

Alexander Zverev Wins Roland Garros 2026: Germanyâ??s 30-Year Slam Drought Ends In Five-Set Paris Epic

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Alexander Zverev has finally done it. At his fourth attempt, on the sacred terre battue of Court Philippe-Chatrier, Germanyâ??s finest tennis player ended a long and painful wait to claim his first Grand Slam title. **Alexander Zverev is the Roland Garros 2026 champion**, defeating Flavio Cobolli 6-1, 4-6, 6-4, 6-7(5), 6-1 in an absorbing four-hour-sixteen-minute final on Sunday evening in Paris. The relief on Zverevâ??s face as he collapsed to the clay said everything.

The Wait Is Finally Over

For years, Zverev has carried the weight of being the best player never to win a major. He lost the 2020 US Open final to Dominic Thiem. He squandered a two-sets-to-one lead against Carlos Alcaraz in the 2024 Roland Garros final. He fell to Jannik Sinner at the 2025 Australian Open. Three finals, three defeats â?? an 0-3 record that tormented him and frustrated his legion of supporters.

On Sunday, he exorcised every one of those demons.

Zverev entered the 2026 edition as a heavy favourite, with top seed Sinner suffering a shock second-round exit to Juan Manuel Cerundolo, Novak Djokovic beaten by teenage Brazilian JoÃ£o Fonseca, and Alcaraz absent through injury. The draw had opened up, but the pressure of expectation was immense. Zverev had been here before â?? tipped to win, only to fall short.

This time, he delivered.



Source: Roland Garros official website (rolandgarros.com) Â©Jean-Charles Caslot / FFT

An Epic Final â?? And A Fourth Set That Almost Slipped Away

Cobolli, the Italian 10th seed competing in his first Grand Slam final, was never going to simply hand the title over. After Zverev cruised through the opening set 6-1 in just 35 minutes, Cobolli rallied to level at one set apiece. Zverev reclaimed the lead in the third before the match arrived at its pivotal moment â?? a breathless fourth-set tiebreak.

From 3-1 up in the breaker, Zverev saw Cobolli rip a scorching forehand winner to snatch the tiebreak and send the contest into a deciding set. The ghost of three previous final collapses seemed to hover over Chatrier. Could he hold his nerve one more time?

He could. And then some.

Zverev reset magnificently and dominated the fifth set 6-1, replicating the ruthlessness of the opening set to seal a stunning, comprehensive victory. He fell to the clay in celebration â?? on the same court where, in 2022, he had collapsed with torn ankle ligaments against Rafael Nadal and feared his career might never be the same. Paris had broken him once. On Sunday, it gave everything back.

â??This trophy is very important to me, because if I would have lost this one, the self-belief would have gone down a lot,â?• Zverev said in his championâ??s press conference. â??But now that Iâ??ve won it, I feel like I can do it again. Now no matter what happens, I will always be a Grand Slam champion, and nobody can take that away from me.â?•

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Alexander Zverev Roland Garros 2026: The History Books Rewritten

With Sundayâ??s victory, Zverev becomes the first German man to win a Grand Slam singles title since Boris Becker at the 1996 Australian Open â?? a 30-year drought finally ended. He is only the third man born in the 1990s to win a major, joining Thiem and Daniil Medvedev. His 125th Grand Slam match win before his breakthrough set a record â?? no player had needed more victories before finally claiming that first title.

He joined an exclusive club of players who won their first major at their fourth attempt, alongside legends Andre Agassi, Goran Ivanisevic, and Dominic Thiem. The tag of â??best player never to win a Slamâ?• has been ripped up and discarded.

For Cobolli, the defeat stings, but he exits Paris as a top-10 player for the first time and with the knowledge that, at 23, his best years lie ahead. He was magnificent to reach his first major final and had the crowd on their feet throughout.

You can read our Roland Garros 2026 menâ??s final preview for the build-up to Sundayâ??s match, and our Roland Garros 2026 semifinals report for the context leading into the final weekend.



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Andreeva Completes A Weekend Of History In Paris

Zverev was not the only champion making history at Roland Garros 2026. A day earlier, 19-year-old Russian Mirra Andreeva became the youngest womenâ??s champion at Roland Garros since Monica Seles in 1992, defeating Polish qualifier Maja Chwalinska 6-3, 6-3 in a commanding womenâ??s final to claim the Suzanne Lenglen Cup.

Two first-time Grand Slam champions in one weekend at Roland Garros. Two stories of resilience, belief, and brilliance. Paris delivered one of its most memorable fortnights in recent memory.

For Zverev, the question now turns to what comes next. With the pressure of that first major finally lifted, could Paris 2026 be the catalyst for a dominant stretch? Based on the composure and quality he showed over two weeks on the red clay, he has every reason to believe the answer is yes.

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