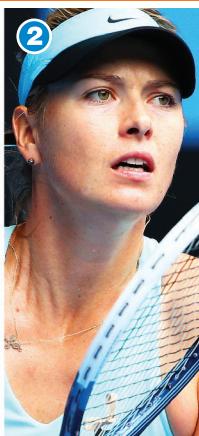


Australian Open 2015: Women's preview 1 Rank



1 **Serena Williams (USA)** Age: 33

Five-time Australian Open champion hoping to extend dominance against ever-growing pack of improving, younger rivals. Suffered shock early exit to **Ana Ivanovic** in 2014



2 **Maria Sharapova (RUS)** 27

Australian Open champion in 2008 – last Grand Slam victory before winning a fifth at Roland Garros in 2014. Ended year ranked world No. 2 for third time in her career



3 **Simona Halep (ROM)** 23

Impressive rise up rankings last year, winning two titles and reaching first Grand Slam final in Paris. Defeated Williams for loss of only two games at WTA Finals in Singapore



6 **Eugenie Bouchard (CAN)** 20

Set to mount challenge for first major title this season – stellar breakthrough in 2014 saw her reach semis at Australian Open and Roland Garros, and final at Wimbledon

PLAYER RECORD	Williams	Sharapova	Halep	Bouchard
2014 win-loss	52-8	49-13	46-16	45-22
2014 titles	7	4	2	1
Career titles	64	33	8	1
Grand Slams	18	5	0	0