

PREVIEW MEN'S GIANT SLALOM ALTA BADIA – Sunday 19 Dec 2021

Marco Odermatt

- By winning the giant slalom events in Sölden and Val d'Isère, Marco Odermatt became the first man to win the opening two giant slalom events of a World Cup season since Ted Ligety in 2013/14 (Sölden, Beaver Creek).
- **Odermatt can become the fifth man to win the first three giant slalom events of a World Cup season, after Piero Gros (1974/75), Ingemar Stenmark (1977/78, 1978/79, 1979/80), Michael von Grünigen (1995/96) and Ligety (2010/11). Only Stenmark in 1978/79 (all 10) managed to win the first four giant slalom events of the season.**
- The most recent Swiss man to claim three successive World Cup wins in the giant slalom was von Grünigen from March to October 1997. No Swiss man won four giant slalom events in a row in the World Cup.
- Coming into the Val Gardena races, Odermatt had won five World Cup events in 2021. The only Swiss men who had claimed more than five World Cup wins in a single calendar year were Pirmin Zurbriggen (9 in 1987, 6 in 1986) and Peter Müller (6 in 1986).
- Odermatt (3 in 2021) could join von Grünigen (5 in 1997) and Joel Gaspoz (4 in 1986) as the only Swiss men to achieve more than three World Cup giant slalom victories in a calendar year.
- Odermatt finished in the top-five in 13 of his last 14 World Cup appearances in the giant slalom, with an 11th place in Lenzerheide on 20 March 2021 as the exception.

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 most recent World Cup giant slalom contested in Alta Badia, on 20 December 2020.
- Pinturault finished in the top-five in each of his last 13 World Cup appearances in the giant slalom, since a 15th place in Naeba on 22 February 2020.

Other contenders

- **Manuel Feller** (3rd in Val d'Isère) and the currently injured Roland Leitinger (2nd in Sölden) finished on the podium in the opening two giant slalom events of the season. Austrian men have not won a World Cup giant slalom event since Marcel Hirscher in 2018/19 (including in Alta Badia).
- 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.
- Austria achieved a joint-record nine World Cup giant slalom wins in Alta Badia (including six by Hirscher), alongside Italy.
- **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.
- Blardone was the most recent Italian man to win the Alta Badia giant slalom in the World Cup in 2011. Italy won this specific event a joint-record nine times in the World Cup, alongside Austria.
- **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 the only Norwegian man to have won the Alta Badia giant slalom in the World Cup, on 22 December 2019.
- **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.
- **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).

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