Leggi e ascolta.

Wimbledon

For two weeks in the summer British people go crazy for tennis. It’s time for Wimbledon!

Wimbledon is a suburb in the south-west of London, but for the last week in June and the first week in July it’s the centre of the tennis world. Top tennis players from all over the world play in the All England Championships, or Wimbledon. Every year over 500,000 people go to Wimbledon to watch the tennis and millions of people watch it on TV.

Wimbledon is the only major tennis tournament on grass. It’s a very old tournament and it has a lot of traditions. The traditional colours of Wimbledon are purple and green. They are the colours in the tournament’s logo, but the players can only wear the colour white. The most famous tradition at Wimbledon is strawberries and cream. Spectators eat about 275,000 portions of strawberries every year!

A tradition from the 1920s is the ballboys. Every year over 250 ballboys (and from the 1970s ballgirls, too) work at the tournament. They are students from the tennis club’s junior programme and from local secondary schools. They train for 12 weeks before the tournament. It’s very difficult to be a ballboy or ballgirl. There are a lot of rules: they can’t sit down, chew gum or talk to the players on court. But it’s also very exciting and they can see a lot of famous tennis players, celebrities and members of the royal family.
The royal family are big Wimbledon fans! The royal family and their friends can watch the matches from the royal box. Players always bow or curtsy when the Queen’s in the royal box.