

PREVIEW MEN'S GIANT SLALOM BANSKO – 27-28 Feb 2021

Alexis Pinturault

- Alexis Pinturault has won each of the last three giant slalom events in the World Cup. At the world championships in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Pinturault was on course for gold after the first run, but recorded a DNF after a mistake in his second run.
- The last man to win four successive World Cup giant slalom events was Marcel Hirscher who won five in a row from December 2017 to March 2018. Pinturault himself claimed four consecutive giant slalom victories in the World Cup from February to March 2016.
- If Pinturault wins both giant slaloms held in Bansko, he will become the third man to claim five successive World Cup wins in this discipline, after Hirscher and Ingemar Stenmark (three occasions).
- Pinturault has achieved 17 World Cup wins in the giant slalom, ranking him in fifth place on the all-time men's list. Michael von Grünigen is in fourth place on 23 wins.
- In all disciplines, Pinturault shares ninth place on the men's list for most World Cup wins with Bode Miller (both 33 wins). Benjamin Raich and Aksel Lund Svindal are in seventh place on 36 wins each.
- Pinturault has a small chance of securing the giant slalom crystal globe after the conclusion of the races in Bansko, but he needs to have accumulated a lead of at least 200 points. He can become the fourth Frenchman to win this globe, after Jean-Claude Killy (1966/67, 1967/68), Patrick Russel (1970/71) and Frederic Covili (2001/02).
- Pinturault has won seven World Cup classifications, but they came in the men's Alpine combined (6 times) and the parallel event (2020/21).

Marco Odermatt

- Marco Odermatt is second in the giant slalom standings, only 40 points behind Alexis Pinturault. Like Pinturault, Odermatt made a mistake in his giant slalom appearance at the world championships and recorded a DNF.
- Odermatt finished in the top-four in each of the last eight giant slalom events in the World Cup. In this run, he claimed his first career World Cup win in the giant slalom as he emerged victorious in Santa Caterina on 7 December 2020.
- Odermatt can become the first Swiss man to win multiple World Cup giant slalom events in a season since Carlo Janka in 2009/10 (2).
- Among Swiss men, only Pirmin Zurbriggen (5) and Janka (3) won multiple World Cup giant slalom events before their 24th birthday.

Other contenders

- **Mathieu Faivre** won the men's giant slalom and men's parallel giant slalom at the world championships in Cortina d'Ampezzo earlier this month. Coming into these championships, Faivre's only individual win in a competition at world level was a World Cup giant slalom victory in Val d'Isère on 4 December 2016.
- In 2019, Henrik Kristoffersen won the men's giant slalom world title before also claiming the victory in the first World Cup giant slalom event held after these championships, in Bansko.
- This World Cup season, Faivre's best result in a giant slalom event was an eighth place on the first race day in Santa Caterina on 5 December.
- **Luca De Aliprandini** claimed the silver medal in the men's giant slalom at this year's world championships. It marked his first podium finish at world level.
- De Aliprandini can become the first Italian man to reach a World Cup podium in the giant slalom since Florian Eisath came third in Alta Badia on 18 December 2016. The last Italian man to win a giant slalom in the World Cup was Massimiliano Blardone in Crans-Montana on 26 February 2012.
- De Aliprandini's best result in a giant slalom event this World Cup season were sixth places in both Santa Caterina and Adelboden.
- **Marco Schwarz** collected a bronze medal in this event at the world championships earlier this month. He has yet to claim his first World Cup podium in the giant slalom, with his best result a sixth place in Alta Badia on 22 December 2019.
- Last season, Austria failed to win a single men's giant slalom event for the first time since the 1992/93 season. The last Austrian other than Marcel Hirscher to win a men's giant slalom in the World Cup was Philipp Schörghofer in Hinterstoder on 6 February 2011.
- **Henrik Kristoffersen** (4) could become the second Norwegian to win at least five giant slalom events in the World Cup, after Kjetil André Aamodt (6). He now shares second place with Aksel Lund Svindal (4) and Erik Håker (4).
- **Filip Zubcic** has finished in the top-three in seven of the last 10 World Cup giant slalom events. This run includes wins in Naeba (22 February 2020) and Santa Caterina (5 December 2020).
- Zubcic (2) is one of only three skiers representing Croatia to win a World Cup event, alongside siblings Janica (30) and Ivica Kostelic (26).
- **Žan Kranjec** has won two career World Cup events, both in the giant slalom. He won in Saalbach-Hinterglemm on 19 December 2018 and in Adelboden on 11 January 2020.
- Kranjec could equal Jure Kosir's record for most World Cup wins among male skiers representing Slovenia (3).



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