

Smrikva Bowl Million Plus Family Holiday Week (SBM+FHW)

unique holiday opportunity for professional SB seeds

... short story of a new opportunity for the Smrikva Bowl

„seeds of the Legends“...

November 2nd, 2026

„No matter how much wealth you earn during your professional career, if you lack basic knowledge of how to manage the wealth you have created, there is a real risk that you may end up among the 70%+ of financially broken stars just five years after completing your professional career...“

Back in the summer of 1998, more than 28 years ago, I was attending the Citicorp Associate Development Program in New York... It was also an opportunity for me to visit the US OPEN...

I remember that, at the time, I had little more than a vision about the event I was creating... Smrikva Bowl... It was a dream about creating an inspiring event... and among my dreams was the possibility that one day there might be 25 former Smrikva Bowl players among the top 100 ATP/WTA players...

I also remember the big Wilson tennis ball I bought in New York and made it a tradition for Smrikva Bowl winners to sign... I wished them to lift the real US OPEN trophy one day...

This wish became a true story when Dominic Thiem, who had signed the famous ball back in 2003, lifted the real US OPEN trophy in 2020...

In September 2022, Carlos Alcaraz also lifted the US OPEN trophy, aged just 19 years and four months, becoming the youngest player in history to reach the No. 1 position in the ATP rankings...

At the moment I am redrafting this letter, there are 57 Smrikva Bowl players who have actually reached the top 100 ATP/WTA rankings... It seems that some of my dreams are turning into reality...

There are 112 Smrikva Bowl players who have made it into the top 200 ATP/WTA rankings, and together they have earned more than 400M USD in prize money... Including sponsorships, their estimated total earnings exceed 1.8 BN USD...

Total prize money continues to increase at a significant double-digit annual rate... and these are big numbers...

But more important than the numbers themselves are the opportunities they represent... opportunities that Smrikva Bowl seeds may find their own ways to spread and nurture in the years to come...

Taking all of the above into consideration, an idea came to my mind that I would like to start sharing with Smrikva Bowl seeds... Some of our seeds are already grown... and perhaps it is time to start sharing this idea and making it real...

I remember that the Citicorp Associate Development Program I attended was considered at the time one of the best finance development programs on Wall Street... I was part of an amazing class and we had amazing professors...

The one who impressed me the most was Professor Barry... He had a unique way of sharing his knowledge...

What I learned from Barry helped me understand the real financial situation of the Fiat Group back in 2001... and gave me a different perspective on the financial challenges the company was facing during one of the deepest crises in its century-long history...

But what I remember most vividly from Barry is a story he shared with our class one afternoon...

We were at the Citicorp training centre, and he told us that he was not teaching finance only to financially educated individuals like we were at the time... He was also sharing his knowledge with successful retired professional athletes...

At first, I did not understand why... He smiled as he looked at our class, noticing that most of us were surprised...

I was thinking... why should you teach finance to someone who has created so much wealth throughout their sporting career that it could last for centuries?

... and then he explained it in very simple words...

He told us that many successful professional athletes in the US were facing serious financial difficulties after completing their sporting careers...

I was still not getting his point...

Then he shared with us the figures he had been discussing with retired athletes... According to the warning he was giving us, in some professional sports, as many as three out of four successful players could find themselves financially broken just five years after completing their careers...

We are talking about famous and successful players who had earned substantial wealth during their professional careers, only to lose it within a relatively short period after retiring...

I learned about this problem 28 years ago... and over time I understood that it was not only a US-related problem, but a worldwide issue...

No matter how much wealth you earn, if you lack basic knowledge of how to manage it, you may find yourself among those who lose the financial security they worked so hard to create...

I have always believed that Smrikva Bowl kids will build their own luck... and many of them are already doing great things in very different fields...

Thanks to their tennis skills, more than 407 scholarships have been received to study in the US...

At the moment I am redrafting this letter, there are 48 Smrikva Bowl players who have earned more than 1M USD in total career prize money so far, with a combined total exceeding 362M USD... and I believe that more than 20 additional Smrikva Bowl seeds will cross this threshold within the next two years...

... and because of all the above, I wished to open a new opportunity for former Smrikva Bowl players to gain some basic knowledge about this topic... to understand what to pay attention to... and also to share some thoughts and hints about the age of resilience we are entering into...

It is another milestone in the development of our Smrikva Bowl family...

I envisage this experience as a vacation opportunity to learn something in an emotionally positive environment... something that may be remembered and stored in long-term memory...

Visiting Smrikve with the family is always an opportunity to create good memories...

In 1996, the Smrikva Bowl story started...

In 2007, the possibility to return to Smrikve for holidays, in order to fine-tune some tennis and human skills at „La Bottega“, started...

In 2015, together with my friend Luca, we started another family holiday opportunity known as the Smrikva Bowl Tennis Talents Family Week experience...

In Autumn 2026, we started the Smrikva Bowl Tennis Talents Olive Harvest Family Week...

Each of these experiences has brought something new to the Smrikva Bowl story...

The Family Week experience was envisaged as an opportunity to share with families some long-term elements that can help them increase their awareness of what to pay attention to while building their own family path towards high-level tennis...

And I believe that this new opportunity, SBM+FW, will further nurture our „Seeds of the Legends“ resilience story...

... because building wealth is one achievement... learning how to preserve it, give it meaning and use it wisely throughout life is another...

And perhaps this is another way in which Smrikva Bowl can continue to make a difference in the lives of its seeds... long after their tennis journeys have taken them around the world...



As of November 2nd, 2026 SB „seeds of the Legends“ track record includes the following:

- *167 professional ATP/WTA titles (8 Grand Slams) conquered by 39 players*
- *60 Grand Slam titles (including junior titles) conquered by 42 players*
- *7 Olympic medals*
- *2 NEXT GEN ATP Finals titles*
- *4 Davis Cup & 2 Billie Jean King Cup*
- *112 players reached TOP 200 ATP/WTA ranking => 57 players reached TOP 100 ATP/WTA ranking => 19 players reached TOP 20 ATP/WTA => 8 players reached TOP 10 ATP/WTA ranking=> 1 player reached#1 ATP*
- *16 players reached #1 ITF ranking*
- *407+ SB players received scholarships to study & play tennis for the US Universities.*

Only Smrikva Bowl family members are eligible to present their candidacy for the Smrikva Bowl M+ Family Holiday Week experience

ABOUT MIO

Mio's formal education and professional qualifications include:

- Mathematics and Information Science high school, completed with the highest marks. At the same time, he attended the Music Conservatory. He completed the six-year elementary music school programme in only four years. As an accordion player, he received several national, international and world-level awards. He also independently learned to play piano and guitar.
- Graduated in Finance from Bocconi University in Milan, one of the world's leading business universities (four-year programme under the Italian university system at the time). Graduated with 110/110, *magna cum laude*, and was awarded Bocconi's Gold Medal as the top student of his graduating generation.
    - Participated in an exchange programme at ESADE Business School (Escola Superior d'Administració i Direcció d'Empreses), another leading European business school located in Barcelona.
- Obtained the CEMS Master's in International Management, an internationally recognised management qualification.
    - Completed programme requirements at ESADE (Barcelona) and Bocconi University (Milan).
- Completed the Citicorp Associate Development Program in New York.
- Member of the Young Leaders Programme at The European House – Ambrosetti in Milan. Participated in the Cernobbio Forum.
- Graduated in Political Science from the University of Milan (four-year programme under the Italian university system at the time).
- Completed the Van der Meer Tennis University Europe professional education programme (Professional Tennis Registry – PTR), obtaining the Professional title.
    - was Member of the International Sport Mental Coach Association (ISMCA).
    - Certified Chair and Line Umpire (Croatian Tennis Association).
    - Member of the Croatian Tennis Coaches Association.

Investment Banking and Corporate Finance Experience

Professional experience gained at:

- KPMG Peat Marwick – Corporate Finance Intern (Barcelona).
- JP Morgan – Investment Banking Intern (M&A Division).
- Citigroup – Investment Banking Associate (M&A and Acquisition Finance).
- Banca IMI Securities (Intesa Sanpaolo) – Vice President (M&A, IPO Origination Support, Debt Restructuring and Acquisition Finance).
- UBS – Corporate Advisory Group (Milan).

At Banca IMI, managed complex M&A and corporate finance transaction processes, coordinating multidisciplinary teams of analysts and external professionals, including lawyers, accountants, strategy advisors, lending banks, equity providers and tax advisors. Responsibilities covered financial analysis and modelling, company and industry valuations, transaction structuring, due diligence, information memorandum preparation, negotiations and transaction execution.

Selected Major Transactions

- FIAT (2002–2003): Origination and structuring of a €3 billion Mandatory Convertible Term Loan, associated with a comprehensive corporate restructuring programme, including substantial asset disposals. FIAT had annual revenues of approximately €58 billion at the time.
- Merloni Termosanitari / TUI (2001): Acquisition of the heating businesses Chaffoteaux et Maury, Elco Kloeckner and Cuenod, with combined revenues of approximately €550 million. The transaction contributed to the creation of Europe's second-largest player in the sector.

- Moto Guzzi / Aprilia (2000): Sale of Moto Guzzi to Aprilia Group, helping secure the future of one of Italy's most iconic motorcycle brands.
- Alberta Ferretti / Moschino (1999): Buy-side advisory in the acquisition of the luxury fashion brand Moschino.
- SEAT Pagine Gialle (1997–1999): Involvement in the €1.6 billion leveraged buyout (LBO), at the time the largest LBO transaction in continental Europe. Citigroup acted as lead debt arranger for €1.14 billion in senior credit facilities.

Additional Professional Activities

- Guest speaker on Investment Banking and Leveraged Buyout transactions at Bocconi University.
- Guest speaker on Leveraged Buyout transactions for KPMG Peat Marwick professionals at its Barcelona office.

Entrepreneurial, Cultural and Sporting Projects

- Founded Smrikva Bowl in 1996 (a story involving more than 2,700 families from 114 countries across six continents).
- Started producing Smrikve limited-edition wines in 2004 (part of the Smrikve story reaching 114 countries across six continents).
- Started producing limited-edition olive oils in 2005.
- Completed the book „Unione Europea e Democrazia Cosmopolita – un'idea per la pace“ in 2005.
- Completed the four-star Villa Smrikve Charme in 2006.
- Started the „La Bottega di Smrikve“ holiday programme in 2007 (attended by more than 200 families from over 35 countries).
- Completed and published online the cultural e-book „Istria from Smrikve“ in 2009.
- Founded the Smrikva Bowl Library in 2009 (currently containing more than 3,700 books, including over 430 tennis- and sport-related titles used in „La Bottega di Smrikve“ experiences).
- Completed the five-star Villa Smrikve Lounge in 2012.
- Started individually coaching his niece in 2014, who subsequently became a top national player in the U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18 age categories. Started individually coaching his second niece in 2023.
- Started the Smrikva Bowl Tennis Talents Family Week (SBTTFW) holiday programme in 2015 (attended by around 100 former Smrikva Bowl families).
- Started the Smrikva Bowl Tennis Talents Olive Harvest Family Week (SBTTOHFW) holiday programme in 2026.
- Developing the Smrikva Bowl Million Plus Family Holiday Week (SBM+FHW), a new holiday opportunity designed for former Smrikva Bowl players who earned millions during their professional tennis careers.

APPLICATION FORM

Smrikva Bowl M+ Family Holiday Week (SBM+FW)

NAME: _____ SURNAME: _____

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

My level of English: _____ very good _____ basic

Other Languages I am fluent in: _____ _____ _____

Education: _____

_____

_____

Professional experience: _____

_____

_____

Best ranking: _____ (ATP or WTA)

e-mail: _____

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

ACCOMMODATION:

SMRIKVE LOUNGE Villa: _____

Villa SMRIKVA Charme: _____