

# Azarenka and Williams tipped to star in Melbourne

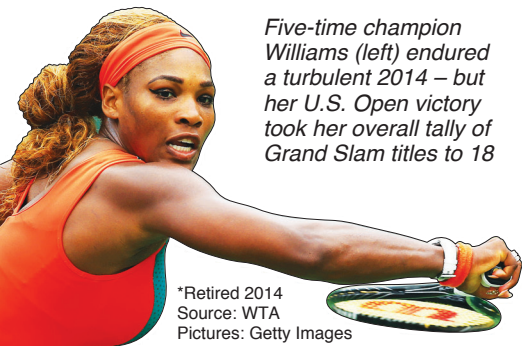
Now recovered from injury, two-time champion Victoria Azarenka is hungry to reclaim her place among the tennis elite. Serena Williams is also an early favourite for the title



## RECENT AUSTRALIAN OPEN FINALS

Despite being unseeded due to missing much of last season, Azarenka (right) could well prove a strong threat on arguably her favourite surface

2014	<b>Li Na* CHN</b>	7-6, 6-0
	Dominika Cibulkova SVK	
2013	<b>Victoria Azarenka BLR</b>	4-6, 6-4,
	Li Na CHN	6-3
2012	<b>Victoria Azarenka BLR</b>	6-3, 6-0
	Maria Sharapova RUS	
2011	<b>Kim Clijsters BEL</b>	3-6, 6-3,
	Li Na CHN	6-3
2010	<b>Serena Williams USA</b>	6-4, 3-6,
	Justine Henin BEL	6-2



Five-time champion Williams (left) endured a turbulent 2014 – but her U.S. Open victory took her overall tally of Grand Slam titles to 18

\*Retired 2014  
Source: WTA  
Pictures: Getty Images

## WILLIAMS IN 2014

### Australian Open

Rd 4: Lost to A Ivanovic

### Roland Garros

Rd 2: Lost to G Muguruza

### Wimbledon

Rd 3: Lost to A Cornet

### U.S. Open

Won: Beat C Wozniacki