

## Asian Wave in the Roland Garros 2025 - Rising Stars, New Dreams

It's that time of the year again—when Paris turns red with clay and the 'All Eyes' of the tennis world's attention shifts to Roland Garros. The 2025 French Open is here, and once again, the Asian contingent is here with grit, talent, ambition, promise and beyond. This year, 15 Asian players have made their way into the singles main draw—some through just sheer ranking, others by grinding it out in the qualifiers. Compared to last year's numbers, it's a step forward—a quiet but steady rise that reflects Asia's growing impact on the Grand Slam stage.

Looking back to 2024, Asian players left their mark—not just in scorelines, but in the way they fought, hinting at the something bigger than just sprited runs and brave battles.

Zheng Qinwen and Wang Xinyu from China both fought their way into the third round in the women's draw. Naomi Osaka, who returning from maternity leave, pushed Iga Swiatek to three sets. Zhang Zhizhen did the same in the men's draw, signalling China's promise in men's tennis.

This time, Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka returns to action after a year disrupted by injuries, opening against 25th seed Alexei Popyrin. He's made the fourth round here before—someone who knows how to fight on this stage.



A historic debut comes from Lebanon's Benjamin Hassan, who became the first Lebanese player in the Open Era to qualify for the French Open main draw after battling through three challenging qualifying singles. It's a proud step—not just for him, but also about the tennis rising in Asia or how this game quietly reaching the in the new corners of Asia.

Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik arrives with confidence after winning the Turin Challenger, where he beat China's Yunchaokete Bu. Bu, meanwhile, showed glimpses of brilliance in Monte Carlo and is playing his first Grand Slam on this soil.

On the women's side, Zheng Qinwen leads the charge. Elena Rybakina, despite a turbulent season with injuries, remains one of the most prominent names in the draw. Naomi Osaka, Nao Hibino, Alexandra Eala, and others bring a mix of experience, calm, belief and hope to the courts.



This year's French Open also carries a deep emotional weight, a blend of Nostalgia, love & gratitude - as the tournament prepares to honour Rafael Nadal, the most decorated King of Clay. The 38-year-old Spaniard, who officially retired in November 2024, will be celebrated in a special ceremony on opening Sunday, May 25. With 14 titles and an astonishing 112–4 record at Roland Garros, Nadal's name is forever written into the clay.

But beyond the numbers, what stays with us is his humility, his attitude toward the game, his respect, his fight for every point, and his spirit—all of which count far more than the trophies. It's something tennis fans around the world will remember for years to come, every time they look at the clay.

As the tournament begins, Asia's presence in Paris feels more assured—growing not just in numbers, but also by reach, expanding in its ecstatic fashion. The story continues—it might be one close battle, one upset, one glory—but the belief remains the same.

