

COURT PRIVÉE EDITIONS

RACKETS OF LEGEND

History, Collecting & Investment in Tennis Rackets

FREE SAMPLE — INTRODUCTION, FRAMEWORK & TWO RACKET PROFILES

“Collect Less. Collect Better. Preserve History.”

WHAT'S INSIDE THE FULL EDITION

This is a free sample of Rackets of Legend — the Court Privée reference on collecting historically significant tennis rackets. It includes the introduction, the Six Pillars framework, two full racket profiles, and a blank buying checklist so you know exactly what you're getting before you buy.

The Full Edition Includes

- The Court Privée Manifesto and The Collector's Mind (Part I)
- 34 racket profiles across four eras — wood, experimentation, graphite revolution, professional era
- A full Professional Collector's Guide: authentication, restoration, negotiating, common fakes
- Value & Legacy: building a collection, selling thoughtfully, insurance and appraisal
- Buying checklist, glossary, timeline, and sources

Full edition — €29.90 · courtprivee.com/purchase

INTRODUCTION

Walk into almost any antique shop in the world and you will likely find an old tennis racket. Most will never become collectible. A few already are. Understanding the difference is the purpose of this book.

Collecting vintage tennis rackets has changed considerably over the past two decades — from a niche interest into an international community of historians, former players, designers and enthusiasts who see these objects for what they truly are: historical artefacts. A racket records more than a moment in sporting history. It reflects manufacturing technique, industrial design, professional competition and the wider culture of its decade.

Age alone does not create collectibility. Many old rackets carry little historical weight; a handful of relatively modern models have already secured their place among the icons of the sport. Serious collectors learn to look past nostalgia and ask sharper questions: Why was this racket important? What innovation did it introduce? Who used it, and how many original examples survive?

Study first. Buy carefully. Preserve faithfully. History deserves nothing less.

THE SIX PILLARS OF COLLECTIBILITY

At Court Privée, every racket is evaluated against six consistent criteria. They reappear throughout the full book because they give you a repeatable framework — not a gut feeling — for judging almost any collectible racket.

1. Historical Importance

Did this racket change the sport? Historical importance may come from technological innovation, exceptional competitive success, or influence over the equipment that followed.

2. Originality

Collectors do not buy perfection — they buy authenticity. Original grips, factory decals, correct butt caps, original grommets and factory paint all provide evidence that a racket survived largely unchanged.

3. Scarcity

Scarcity is often misunderstood. A racket is not valuable simply because few examples survive — the most desirable rackets combine scarcity with historical importance.

4. Player Association

An ordinary racket does not become extraordinary just because a famous name endorsed it. The strongest pieces combine player association with genuine technical or historical importance.

5. Condition

Condition affects value. Originality determines significance. Inspect structural integrity before cosmetics, geometry before paint, cracks before scratches.

6. Provenance

Provenance is documented history — a purchase receipt, tournament use, player ownership, a period photograph, an auction record. Documentation turns a story into evidence.

The full book applies these six pillars to every one of the 34 rackets profiled, and returns to them throughout the authentication and buying guide.

TWO RACKETS FROM THE FULL CATALOGUE

A preview of the racket profile format used throughout the full edition.

Dunlop Maxply Fort

MANUFACTURER	Dunlop
YEARS	1932/1935–1983
MATERIAL	Laminated ash & beech, multi-ply construction
NOTABLE PLAYERS	Rod Laver, John McEnroe (junior years), Virginia Wade
EST. RANGE*	\$25–90 (good); \$150–350 (boxed / near-mint)

Why it matters: The gold-standard wood racket of its era, with the longest production run of any pre-graphite frame — it defined the serve-and-volley game for half a century.

Authentication watch-out: Presses and head clamps are often sold separately and later re-paired. Confirm the press is period-correct, not a generic reproduction.

Wilson Pro Staff 6.0 85 (Sampras Era)

MANUFACTURER	Wilson
YEARS	1990s production
MATERIAL	Braided graphite/Kevlar
NOTABLE PLAYERS	Pete Sampras (majority of his 14 Grand Slam titles)
EST. RANGE*	\$70–220

Why it matters: The definitive 1990s serve-and-volley frame, still considered one of the most demanding and rewarding classic rackets to play.

Authentication watch-out: Sampras famously customised his personal frames heavily (lead tape, added weight) — a “player-used” claim without documentation should be treated with real caution.

BUYING CHECKLIST (PREVIEW)

The full edition includes the complete Professional Buying Checklist with ten items. Here are the first four — print this page and try it on your next purchase.

Before You Buy

- Photographed the throat, butt cap, grommets and any factory stamps up close
- Compared decals and typography against a verified reference image for this exact model and year
- Checked for warping, twisting, or cracks — especially at the throat
- Confirmed weight and balance against factory specifications

The remaining six checklist items, plus the full glossary, timeline, and authentication guide, are in the complete edition.

GET THE FULL EDITION

Rackets of Legend — the complete Court Privée reference — includes 34 racket profiles, the full Professional Collector's Guide, and the complete appendices.

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