

## PREVIEW MEN'S GIANT SLALOM KRANJSKA GORA – 12-13 Mar 2022

### Marco Odermatt

- Marco Odermatt won gold in the giant slalom event at the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games. Both of the last two Olympic champions in this discipline also won the giant slalom crystal globe in the same season: Ted Ligety in 2014 and Marcel Hirscher in 2018.
- Each of the last three winners of the giant slalom at the Winter Games also won the first World Cup event after: Carlo Janka in Garmisch-Partenkirchen in 2010, Ligety in Kranjska Gora in 2014 and Hirscher in Kranjska Gora in 2018.
- Odermatt is looking to win his first crystal globe. He currently leads the overall and giant slalom standings. The Swiss could secure the giant slalom globe in Kranjska Gora.
- The most recent Swiss man to win the giant slalom crystal globe was Didier Cuche (2008/09). The last Swiss winner of the men's overall was Carlo Janka (2009/10).
- Odermatt won four of the five giant slalom events in this season's World Cup, with a second-place finish behind Henrik Kristoffersen in Alta Badia on 19 December as the exception. The last man to record more World Cup giant slalom wins in a single season was Marcel Hirscher (6 in 2017/18).
- The only Swiss man to collect more than four World Cup giant slalom victories in a single season is Michael von Grünigen (6 in 1995/96).
- Odermatt won the World Cup giant slalom event in Kranjska Gora last year. He could join Joel Gaspoz (3 giant slalom wins) as only Swiss men on multiple World Cup wins at this venue.

### Alexis Pinturault

- Alexis Pinturault has yet to claim a World Cup victory this season. The Frenchman picked up at least one World Cup win in each of the previous 10 seasons. The only male skier to win a World Cup event in 11 successive seasons is Alberto Tomba from 1987/88 to 1997/98.
- 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 won two World Cup giant slalom events in Kranjska Gora, in 2015 and 2016. He only claimed more giant slalom wins in Hinterstoder and Adelboden (both 3).
- The only male skiers to win the Kranjska Gora giant slalom more than twice in the World Cup are Ted Ligety (6), Marcel Hirscher (4) and Benjamin Raich (4).
- Pinturault recorded his first of 74 World Cup podium finishes in all events in Kranjska Gora: a second place in the giant slalom on 5 March 2011.

## Other contenders

- **Henrik Kristoffersen** is the only man besides Marco Odermatt to win a giant slalom event this World Cup season. The Norwegian triumphed in Alta Badia on 19 December.
- Kristoffersen (5) is one shy of equalling Kjetil André Aamodt (6) on most World Cup giant slalom victories among Norwegians.
- Kristoffersen achieved nine World Cup podiums in Kranjska Gora, including a slalom win on 15 March 2015 and a giant slalom win on 9 March 2019. Only Marcel Hirscher (15) and Benjamin Raich (10) claimed more top-three finishes in Kranjska Gora in the men's World Cup.
- **Manuel Feller** finished on the podium in three giant slalom events this World Cup season (3rd places in Val d'Isère and Alta Badia, 2nd place in Adelboden). Austrian men have not won a World Cup giant slalom event since Marcel Hirscher in Adelboden on 12 January 2019.
- 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.
- **Žan Kranjec** (silver) and **Mathieu Faivre** (bronze) finished on the podium in the giant slalom at the Olympic Winter Games in Beijing. Kranjec became the second man representing Slovenia to win an Olympic medal in alpine skiing, after Jure Kosir (bronze in the slalom in 1994).
- Kranjec recorded two World Cup victories, in the giant slalom in Saalbach-Hinterglemm (2018) and in Adelboden (2020). He could equal Kosir on a record three World Cup wins among male alpine skiers representing Slovenia.
- The three male skiers to have won a World Cup event on home snow in Kranjska Gora are Bojan Krizaj (1982 slalom, 1986 slalom), Rok Petrovic (1985 slalom) and Kosir (1999 slalom). Krizaj and Petrovic did this when Kranjska Gora was part of Yugoslavia.
- Faivre's three world level victories in the giant slalom came in the World Cups in Val d'Isère (2016) and Bansko (2021), and at the 2021 World Championships in Cortina d'Ampezzo.
- Faivre could join Alexis Pinturault (2015, 2016) as only French winners of a men's World Cup giant slalom event in Kranjska Gora.
- **Luca De Aliprandini** can become the first Italian man to win a giant slalom in the World Cup since Massimiliano Blardone in Crans-Montana on 26 February 2012.

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