

A1 Beach Pro Vienna 2024: Countdown in the final phase

At a press conference at the InterContinental Hotel in Vienna, Austria's top teams gave a preview of the Olympic dress rehearsal from July 9 to 14 at Heumarkt.

VIENNA. There are just under five weeks to go until the beach volleyball highlight of the year, the A1 Beach Pro Vienna 2024. The construction work began on Vienna's Heumarkt over the weekend: The newly designed, spectacular Red Bull Beach Arena is being built in the heart of the city, offering space for around 4,000 visitors where the best beach teams in the world will compete for prize money totaling 300,000 US dollars from July 9 to 14.

World stars assess their position with strong red-white-red participation

The Elite16 event, a tournament in the highest category of the FIVB's Beach Pro Tour, will also provide a final opportunity to see where Austria stands ahead of the Summer Olympics in Paris (starting July 26). Organizer Hannes Jagerhofer is expecting "four to six Austrian teams" to take part in the home game, at least one of them in the men's and one in the women's main competition. The fact that there won't be more this time is solely down to the format: just like in the main competition, only 16 teams per gender will take part in the qualifiers. In any case, ticket sales are in full swing, with remaining contingents for individual day and night sessions still available at beachvolleyball.at.

"The whole world envies us for this tournament!"

The final phase of the countdown was heralded by the red-white-red beach stars at the InterContinental Hotel in Vienna. "The whole world envies us for this tournament," said Martin Ermacora. His former partner Moritz Pristauz assisted: "We can be proud and grateful that we have such an event!" The comparison makes Ronja Klinger certain: "There's nothing like Vienna anywhere else!" Alex Horst, for example, expects nothing more or less than business as usual from the home game: "If everything runs normally here, it will be sensational!"

Peter Hanke: "Important impetus in the competition between metropolises"

Peter Hanke emphasized the importance of the event for Vienna: "We are competing with other major cities," said the City Councillor for Finance, Economy, Labour, International Affairs and Vienna Public Utilities, "and the beach volleyball tournament provides a very important impetus." It is undoubtedly a highlight in Vienna's calendar of events. In his role as President of Vienna Tourism, Peter Hanke also expects a lot from the A1 Beach Pro Vienna and anticipates "thousands, if not tens of thousands of bookings"..

A1 serves fans a spectacular treat

"We are delighted to be the title sponsor of the A1 Beach Pro Vienna," said Marco Harfmann, A1 Marketing Communications Director, who once again had a special surprise up his sleeve: "We have come up with something very special for our activities around the tournament this year: Not far from Heumarkt, you can see the A1 Tower in our Arsenal Technology Center. The view over Vienna from there is fantastic. The idea was quickly born that the local teams could play a match on the top platform. The video can be seen on all our social media channels from today. It should whet the appetite for the tournament. We hope everyone likes it and look forward to seeing lots of enthusiastic fans."

"Vienna will be a celebration for our sport and fans around the world"

FIVB President Dr. Ary S. Graça F° said in a message: "Vienna already has a great tradition of hosting major beach volleyball tournaments, including the highly successful 2017 World Championships and the five-star tournaments in 2018 and 2019. For the premiere of the prestigious Beach Pro Tour, this beautiful city will once again demonstrate its passion for the sport and wonderful hospitality. I have no doubt that the Elite16 event will be an incredible celebration for our sport and fans around the world."

Tickets for the A1 Beach Pro Vienna are available <u>HERE</u>, media accreditations are available at this <u>LINK</u>.



Volleyball President Gernot Leitner and Hannes Jagerhofer in the circle of Austria's top teams. You can find more pictures from the press conference HERE. ©ACTS/Lisa Schandl