

Alpine skiing: men's downhill

The men's downhill at Val d'Isere tests a racer's ability to carve good turns, ski at speed and maintain an aerodynamic position in the air. Men can average speeds of 104kmh and reach over 160kmh. Women are not far behind - averaging nearly 100kmh

Altitude:
2,809m

Vertical
drop:
973m

Race
distance:
2.9km

Start from top of Belvedere cable car
145kmh

15 seconds from start

Bosse Catherine
36.5m jump

Tower Turn
50 seconds
from start

120kmh

**Ancolie
Passage**
12m wide
channel
between
rock walls

**Bosse
Cathiarde**
46m jump

Finish

Racer aims to make clean
turns with weight on upper ski.
Lower ski barely touches snow

Spraying
snow means
skis are skidding
and losing speed



Ski poles
shaped
to fit snugly
around body

**Current
Olympic
Champions**

Gold: Pirmin Zurbriggen (SUI) 1:59.63
Silver: Peter Müller (SUI) 2:00.14
Bronze: Franck Piccard (FRA) 2:01.24