



1st Smrikva Bowl Tennis Talents Olives Harvest Family Week 2026



(10th of October– 18th of October 2026)

... presenting Smrikva Bowl

„seeds of the Legends“ Olive Trees story...

&

Smrikva Bowl Olives Harvest Family Week 2026

„a natural learning opportunity“

November, 2024 – updated 4th of May, 2026

This is the story of a very unique olive oil... made with olives collected from the Smrikva Bowl „seeds of the Legends“ Olive Trees... it is the story of a magic Heritage Olive Oil...



... if you have your Olive Tree growing in Smrikve, planted during your Smrikva Bowl, and like to spend time in nature, I am pleased to share that for the end of October 2026 there will be the opportunity to join us during our olives harvest season... it is a wonderful time to feel the smell and taste of our fresh olive oil... it is time to enjoy some inspiring stories during our resting times... and it is an active autumn outdoor holiday opportunity to feel the connection with nature and live some new experiences...

What makes Smrikva Bowl „seeds of the Legends“ Olive Oil story unique?

Since Roman Empire times Istria was known as the land of prestige olive oil for its quality... it was the economy created by the olive oil that built the Arena in Pula... and today Istria continues to be the land of some of the most prestige olive oils in the world...



... Smrikva Bowl Olive Oil story is a story of a top quality olive groves nurtured with passion but is also a unique story for something that change our trees stories on daily basis...

Back in 2004, a father of a Smrikva Bowl player suggested that we should plant during Smrikva Bowl an olive tree... I liked the idea because I felt the olive tree story is in line with Smrikva Bowl DNA... and I thought since the beginning that we should plant an old olive tree every year...

For the first planting ceremony I found over 150 years old olive tree from Spain... I will explain a bit later why the message of planting an old olive tree was important to me...

It was 30th of June 2005, the 10th Smrikva Bowl anniversary, when we started this magnificent story... we started to plant an old Olive tree as part of the Smrikva Bowl Ambassador's Nomination Ceremony... and today we can count on 21 „seeds of the Legends“ Olive Trees generations... those trees were planted by 2100 SB seeds spread in 112 country...

On the picture below you can see Donna Vekic, silver Olympic medalist, back in 2005... you can see Donna while planting her generation olive tree... while planting a tree the kids make a Grand Slam wish and donate their name to the tree...

... and this picture was taken exactly the day when this magic story started... I am pleased to have Donna on the picture for an additional story that I am pleased to share...

Years ago I learned that Donna celebrate her birthday the same day when we played the first day of the first Smrikva Bowl... 28th of June 1996... and since I learned that everytime I see Donna I think how would Smrikva Bowl look like if it was a woman...



... in 2003 I bought a small vineyard in the valley of Smrikve... and our family vineyard is exactly nearby the vineyard my grandfather Mate Bencic (Matteo Benci) planted back in 1957 when he moved his family to Smrikve... in 2005, we started to bottle and donate to each player's family a collection bottle of our Malmsey wine... most of the years we bottled 375 ml in size, with a special hope to recall the bottles one day when some of the SB seeds from that generation win a Grand Slam event...

I kept repeating to players and families the story how this bottles will turn prestige one day because of the results obtained by them... and this is becoming more and more true as you will discover... the Grand Slam collections for so many generation bottles keep increasing year after year...

In 2006... during the Olive Tree ceremony... we prepared for the first time for players another gift that was given to them during the ceremony... a small collection olive oil bottles... since then each Smrikva Bowl seed brought home one small bottle... this is today also traditional part of the Smrikva Bowl Ambassador's nomination ceremony...



We keep this tradition and keep donating each Smrikva Bowl kid with special bottle and indication of their generation year... I am always happy to hear from families stories of how special this olive oil is for their children...

Both our wine & olive oil gift bottles are very limited collections per edition... just between 90 and 150 pieces per year... always in line with the number of families we can invite plus some bottles to donate to close Smrikve friends... and it is thanks to the stories that our “seeds of the Legends” are writing that our olive oil and wine drops are turning into unique one... today there are 2100+ life stories part of our legendary trees stories...

Thanks to the Smrikva Bowl seeds our olive oil and wine have reached 112 countries ... and I am sure that if there was a possibility to ask AI to let us know in how many places on our planet a family courtyard with limited number of vitus and olive trees can count on the fact of having their olive oil and wine drops spread into 112 countries and six continents... I believe AI would have difficulties to name a place a part of naming our Smrikve valley and gardens...

We have a small family vineyard... and we have small number of olive trees... but are honored to know that wine and olive oil from this small piece of land touched so many different countries and can count on such an important tennis track record that grows on daily basis...



The Olive tree selected are traditionally older then our players and the age of the tree is a symbol of intergenerational responsibility.

Every person is born without knowing anything about life on this earth and it is the responsibility of every generation to understand and to learn to preserve all that each of us is born with.

When I think of our old olive trees I like to think of the Lion King cartoon story when Mufasa was explaining to Simba that is not easy to be the King... a good King should know that everything around us lives in a delicate equilibrium and with intelligence we should try to understand it and respect it. The intergenerational responsibility alone will allow future generations to enjoy the beauty of life, the sunsets and the seasons of the earth.



On 26th of March 2009, after 18 months of full time work, „Istria from Smrikve“ cultural heritage book was published on line... that was the year when the creation of Smrikva Bowl Library started...

AA smrikve.com

ISTRIA FROM SMRIKVE

ISTRIA FROM SMRIKVE | ISTRIAN TOWNS AND VILLAGES | ISTRIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE
ISTRIAN EMPIRE IN ISTRIA | ISTRIAN MUSIC | ISTRIAN CUISINE | ISTRIAN PHOTO GALLERY

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Experience Istria - cultural travel guide of Istria: "World garden for travelers"

"Istria from Smrikve" promotes Istrian cultural heritage: Slow Travel, Slow Food and Sustainable Living. In almost every town you will be able to appreciate the permanent virtual "Slow Travel Exhibition" of selected families and events worth visiting. It is a virtual guide to the hidden gems of ISTRIA. Creation of this book started in 2007.

or choose the place from the menu below

| Smrikve | Pula | Prestonara |
|------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Beljant | Vodujan | Medulin |
| Favos | Galunac | Vrsar |
| Prijaz | Sveti Lovrenc | Marsana |
| Raba | Kamilar | Muljevan |
| Stankovlje | Drigljad | Krmina |
| Berjant | Zasavj | Rebaji |
| Lisa Bar | St. Petar u Šumici | Barban |
| Kloster | Tinjan | Rov |
| Gradina | Borani | Labin |
| Vrsar | Trzin | Rabar |
| Favos | Cracina | St. Martin |
| St. Lovenc | Pazin | Šušter |
| St. Ivan | Lindar | Ploce |
| Porec | Kamerna | Kranj |
| Mali St. Andjelo | Zamak | Kloster |
| Banjar Cove | Mokosun | Kostjak |
| Tar | Opatalj | Osoprtina |
| Vinjan | Zrno | Pat |
| Vrsanda | Zavrsje | Belaj |
| Novigrad | Orsnabici | Beljan |
| Karpinjan | Dragec | Lepoglavan |
| Dagla | Buzice | Resner |
| Štrbenjci | Sveti Jakob | Roat |

If you are interested in European culture, Istria is the place that you should consider visiting and "Istria from Smrikve" should help you to discover at least part of its beauty.

Once you decide to include Istria in your travel itinerary, you may consider being our guest in Villa Smrikve or SMRIKVE LOUNGE.

„Istria from Smrikve“ was created with idea to start the cultural tourism development in Istria... and attract travelers interested in discovering new cultures and new places... a bigger dream behind that idea is to support the stories of farmers and their olive oil and wine making traditions...

I grew up on my grandparents farm in Smrikve... I worked on fields and helped my grandparents and our large family to take care of the animals and land we cultivated in Smrikve... I know how passionate you must be to stay in contact with the land and soil every day... if you do it during your childhood it is likely that you will develop a kind of love for the smell of the fresh cut grass... and also feel the joy in sweating on a hot sunny day working on the fields...

... while creating this virtual cultural book I believed that in the long run it may help some wine and olive oil makers of Istria... those are people that on daily basis take care of the land... and I knew that to make this idea real I will need help of our Smrikva Bowl seeds... they have their olive trees planted during Smrikva Bowl growing at Smrikve... we nurture and take care of them... but one day our seeds might be capable of giving voice to the beauty of this story...



I kept thinking how to make this dream true... and in March 2019... there were already 14 generations olive trees growing in Smrikve... I realized that after 14 years of planting our old olive trees it was time to add another dot... and start bottling some super special limited olive oil collections with aim to make it a tradition... and search for the best way to share the story with our seeds that the very special olive oil is now made from those olive trees we keep planting together...

I thought if this can become a tradition it would also make it more easy to measure on yearly basis the growth of our living fairy tale keep evolving on daily basis because of our seeds... their tennis rackets skills keep creating entertainment for over 1 billion people all around the world...

How is all that connected?

By making our trees story special and legendary... „Istria from Smrikve“ story would get known too... and both cultural tourism and olive oil and wine makers families from Istria might shine thanks to Smrikva Bowl seeds in the long run...

Being Istrian olive oil very limited in quantities I thought that if the top world restaurants get encouraged to have on their tables some of the best Istrian olive oils and wines this would help a lot of families... and this was among my dreams behind dedicating so many hours to create this cultural e-book... that each family I mention in my book can live with honor from their work...

... back in 2019 there were over 1440 SB seeds who had their olive trees growing in our courtyard... there were 1440 stories to share...

To make traditional the idea above I was thinking that every year we should bottle a limited collection of numbered bottles... and the final decision was taken to bottle our golden drops into 200 ml squared bottles which had just enough space to display some words that I wished to be written on the bottles...

... filled in with the golden colour of our olive oil the bottles started to remind me the neo classic look of a luxury Bulgari perfume...

The second idea was related with the number of bottles that we should bottle every year...

I thought that should be exactly equal to the number of generations olive trees living in Smrikve at the date when the collection bottles are bottled... so every year after planting a new tree we will increase the number of collection bottles by one bottle...

...and another important part was also to determine what should be written on each annual bottle...

... I knew that I wished to number each bottle... but I also knew that at the back of the bottle I should display some key summary facts representing the combined track record of Smrikva Bowl seeds in relation to their tennis game results...



Children who planted our olive trees are the one who are making them special... with their tennis rackets and with their tennis life stories... on and off the court stories does matter to me... and each

tree today has many stories to share... and this is one of the reasons why our olive oil and wine story is unique...



... in March 2019, there were in total over 1930 SB seeds spread in 87 countries and 6 continents..... since we started to plant our olive trees in 2005 there were 1440 names & 14 generations olive trees... and I wished to take into account also this distinction and present it on the bottles...



... therefore... on the first collection cube bottles of 200 ml was written the following:

Smrikva Bowl was founded in 1996 and over 1930 players from 87 countries and 6 continents participated so far. In 2005 Smrikva Bowl players started to plant olive trees. 14 generations (over 1440 players) have their olive tree in Smrikve.

As of 18/03/2019, their track record* is:

- 30 (**23**) junior Grand Slam titles conquered by 23 (17) players
- 30 (13) professional ATP/WTA titles
- 45 (31) players reached TOP 200 ATP/WTA ranking & 21 (15) players reached TOP 100 ATP/WTA ranking
- 150+ (100+) players received scholarships to study in the US

Note – In brackets: 14 olive trees generations track record

I put the note which explain that in brackets you will find the track record of the kids who planted the olive trees out of the total track record numbers obtained by all the SB seeds together...

By sensing how special this story will be in the long run I decided also to find a way to assign a symbolic value to our collection bottles... more and more I am convinced that this will become the measurement of the prestige reached by our trees and its fruits... and I thought to link the symbolic value of each bottle to the Grand Slam titles conquered by Smrikva Bowl seeds at the time when the bottles are bottled...

... to give you an idea of that first collection bottle symbolic value... being the starting measurement related to 200 ml volume... and being the starting Grand Slam combined number of the Grand Slam titles conquered by those players who had their trees growing in Smrikve equal to 23... the value was 23 at the time...



Since the first collection bottles we were tracking Grand Slam events conquered in total, and in particular by the seeds who planted our olive trees.... but I decided to track also professional

ATP/WTA titles which is always significant and difficult to achieve... I also indicated the number of players who reached Top 200 ATP/WTA ranking and Top 100 ATP/WTA ranking which is very difficult to achieve... people who either played professional tennis or are following tennis with passion for years can understand the real hurdle of climbing the ATP/WTA mountain towards the peak limits of Top 100 ATP/WTA...

... there is another element that was significant to me... this one is related with the number of players who got scholarship to study in the US thanks to their tennis and academic skills...

...if you are able to get the scholarship in the US it means that you dedicated at least 7.000-8.000+ quality working hours in developing your tennis skills by the age of 17...

Above you can read all these data indicated on the track record of the bottles we bottled in spring 2019... and it is a an impressive exercise to observe how all the details indicated on this first bottle continued to change over time...



Grand Slam events are the most prestige gatherings in the game of tennis and winning either junior or senior title is a great honor for the player, family and coaches...

... and you will learn in the following that some new achievements were added over the years...

As I wrote the first collection bottle symbolic value was 23... equal to 23 Grand Slam titles collected at the time by the children who planted our olive trees... despite the total Grand Slam titles was at the time 30 because 7 titles were conquered by the seeds who played Smrikva Bowl before 2005...

I expected that year after year this number would have increased... but I did not know exactly how fast this will be knowing how challenging is to lift a Grand Slam title...

... over the years the seeds kept actually impressing me... and they went many times beyond my imagination...



... there are over a million registered tennis players in a generation on our planet and there are just four Grand Slam events in a year... I always believed in SB seeds and I knew that these bottles will represent kind of photo frame in time, a picture of a living fairy tale story that is written on daily basis in so many countries around the world...

Being all the collection bottles numbered and in homes of SB friends I wished to keep the record in which family is located each numbered bottle... and since the first collection was made all the bottles are tracked on Smrikva Bowl Heritage Olive Oil and Wine website page...





... I learned over the years that you can never thank enough those willing to believe in your story and willing to support your dreams... and I am always super happy when year after year there is at least one new friend who fall in love with the story of Smrikve and give us that encouragement that can inspire us and help us to continue to spread and develop our story...

It was spring 2022 when we bottled our second limited collection... at the time there were over 2220 Smrikva Bowl players part of the Smrikva Bowl family spread in 98 countries and 6 continents... and that year we bottled 17 collection bottles representing 17 generations which trees were growing in Smrikve at the time...

As you may notice there was a jump from 14 when we started this story to 17 when we continued the story... why this happened?

Smrikva Bowl was founded in 1996 and our olive tree planting tradition during Smrikva Bowl started in 2005...



It is true that so far 21 generation (over 2100 players) have their olive tree planted in Smrikve... but there are two generations 25th and 26th generation that did not play their events due to covid 19 pandemic...



Those two generations also have their trees living in Smrikve... Despite the two editions were not held each player who passed the Smrikva Bowl selection process during pandemic received the Smrikva Bowl Ambassador title and have their generation dedicated olive tree living in Smrikve...

We re started the tradition in spring 2022 when the possibilities to gather became possible again... and this is the reason why there was a jump from 14 collection bottles to **17 collection bottles**...



The 2nd Heritage Smrikva Bowl collection bottles had inscribed on it the following:

As of 04/04/2022, Smrikva Bowl seeds track record* is:

- 60 (38) professional ATP/WTA titles (1 Grand Slam title) conquered by 21 (16) player
- 37 (30) Grand Slam titles conquered by 29 (22) players
- 1 (1) Olympic golden medal (singles) & 1 (1) Olympic silver medal (doubles)
- 1 (1) NEXT GEN ATP Finals title
- 57 (42) players reached TOP 200 ATP/WTA ranking & 33 (24) players reached TOP 100 ATP/WTA ranking
- 12 (11) players reached #1 ITF ranking
- 250+ (200+) players received scholarships to study in the US

**Note – In brackets: 17 olive trees generations track record*

If you compare the numbers of the 1st and 2nd collection bottle you will notice an increase in all the comparable data... in addition, we started to track the Olympic medals, Next Gen ATP titles and the players who reached #1 ITF ranking...

... to give you an idea of the symbolic donation value growth... the 200 ml of the heritage value bottle was at the time equal to 30... because of 7 new Grand Slam titles...





The 3rd Heritage Smrikva Bowl collection bottles was limited to **18 bottles** and had inscribed on it the following:

As of 06/03/2023, their track record* is:

- 43 (**36**) Grand Slam titles conquered by 33 (22) players
- 84 (59) professional ATP/WTA titles (2 GS titles) conquered by 26 (20) players
- 1 (1) Olympic golden medal (s) & 1 (1) silver medal (d)
- 1 (1) NEXT GEN ATP Finals title
- 71 (55) players reached TOP 200 ATP/WTA ranking & 36 (27) players reached TOP 100 ATP/WTA ranking
- 280+(230+) players with scholarships to study in the US
- 13 (12) players reached #1 ITF ranking; 1(1) player reached #1(1) ATP ranking

**Note – In brackets are the track records of 18 olive trees generations*

All the numbers kept increasing!

... 200 ml of the heritage symbolic value was at the time equal to 36... because of 6 new Grand Slam titles...



The 4th collection bottles series limited to **19 bottles** had inscribed on it the following:

As of 04/03/2024, Smrikva Bowl seeds track record* is:

- 46 (**39**) Grand Slam titles conquered by 35 (24) players
- 104 (78) professional ATP/WTA titles (3 (2) Grand Slam titles) conquered by 32 (26) players
- 1 (1) Olympic golden medal (singles) & 1 (1) Olympic silver medal (doubles)
- 2 (2) Davis Cup titles & 1 (1) Billie Jean King title
- 2 (2) NEXT GEN ATP Finals titles
- 82 (65) players reached TOP 200 ATP/WTA ranking & 42 (32) players reached TOP 100 ATP/WTA ranking
- 324+ (274+) players received scholarships to study in the US
- 13 (12) players reached #1 ITF ranking; 1 player reached #1 (1) ATP ranking

** Note – In brackets: 19 olive trees generations track record*

If you compare the numbers of the 3rd and 4th collection bottle you will notice again a significant increase in all the comparable data... in addition, we started to track also Davis Cup & Billie Jean King titles... and #1 ATP/WTA ranking....

... 200 ml of the symbolic value was at the time equal to 39... thanks to 3 new Grand Slam titles...





The 5th collection bottles series of 200 ml is limited to 20 bottles, and was bottled in spring 2025, and have inscribed on it the following:

As of 17/03/2025, Smrikva Bowl seeds track record* is:

- 51 (**44**) Grand Slam titles conquered by 37 (26) players
- 122 (96) professional ATP/WTA titles (5 (4) Grand Slam titles) conquered by 32 (26) players
- 7 (7) Olympic medals (singles, doubles, mixed doubles)
- 3 (3) Davis Cup titles & 2 (1) Billie Jean King title
- 2 (2) NEXT GEN ATP Finals titles
- 96 (78) players reached TOP 200 ATP/WTA ranking & 47 (37) players reached TOP 100 ATP/WTA ranking
- 361+ (311+) players received scholarships to study in the US
- 15 (14) players reached #1 ITF ranking; 1 player reached #1 (1) ATP ranking

**Note – In brackets: 20 olive trees generations track record*

If you compare the numbers of the 4th and future 5th collection bottle, you will notice again a significant increase...

... 200 ml of the heritage symbolic value is equal to 44... because of 5 new Grand Slam titles...

... how amazing is that!...

In 2025 we decided to make two new heritage collection lines for the first time for the new seeds that are going to visit the Smrikva Bowl theater. For the 30th annual we prepared 30 numbered heritage collection bottles of 250 ml with certificate representing the 30 Smrikva Bowl editions...



... and we prepared 10 numbered heritage collection bottles of 500 ml with certificate representing the peak of the ITF/ATP/WTA mountains... Top 10 ITF/ATP/WTA level is the level where chances to collect the Grand Slam title increase...



The desire of Smrikva Bowl families to bring home a bottle was above our expectations and we had to prepare a 2nd edition of two series...

The 6th collection bottles series, limited to 21 bottles, was bottled in spring 2026, and have inscribed on it at least the following:

As of 09/03/2026, Smrikva Bowl seeds track record* is:

- 58 (**51**) Grand Slam titles conquered by 41 (30) players
- 148 (122) professional ATP/WTA titles (8 (7) Grand Slam titles) conquered by 35 (29) players
- 7 (7) Olympic medals (singles, doubles, mixed doubles)
- 4 (4) Davis Cup titles & 2 (1) Billie Jean King title
- 2 (2) NEXT GEN ATP Finals titles
- 104 (86) players reached TOP 200 ATP/WTA ranking & 52 (42) players reached TOP 100 ATP/WTA ranking
- 402+ (352+) players received scholarships to study in the US
- 16 (15) players reached #1 ITF ranking; 1 player reached #1 (1) ATP ranking

**Note – In brackets: 21 olive trees generations track record*



In 2026 we decided to make few heritage collection lines for the new seeds that are going to visit the Smrikva Bowl theater.

We prepared:

31 numbered heritage collection bottles of 250 ml with certificate representing the 31 Smrikva Bowl editions...

10 numbered heritage collection bottles of 500 ml with certificate representing the peak of the ITF/ATP/WTA mountains... Top 10 ITF/ATP/WTA level is the level where chances to collect the Grand Slam title increase...

20 numbered heritage collection bottle of 250 ml with certificate representing 25 SB seeds who reached Top 25 ATP/WTA ranking...

7 numbered heritage collection bottles of 500 ml with certificate representing 7 SB seeds who reached Top 10 ATP/WTA ranking...

7 numbered heritage collection bottles of 250 ml with certificate representing 7 Olympic medals conquered by SB seeds...

The 7th collection bottles series, limited to 22 bottles, will be bottled in spring 2027, and will have inscribed on it inscribed at least the following:

As of 04/05/2026, Smrikva Bowl seeds track record* is:

- 58 (**51**) Grand Slam titles conquered by 41 (30) players
- 151 (125) professional ATP/WTA titles (8 (7) Grand Slam titles) conquered by 35 (29) players
- 7 (7) Olympic medals (singles, doubles, mixed doubles)
- 4 (4) Davis Cup titles & 2 (1) Billie Jean King title
- 2 (2) NEXT GEN ATP Finals titles
- 105 (87) players reached TOP 200 ATP/WTA ranking & 55 (45) players reached TOP 100 ATP/WTA ranking
- 406+ (356+) players received scholarships to study in the US
- 16 (15) players reached #1 ITF ranking; 1 player reached #1 (1) ATP ranking

**Note – In brackets: 22 olive trees generations track record*

In the text above I partially mentioned the story of our collection wine bottles... and before returning to our SB generations olive trees I would be pleased to share just few more words with our families who hold at home their Malvazija collection bottles in their living rooms... I wish to update them about how their bottles are progressing... and I will be pleased to share which generation wine has how many Grand Slam titles and a little bit more about the story of the vitus from which grapes our family white wine is made...

Istria is very close to Italy... and for approximately six centuries Istria was part of the Roman Empire... and for almost six centuries big part of Istria was part of the Venice Republic... and these two civilizations nurtured wine making tradition and left traces on our family wine making culture too...

Today in Italy you can still find almost 350 different types of vitus... with so many different grapes many different wines you can make... in addition good wines are usually structured so the combinations you can get is statistically huge...

In our family we do two types of wines for our family use... one is white and one is red... our white wine is made mostly from Malmsey grapes (Malvasia Istriana)... and this was the preferred wine of my grandfather...

When my family decided to build our first tennis court we did not have enough land to build it and my grandfather agreed to take out some vitus already planted and give us the necessary land to fit our first tennis court into our property... we took away those vitus but our collection bottles from that same valley via tennis reached 112 countries so far... tennis & wine story combined in a bottle...

... historically... the story of our white wine is closely linked to the Venice Republic heritage...



Malmsey grapes arrived to Istria from Greece thanks to Venice Republic... the origin of Malmsey vitus is from Monemvasia... a small town in Greece... Venetians were famous traders and they made this wine very popular in all Europe for around couple of centuries...

... by having created a huge demand for this particular type of wine they planted a lot of Malmsey vineyards on the biggest Greek island - Crete... but when Crete Island become part of the Ottoman Empire they moved part of the vitus of Malmsey to the friendly regions of the Republic... and Istria was at the time part of the Venice Republic... this mostly happened at the end of the 16th century...

... during my childhood Malvasia was still the most famous type of a white wine traditionally cultivated in Istria... it is a dry white wine... has a nice pale golden colour... scent is youthful and subtle, with complex fragrance... you can feel and smell multiple layers that can associate your memory to various natural experiences you lived... and almost every family living in the countryside is still nurturing this type of vitus and wine in Istria...

Recently I learned that also among the preferred wines of Leonardo Da Vinci was Malvasia Candia...



Being vitus a very delicate plant... if you do not dedicate time to it after couple of years you could easily loose your vineyard and its fruits...

Our red wine story... is also a special story that reminds me the love and peace story... this is inscribed in the name that was given to our red wine... „Angvšta“... it may look and sound strange to you at first... but... let me share the following story with you...

...when I decided to name it Angvšta I did it because in this name I can still hear my grandfather and grandmother voice... this is how we call in Istrian dialect the month of August... my grandparents married on 15th of August 1940 and were lucky to celebrate 50 years of marriage in 1990... the western readers of this note might be familiar after whom August month was named... those knowing the story when they hear August their thoughts might turn towards the Roman Empire period because August was actually named after Emperor Augustus... if you are familiar with this fact you might be also familiar with the fact that July was named after Gens Julia family... and the history of the town were Smrikva Bowl is held have links with this family and its story...

... the readers might not be familiar that Emperor Augustus was married for 51 year with Livia Drusilla (Julia Augusta)... and Julia Augusta had an important influence on Emperor Augustus over their five decades long marriage... and probably had an impact on what could be described today as Pax Augustea... love and peace story... *but what all that had to do with our red wine?...*

... there is a story, apparently documented by Plinio the Elder, which wrote that the first Roman Emperor's wife Livia Drusilla - Julia Augusta appreciated Istrian wine... this note was saying: “Julia Augusta (Livia Drusilla) lived to her 87 years of age by merit of the wine Pucinum; and drinking only that wine, whose grape grows in the Hadrian’s Bay, not far from the spring of Timavo, on a rocky hill...”

On the place of current Sovinjak there was a Roman fortress named Pucinum and thanks to Plinio the Elder and Livia Drusilla we can assume that the wine described could have been Istrian origin wine or not really far away from this place... and if this is true and if it was drunk by Emperor family should have been very good at the time but we do not know which type of grape could have been made of...

Our second wine we do is made of 7 types of red grapes and as I wrote above I named it Angvšta... after reading an inspiring book named „Roma Caput Vini“ I kept thinking that there might be a very small probability that the DNA of vitus we use to make our Angvšta could have been used at the time of Livia Drusilla too... the probability is very remote but the story is still nice...

We use mostly Teran but in limited quantities there are also Merlot, Refosc, some unknown old type of vitus, and few new type of vitus for Istria and another grape from the east...



During our breaks you will have the opportunity to taste both our Malvazija and Angvšta... and there is no other places in the world where you can taste them...

The same as our olive oil story also our vineyard story keep growing because of our SB seeds...



...and as promised I am pleased to share in the following as of May 2026 the Grand Slam titles related with SB collection bottles which makes them special:

SMRIKVE MALVAZIJA **2005** (2 Grand Slam titles) – 1st Olive Tree **X** SB generation

- Borna CORIC – 2005 SB player
- Junior US OPEN 2013 winner

- #1 ITF in 2013
- Date of birth: 14th of November 1996

Gianluigi QUINZI – 2005 SB player

- Junior WIMBLEDON 2013 winner
- #1 ITF in 2013

Date of birth: 1st of February 1996

SMRIKVE MALVAZIJA **2006** (3 Grand Slam titles) – 2nd Olive Tree **XI** SB generation

Belinda BENCIC – 2006 SB player

- Junior ROLAND GARROS 2013 winner
- Junior WIMBLEDON 2013 winner
- #1 ITF year end 2013

Date of birth: 10th of March 1997

Gianluigi QUINZI – 2006 SB winner

- Junior WIMBLEDON 2013 winner
- #1 ITF in 2013

Date of birth: 1st of February 1996

SMRIKVE MALVAZIJA **2007** (4 Grand Slam titles) – 3rd Olive Tree **XII** SB generation

Ana KONJUH – 2007 SB runner up

- Junior AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2013 winner
- Junior AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2013 doubles winner
- Junior US OPEN 2013 winner
- #1 ITF in 2013

Date of birth: 27th of December 1997

Tommy PAUL – 2007 “Little Mo”/SB player

- Junior ROLAND GARROS 2015 winner

Date of birth: 17th of May 1997

SMRIKVE MALVAZIJA **2008** (5 Grand Slam titles) – 4th Olive Tree **XIII** SB generation

Tereza MIHALIKOVA – 2008 player

- Junior AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2015 winner
- Junior AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2016 doubles winner

Date of birth: 2nd of June 1998

Viktoria KUZMOVA – 2008 SB semifinalist

- Junior US OPEN 2015 doubles winner

Date of birth: 11th of May 1998

Alexei POPYRIN – 2008 player

- Junior ROLAND GARROS 2017 winner

Date of birth: 5th of August 1999

Patrik RIKL – 2008 player

- Junior ROLAND GARROS 2016 doubles winner

Date of birth: 6th of January 1999

SMRIKVE MALVAZIJA **2009** (4 Grand Slam titles) – 5th Olive Tree **XIV** SB generation

Alex DE MINAUR – 2009 SB quarterfinalist

- Junior AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2016 doubles winner

Date of birth: 17th of February 1999

Alexei POPYRIN – 2009 SB Consolation winner

- Junior ROLAND GARROS 2017 winner

Date of birth: 5th of August 1999

Patrik RIKL – 2009 SB quarterfinalist

- Junior ROLAND GARROS 2016 doubles winner

Date of birth: 6th of January 1999

Alejandro DAVIDOVICH FOKINA – 2009 SB SF

- Junior WIMBLEDON 2017 winner

Date of birth: 5th of June 1999

SMRIKVE MALVAZIJA **2010** (8 Grand Slam titles) – 6th Olive Tree **XV** SB generation

Yshai OLIEL – 2010 SB runner up

- Junior ROLAND GARROS 2016 doubles winner

Date of birth: 5th of January 2000

Paula ARIAS MANJON – 2010 SB runner up

- Junior ROLAND GARROS 2016 doubles winner

Date of birth: 26th of February 2000

Olga DANILOVIC – 2010 player

- Junior ROLAND GARROS 2016 doubles winner

- Junior WIMBLEDON 2017 doubles winner

- Junior US OPEN 2017 doubles winner

Date of birth: 23rd of January 2001

Claire LIU – 2010 “Little Mo”/SB player

- Junior WIMBLEDON 2016 doubles winner

- Junior WIMBLEDON 2017 winner

- #1 ITF in 2017

Date of birth: 25th of May 2000

Nicola KUHN – 2010 SB winner

- Junior ROLAND GARROS 2017 doubles winner

Date of birth: 20th of March 2000

SMRIKVE MALVAZIJA **2011** (3 Grand Slam titles) – 7th Olive Tree **XVI** SB generation

Olga DANILOVIC – 2011 SB winner

- Junior ROLAND GARROS 2016 doubles winner
- Junior WIMBLEDON 2017 doubles winner
- Junior US OPEN 2017 doubles winner

Date of birth: 23rd of January 2001

SMRIKVE MALVAZIJA **2012** (2 Grand Slam titles) – 8th Olive Tree **XVII** SB generation

Lorenzo MUSETTI – 2012 SB QF

- Junior AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2019 winner
- #1 ITF in 2019

Date of birth: 3rd of March 2002

Flavio COBOLLI – 2012 SB

- Junior ROLAND GARROS 2020 doubles winner

Date of birth: 6th of May 2002

SMRIKVE MALVAZIJA **2013** (9 Grand Slam titles) – 9th Olive Tree **XVIII** SB generation

Holger Vitus NODSKOV RUNE – 2013 SB QF

- Junior ROLAND GARROS 2019 winner
- #1 ITF in 2019

Date of birth: 29th of April 2003

Daniel RINCON – 2013 SB SF

- Junior US OPEN 2021 winner

Date of birth: 7th of January 2003

Carlos ALCARAZ – 2013 SB runner up

- US OPEN 2022 winner
- Wimbledon 2023 winner
- Roland Garros 2024 winner
- Wimbledon 2024 winner
- Roland Garros 2025 winner
- US OPEN 2025 winner
- AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2026 winner

Date of birth: 5th of May 2003

SMRIKVE MALVAZIJA **2014** (2 Grand Slam titles) – 10th Olive Tree **XIX** SB generation

Mili POLJICAK – 2014 SB

- Junior ROLAND GARROS 2022 doubles winner

- Junior WIMBLEDON 2022 winner
- Date of birth: 13th of July 2004
-

SMRIKVE MALVAZIJA **2015** (6 Grand Slam titles) – 11th Olive Tree **XX** SB generation

- Alexandra EALA – 2015 SB player
- Junior AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2020 doubles winner
 - Junior ROLAND GARROS 2021 doubles winner
 - Junior US OPEN 2022 winner
- Date of birth: 23rd of May 2005

- Petra MARCINKO – 2015 SB player
- Junior AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2022 winner
 - #1 ITF year end 2021
- Date of birth: 4th of December 2005

- Dino PRIZMIC – 2015 SB QF
- Junior ROLAND GARROS 2023 winner
- Date of birth: 5th of August 2005

- Mara GAE – 2015 SB SF
- Junior US OPEN 2023 doubles winner
- Date of birth: 14th of September 2005
-

SMRIKVE MALVAZIJA **2016** (3 Grand Slam titles) – 12th Olive Tree **XXI** SB generation

- Rose Marie NIJKAMP – 2016 SB
- Junior WIMBLEDON 2022 doubles winner
- Date of birth: 3rd of February 2006

- Martin LANDALUCE – 2016 SB QF
- Junior US OPEN 2022 winner
 - #1 ITF in 2023
- Date of birth: 8th of January 2006

- Kylan BIGUN – 2016 SB winner
- junior ROLAND GARROS 2024 winner
 - #1 ITF in 2024
- Date of birth: 23rd of May 2006
-

SMRIKVE MALVAZIJA **2017** (2 Grand Slam titles) – 13th Olive Tree **XXII** SB generation

- Tereza VALENTOVA – 2017 SB player
- junior ROLAND GARROS 2024 winner
 - junior ROLAND GARROS 2024 doubles winner
- Date of birth: 20th of February 2007
-

SMRIKVE MALVAZIJA **2018** (3 Grand Slam title) – 14th Olive Tree **XXIII** SB generation

Niels MCDONALD – 2018 SB runner up

- junior ROLAND GARROS 2025 winner

Date of birth: 26th of January 2008

Dimitar KISIMOV – 2018 SB player

- junior AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2026 doubles winner

Date of birth: 11th of April 2008

Ziga SESKO – 2018 SB semifinalist

- junior AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2026 winner

Date of birth: 27th of July 2008

SMRIKVE MALVAZIJA **2019** (1 Grand Slam title) – 15th Olive Tree **XXIV** SB generation

Ksenia EFREMOVA – 2019 SB winner

- junior AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2026 winner
- #1 ITF in 2026

Date of birth: 28th of April 2008

I am pleased to share in the following another significant data... how many Top 100 ATP/WTA players names holds each olive tree so far... and also how many Grand Slam titles holds each olive tree so far...



Smrikva Bowl **Top 100 ATP/WTA** Club can count so far on **55 players** and **45** players planted our olive legendary trees...

There are 10 players who reached in their career Top 100 ATP/WTA and played Smrikva Bowl before we started to plant our olive trees back in 2005 and their names are:

Dominic **Thiem**, Petra **Martić**, Martina **Trevisan**, Ajla **Tomljanović**, Ivana **Lisjak**, Dino **Marcan**, Ivan **Sabanov**, Matej **Sabanov**, Angelica **Moratelli**, Marin **Draganja**,...

...and the following 45 players have their generations trees growing in Smrikve.

I am pleased to split the names by the year when they planted their olive trees:

2005 (6 players) – 1st Olive Tree X generation

Borna **Corić**, Donna **Vekić**, Laslo **Djere**, Jana **Fett**, Irina Maria **Bara**, Camilla **Rosatello**

2006 (3 players) – 2nd Olive Tree XI generation

Belinda **Bencić**, Katie **Boulter**, Nina **Stojanović**

2007 (5 players) – 3rd Olive Tree XII generation

Tommy **Paul**, Ana **Konjuh**, Lloyd **Harris**, Ivana **Jorović**, Maia **Lumsden**

2008 (8 players) – 4th Olive Tree XIII generation

Alexei **Popyrin**, Miomir **Kecmanović**, Viktorija **Kuzmova**, Ingrid **Neel**, Tereza **Mihalikova**, Maia **Lumsden**, William **Blumberg**, Patrik **Rikić**

2009 (6 players) – 5th Olive Tree XIV generation

Alex **De Minaur**, Alejandro **Davidovich Fokina**, Alexei **Popyrin**, Tomaš **Machač**, Miomir **Kecmanović**, Patrik **Rikić**

2010 (4 players) – 6th Olive Tree XV generation

Tomaš **Machač**, Mattia **Bellucci**, Claire **Liu**, Olga **Danilović**

2011 (2 players) – 7th Olive Tree XVI generation

Olga **Danilović**, Filip **Misolić**

2012 (4 players) – 8th Olive Tree XVII generation

Lorenzo **Musetti**, Flavio **Cobolli**, Luciano **Darderi**, Maria **Timofeeva**

2013 (6 players) – 9th Olive Tree XVIII generation

Carlos **Alcaraz**, Holger **Rune**, Hamad **Medjedović**, Luca **Nardi**, Jaime **Faria**, Antonia **Ruzić**

2014 (2 player) – 10th Olive Tree XIX generation

Linda **Fruhvirtová**, Daniel **Merida**

2015 (4 players) – 11th Olive Tree XX generation

Linda **Fruhvirtová**, Alexandra **Eala**, Petra **Marcinko**, Dino **Prizmić**

*2016 (1 player) – 12th Olive Tree **XXI** generation*

Martin **Landaluce**

*2017 (1 player) – 13th Olive Tree **XXII** generation*

Tereza **Valentova**



Smrikva Bowl **Grand Slam** Club can count so far on **41 players** and **34** players planted our legendary olive trees... the same as for the ATP/WTA Club there are 7 players who conquered a Grand Slam title and played Smrikva Bowl before we started to plant our olive trees back in 2005 and their names are:

Dominic **Thiem**, Ajla **Tomljanovic**, Marin **Draganja**, Dino **Marcan**, George **Morgan**, Robin **Kern**, Daniel **Berta**...

...while the following 34 player have their generations trees growing in Smrikve... and I am pleased to split the names again by the year when they planted their olive trees:

*2005 (2 players) – 1st Olive Tree **X** SB generation*

Borna **Coric**, Gianluigi **Quinzi**

*2006 (2 players) – 2nd Olive Tree **XI** SB generation*

Belinda **Bencic**, Gianluigi **Quinzi**

*2007 (2 players) – 3rd Olive Tree **XII** SB generation*

Tommy **Paul**, Ana **Konjuh**

*2008 (4 players) – 4th Olive Tree **XIII** SB generation*

Alexei **Popyrin**, Viktoria **Kuzmova**, Tereza **Mihalikova**, Patrik **Rikl**

*2009 (4 players) – 5th Olive Tree **XIV** SB generation*

Alex **De Minaur**, Alejandro **Davidovich Fokina**, Alexei **Popyrin**, Patrik **Rikl**

*2010 (5 players) – 6th Olive Tree **XV** SB generation*

Claire **Liu**, Olga **Danilovic**, Nicola **Kuhn**, Yshai **Oliel**, Paula **Arias Manjon**

*2011 (1 player) – 7th Olive Tree **XVI** SB generation*

Olga **Danilovic**

2012 (2 players) – 8th Olive Tree **XVII** SB generation

Lorenzo **Musetti**, Flavio **Cobolli**

2013 (3 players) – 9th Olive Tree **XVIII** SB generation

Carlos **Alcaraz**, Holger **Rune**, Daniel **Rincon**

2014 (1 player) – 10th Olive Tree **XIX** SB generation

Mili **Poljicak**

2015 (4 players) – 11th Olive Tree **XX** SB generation

Petra **Marcinko**, Alexandra **Eala**, Dino **Prizmic**, Mara **Gae**

2016 (3 players) – 12th Olive Tree **XXI** SB generation

Martin **Landaluce**, Kylan **Bigun**, Rose Marie **Nijkamp**

2017 (1 player) – 13th Olive Tree **XXII** SB generation

Tereza **Valentova**

2018 (1 player) – 14th Olive Tree **XXIII** SB generation

Niels **McDonald**, Dimitar **Kisimov**, Ziga **Sesko**

2019 (1 player) – 15th Olive Tree **XXIV** SB generation

Ksenia **Efremova**

... after this introduction... it is time to return to our Smrikva Bowl Olive Harvest Family Week plan and program...

When we usually harvest our olives?

Most of the time the harvest period is related with the moment when our olives get ripen and this is related with the overall weather conditions during that year...

The earlier harvest we started was around 10th of October and the latest around 10th of November... but traditionally the peak time is the last week of October... and our harvest family week will be scheduled in 2026 for that week and will include at least two week ends...



How many families we can select for this holiday opportunity - Smrikva Bowl Olives Harvest Family Week 2026?

Maximum at the moment would be up to eight families...



How many harvest days we need to collect our olives?

It depends on the year... the shortest was 3 full days... and the longest was seven full days... all performed with larger teams... but for the SBTTOHFW we foresee one collection day for 22 SB seeds trees...



I am pleased to share in the following what we do during our harvest day... to help you understand what you could expect in terms of physical outdoor activity related with the harvest process...

Please remember to get dressed properly... it should be farming clothes... and despite it can be hot on sunny days our mornings during that period might have dew and proper working cloths and shoes are mandatory...

How is a typical harvest day organized:



We usually prepare our olive trees fields several days and weeks in advance... we keep the grass a bit lower to avoid that the morning dew disturb us in the harvest preparation process... if there is a dew the harvest can not start till the eventual dew is not fully dry on the leaves of the trees but we can place the nets even with dew with proper waterproof shoes...

Placing the nets (7:00 AM – 8:30 AM)

We usually start to place and position our harvest nets very early... when the sunrise... between 7:00 AM – 8:30 AM... and if there is a dew thanks to having our grass cut we can perform this activity but proper waterproof shoes are always required for this activity...



Placing the nets is a very important part for the collection model that we follow...

We have various forms of nets and our fields are not all perfectly shaped therefore a bit of creativity and play is always required to cover all the grounds with nets being many of our trees also decorative garden trees...



This work can be compared to a patchwork... and considering the size of the nets that we have the best performance is obtained if at least four people are working together in managing this key preparation part... by keeping the four corners of the nets it is more easy to manage and place them properly being many nets of important size in terms of length...

Harvesting process (8:30 AM - 11:00 AM – 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM)

We usually start to harvest our olives around 8:30 AM... and the major role in taking down the olives from the trees in our olive fields is electric harvesters stick... this device is specifically designed for this type of work...



We usually use during collection days between five and six electric harvesters sticks... but in case of bigger teams we could use over ten...

They are designed to help us harvest the olives... and a short training will be done with each family member that will be trying this activity to learn the most efficient and effective techniques which will avoid that you get tired and eventually get the inflammation of shoulder muscles... proper technique also avoid eventual damages to the stick...

It is important to wear a cap and protection glasses to protect your eyes and head while the olives are falling down...

... and if you like to play computer games it is easy to use your imagination and imagine while harvesting that you are playing the game... the objective is to take down the olives of all the colours you spot...

Another important element to execute properly this task is balance and patience...

Once you are in a position you can keep that position for minutes in terms of balance... and your head is usually oriented towards the upper part of the tree... it is important not to move your feet while looking upwards because most of the olives that you already put down on the ground will be crushed by your feet... so after you have cleaned the area of the tree you are harvesting you look down and move your feet on the net avoiding to step on olives and re start the process...

... as I wrote you start harvesting one brunch of the olive tree... and you play around... everything you do must be gentle and should not be done by force... if you can not reach certain olives from one angle there is always a proper angle from which you can reach them...

Usually the weather is nice during our harvest days and sometime you might be looking towards the sun and you will see too little... in that situation you have to move and change the angle in order to see properly where your action is directed...

In addition the color of the olive trees leaves are of two types of green... the outside or upper part of the leaf is a darker green colour while inside is a lighter green... after you finish to harvest the tree from the outside... one of the team members have to step in towards the center of the tree... and there will be noticed the remaining olives thanks to the lighter colour of the leaves from the inside part...

An important advice to save your shoulder muscles is to keep the stick close to your body therefore it is always close to your center of gravity and your body muscles does not need to do any major effort... you can always also place lower part of the stick on the ground and direct the upper part towards the tree being our sticks of different dimensions and can be extended up to 2,2 meters or even 2,8 meters...

Electric harvesters sticks are below 3 kg of weight which is not a lot but improper holding for a longer period of time could let you feel the weight of it and for this reason the proper technique is of help... for each person that will qualify for this part of the work will be given the proper instructions and a small training will be organized to facilitate the new team entry with this activity...

... so far we used batteries to activate the electric harvesters sticks and it is important not to invert the cables while connecting to the battery to avoid that fuse blows... and in case there are more than one harvesting stick connected to one battery it is important to be aware of what is going on with your cable to avoid eventual damages that can happen on the battery by pulling the cable too much...

This part of the activity of taking down the olives from the trees is usually completed by 2:00 PM in order to perform other relevant activities related with the harvesting process and get the olives to the mill before the sunset which in that period of the year is quite early... around 5 PM...



... every time we are harvesting in Smrikve we usually have at 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM what is called „marenda“ which is a kind of brunch for the whole team... and after the major work is done around 2:30 PM we have the team lunch...



... but let me return to other tasks that the harvesting teams perform before the lunch time...

Collecting the olives from the nets

By 2:00 PM there is another important part of the process which most of the time start about one hour after we start the harvesting process and is completed by the second team which is dedicated to collect the olives from the nets... this part is very similar to the way fishing with the nets is traditionally performed...



... the olives get placed into plastic containers that can contain 25kg of olives... which are collected and brought for preliminary cleaning from the leaves before they are brought to the mill...



Folding the nets

The same team that was collecting the olives from the nets in teams of two or ideally four people start to fold the and tie the nets... this is again very similar to blanket folding process...



After the nets are folded and tied we transport them into the storage place because it is important that at night the nets are not outdoor because during that period of the year there is always dew during the night...

Plastic containers with 25kg of olives each... are transported to the place where the cleaning team will separate the eventual leaves from the olives...



Part of the team is also dedicated to make sure that the branches that were eventually cut during the harvesting process are brought out from the olive groves...

Cleaning the leaves (2:30 PM – 4:30 PM)

Cleaning the leaves is done with a team of four to five people at least with a help of machine... and the cleaned olives in the plastic containers of 25 kg are placed on the trailer or truck that is used to bring them to the mill...



Bring olives to the mill before sunset (4:30 PM and 5:00 PM)

Usually the day always finish by brining the harvested olives to the mill which get processed maximum within 24 hours from the arrival to the mill...



We always did the harvesting process within our family, close relatives and family friends and the eight families that will be selected to spend their autumn holidays with us might enjoy the process the same way we enjoy it during the selected collection day...



I forget to mention that there is always also a place in our kitchen team because during harvest days we have always „marenda“ - brunch and lunch prepared...

As you can read above the harvest days are long days... they start at 7:00 AM for the part of the team and they finish late in the evening for another part of the team... with great and well trained teams we need at least seven+ full harvesting days on a good year...

Your experience during the SBTTOHFW will be tailored according to your physical possibilities and skills and during your stay we will collect for sure the 22 Smrikva Bowl generation olive trees... it takes a full day to collect with a good team 22 big trees...

The remaining part of the olive harvest family week will be structured as SMRIKVA BOWL TENNIS TALENTS FAMILY WEEK - (SBTTFW)...

SBTTFW is a unique long term impact development holiday experience for Smrikva Bowl children and their families initiated in 2015 by Mio, Smrikva Bowl - „La Bottega“ di Smrikve founder, and Luca Appino, Tennis Talents founder.

Mio & Luca are friends for over 20 years and share the same passion for the game of tennis... they share the curiosity to constantly study the evolution of the game, observe, and have the possibility to continuously exchange their findings and experiences on yearly basis... their vision of the tennis game constant evolution and their vision of the importance of the family in the process were the inspiration behind starting this unique holiday experience...

Smrikva Bowl traditionally gathers high level oriented players and SBTTFW is an opportunity for selected players and families to get to know the Tennis Talents method and his founder and it also an opportunity to start to explore with SB founder the invisible force present in all the tennis matches which determines the flow of the matches... for more experienced players who already attended the family weeks there is a possibility to experience the foundations of the stable peak performance (the balance and mutual respect between the body and mind).

Luca Appino has important scouting tennis talents experience. In eight years he selected players from 11 to 15 years of age and five of them reached #1 ranking on the ATP/WTA ranking: Rafael Nadal, Andy Roddick, Kim Clijsters, Dinara Safina, Caroline Wozniacki. In addition over 20 players reached TOP 50 ATP/WTA level. He coached several ATP/WTA players and with two different players won junior Grand Slam titles. Today is dedicating his time to help several players, coaches and families around the world to develop their potential.

Mio's tennis experience developed through developing Smrikva Bowl event which had impact on many current tennis stars around the world; „La Bottega“ di Smrikve is having impact on many tennis players and families who spent their holidays in Smrikve. He is PTR Certified Professional Tennis Coach with over 400+ tennis and sports books studied so far to support the empirical findings built on daily basis... related with and is constantly observing the evolution of the game through Smrikva Bowl players, through his own coaching experiences and Symposiums attended...over the years he

spent 850+ hours on and off the court with Luca Appino discussing the most different elements that are impacting the game of tennis...

Mio's formal education includes: Maths-Information Science, Conservatory of Music, Business Administration degree in Finance and Financial Institutions, Master in Common European Management Science (CEMS), Political Science degree, post-degree Citicorp Associate Development Program, post-degree European House Ambrosetti Young Leaders Program, Van der Meer Tennis University Europe... in addition to his PTR Professional title he is certified member of ISMCA International Sport Mental Coach Association, certified Chair and Line Umpire by Association of Croatian Tennis Umpires and member of Croatian Tennis Coaches Association.

During 2014, Mio and Luca agreed to create this special holidays experience and give the possibility to selected Smrikva Bowl players and families to enjoy their family time and combine it with high quality tennis related time... Over the years our Family Weeks proved to be a unique quality holiday experience for the families who are wishing to increase the chances for their children to fully develop their potential... whatever this potential could be...

The following 97 players with their families lived so far the SBTTFW experience:

Jovana Vuković (Srb) – **USA**; Tamara Dlačić (Srb); Alexa Butera (Usa) - **USA**; Claire Liu (Usa) – **WTA**; Kosta Petrov (Srb); Kiro Paul Barra (Ger); Kiran Dhull (Uk); Andreja Petrović (Nor) - **USA/ATP**; Max Motlagh (Usa) – **USA**; June Bjork (Swe) – **USA**; Vardhan Karkal (Ind); Anđela Skrobonja (Srb) - **USA**; Leah Gonzales Edwards (Uk) - **USA**; Ivan Sabanov (Cro) - **ATP**; Matej Sabanov (Cro) – **ATP**; Tadej Mihajlović (Srb) – **USA**; Tara Sladaković (Cro) - ITF; Matthias Uwe Kask (Can) – **USA**; Ana Tara Praček (Slo); Lorenzo Sciahbasi (Ita) – **ATP**; Maria Timofeeva (Rus) - **WTA**; Yannick Ngantcha (Esp,Ita,C); Ayline Ngantcha (Esp,Ita,C); Roben Gavani (Bul) – ITF; Malwina Rowinska (Pol) – **USA**; Edit Cosmo (Swe) – **USA**; Sofia S. Edmundson (Esp,UK) – **USA**; Stefan Sladaković (Cro); Žiga Šeško (Svn) – **ITF/ATP**; Staša Bulatović (Mne) – ITF; Trian Lakha (UK); Uxue Azurza Frade (Esp) – ITF; Rares Golescu (Rou) – **USA**; Paolina Pieragostini (Sv,Ita) – ITF; Jaša Cvek (Svn); Manuella Persson (Cro,Swe) – **USA**; Jacob Shen (Hkg) – ITF; Hannah Shen (Hkg) – **USA**; Michele Mecarelli (Ita) – **ATP**; Karlo Brkić (Cro); Fabian Đitko (Cro); Alessia Beatrice Chiriak (Rom); Angelica Sara (Ita) – ITF; Annathea Sara (Ita) – ITF ; Kaaviyan Pradhavan (UK); Kayleigh Busuttil Fitzpatrick (Mlt) – ETA; Korana Barišić (Cro) – ETA; Timothy Putinja (Cro) - ETA; Benjamin Rehor (Cze) – ETA; Kan Ahić (BiH) – ETA; Berke Bozkurt (Tur); Aran Selvaraasan (UK) – ITF; Sofia Ferraris (Ita) – ITF; Max Šenjug (Cro) – ETA; Jayden Olimadeji (UK) – ETA; Eric Sebastian Sandu (Rom) – ETA; Lea Šegota (Cro) - ETA; Camilla Cecchia (Ita) – ETA; Luca Godaux (Bel) – ETA; Roman Andreev Ferraris (Ita); Katsiaryna Unuchka (Blr) – ETA; Aliaksandra Unuchka (Blr) - ETA; Bianca Fagerlund (Swe) – ETA; Viktor Damyanov (Ger,Bgr) - ETA; Margherita Losco (Ita) – ETA; Sebastiene Safar (USA, Fr) - ETA; Louis Taylor (UK) - ETA ; Tia Sladakovic (Cro) ; George Minkov (Bgr) -ETA; Zoé Aknin (Fr-Twi-USA-Den) - ETA; Andrej Borcic (Cro – Rus); Serena Meggiolaro (Pol-Ita) - ETA; Hugo Lagerlof (Fin) – ETA; Osasumwen Paschal Osagie (UK); Michael Chow Chik Yuen (Hkg); Izenosa Paschal Osagie (UK) - ETA; Kerem Emral (Tur) – ETA; Tobias Nestler (Aut) - ETA ; Andreas Gregoriu (Cyp) - ETA; Vito Bede (Cro) - ETA; Antonio Stanic (Cro) - ETA; Ivano Zic (Cro); Leyla Soysal (Tur); Ira Pupovac (Cro) – ETA; Lucian Pupovac (Cro) - ETA; Danica Adamovic (Srb) - ETA; Laura Adamovic (Srb) - ETA; Sebastian Gori (Cro, Ita) - ETA; Christos Myron Christoudias (Cyp) - ETA,

Relja Mandal (Srb), Petar Nikolov (Srb), Arick Ka Wai Cheung (Hkg), Edward Spiteri Paris (Mlt – Can), Christian Farrugia (Mlt), Ekaterina Abramova (Rus), Leonid Abramov (Rus), Aleksander Kolarczyk (Pol)

MORE ABOUT 1st SBTTOHFW 2026:

- Family week will be as per tradition limited to **maximum 7-8 families**
- The 1st Smrikva Bowl Olive Harvest Family Week 2026 will take place from Saturday 10th of October – Sunday 18th of October
- **The families** during their **stay** are based **in Smrikve**
- **Deadline** for the candidacy is **1st of August 2026...** (we reserve the right to bring forward the deadline date once the number of invited families equal the number of players-families we can invite)
- SBTTFW is in general dedicated to:
 - players who have successfully completed their Smrikva Bowl candidacy
 - players who have been selected to play Smrikva Bowl
 - players who attended Smrikva Bowl,
 - brothers or sisters of the Smrikva Bowl players,
 - players who stayed and trained in Smrikve,
 - player supported by the past Smrikva Bowl TTFW player's family could get evaluated for this holiday experience.
- 1st SBTTOHFW 2026 will be dedicated to players born in different age groups. As we already experienced during SBTTFW each player experience on their own the elements that are shared during the day.

As anticipated above, during Smrikva Bowl Olive Harvest Family Week we will incorporate the SBTTFW program and around 50+ quality hours of experiences with families and players.

PROGRAM

**1st Smrikva Bowl Olive Harvest Family Week (SBTTOHFW) 2026
10th of October – 18th of October 2026**

SBTTOHFW Arrival: Saturday, October 10

6:00 -8:30 PM Introductory Presentation: human individual - sport development and TT System (Formula and Method) overview

First Day SBTTOHFW: Sunday, October 11

- 10:00 -10:30 AM Introduction and Activation
- 10:30 – 11:00 AM SIGMA Test
- 11:00 AM - 13:00 PM work on the courts with focus on Reversed-Outcome based Pedagogy/Effectiveness (task-constraint-environment approach) **“Play with margin to stay in the point”** (main sense: thinking + ball feel)
- 3:00-5:00 PM work on the courts - Tactics (situation A: neutral)
- 7:00 -8:30 PM classroom: Momentum – the hidden force in tennis (introduction movie)

Second Day SBTTOHFW: Monday, October 12

- 8:30 – 9:00 AM Activation time
- 9:00 – 11:00 AM work on the courts with focus on: Efficiency - Fluidity of movements and acceleration (individual style and key technical elements of the strokes to achieve desired outcomes) **“Speed of spin”** (main senses: balance + proprioception + ball feel)
- 11:00 AM -12:30 PM Players’ on court assessment
- 2:00 - 4:00 PM work on the courts - Tactics (situation B: offensive & defensive)
- 4:15 -5:15 PM individual interview with the parents of a player
- 5:15 -6:15 PM individual interview with the parents of a player
- 7:00 -8:30 PM classroom: Management of the hidden force in tennis

Third Day SBTTOHFW: Wednesday, October 13

- 8:30 – 9:00 AM Activation time
- 9:00 – 11:00 AM work on the courts with focus on: : Footwork, timing and rhythm (overall movement) **“Move the opponent”** (main sense: vision + ball feel)
- 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM Players on court assessment
- 2:00 - 4:00 PM work on the courts - Tactics (situation C: playing at the net)
- 4:15 -5:15 PM individual interview with the parents of a player

- 5:15 -6:15 PM individual interview with the parents of a player
- 7:00 -8:30 PM classroom: Game management when the Momentum is in different stages (second revealing movie)

Fourth Day SBTTOHFW: Wednesday, October 14

- 8:30 – 9:00 AM Activation time
- 9:00 – 11:00 AM work on the courts with focus on: Ideal hitting zone **“Take time away from the opponent”** (main sense: hearing + ball feel)
- 11:00 AM-12:30 PM Players on court assessment
- 2:00 - 4:00 PM work on the courts - Tactics (situation D: speed & relevant targets)
- 4:15 -5:15 PM individual interview with the parents of a player
- 5:15 -6:15 PM individual interview with the parents of a player
- 7:00 -8:30 PM classroom: Momentum individual experience

Fifth Day SBTTOHFW: Thursday, October 15

- 8:30 – 9:00 AM Activation time
- 9:00 – 11:00 AM work on the courts : overall review from previous topics
- 11:00 -12:30 PM Players on court assessment
- 2:00 - 4:00 PM matches
- 4:15 -5:15 PM individual interview with the parents of a player
- 5:15 -6:15 PM individual interview with the parents of a player
- 7:00 -8:30 PM classroom: Momentum and emotions (third revealing movie)

Sixth Day SBTTOHFW: Friday, October 16

- 8:30 – 9:00 AM Activation time
- 9:00 – 12:00 AM matches
- 2:00 - 4:00 PM matches
- 6:00 -7:30 PM classroom: Graduation

Seventh Day SBTTOHFW: Saturday, October 17

- Collection Day (collection day might be moved in any of the previous days)

Eighth Day - departure home SBTTOHFW: Sunday, October 18

- Each alumni will receive a brief written report

MOMENTUM:

There is an invisible energy present in every tennis match. Can be sensed by the player but also by people attending and watching the match and knowing a bit more about it can help us to manage this invisible energy. The players able to manage the momentum are usually named by others mentally tough players.

Tennis matches are not won by the players with the nicest looking strokes but by those who do not beat themselves. For many players toughest competition does not come from the player standing on the opposite side of the net but rather from the opponent located between our ears. We can call the opponent located between our ears the “dark side of tennis”. When the things do not go our way, the „dark side of tennis“ springs to life and uses his weapons – impatience, anger and fear – to take over our minds and destroy our game!

PEAK PERFORMANCE:

Spontaneous performance occurs only when the mind is calm and seems to be at one with the body. This process does not have to be learned; we already know it. It is similar to the process we used to learn to walk and talk. All that is needed is to unlearn those habits which interfere with peak performance and then just let it happen.

Development of inner skills is required to learn how to focus your attention and how to trust in yourself. The skill of mastering the art of effortless concentration is invaluable in whatever you set your mind to.

MORE ABOUT LUCA'S TENNIS TALENTS PROJECT

At Tennis-Talents (TT) you will find focus on young, high level oriented players. TT guide a player and his/her family on the path to professional tennis helping to define the best possible individual project.

Many years of success in scouting, coaching and advising are the guarantee of TT's way of working, based on TT Formula and TT Method. It is matter of fact that a lot of players, who have a good potential, do not succeed, mainly for not having an appropriate career project. Families without expertise are trying to "walk" and very often fail.

To assess an individual player Luca follow the TT Formula that represents knowledge distilled from years of succesful experience in the world of tennis. With it he establish the parameters for understanding the present situation of a player and the family, he identify the priorities to work on and help to set up the best possible project to achieve the goals agreed together.

With the TT Method, a philosophy and set of principled guidelines (Mental, Physical, Technical and Tactical) once identified the priorities to work on with the TT Formula, he guide the player to improve in the best possible way in order to express his/her potential.

„A player can be only as good as the team working with.“



MORE ABOUT LUCA APPINO PAST EXPERIENCES

Luca Appino is Maestro of The Italian Tennis Federation and PTR Professional for over 30 years. He is a tennis related science researcher. In particular his interest is focused on the application of the Reversed Pedagogy on which he developed the "Tennis Talents Method", a holistic teaching and coaching approach that starts from tactics, vs. imposing standard movements.

Luca started his carrier in Italy and for over 10 years was dedicated to the development of tennis schools in various clubs. He has experience in management and marketing working for famous companies in the tennis industry such as: Alto, Maxima, Dunlop and Babolat. The evolution of Babolat from stringing to a racket company was possible thanks Luca Appino's ability in talent scouting.

For Babolat he selected various young and, at the time, unknown players, from 11 to 15 years old; five of them reached the #1 position in the ATP and WTA: Rafael Nadal, Andy Roddick, Kim Clijsters, Dinara Safina and Caroline Wozniacki.

After Babolat experience he was director for a year of Mouratoglou Tennis Academy in Paris.

In 2007, Luca received the PTR Industry Award for the results obtained in talent scouting and for the development of the tennis industry in general. In 2009, his first book : "The world of Rafael Nadal, secrets of his success", written in collaboration with Toni Nadal, was published in English, French and Spanish.

In 2008 Luca founded Tennis-Talents and implemented the TT Formula and TT Method; he led seminars and workshops around the world. During his coaching experience, Luca guided the Estonian player Kaia Kanepi from #60 WTA to #18 WTA ranking.

From August 2010 to July 2011, he was the Executive Tennis Director of the Tunisian Tennis Federation and coach of Ons Jabeur, the Roland Garros Junior 2011 winner.

In 2013 and 2014 worked with Ante Pavic (CRO). In less than one year his ranking went from #495 to #130 in the ATP World Singles Ranking. Later on he coached Tadeja Majerić and Donna Vekić.

Over the last years Luca is helping several Smrikva Bowl players and families who attended Smrikva Bowl Tennis Talents Family Weeks around the world to develop and fully express their potential.

At the same time he is also helping various tennis talents and coaches around the world in their development, and in 2021 he published his second book „A journey to discover talent“.

MORE ABOUT MIO

Mio's formal education background includes different fields (maths information science, music, finance, political science & phylosophy, art, history & tennis):

Mio's formal education background includes:

- Maths information science high school completed with highest marks; completed at the same time also Conservatory of music. Elementary music school which last six years completed in four years and as accordion player was awarded several times with National, International and World prizes. Learned to play piano and guitar on his own.
- Graduated in Finance at Bocconi University in Milan - top 10 World Business University (4 years program –according to current Bologna system would be 3+2 equivalent to a Masters degree in Finance) – graduation mark 110/110 with magna cum laude, awarded with Bocconi's golden medal as top student of the generation.
 - o Participated in exchange program with ESADE University (Escola Superior d'Administració i Direcció d'Empreses) – another top tier European Business University located in Barcelona
- Obtained Master in Common European Management Science (CEMS) – top International Management Master
 - o Completed program requirements at ESADE (Barcelona) & Bocconi University (Milan)
- Completed Citicorp Associate Development Program in New York
- Young Leaders program member at The European House - Ambrosetti in Milan. Participated at Cernobbio convention.
- Graduated in Political Science at Milan University (4 years program – according to Bologna system would be 3+2 equivalent to a Masters degree in Political Science)
- Van der Meer Tennis University Europe permanent education program (Professional Tennis Registry - PTR) – title Professional
 - o International Sport Mental Coach Association (ISMCA) member;
 - o Certified Chair and Line Umpire (Croatian Tennis Association);
 - o Croatian Tennis Coaches Association member.

Among professional experiences his Investment Banking experience was built in the following institutions: KPMG Peat Marwick, JP Morgan, Citigroup (Citibank - Salomon Smith Barney), Banca IMI (Intesa San Paolo), UBS (Union Bank of Switzerland).

Other experiences:

- founded Smrikva Bowl in 1996 (2600+ families, 112 countries & six continents story)
- Smrikve limited editions of wine making started in 2004 (112 countries & six continents story)
- Olive oil limited editions making started in 2005 (112 countries & six continents story)
- completed „Unione Europea e Democrazia Cosmopolita – un idea per la pace“ book in 2005
- completed 4 stars Villa Smrikve Charme in 2006
- „La bottega di Smrikve“ holiday program started in 2007 (over 200+ families from 35+ countries attended)
- completed and published on line cultural e-book „Istria from Smrikve“ in 2009

- founded Smrikva Bowl library in 2009 (counting over 3600+ books out of which over 400+ tennis and sport related books that are used in „La bottega di Smrikve“ experiences)
- completed 5 stars Villa Smrikve Lounge in 2012
- started to coach his niece individually in 2014 (top National player U10,U12,U14,U16 & U18) and his second niece individually in 2023
- started Smrikva Bowl Tennis Talents Family Week (SBTTFW) holiday program in 2015 (around 100 past Smrikva Bowl families attended)
- Smrikva Bowl M+ Family Holiday Week (SBM+FHFW) & Smrikva Bowl Olive Harvest Family Week (SBTTOHFW) are new holiday opportunity



As of May 4th, 2026 SB „seeds of the Legends“ track record includes the following:

- *151 professional ATP/WTA titles (6 Grand Slams) conquered by 35 players*
- *58 Grand Slam titles (including junior titles) conquered by 41 players*
- *7 Olympic medals*
- *2 NEXT GEN ATP Finals titles*
- *4 Davis Cup & 2 Billie Jean King Cup*
- *105 players reached TOP 200 ATP/WTA ranking => 55 players reached TOP 100 ATP/WTA ranking => 18 players reached TOP 20 ATP/WTA => 7 players reached TOP 10 ATP/WTA ranking=> 1 player reached #1 ATP*
- *16 players reached #1 ITF ranking*
- *406+ SB players received scholarships to study & play tennis for the US Universities.*

<https://www.smrikve.com/smrikva-bowl/la-bottega-di-smrikve/>

During SBTTOHFW we will enjoy the harvest day... and a lot of quality tennis time... but the subject of the classes will be tailored on the elements which always make a big difference at high level tennis...



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As you might have learned already the tennis matches are not won by the players with the nicest looking strokes but by those who do not beat themselves. For many players toughest competition does not come from the player standing on the opposite side of the net but rather from the opponent located between our ears. We can call the opponent located between our ears the “dark side of tennis”. When the things do not go our way, the „dark side of tennis“ springs to life and uses his weapons – impatience, anger and fear – to take over our minds and destroy our game!





Peak performance is another important subject to be shared... spontaneous performance occurs only when the mind is calm and seems to be at one with the body. This process does not have to be learned; we already know it. It is similar to the process we used to learn to walk and talk. All that is needed is to unlearn those habits which interfere with peak performance and then just let it happen.

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I WOULD LIKE TO BE PART OF THE

1st Smrikva Bowl Olive Harvest Family Week 2026 (SBTTOHFW)

NAME: _____ SURNAME: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Played Smrikva Bowl in (year) : _____

People coming: 1+ _____ Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

LIST THE NAME OF PEOPLE WISHING TO COME WITH YOU:

| Name | Age | Preferred harvest activity team | | |
|------|-----|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| | | Managing electric harvesters stick | Managing nets | Cleaning leaves |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Does any family member have any kind of olives harvest experience? _____

Does any family member have any kind of agricultural family experience? _____

My level of English: _____ very good _____ basic _____ very poor

Other Languages I am fluent in: _____

Family e-mail: _____

Current ranking: _____ (national) _____ (international)

Best ranking: _____

Most important result: _____

People coming: 1+ _____ Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Name of my current coach: _____

I started to play tennis when I was _____ years old

Currently I practice: _____ hours per week, of WHICH:
_____ hours individually
_____ hours with other players (or sparing)
_____ hours I dedicate to coordination-footwork exercises
_____ hours I spend in massage and body stretching
_____ hours to improve mental part of my game
_____ hours practicing other sports. Such as: _____

MY STRENGTHS ARE: _____

AREAS THAT I WISH TO IMPROVE ARE: _____

ACCOMMODATION PREFERRED:

SMRIKVE LOUNGE Villa:

EARTH _____

CLOUD _____

SUN _____

WIND _____

Villa SMRIKVE:

Villa SMRIKVA Charme _____

TRS Apartment _____

ULIKA Apartment _____

ARMULIN _____

Villa TASTE: _____

