

## PREVIEW MEN'S DOWNHILL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – Sunday 12 Feb 2023

### Aleksander Aamodt Kilde

- Aleksander Aamodt Kilde has won five of the eight men's World Cup downhill events this season. He is the first man to win at least five World Cup downhill events in a single season since Stephan Eberharter in 2001/02 (6).
- Last Wednesday, Kilde claimed his first medal at a world championship when he finished second in the super-G event. Kilde has collected two Olympic medals: silver in the Alpine combined and bronze in the super-G at Beijing 2022.
- Kilde can become the third Norwegian man to win a world title in the downhill, after Aksel Lund Svindal (2007, 2013) and Kjetil Jansrud (2019).

### Vincent Kriechmayr

- Vincent Kriechmayr is the reigning world champion in the men's downhill as he emerged victorious in Cortina d'Ampezzo in 2021. The last man to win back-to-back world titles in the men's downhill was Bernhard Russi in 1970-1972.
- Kriechmayr could join six men on a record two world titles in this event: Aksel Lund Svindal, Russi, Jean-Claude Killy, Toni Sailer, Walter Prager and Zeno Colò.
- Austria has won 17 world titles in the men's downhill, most for a country in a single event.

### Other contenders

- **James Crawford** won the super-G event on 8 February. Only Herman Maier (1999), Bode Miller (2005) and Vincent Kriechmayr (2021) won both men's speed events at a single world championships. Pirmin Zurbriggen and Erik Guay also won both world titles, but at separate world championships.
- Crawford finished 21st in the downhill event at the world championships in 2021. His best downhill result in a World Cup event is a second place in Bormio on 28 December 2022.
- **Marco Odermatt** has recorded seven second places in World Cup downhill events, but has never won one.
- Odermatt has yet to win a medal at a senior world championships. In 2018, Odermatt won five gold medals at the junior world championships: giant slalom, super-G, downhill, Alpine combined and team event.
- **Johan Clarey**, 42 years old, already holds the record of oldest medallist, male or female, at a world championships as he grabbed silver in the men's super-G in 2019 at age 38.

- Last year, Clavey claimed silver in the men's downhill at the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games which made him the oldest Olympic medallist in alpine skiing.
- There is one skier who won a world title after his 37th birthday: Julien Lizeroux in the mixed team event in 2017 (at age 37 years and 162 days).
- The last Frenchman to win the downhill world title was Jean-Claude Killy at the Olympic Games in Grenoble in 1968 (also counted as world title). Since 1968, only two Frenchmen claimed a world championship medal in this event: Luc Alphand in 1996 (bronze) and David Poisson in 2013 (bronze).
- This century, two men won the world title in the downhill on home snow: Austria's Hannes Trinkl in 2001 (St. Anton am Arlberg) and Switzerland's Beat Feuz in 2017 (St. Moritz).

International Ski Federation    [www.fis-ski.com](http://www.fis-ski.com)  
Gracenote Sports on Twitter    [@GracenoteGold](https://twitter.com/GracenoteGold)