

PREVIEW MEN'S SLALOM VAL D'ISÈRE – Sunday 10 Dec 2023

Austria

- Austria swept the podium in the opening men's World Cup slalom event of the season as Manuel Feller, Marco Schwarz and Michael Matt filled all three steps of the podium in Gurgl on 18 November.
- Austria had not achieved a podium sweep in a men's World Cup slalom event since claiming places one to five in Wengen back in January 2001. That podium included Michael Matt's older brother Mario Matt (third place as well).
- Feller handed Austria its first victory in a men's World Cup slalom event since Johannes Strolz' win in Adelboden on 9 January 2022.
- The Austrians have not won back-to-back men's World Cup slaloms since victories by Schwarz (Adelboden) and Feller (Flachau) in January 2021.
- **Feller** could become the first Austrian male skier to win back-to-back World Cup slalom events since Marcel Hirscher (2) in January 2019.
- Feller finished runner-up behind Lucas Braathen in the Val d'Isère slalom in last season's World Cup (11 December 2022). The gap between the two skiers was 0.84 seconds.
- Mario Matt, older brother of **Michael Matt**, achieved his 15th and final World Cup victory in the Val d'Isère slalom on 15 December 2013.

Other contenders

- On 18 November, **Dave Ryding** (fourth place) missed the podium in the Gurgl slalom by 0.01 seconds.
- Ryding - who turned 37 years on 5 December - could become the second skier (male or female) to claim a World Cup victory after turning 37. Didier Cuche claimed four WC wins after his 37th birthday (all in the 2011/12 season).
- Ryding could become the second-oldest man to record a World Cup slalom podium finish, after Giuliano Razzoli's third place in Wengen on 16 January 2022. Razzoli was 37 years and 29 days old that day.
- **Clément Noël** claimed three World Cup wins on home snow (all in the slalom), including in Val d'Isère on 12 December 2021.
- Noël dropped down from second to 12th place in the second run of the Gurgl slalom last month.
- **Henrik Kristoffersen** has claimed 50 World Cup slalom podiums, including 23 victories. He is fourth in the all-time men's list for most WC slalom wins, behind Ingemar Stenmark (40), Alberto Tomba (35) and Marcel Hirscher (32).
- Kristoffersen dropped from first to sixth place in the second run of the Val d'Isère slalom in last season's World Cup. The Norwegian recorded the 23rd time in the second run.
- **AJ Ginnis** finished second in the Chamonix slalom on 4 February to record the first and so far only World Cup podium result for Greece in this sport.



- Ginnis came runner-up in the slalom at the world championships 15 days later to make history for Greece again.
- Ginnis can become the first Greek winner of a World Cup event in any of the Olympic winter sports.
 - The last four countries to win its first-ever World Cup event in alpine skiing achieved this maiden win in the slalom: Kalle Palander for Finland (Kitzbühel, January 2003), Šárka Strachová for Czech Republic (Aspen, January 2008), Veronika Velez-Zuzulová for Slovakia (Semmering, December 2012) and Dave Ryding for Great Britain (Kitzbühel, January 2022). **Note:** for Strachová and Velez-Zuzulová we have excluded wins by athletes representing Czechoslovakia.
 - The full list of countries to have claimed a World Cup victory in alpine skiing (from A-Z): Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Czechoslovakia, Finland, France, Germany (including West Germany), Great Britain, Italy, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Soviet Union, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States and Yugoslavia.

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