

December 6, 2023

Mari Carmen Villalba leaves padel. Carraro: "Her smile reflects the joy of our sport"

She had announced her farewell in October, with a post on social media. Today, on Day 3 of the **Milan Premier Padel P1**, **Mari Carmen Villalba** played her last match in professional padel, conceding (paired with Ana Fernández de Ossó) to compatriots Nuria Rodriguez and Marta Talavan. However, it was only the beginning of the day for the 36-year-old from Malaga—one of the most experienced players in this sport—who later in the evening received tribute from Premier Padel Tour Director, **Adel Aref**, International Padel Federation President, **Luigi Carraro**, and her "colleagues." On the central court of the Allianz Cloud, there was a big celebration, with a long applause from the audience and the enthusiastic cheers of the other athletes, also involved in the tournament. *"I was amazed; it was a beautiful surprise"*, Mari Carmen said after the celebrations. *"I am happy to have experienced this tournament, and delighted for this special celebration"* A memory that will accompany her into the new chapter of her life, always connected to the passion she has practiced for a lifetime: *"I want to teach padel, and I want to do it worldwide. My intention is to promote this sport everywhere"*.

Farewelling Villalba once again is FIP President **Luigi Carraro**: *"Mari Carmen Villalba's beautiful smile has been a mirror of the joy and passion with which she has interpreted our sport for many years, leaving a mark technically and humanly well represented by the tribute paid to her by the world's best players on the central court of the Milan Premier Padel"*.

About the International Padel Federation (FIP)

About the International Padel Federation (FIP) The International Padel Federation (FIP) is the world governing body of padel, whose goal is to promote all forms of padel worldwide with: 90 Countries, 64 National Federations, + 25 million active players and 500,000 Federated Players. The sport was created in Acapulco, Mexico, by Enrique Corcuera in 1969. It was 32 years later that the FIP was established in Madrid by the legal representatives of the Argentine Padel Association, the Spanish Padel Association and the Uruguayan Padel Association, by means of Public deeds signed before the Notary Mr. Javier Gaspar Alfaro, with the protocol number 2486. We want to bring the worldwide Padel family together into one community, and make Padel a sport that is recognised and played in all the countries of the World. www.padelfip.com

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