



# MARIA SHARAPOVA

— Hall of Fame Class of 2025 —



Sharapova reacts as she defeats Canada's Eugenie Bouchard 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 at Roland-Garros in 2014.

(Courtesy of AP/Michel Euler)



Sharapova smiles after defeating two-time defending champion Serena Williams 6-1, 6-4 in the 2004 Wimbledon final.

(Courtesy of Alamy)

Maria Sharapova is one of the greatest tennis players ever! Born in Russia, she moved to America when she was just 7 years old to follow her tennis dreams. By age 17, she shocked the world by winning Wimbledon, one of tennis's biggest tournaments! Sharapova went on to win five major championships and become World No. 1. Even when facing tough opponents or injuries, Sharapova never gave up. She always pushed herself to improve with intense dedication and focus. What made Sharapova special wasn't just winning—it was how she faced every challenge with determination and gave her absolute best effort in every match, showing that true competitive spirit means enjoying the journey of becoming better, not just winning trophies!

Sharapova was the  
**first Russian woman**  
to reach World No. 1!



Sharapova won the ESPY for best female tennis player five times!



Sharapova secured  
**5 major singles titles.**

**From Junior Player to Nike Athlete**

Sharapova signed a deal with Nike at 11 years old!

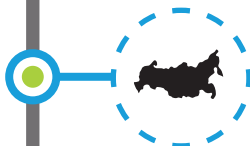


**Sweet Success Off the Court:** Sharapova launched her **candy brand Sugarpopa** in 2012.



**1987**

Born in Nyagan, Russia

**2001**

Begins her professional tennis career

**2003**

Wins her first WTA title

**2004**

Wins her first major title at Wimbledon

**2005**

Becomes the first Russian woman to achieve the World No. 1 ranking

**2008**

Wins the Australian Open and helps Russia win the Fed Cup

**2012**

Completes a career Grand Slam and wins a silver medal at the London Olympics

**2014**

Wins Roland-Garros a second time and wins her fifth and final major title

**2020**

Retires from professional tennis and focuses on business ventures

**2025**

Inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame



Maria Sharapova was born on April 19, 1987, in Nyagan, Russia. At 4 years old, she picked up her first tennis racket, and by age 6, tennis legend Martina Navratilova noticed her talent!

Sharapova's father believed in her so much that they moved to Florida so she could train at IMG Academy. There, Sharapova practiced with remarkable determination that set her apart from others.

Her hard work paid off in 2004 when 17-year-old Sharapova shocked the world by defeating Serena Williams to win Wimbledon. Nobody expected her to win—but Sharapova believed in herself!

Throughout her career, Sharapova won five major titles: Wimbledon, the US Open, the Australian Open, and Roland-Garros twice, completing a career Grand Slam. She also made history as the first Russian woman to reach the World No. 1 ranking! Sharapova was known for her strong backhand shot and powerful, aggressive serve. These key strengths made her difficult to beat on all types of tennis courts and helped her win major tournaments on grass, clay, and hard court surfaces.

Even when a serious shoulder injury threatened her career in 2008, Sharapova didn't give up. She had surgery and worked extremely hard during rehabilitation. Many people thought she would never win another major tournament, but Sharapova proved them wrong by winning Roland-Garros in 2012. That same year, she earned an Olympic silver medal. After another setback, she claimed her final major title at Roland-Garros in 2014.

Off the court, Sharapova showed the same competitive spirit in business. Nike signed her when she was just 11 years old! And in 2012, she created her candy company Sugarpova, which became very successful.

Sharapova retired in 2020 after winning 36 singles titles during her nearly 20-year career. Today, she runs her businesses, invests in health companies, and inspires young athletes worldwide. Throughout her life, Sharapova has shown that competitive spirit means always doing your best and never giving up, no matter what obstacles you face.

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