

## PREVIEW MEN'S DOWNHILL ZERMATT-CERVINIA – 11-12 Nov 2023

### Various

- This will be the first cross-border event in World Cup history. The skiers will start in Switzerland and finish in Italy.
- The Zermatt-Cervinia downhill against the backdrop of the Matterhorn was set to debut in the World Cup last season, but had to be cancelled to the lack of snow.
- This century, the first men's downhill event of a World Cup season took place in Lake Louise on 20 occasions and in Val d'Isère on three occasions (2001, 2016, 2020).
- On 29 October, the men's season-opening World Cup event in Sölden was cancelled due to strong winds. The giant slalom race got underway and 47 of the 73 skiers on the start list participated in the first of two runs, but the conditions did not allow the race to continue. Of the skiers who completed their first run, Austria's Marco Schwarz had the fastest time of 51.85 seconds, 0.29s ahead of Switzerland's Marco Odermatt in second place.

### Aleksander Aamodt Kilde

- Aleksander Aamodt Kilde claimed the downhill crystal globe in each of the last two seasons, directly after Beat Feuz had won this World Cup classification in four successive seasons (2017/18 - 2020/21).
- This century, Beat Feuz (4 in a row from 2017/18 to 2020/21) and Stephan Eberharter (3 in a row from 2001/02 to 2003/04) are the only male skiers to have won the downhill crystal globe at least three consecutive times.
- Last season, all 10 men's World Cup downhill events were either won by Kilde (6 victories) or Vincent Kriechmayr (4).
- Kilde was the first male skier to win as many as six World Cup downhill events in a single season since Eberharter in 2001/02 and 2002/03 (6 wins in both seasons).
- Kilde won the first World Cup downhill event in last season's World Cup (in Lake Louise on 26 November 2022). The last male skier to win the opening World Cup downhill event in back-to-back seasons was Eberharter (3, 2001/02 - 2003/04).
- Kilde recorded a DNF in the first run in the Sölden giant slalom on 29 October (event cancelled due to bad weather).

### Vincent Kriechmayr

- Vincent Kriechmayr won four of the 10 men's World Cup downhill events last season (Aleksander Aamodt Kilde the other 6). Those four victories were his only World Cup podium finishes in the downhill in 2022/23.
- Kriechmayr won the 10th and final men's World Cup downhill event last season: in Soldeu on 15 March.
- Kriechmayr (9 World Cup downhill wins) can emerge victorious in back-to-back World Cup downhill events for the first time.

## Other contenders

- The last male skier - other than Aleksander Aamodt Kilde or Vincent Kriechmayr - to celebrate a World Cup win in the downhill was **Dominik Paris**, in Kvitfjell on 5 March 2022.
- Only Franz Klammer (25), Peter Müller (19) and Stephan Eberharter (18) won as many World Cup downhill events among men as Paris (17).
- This event starts in Switzerland, but finishes in Italy. Paris has won six downhill World Cup events on Italian snow (all in Bormio). No man won at least seven World Cup downhill events in a specific country. Klammer won six downhill events in Switzerland and six in Austria.
- **Marco Odermatt** is the reigning world champion in the men's downhill. He triumphed ahead of Kilde (silver) and Cameron Alexander (bronze) in Courchevel on 12 February.
- Odermatt has yet to claim a World Cup victory in a downhill event. His 24 individual World Cup victories came in the giant slalom (14) and super-G (10).
- Only Heinrich Messner (10) and Johan Clarey (10) claimed as many podium places in men's World Cup downhill events without ever winning as Odermatt (9, 7 second places and 2 third places).
- Germany's **Romed Baumann** (+0.09) and **Andreas Sander** (+0.13) came second and third respectively behind Kriechmayr in the Soldeu downhill on 15 March.
- Baumann and Sander are eyeing the first men's World Cup downhill victory for Germany since Thomas Dreßen took the win in Saalbach-Hinterglemm on 13 February 2020.
- **Niels Hintermann** achieved the most recent victory for **Switzerland** in a men's World Cup downhill event: in the first Kvitfjell downhill on 4 March 2022. It was a shared win with Canada's Cameron Alexander.
- **Martin Cater** won the opening downhill event of the 2020/21 World Cup season in Val d'Isère, wearing bib number 41. This is his only World Cup podium result in his entire career. Cater's best result in a WC downhill event since his surprise win was a sixth place in Wengen on 15 January 2022.

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