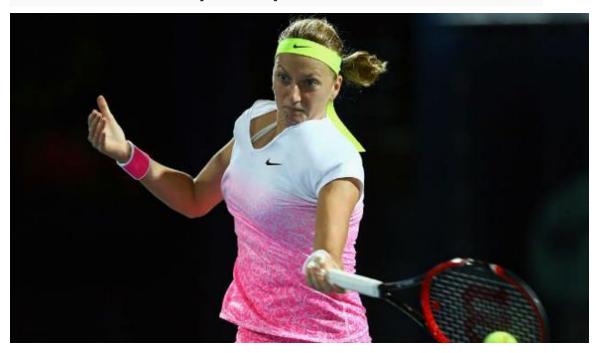


Petra Kvitova to make welcome return to Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships



Two-time <u>Wimbledon</u> champion and 2013 <u>Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships</u> title holder <u>Petra Kvitova</u> will head to Dubai in just under two weeks in winning form, after capturing her 21st career title in St. Petersburg on Sunday.

The title is her first since Birmingham in June 2017, and with it she moves into fifth place amongst active players in the numbers of titles won.

Kvitova registered wins over Elena Vesnina, world number six Jelena Ostapenko and Julia Goerges on the way to the finals, before posting an emphatic win over Kristina Mladenovic, 6-1 6-2.

Last year the former world number two had to withdraw from Dubai after surviving an attack in December 2016 that threatened her career when she sustained several deep cuts to her playing left hand.

She finally made her comeback at the French Open in May of last year, and after losing in the second round there, she surprised and delighted everyone by winning the Birmingham title in just her second tournament back.