



INTERMOUNTAIN  
NEVADA

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

ELTON JOHN, BILLIE JEAN KING, AGASSI, GRAF,  
NAVRATILOVA AND RODDICK

HEADLINE MYLAN WORLD TEAM TENNIS SMASH HITS AT  
CAESARS PALACE

*Sir Elton John and Billie Jean King charity tennis event October 12th at  
Caesars Palace*



**Only 1500 tickets for general public. Purchasing your  
tickets through USTA helps our non-profit!**

**Call 702-792-8384 x304**

**Las Vegas, Nevada (July 22, 2015)** --- One of tennis' most star-studded charity events is coming to Las Vegas strip for the first time this fall, courtesy of Sir Elton John and Billie Jean King. The United States Tennis Association in Nevada is proud to be a promotional partner and to be a part of this historic event.

Four former world No. 1s - Andre Agassi, Stefanie Graf, Martina Navratilova and Andy Roddick - will headline Mylan World TeamTennis (WTT) Smash Hits on Monday, Oct. 12 at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, where Elton performs his hit show, "The Million Dollar Piano." This historic tennis location once again will set the stage with a custom built tennis stadium adjacent to the Caesars Palace fountains on the strip.

Tickets for Mylan WTT Smash Hits go on sale at 10 a.m. PT on Thursday, July 23. Premium reserved chair back seats are \$125, and general admission seats are \$45. Special VIP ticket packages, including VIP courtside seating and admission to the VIP Reception and Auction, will also be available for \$500.

Due to a strong response from sponsors there are only 1,500 tickets total available to the general public for this special event. To buy tickets, call the USTA Nevada office at **702-792-8384 x304** or for Sponsorship information call 702-822-1081 or email [support@ustanevada.com](mailto:support@ustanevada.com).

Buying tickets through the USTA office supports the organization's efforts to promote professional tennis!

For VIP packages the evening begins with a pre-match VIP Reception and Auction at 5:30 p.m. at Caesars Palace, with tennis action set for 7 p.m. John, King and all players will participate in the pre-match live auction, which will include an Elton John signed piano bench and King's Wimbledon tickets, among other items. To buy VIP Reception ticket packages or for more information, call the USTA Nevada office at 702-822-1081 or email [support@ustanevada.com](mailto:support@ustanevada.com). Sponsorship packages are also available by contacting Maureen at [support@ustanevada.com](mailto:support@ustanevada.com). For those looking to make a weekend of it, Caesars has a room package and Elton John concert tickets available on their web site.

Tennis action is set to begin at 7 p.m. on a specially-constructed tennis adjacent to Caesars Palace Fountains right in front of the Las Vegas strip. This year's annual event will benefit the Elton John AIDS Foundation (EJAF) and Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN). A portion of the funds raised at the pre-match VIP Reception and Auction will be specifically targeted for local programs.

Longtime friends King and John first brought together the music and tennis worlds for this event in 1993 and have served as the event coaches and co-hosts ever since. Since 1993, Mylan WTT Smash Hits has raised more than \$13 million for EJAF and various local AIDS charities throughout the United States. This is the first time in the event's 23-year history that it will be staged in Las Vegas.

"It is always such a great pleasure to co-host this wonderful event with my dear friend Billie Jean King," said Sir Elton John. "I'm so pleased that we will be teaming up with Aid for AIDS of Nevada to raise awareness about the continuing challenges of the HIV/AIDS epidemic both locally and nationally and to raise urgently needed dollars for community-based HIV prevention, education, treatment, and care services. I urge all tennis fans and concerned citizens in the Las Vegas area to support this event and bring their families for a wonderful evening of tennis for a great cause."

"It is great to have Mylan WTT Smash Hits back in the U.S. and even better that we are making our first trip to Las Vegas, the entertainment capital of the world," said Billie Jean King. "Smash Hits is one of my favorite and most meaningful events of the year and we are looking forward to a successful and entertaining night this October at Caesars Palace."

Mylan CEO Heather Bresch commented: "We are very excited to return as the title sponsor for this year's Mylan WTT Smash Hits event in Las Vegas. Under Sir Elton John and Billie Jean King's leadership, WTT continues to help accelerate the world's fight against HIV/AIDS and this event represents a powerful opportunity to raise funds and awareness for the cause. At Mylan, we share WTT's passion for making a difference. Our mission to set new standards in healthcare and provide the world's 7 billion people access to high quality medicine is reflected, for example, in the nearly 50% of HIV/AIDS patients in developing countries who depend on a Mylan antiretroviral therapy. We look forward to a great event and Mylan WTT's continued success."

"We are proud to host the return of Billie Jean King to Caesars Palace in the prestigious Mylan WTT Smash Hits, marking the event's first time in Las Vegas," said Caesars Palace President Gary Selesner. "Throughout its nearly 50 years, Caesars Palace has a long-standing tradition and reputation for hosting major tennis tournaments including the Alan King Tennis Classic for more than 13 years beginning in 1972 with world-class athletes including Bjorn Borg and John McEnroe. Continuing in 1975, the historic mixed doubles match was held with Billie Jean King, who played alongside Marty Riessen against Jimmy Connors and Chris Evert. The hard courts created for these tremendous matches will once again be constructed - this time in front of Caesars Palace near our iconic fountains. It's our honor to support Billie Jean King, our resident headliner Elton John, the Elton John AIDS Foundation, and locally, AFAN in this very worthy cause."

Captained by King and John, the players will form two teams and play a Mylan WTT match featuring singles and doubles action. The music legend is expected to participate in a celebrity doubles match to open the event. Additional participants will be announced in the upcoming weeks. The overall series is tied 11-11 between Team Elton and Team Billie Jean. Team Billie Jean won the 2014 event in London with a 22-16 victory.

This will be the 13th Smash Hits appearance for Agassi. The 8-time Grand Slam singles champion and former world No. 1 is well-known for his philanthropy, which includes starting the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy in Las Vegas. Agassi was inducted into The International Tennis Hall of Fame in 2011.

This is the third Smash Hits appearance for Graf, a fellow Hall of Famer. Graf has long been considered one of the greatest players in tennis history, winning 107 singles titles, 22 Grand Slam singles championships, and an Olympic gold medal before retiring in 1999. Graf and her husband Andre Agassi have two children, daughter Jaz and son Jaden. Graf is very active with her charity Children for Tomorrow, a non-profit foundation with the aim of supporting children and families who have become victims of war, persecution and organized violence.

Navratilova, a 59-time Grand Slam champion in singles, doubles and mixed doubles, was one of the participants in the first Smash Hits event in 1993 and will be making her 11<sup>th</sup> appearance. During her storied career, the Hall of Famer won 18 Grand Slam singles titles, 31 Grand Slam women's doubles and 10 Grand Slam mixed doubles titles. Navratilova holds 167 singles titles, more than any other player, male or female and 177 doubles titles.

Roddick returns to Smash Hits for an 11<sup>th</sup> time. The popular American standout won 30 singles titles on the ATP World Tour, including the 2003 US Open, and was ranked in the top 10 for nine consecutive years. Along with Venus Williams, Roddick is part of the WTT Ownership Group. He also founded the Andy Roddick Foundation which works to expand opportunities for young people to learn, thrive and succeed.

Official event sponsors include title sponsor Mylan and host sponsor Caesars Palace. Ryan Wolfington and USTA Nevada are promotional partners of Mylan WTT Smash Hits.

"USTA Nevada is honored that legends like Billie Jean King and Sir Elton John have selected Las Vegas for this special charity event," said Ryan Wolfington, Executive Director. "This specially built stadium off the strip, next to the Caesars fountains, is going to add another historical event to Las Vegas' great tennis tradition."

Additional sponsors and partners include Adecco, DecoTurf, Forevermark, GEICO, Marty Hennessy Inspiring Children Foundation and Wilson.

For more information on Mylan WTT Smash Hits or to purchase tickets call USTA Nevada office at [702-792-8384](tel:702-792-8384) or email [support@ustanevada.com](mailto:support@ustanevada.com).

For more information on the Elton John AIDS Foundation, visit [www.EJAF.org](http://www.EJAF.org).

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## **2015 Mylan WTT Smash Hits – Organizations & Charities**

### **About Elton John AIDS Foundation (EJAF)**

At EJAF, we believe that AIDS can be beaten. We act on that belief by raising funds for effective programs and policies, and also by speaking out with honesty and compassion about the realities of people's lives. Sir Elton John created EJAF over twenty years ago, first in the United States in 1992 and then in the United Kingdom in 1993. Through hard work and with the help of our network of kind, amazing, creative, and generous friends and supporters, the two foundations together have raised more than \$321 million over the past two decades to combat stigma, prevent infections, provide treatment and services, and motivate governments to end AIDS. The U.S. foundation focuses its efforts on programs in the United States, the Americas, and the Caribbean, while the U.K. foundation funds HIV-related work in Europe, Asia, and Africa. Join us in speaking out, taking action, and contributing to our efforts to achieve a world without AIDS. For more information, please visit [www.ejaf.org](http://www.ejaf.org).

### **About Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN):**

Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN) provides support and advocacy for adults and children living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in southern Nevada. AFAN works to reduce HIV infection through prevention education to eliminate fear, prejudice and the stigma associated with the

disease. AFAN is committed to a system that nurtures personal growth and dignity of persons served, which is emphasized during orientation, ongoing staff trainings and the culture of our organization. For more information about AFAN, please visit [www.afanlv.org](http://www.afanlv.org).

### **About Mylan:**

Mylan is a global pharmaceutical company committed to setting new standards in health care. Working together around the world to provide 7 billion people access to high quality medicine, we innovate to satisfy unmet needs; make reliability and service excellence a habit; do what's right, not what's easy; and impact the future through passionate global leadership. We offer a growing portfolio of more than 1,200 generic pharmaceuticals and several brand medications. In addition, we offer a wide range of antiretroviral therapies, upon which approximately 40% of HIV/AIDS patients in developing countries depend. We also operate one of the largest active pharmaceutical ingredient manufacturers and currently market products in approximately 140 countries and territories. Our workforce of more than 20,000 people is dedicated to improving the customer experience and increasing pharmaceutical access to consumers around the world. [www.Mylan.com](http://www.Mylan.com)

### **About Mylan World TeamTennis (WTT):**

Mylan World TeamTennis showcases both the best in professional and recreational team tennis with the innovative team format co-founded by Billie Jean King in the 1970s. Mylan World TeamTennis features the best in professional team tennis competing for the King Trophy, the league's championship trophy which is named after King. In July 2015, Mylan WTT became only the fifth major professional team sports league in the U.S. to reach the 40<sup>th</sup> season milestone. On the recreational side of the sport, the Mylan WTT Recreational League also operates team leagues and events. For more information, visit [www.WTT.com](http://www.WTT.com).

### **About Caesars Palace**

World-renowned Las Vegas hotel and casino, Caesars Palace features 3,960 hotel guest rooms and suites, including the 181-room Nobu Hotel Caesars Palace and Forbes Star Award-winning The Laurel Collection by Caesars Palace. The 85-acre resort offers 25 diverse dining options including the award-winning Bacchanal Buffet, as well as celebrity chef-branded restaurants by Gordon Ramsay, Bobby Flay, Nobu Matsuhisa, Guy Savoy, and Searsucker Las Vegas, the restaurant from "Top Chef" finalist Brian Malarkey. The resort also features nearly 130,000 square-feet of casino space, a five-acre Garden of the Gods pool oasis, the luxurious Qua Baths & Spa and the new 75,000 square-foot OMNIA Nightclub. The 4,300-seat Colosseum, Billboard Magazine's Venue of the Decade, spotlights world-class entertainers including Celine Dion, Elton John, Rod Stewart, Reba, Brooks & Dunn, Mariah Carey and Jerry Seinfeld. The Forum Shops at Caesars showcases more than 160 boutiques and restaurants. For more information, please visit [www.caesarspalace.com](http://www.caesarspalace.com). Find Caesars Palace on Facebook and follow on Twitter.

### **Ryan Wolfington**

Executive Director

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