

PREVIEW MEN'S DOWNHILL VAL GARDENA – Thursday 15 Dec 2022

Aleksander Aamodt Kilde

- Aleksander Aamodt Kilde won the opening two men's World Cup downhill events this season, in Lake Louise and Beaver Creek.
- There have been five seasons in which one skier won the opening three downhill World Cups, and only two occasions were in this century: Jean-Claude Killy (5 in 1967), Franz Klammer (6 in 1974/75 & 5 in 1976/77), Stephan Eberharter (3 in 2002/03) and Aksel Lund Svindal (3 in 2015/16; Lake Louise - Beaver Creek - Val Gardena).
- The last man to win three successive downhill World Cups was Dominik Paris in January-March 2019 (Kitzbühel - Kvitfjell - Slodeu).
- Kilde (8) is one short of surpassing Kjetil Jansrud (8) for third-most World Cup downhill wins among Norwegian men, only behind Aksel Lund Svindal (14) and Lasse Kjus (10).
- Kilde has won four World Cup events in Val Gardena (2 downhill, 2 super-G). The only skier to have won more World Cup events here is Aksel Lund Svindal (7).

Marco Odermatt

- Marco Odermatt finished third and second respectively in the opening downhill World Cups this season. He has yet to claim his first downhill World Cup victory, recording five second places and one third place.
- In this season, Odermatt has won World Cup events in the giant slalom (2) and super-G (1) and he can become the first man to win a giant slalom, super-G and downhill World Cup in a single season since Didier Cuche in 2009/10.
- The last Swiss man to win a downhill World Cup in Val Gardena was Silvan Zurbriggen in December 2010.

Other contenders

- **Dominik Paris** (17) is one shy of equalling Stephan Eberharter (18) in third place on the men's list for most World Cup downhill wins. Franz Klammer (25) and Peter Müller (19) are in first and second place.
- The last Italian man to win a downhill World Cup in Val Gardena is Kristian Ghedina in December 2001. Paris is the most recent Italian man to claim a downhill podium finish here: a third place in December 2014.
- **Beat Feuz** (13) is one shy of equalling Michael Walchhofer and Aksel Lund Svindal (both 14) in joint-seventh place on the men's list for most World Cup downhill wins.
- **Daniel Hemetsberger** finished second in the downhill season opener in Lake Louise. Hemetsberger (31 years old) can become the oldest first-time winner of a men's World Cup downhill since Georg Streitberger (32) on 28 February 2014 in Kvitfjell.

- **Matthias Mayer** finished in fourth place in both the opening two World Cup downhill events this season. He has won seven World Cup downhill events in seven different venues (not yet in Val Gardena). Of all active men, only Dominik Paris (8) and Beat Feuz (8) have won a downhill World Cup in eight different venues. Paris and Feuz have also never won a downhill here.
- **Johan Clarey**, silver medallist in this event at the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games, has collected eight World Cup podiums in the downhill, but failed to win one. Only Heinrich Messner (10) and Mario Scheiber (8) have claimed as many World Cup downhill podiums without ever winning.
- Clarey, 41 years old, could break the record for oldest man to win a World Cup event, set by Didier Cuche (37y-192d) in the Crans-Montana super-G on 24 February 2012.
- The last **Canadian** man to finish on the podium of a downhill World Cup in Val Gardena was Erik Guay when he won in December 2013.
- **Bryce Bennett** won the last downhill in Val Gardena on 18 December 2021. The win is the only time Bennett finished on the podium in 70 downhill appearances.

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