

PREVIEW MEN'S GIANT SLALOM KRANJSKA GORA – Saturday 13 Mar 2021

Alexis Pinturault

- Alexis Pinturault is leading the giant slalom standings on 550 points. His only remaining challengers for the crystal globe are Marco Odermatt (525) and Filip Zubcic (486).
- Pinturault is hoping to become the fourth Frenchman to win the giant slalom globe, after Jean-Claude Killy (1966/67, 1967/68), Patrick Russel (1970/71) and Frederic Covili (2001/02).
- Pinturault (1,050 points) is also in the lead in the overall standings, ahead of Marco Odermatt (969) and Marco Schwarz (718). He could join Killy (1966/67, 1967/68) and Luc Alphand (1996/97) as French winners of the men's overall.
- Pinturault has won seven World Cup classifications, but they came in the men's Alpine combined (6 times) and parallel event (2020/21).
- 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.
- Only Marcel Hirscher (9) and Ted Ligety (8) have collected more World Cup giant slalom podiums in Kranjska Gora than Pinturault (7). The Frenchman won the race in 2015 and in 2016.

Marco Odermatt

- Marco Odermatt is ranked second in the overall, giant slalom and super-G standings. Coming into this season, his best result in a World Cup classification was a seventh place in the 2019/20 super-G
- The last Swiss man to win the giant slalom crystal globe was Didier Cuche in 2008/09. The last Swiss winner of the men's overall was Carlo Janka in 2009/10.
- Odermatt finished in the top-five in each of the last 10 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 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.

Filip Zubcic

- Filip Zubcic is currently ranked third in the giant slalom standings and still has a chance at winning the crystal globe in this discipline.

- Only two skiers representing Croatia have won a World Cup standing: siblings Janica (10) and Ivica Kostelic (6). The Kostelic siblings won crystal globes in the overall, the slalom and Alpine combined, but never in the giant slalom.
- Zubcic has finished in the top-three in eight of the last 11 World Cup giant slalom events. This run includes wins in Naeba (22 February 2020), Santa Caterina (5 December 2020) and Bansko (27 February 2021).
- Zubcic (3) is one of only three skiers representing Croatia to win a World Cup event, alongside siblings Janica (30) and Ivica Kostelic (26).

Other contenders

- **Mathieu Faivre** finished in the top-two in each of his last four races. He won the parallel giant slalom and giant slalom at the world championships, finished second in the giant slalom in Bansko on 27 February and won the giant slalom in Bansko on 28 February.
- Ahead of the 2021 world 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.
- Faivre can become the fourth Frenchman to win successive giant slalom events in the World Cup, after Jean-Claude Killy (1960s), Jean Noël Augert (1960s) and Alexis Pinturault (2010s).
- French male skiers have only won more World Cup giant slalom events in 1966/67 (5) and 2015/16 (5) than in current season (4).
- **Luca De Aliprandini**, silver medallist in this event at the world championships, 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.
- 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).
- **Žan Kranjec** (2 wins in giant slalom) could equal Jure Kosir's record for most World Cup wins among male skiers representing Slovenia (3).