



The Website of Maria Bueno, Tennis Champion



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TENNIS ON THE BEACH, December 2006



Maria spent several days in Rio de Janeiro for the Copa Petrobras, the \$75,000 ATP Tour Challenger tournament that is the culmination of the South American men's summer circuit.

She was kept pretty busy both on and off the court entertaining a host of sponsors by the organisers Octagon Koch Tavares, including guests of Petrobras and TAM, the Brazilian airline, but also found the time to hit with Younes El Aynaoui from Morocco who also joined in her Sportv Clinic.



The event takes place in a magnificent temporary stadium built on the famous Copacabana Beach and is a sell-out.



This year Guillermo Canas beat local hero Flávio Saretta in the final, which was covered by Sportv. Maria had to switch roles on completion of the match when she ditched her headphones to help present the prizes on court.

During her stay, Maria also recorded several 'specials' for Sportv and TV Globo, including features for the forthcoming Pan American Games which are being staged in Rio de Janeiro in July.



She also supported and promoted Petrobras' community programme when she visited a group of local kids at one of Rio's infamous *favelas*.

A BLOSSOMING TV COMMENTATING CAREER, December 2006



Maria has been honing her commentating skills on [Sportv](#), TV Globo's sports channel that is aired in Brazil via cable and satellite.

In November she featured as colour commentator for the Tennis Masters Cup in Shanghai when Roger Federer won his third ATP year-end final title in four years with a 6-0 6-3 6-4 victory over James Blake.

She was back in action in early December for the Davis Cup final when Russia beat Argentina in Moscow to win the trophy for the second time in the 105 years of the competition.

"I'm enjoying the challenge," Maria says. "I try to give viewers some insight into the background of the players, the event and the setting rather than a point by point account of the match. After all, they can see what is happening on the screen, can't they?"

She must be doing something right as, according to [TV Globo](#) feedback, viewing figures spike when she is on air, and so talks are under way about extending her commitment through 2007.

ARTICLE IN FORTY FIVER MAGAZINE



The autumn edition of Forty Fiver, the official magazine of the 45-Club, carries a unique interview with Maria by Henry Wancke.

To read it, click on the link > [Maria Bueno - Still a champion](#)



US OPEN GALLERY



Click on the link for some fun pictures of Maria at the US Open > [US Open Photo Gallery](#)

BUSY AT THE US OPEN, September 2006



Maria was on hand at the International Tennis Hall of Fame's 'Vive el Tenis!' exhibit at the US Open Gallery to sign autographs yesterday and the line extended well out across the public concourse near Armstrong Stadium.

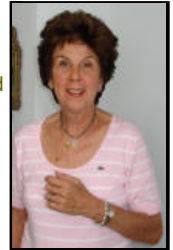
"I was really surprised," said Maria. "I saw this line there and thought they were heading for the exhibition and then realised they all were waiting for me!"



Maria is having a busy US Open. She is doing colour commentary for the Brazilian station TV Globo all this week and helping to promote [The Silver Tennis Collection](#), a unique collection of tennis themed jewellery and memorabilia, which is on display for sale at the [USTA Tennis & Education Foundation](#) stand located on the public concourse near court 11 throughout the US Open being held in New York.

The USTA T&EF is a not-for-profit entity that is dedicated to improving the quality of life among the nation's youth and encouraging children to pursue their goals and highest dreams by succeeding in school and becoming responsible citizens.

Through its collaboration with The Silver Tennis Collection, funding is being raised to provide support for organisations that use tennis as a vehicle to help youngsters finish high school and qualify for college scholarships.



"It's a worthy cause," says Maria. "Besides which, I really like the jewellery."

These days Maria is sporting a stunning miniature black rice pearl necklace with a silver tennis court pendant and a white round pearl bracelet interlaced with solid silver tennis balls while conducting her activities at the US Open.

HONOURED IN THE ROYAL BOX AT WIMBLEDON ON SUPER SATURDAY, July 2006



Maria was honoured as one of the "superstars of the women's game" in the Royal Box before the start of play on the middle Saturday of Wimbledon, alongside Margaret Court, Steffi Graf, Billie Jean King and Martina Navratilova, who between them have amassed a staggering 202 Grand Slam titles.

The five players - who have won 67 titles at Wimbledon between them - were each presented with an inscribed Waterford Crystal Lismore bowl by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester.

"It came as a great surprise to me," said Maria. "To be acknowledged together with Martina, Steffi, Margaret and Billie made it very special and then to watch Andre Agassi's final match at Wimbledon made for a pretty historic occasion! I was the first and had to walk down the Royal Box steps to the Duchess and I had to make sure I didn't fall!"

A CLINIC AT AMIDA, BECKENHAM, June 2006



Maria appeared at the Amida Racquets & Fitness Spa in Beckenham on 14 June, 2006, demonstrating what a trooper she still is.

Three months earlier she fell down some stairs in São Paulo and dislocated her shoulder but managed to rehabilitate herself sufficiently to produce an impeccable demonstration of her on-court skills for the assembled group.



After a couple of hours on court the group was treated to lunch with Maria and a talk about her life and experiences. She also showed them some of her famous dresses.

[Click here to see Maria in action on court at Amida](#)



AWARDED THE GOLDEN RACKET IN ROME, May 2006



Maria was invited to Rome during the ATP Tour Master Series tournament held in May 2006 to receive the prestigious Racchetta D'Oro Award.



The award was presented to her on the Saturday night at a special dinner by Lino Cascioli, President of the Racquetta D'Oro, and Nicola Pietrangeli who is Honorary President of the Club. The following day she was introduced to the spectators at the Foro Italico as the award recipient before the men's final.

Earlier that weekend she also received a special award from the Mayor of Rome in the form of a ring shaped like the Coliseum by the Deputy Mayor, Maria Pia Garavaglia, at the Campidoglio (Town Hall pictured left).

"I felt truly honoured," says Maria. "To be recognised on the stage where I won my very first big tournament brought back wonderful memories."

SAUIPE BRAZILIAN OPEN, February 2006



Maria attended the [Brazilian Open, Costa do Sauipe](#), again and had a lot of fun with the local characters...



She also gave several demonstrations at her clinics and was on court together with Guillermo Vilas for the prize giving presentation to winner Nicolas Massu from Chile.

A SCARY HIT!



Early this year Maria was flown out by helicopter to one of the largest off-shore oil rigs at Aracajú in Sergipe where she had hit and was shown around the facility.

She had lunch with some VIPs and the crew, and found the whole excursion fascinating.

"It was very scary playing in the middle of the ocean with no boundaries," she said. "Now I know how Agassi and Federer must have felt playing on that helipad on the top of that hotel in Dubai last year! Even the helicopter ride was scary!"

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