

## PREVIEW MEN'S GIANT SLALOM SÖLDEN – Sunday 24 Oct 2021

### Alexis Pinturault

- Alexis Pinturault won the giant slalom crystal globe in the 2020/21 World Cup, his first in this discipline. The Frenchman finished in the top-three of the giant slalom standings in each of the last nine seasons.
- Only Ingemar Stenmark (11, including eight wins) has finished in the top-three of the men's giant slalom World Cup standings more often than Pinturault (9, including one win).
- Pinturault can become the second Frenchman to win the giant slalom globe multiple times, after Jean-Claude Killy who won the first two in 1966/67 and 1967/68.
- Pinturault has won 18 World Cup giant slalom events, ranking him in fifth place on the all-time men's list. Michael von Grünigen (23) is in fourth place.
- In the 2020/21 World Cup, Pinturault (4) was the only male skier to win more than two giant slalom events. He won the giant slalom at the World Cup Finals in Lenzerheide.
- Pinturault won the season opener in Sölden on two previous occasions, in 2016/17 and 2019/20. Only Ted Ligety (4) and Hermann Maier (3) have won the Sölden giant slalom more often in the men's World Cup.
- Pinturault can become the second male skier to win a World Cup event in 11 successive seasons, after Alberto Tomba from 1987/88 to 1997/98.

### Marco Odermatt

- Marco Odermatt finished second in last season's giant slalom standings. He claimed his first World Cup wins in this discipline, in Santa Caterina on 7 December 2020 and in Kranjska Gora on 13 March 2021.
- Swiss skiers have won the men's giant slalom globe 11 times, only trailing Austrian skiers (15) for most. Didier Cuche was in 2008/09 the most recent Swiss man to win the giant slalom World Cup standings.
- Odermatt recorded an 11th place in the giant slalom at the World Cup Finals in Lenzerheide. The Swiss had ended in the top-five in each of his previous World Cup appearances in the giant slalom during the 2020/21 season.
- Odermatt can become the fourth Swiss man to win the Sölden giant slalom in the World Cup, after Steve Locher (1996/97), Daniel Albrecht (2008/09) and Cuche (2009/10).

### Other contenders

- The last time the winner of the season opener in Sölden also ended up winning the giant slalom crystal globe was when Marcel Hirscher triumphed in 2014/15.
- **Filip Zubcic** finished on the podium in six giant slalom races last World Cup season, finishing in third place in the giant slalom standings. He claimed victories in Santa Caterina (5 December) and Bansko (27 February).

- Zubcic (3) is one of only three skiers representing Croatia to win a World Cup event, alongside siblings Janica (30) and Ivica Kostelic (26).
- **Mathieu Faivre** won the giant slalom and parallel giant slalom at the 2021 World Championships in Cortina d'Ampezzo.
- Faivre's two World Cup wins both came in the giant slalom, in Val d'Isère on 4 December 2016 and in Bansko on 28 February 2021.
- **Lucas Braathen** won last season's opener in Sölden to become the first man born after the turn of the century (2000) to win a World Cup event. The Norwegian suffered a season-ending injury in January 2021.
- The last man to win the opening giant slalom event in successive World Cup seasons was Ted Ligety, who achieved this in four consecutive seasons from 2010/11 to 2013/14 (1 in Beaver Creek, 3 in Sölden).
- **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).
- Kristoffersen is one of three male skiers to have claimed at least one World Cup win in each of the last eight seasons, alongside Alexis Pinturault (last 10 seasons) and Dominik Paris (last nine seasons).
- **Žan Kranjec** (2 wins in giant slalom) could equal Jure Kosir's record for most World Cup wins among male skiers representing Slovenia (3).
- **Luca De Aliprandini**, silver medallist in this event at the 2021 World Championships, can become the first Italian man to reach a World Cup podium in the giant slalom since Florian Eisath's third place 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.
- **Austrian men** have not won a World Cup giant slalom event since Marcel Hirscher in 2018/19. The last Austrian other than Hirscher to win a men's giant slalom in the World Cup was Philipp Schörghofer in Hinterstoder on 6 February 2011.

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