PRESS RELEASE

**ALTA BADIA**

**ZENHÄUSERN WINS THE SLALOM, VINATZER JUST OFF THE PODIUM IN FOURTH**

**The 28-year-old Swiss recovers seven positions and wins the race that closes the two days of events in Alta Badia. The skier from Val Gardena makes Italy dream in the first run but then misses the podium by 19 hundredths of a second.**

**Alta Badia (South Tyrolean Dolomites/Italy) -** Ramon Zenhäusernwins the first slalom of the season. After the classic giant slalom on Sunday, this year the last section of the Gran Risa slope hosted the race between the rapid gates and saw the triumph of the two-meter-tall Swiss giant. The 28-year-old skier from the canton of Valais rose from eighth after the first run to the highest step of the podium and managed to celebrate his fourth World Cup victory. Two Austrian skiers made it to the podium with him, both after a beautiful rally: Manuel Feller (second after recovering 11 positions) and Marco Schwarz (from tenth to third in the second run).

The winner said: *«I gave everything in the second run. It was very difficult because it was the first race of the season for me but luckily it worked. I was really very nervous in the days before the slalom because I didn’t know exactly how my condition was. It is wonderful to climb the highest step of the podium because it means that the work you did has paid off. I've never raced well at Madonna di Campiglio but tomorrow I will give it a try».*

A big disappointment for Italy, which had dreamed for one run with Alex Vinatzer. The 21-year-old skier from Val Gardena was leading after the first run but failed to make it to the podium in the second run and finished fourth, 19 hundredths of a second behind the winner and just 7 hundredths from the third place.

This is what Vinatzer said after his race, that was nonetheless stirring: *“If someone had told me before the slalom that I would finish fourth, I would have accepted eagerly. But now I count the hundredths of a second and I realize that I was really close. I only needed to improve by seven hundredths to reach the podium and I think that it actually was within my reach. I tried to attack on the slower snow but I didn't make it. Anyway, congratulations to the organizers because the slope was perfectly groomed and this is evidenced by the fact that many managed to do well in the first run even with high bib numbers. Now, with todays’ injection of energy, I hope to do well also tomorrow night in the 3Tre race.”*

**SKI WORLD CUP ALTA BADIA: A FUNDAMENTAL DRIVER FOR WINTER TOURISM**

This was the end of the two days of events of the Alpine Ski World Cup, an appointment that has been cherished by South Tyroleans and by the inhabitants of Alta Badia since the winter of 1985, when the first edition was held. The event has grown year after year, becoming an icon for the entire valley and making the location itself a point of reference for ski enthusiasts. «*This year more than ever the objective of the two World Cup races was also to support winter tourism in the valley. In this winter season so full of uncertainties both for operators of the tourist sector and for those who want to book their ski holidays, we must give signals of a return to normal life, of the will to never give up and believe*

*in a good start and continuation of the winter season: all together, united in respecting the anti-Covid rules and knowing that the future will be bright again».*

This is what Andy Varallo, President of the O.C. Alpine Ski World Cup Alta Badia, wishes for Alta Badia and the entire world of skiing. He also thanked the volunteers for their splendid work on and off the snow: *«Unity is strength and Alta Badia has evidenced once again that it is able to channel all its energy when it is needed».*

**For further information:**

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