

## PREVIEW MEN'S DOWNHILL VAL GARDENA – Thursday 14 Dec 2023

### Aleksander Aamodt Kilde

- Last season, all 10 men's World Cup downhill events were either won by Aleksander Aamodt Kilde (6 victories) or Vincent Kriechmayr (4).
- Kilde was the first male skier to win as many as six World Cup downhill events in a single season since Eberharter in 2001/02 and 2002/03 (6 wins in both seasons).
- Kilde won the first World Cup downhill event in last season's World Cup (in Lake Louise on 26 November 2022). The last male skier to win the opening World Cup downhill event in back-to-back seasons was Eberharter (3, 2001/02 - 2003/04).
- Only Aksel Lund Svindal (7) has won as many World Cup events in Val Gardena as Kilde (5, a personal record at a single venue). Kilde won three downhill events and two super-G events at this resort.
- Kilde (3) can tie Kristian Ghedina (4) and Franz Klammer (4) on a record four World Cup downhill wins in Val Gardena.
- Kilde won the second Val Gardena downhill in last season's World Cup (17 December 2022), after he had finished fifth two days earlier.

### Vincent Kriechmayr

- Vincent Kriechmayr won four of the 10 men's World Cup downhill events last season (Aleksander Aamodt Kilde the other 6). Those four victories were his only World Cup podium finishes in the downhill in 2022/23.
- Kriechmayr won the final men's World Cup downhill event last season: in Soldeu on 15 March.
- Kriechmayr (nine World Cup downhill wins) can emerge victorious in back-to-back World Cup downhill events for the first time.
- Kriechmayr won the first of two World Cup downhill events in Val Gardena last season (15 December 2022). He can record three World Cup event wins at a single resort for the first time in his career (he also won the Val Gardena super-G in December 2019).

### Other contenders

- The last male skier - other than Aleksander Aamodt Kilde or Vincent Kriechmayr - to celebrate a World Cup win in the downhill was **Dominik Paris**, in Kvitfjell on 5 March 2022.
- Only Franz Klammer (25), Peter Müller (19) and Stephan Eberharter (18) won as many World Cup downhill events among men as Paris (17).
- **Marco Odermatt** is the reigning world champion in the men's downhill. He triumphed ahead of Kilde (silver) and Cameron Alexander (bronze) in Courchevel on 12 February.

- Odermatt has yet to claim a World Cup victory in a downhill event. His 25 individual World Cup victories came in the giant slalom (15) and super-G (10).
- Odermatt won each of the last three men's World Cup events held in Italy (all super-G events). He has yet to win a WC event in Val Gardena.
- Only Heinrich Messner (10) and Johan Clarey (10) claimed as many podium places in men's World Cup downhill events without ever winning as Odermatt (9, runner-up seven times and twice in third place).
- **Marco Schwarz** is the only alpine skier to finish on the podium in both World Cup events this season: second places in the Gurgl slalom and the the Val d'Isère giant slalom.
- Schwarz has participated in a downhill World Cup event three times in his career (all in 2023), with a sixth place in Wengen as his best result.
- Germany's **Romed Baumann** (+0.09) and **Andreas Sander** (+0.13) came second and third respectively behind Kriechmayr in the Soldeu downhill on 15 March.
- Baumann and Sander are eying the first men's World Cup downhill victory for Germany since Thomas Dreßen took the win in Saalbach-Hinterglemm on 13 February 2020.
- **Niels Hintermann** achieved the most recent victory for **Switzerland** in a men's World Cup downhill event: in the first Kvitfjell downhill on 4 March 2022. It was a shared win with Canada's Cameron Alexander.
- **Martin Cater** won the opening downhill event of the 2020/21 World Cup season in Val d'Isère, wearing bib number 41. This is his only World Cup podium result in his entire career. Cater's best result in a WC downhill event since his surprise win was a sixth place in Wengen on 15 January 2022.

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