER	Seasonal ticket SUMMER WINTER	Seasonal ticket SUMMER

TC EMPIRE Trnava organises a huge range of important domestic and international tennis events, information about is detailed on this website. During seasons these events created great interest, and not only the tennis public. The events represent a unique opportunity to draw attention to your company through the advertising banners surrounding the outside clay courts as well as in the tennis hall of the Hotel EMPIRE.

We would like to offer partnership cooperation for the 2018 tennis season, with the following promotional services based on the amount of annual funding and the relevant category of the partnership.

# Thank you partners

GENERAL ADVERTISING PARTNER

ADVERTISING PARTNERS

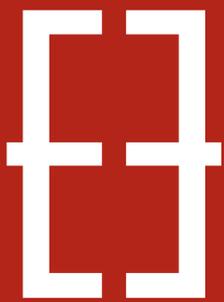


Mercedes-Benz  
Motor-Car Trnava



MEDIA PARTNERS





**EMPIRE**

TENISOVÉ CENTRUM  
TRNAVA

★★★★  
**Hotel**



21 hotel rooms



Gym



Wellness Centre



Restaurant Strawberries



The Congress Room



Art Empire



Tennis Hall



Contact:  
Hotel EMPIRE\*\*\*\*  
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