

PREVIEW MEN'S GIANT SLALOM – Saturday 11 Dec 2021

Marco Odermatt

- Marco Odermatt comes into Val d'Isère as the overall World Cup leader. He won the giant slalom in Sölden on 24 October and the super-G in Beaver Creek on 2 December.
- Odermatt has claimed six World Cup wins in his career, three in the giant slalom and three in the super-G.
- **The most recent man to win the opening two giant slalom events of a World Cup season was Ted Ligety in 2013/14 (Sölden, Beaver Creek).**
- Odermatt finished in the top-five in 12 of his last 13 World Cup appearances in the giant slalom, with an 11th place in Lenzerheide on 20 March 2021 as the exception.
- Swiss male skiers have achieved six World Cup wins in the giant slalom held in Val d'Isère, most recently by Carlo Janka on 13 December 2008.

Alexis Pinturault

- Alexis 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.
- **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.**
- Pinturault won the Val d'Isère giant slalom twice in the World Cup, on 10 December 2016 and on 9 December 2017. The only men who claimed more than two World Cup giant slalom victories in the French ski resort are Marcel Hirscher (5) and Von Grünigen (4).
- Pinturault achieved four World Cup wins in total in Val d'Isère (2 in slalom, 2 in giant slalom). Only Hirscher (7) and Von Grünigen (4) have won as many as four men's World Cup events in the French ski resort.
- Pinturault finished in the top-five in each of his last 12 World Cup appearances in the giant slalom, since a 15th place in Naeba on 22 February 2020.

Other contenders

- Roland Leitinger finished second in the giant slalom in Sölden on 24 October, but suffered a season-ending injury in training shortly after. **Austrian men** have not won a World Cup giant slalom event since Marcel Hirscher in 2018/19 (including in Val d'Isère).
- 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.
- **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. He finished seventh in this season's giant slalom 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).
- The only Norwegian man to win a World Cup giant slalom event in Val d'Isère is Erik Håker (1971).
- **Filip Zubcic** (3) is one of only three skiers representing Croatia to win a World Cup event, alongside siblings Janica (30) and Ivica Kostelic (26).
- **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.
- **River Radamus** finished sixth in the Sölden giant slalom on 24 October. At the age of 23 years and 302 days (on 11 December), he could become the youngest US male skier to finish on a World Cup giant slalom podium since Ted Ligety, who won in Bormio on 14 March 2008 at age 23y-196d.

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