

Reigning champion to join a quality Brisbane line-up

Reigning Australian Women's Hardcourt Champion **Na Li** has confirmed her attendance at the **2009 Brisbane International**.

The Chinese star, currently ranked 23, said she was excited to be part of the newest tennis event in the world.

"After my win on the Gold Coast last year, I am looking forward to seeing the new **Queensland Tennis Centre** and its facilities – I have heard that the complex is amazing."

"I love Australia and this tournament will provide a fantastic opportunity to play some high quality players, enjoy state-of-the-art facilities while soaking up some amazing weather at the same time."

Brisbane International Tournament Director Steve Ayles said "Na Li has been one of the most successful tennis players in China's history, and has been instrumental in advancing tennis within her country."

"We are very excited to have her return to Queensland," Ayles said.

"We plan to put on one of the best events in world tennis and now we can showcase a range of quality talent with **Na Li** joining **Ana Ivanovic** in the female draw."

"She is known for her quick reflexes, athleticism and fast ground strokes which she scatters unpredictably to all corners of the playing surface."

"I am sure she will be a crowd favourite," Ayles said.

In 2008 Na Li took another step forward for Chinese tennis when she beat Belarusian **Victoria Azarenka**, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, in the final of the Australian Women's Hardcourt on Gold Coast, after missing the entire second half of the 2007 season with a fractured rib.

This was her second career title after winning in Guangzhou in 2004 where she wrote her name into the history books as the first Chinese woman to ever to win a WTA event.

Na Li has won 21 women's singles titles: 19 ITF events and two on the WTA Tour.

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On June 19, 2006, Li became the first Chinese woman to be ranked within the WTA top 30 at No. 30. Two months later, on August 14, 2006, Li entered the top 20 for the first time at No. 20. Her highest ranking to date is No. 16.

Tickets are now on sale for the Brisbane International through **Ticketek**, with reserved stadium seating starting at just \$24.90.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.ticketek.com.au or 1300 888 104.

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Brisbane International 2009, presented by Mirvac in association with Queensland Events, will take place at the Queensland Tennis Centre, Brisbane from January 4 to 11, 2009.

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