

PREVIEW MEN'S DOWNHILL VAL GARDENA – Saturday 18 Dec 2021

Matthias Mayer

- Matthias Mayer finished in second place in the Beaver Creek downhill on 4 December to become the fourth male skier to achieve seven consecutive downhill podiums in the World Cup. Mayer won the opening downhill in Lake Louise on 27 November.
- **Mayer can become the third man to claim a top-three finish in eight successive World Cup downhill events, after Franz Klammer (10, 1976-1977) and Stephan Eberharter (8 in 2003/04).**
- Austrian skiers achieved a record 18 World Cup wins in the Val Gardena downhill, but only once in the last 12 years: Max Franz on 17 December 2016.

Beat Feuz

- By finishing third in the downhill events in Lake Louise and Beaver Creek, Beat Feuz (now 42) broke the men's record for most World Cup downhill podiums, held by Franz Klammer and Peter Müller (both 41).
- Feuz is level with Didier Cuche and Kristian Ghedina (all 12) in ninth place on the list for most men's downhill event wins in the World Cup. Michael Walchhofer and Aksel Lund Svindal (both 14) are in joint-seventh place.
- Feuz finished on the podium in each of the last six downhill events held in the World Cup. He could become the fifth male skier to claim seven successive World Cup downhill podiums, after Klammer (10, 1976-1977), Stephan Eberharter (8 in 2003/04), Helmut Höflehner (7 in 1989/90) and Matthias Mayer (current run of 7, starting in December 2020).
- Switzerland achieved 13 World Cup wins in the downhill in Val Gardena, but only once in the last 28 World Cup seasons: Silvan Zurbriggen in 2010/11.
- Feuz claimed a third place in the downhill in Val Gardena in both 2018/19 and 2020/21.

Aleksander Aamodt Kilde

- Aleksander Aamodt Kilde won the most recent downhill held in the World Cup, in Beaver Creek on 4 December, and the two most recent downhill events contested in Val Gardena (2018, 2020).
- Kilde can become the second man to achieve three successive World Cup wins in the Val Gardena downhill, after Franz Klammer from 1975 to 1976.
- Klammer (4), Kristian Ghedina (4), Peter Müller (3) and Steven Nyman (3) are the male skiers to have won more than two World Cup downhill events in Val Gardena.
- The last Norwegian to claim back-to-back World Cup downhill victories was Aksel Lund Svindal in December 2017 (Beaver Creek, Val Gardena).
- Coming into Val Gardena, Kilde had achieved three of his eight career World Cup victories in Val Gardena. Only Svindal (7), Michael Walchhofer (4), Ghedina (4) and Klammer (4) had won more World Cup events in the Italian ski resort.

Other contenders

- **Dominik Paris** has claimed 15 World Cup victories in the downhill, ranking him in joint-fourth place among men alongside Franz Heinzer and Hermann Maier (both 15). Stephan Eberharter (18) is in third place.
- Paris is the only Italian man in the last 20 years to reach a World Cup downhill podium in Val Gardena: third on 19 December 2014. Italy's most recent win in the Val Gardena downhill was achieved by Kristian Ghedina on 15 December 2001.
- The 36-year-old **Matteo Marsaglia** finished fourth in the Beaver Creek downhill on 4 December, his best career World Cup result in this discipline. He could become the oldest Italian man to reach a World Cup downhill podium, surpassing Ghedina who was 35 when he finished second in Chamonix on 8 January 2005.
- **Max Franz** collected three of this six career World Cup downhill podiums in Val Gardena: first in 2016, third in 2017 and second in 2018.
- Franz's win in the Val Gardena downhill in 2016 marks Austria's only win in this specific event in the last 12 years. Austrian skiers achieved a record 18 World Cup wins in the downhill in Val Gardena.
- **Vincent Kriechmayr's** best World Cup result in the Val Gardena downhill is a seventh place in 2015.
- **Ryan Cochran-Siegle** finished second in the Val Gardena downhill last World Cup season. It was the first World Cup downhill podium for a US male skier in almost four years.
- The only male skier representing United States to win a World Cup downhill event in Val Gardena is Steven Nyman, who in 2006, 2012 and 2014.
- **Johan Clarey** has collected seven World Cup podiums in the downhill (including a third place in Val Gardena in 2009 and 2013), but failed to win one. Only Heinrich Messner (10) and Mario Scheiber (8) have also claimed as many as seven men's World Cup downhill podiums without ever winning.
- The last Frenchman to win a World Cup downhill was Adrien Théaux in Santa Caterina on 29 December 2015.
- Clarey (40 years) could break the record for oldest man to win a World Cup event, set by Didier Cuche (37y-192d) in the Crans-Montana super-G on 24 February 2012.

International Ski Federation www.fis-ski.com
Gracenote Sports on Twitter [@GracenoteGold](https://twitter.com/GracenoteGold)