

## Nanjing, Pearl Spring

YEAR	CHAMPION	COUNTRY	POINTS
2008	Veselin Topalov	Bulgaria	7/10
2009	Magnus Carlsen	Norway	8/10
2010	Magnus Carlsen	Norway	7/10

All three supertournaments were category 21.  
Topalov only player to take part in all three editions.  
In each edition, one participant was of Chinese nationality.

**Further prominent players:** Anand, Ivanchuk, Svidler, Aronian, Radjabov, Gashimov, Leko, Bacrot, Bu, Yiangzhi, and Wang, Yue (twice). *Kasparov retired, Kramnik never took part.*

Six players carried out double rounds at the Pearl Spring Hotel in 2008 for a prize money of 250,000 euro. The final standings became: Topalov 7/10, Aronian 5½, Bu Xiangzhi 5, Svidler 4½, Movsesian and Ivanchuk 4.

The second Pearl Spring event in 2009 became a great success for a young player: Carlsen 8/10, Topalov 5½, Wang Yue 4½, Radjabov, Leko and Jakovenko 4.

Carlsen repeated his success in the third Pearl Spring tournament. The result became: Carlsen 7/10, Anand 6, Bacrot 5, Gashimov and Topalov 4½, Wang Yue 3.

The **Pearl Spring Chess Tournament** (中国(南京)国际象棋超级大赛) is a [double round robin chess tournament](#) event featuring six super-[GM](#) players that takes place in [Nanjing, China](#).

The tournament is named after the venue, the Mingfa Pearl Spring Hotel located in [Pukou District](#) of Nanjing. The tournament is organized by the Municipal People's Government of Nanjing and Chess & Cards Administration Center of General Administration of Sport of China, and the People's Government of Pukou District, Nanjing, and Nanjing Administration of Sport. At that time, it was the first and only chess supertournament in China.

The tournament was sponsored by Jiangsu Kanion Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., *Yangzi Evening News*, and Mundell International University of Entrepreneurship. The total prize fund is €250,000 with a first prize of €80,000.

When Nobel Prize winner **Robert Mundell** visited Nanjing, he suggested the organization of a chess tournament! ☺

Historical footnote:

The first edition in December 2008 was won by [Veselin Topalov](#). According to ChessVibes website, [Silvio Danailov](#) - the manager and coach of Topalov - said the Pearl Spring tournament has been "guaranteed for five years and will enter in Grand Slam [in 2009]." The second and third tournaments in 2009 and 2010 were both won by [Magnus Carlsen](#), with his first win being rated as one of the best performances in chess history.







Together with [Corus Chess Tournament](#) (today: TATA Steel) in the Netherlands, [Linares Chess Tournament](#) in Spain, [M-Tel Masters](#) in Bulgaria, and [Grand Slam Masters Final](#) in Spain, Nanjing Pearl Spring was supposed to become one of the five [Grand Slam Chess Tournaments](#) in the world.

## Results

**2008** (10-22 December)







The six players were [Veselin Topalov](#) of Bulgaria (Elo rating 2791, **ranked first in the world**); [Vassily Ivanchuk](#) of Ukraine (Elo rating 2786, ranked third in the world); [Levon Aronian](#) of Armenia (Elo rating 2757, ranked seventh in the world); [Sergei Movsesian](#) of Slovakia (Elo rating 2732, ranked thirteenth in the world); [Peter Svidler](#) of Russia (Elo rating 2727, ranked seventeenth in the world); [Bu Xiangzhi](#) of China (Elo rating 2714, ranked twenty-sixth in the world).

With at least an [Elo rating](#) average of 2751.6, it was a category 21 tournament making it the strongest chess tournament ever held in China.

	Participant	1	2	3	4	5	6	Points
1	 <a href="#">Veselin Topalov</a> (BUL)	**	½ 1	½ ½	1 1	½ 1	½ ½	7
2	 <a href="#">Levon Aronian</a> (ARM)	½ 0	**	½ ½ ½ ½	1 1	½ ½	5½	
3	 <a href="#">Bu Xiangzhi</a> (CHN)	½ ½ ½ ½	**	½ 0	½ 0	1 1	5	
4	 <a href="#">Peter Svidler</a> (RUS)	0 0	½ ½ ½ 1	**	½ ½	0 1	4½	
5	 <a href="#">Vassily Ivanchuk</a> (UKR)	½ 0	0 0	½ 1	½ ½	**	½ ½	4
6	 <a href="#">Sergei Movsesian</a> (SVK)	½ ½ ½ ½	0 0	1 0	½ ½	**	4	







**2009** (September 27 - October 9)

First tournament of the Grand Slam series 2009-2010 (Category 21, average of Elo 2764)

	Participant	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	Points	TB	Performance
1	 <a href="#">Magnus Carlsen</a>	2772	**	1 ½	1 ½	1 ½	1 ½	1 1	8		3002
2	 <a href="#">Veselin Topalov</a>	2813	0 ½	**	½ ½ ½ ½	½ 1	½ 1	5½			2789
3	 <a href="#">Wang Yue</a>	2736	0 ½ ½ ½	**	½ ½ ½ ½	½ ½	½ ½	4½			2735
4	 <a href="#">Teimour Radjabov</a>	2757	0 ½ ½ ½ ½ ½	**	½ ½ ½ 0	4	20.00	2695			
5	 <a href="#">Peter Leko</a>	2762	0 ½ ½ 0	½ ½ ½ ½	**	½ ½	4	19.25	2694		
6	 <a href="#">Dmitry Jakovenko</a>	2742	0 0	½ 0	½ ½ ½ 1	½ ½	**	4	17.25	2698	

**2010** (October 19 to October 30)

The 3rd and last edition of the tournament series, with at least an Elo rating average of 2766, it was a category 21 tournament. Carlsen, already ranked as no.1 of the world, won it outright.

	Participant	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	Points	TB	Performance
1	 <a href="#">Magnus Carlsen</a>	2826	**	½ ½	1 ½	½ ½	1 1	1 ½	7		2901
2	 <a href="#">Viswanathan Anand</a>	2800	½ ½	**	0 1	½ ½	1 ½	½ 1	6		2829
3	 <a href="#">Etienne Bacrot</a>	2736	0 ½	1 0	**	1 ½	½ 0	1 ½	5		2776
4	 <a href="#">Vugar Gashimov</a>	2719	½ ½ ½ ½	0 ½	**	½ ½ ½ ½	4½	23.00	2740		
5	 <a href="#">Veselin Topalov</a>	2762	0 0	0 ½	½ 1	½ ½	**	½ 1	4½	19.50	2724
6	 <a href="#">Wang Yue</a>	2732	0 ½	½ 0	0 ½ ½ ½	½ 0	**	3		2698	

Source: [Pearl Spring chess tournament - Wikipedia](#), compare also:

[http://www.ajedrezdeataque.com/05%20Palmares/Torneos/Asia\\_Africa\\_Oceania/Nanjing.htm](http://www.ajedrezdeataque.com/05%20Palmares/Torneos/Asia_Africa_Oceania/Nanjing.htm),  
[Official website](#) (changed), [2008](#) (ChessBase), [2009](#) (ChessBase), [Grand Slam Chess Association](#)



The Pearl Spring Hotel in Nanjing (photo: <https://www.tripadvisor.ch/>)

#### Addendum @ **Grand Slam in Chess**

*Early in the Grand Slam Series, there were four events. The Corus Tournament in Wijk aan Zee (today TATA Steel) and the Linares Chess Tournament had already long been among the top chess tournaments each year. They were joined by the relatively new M-Tel Masters, held each year in Sofia, and the brand new Pearl Spring tournament, which took place in Nanjing, China.*

*However, the tournament series had changed, as two of the tournaments previously used as part of the Grand Slam have not been held. The first tournament dropped was the MTel Masters, which was last held in 2009. Then, Nanjing stopped after only three edition in 2010, the traditional Linares Tournament was cancelled in the year 2011, meaning it could not send a winner into the Bilbao Masters. As a replacement, the Bazna Kings tournament in Romania has been used as a part of the Grand Slam Chess Association series. It was expected that the Linares Tournament will once against be held in 2012; this would have meant that Linares could once again become a part of the Grand Slam, although no official announcement has been made. In fact, Linares collapsed, too.*