

MOUNTAIN BIKE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS PREVIEW: CANYON MEDAL PROSPECTS IN DOWNHILL AND CROSS- COUNTRY

Thirteen Canyon riders going for gold; Lux World Cup CFR in action in XC, Sender CFR primed for big DH sends.

For release on Thursday 27th September 2026: The battle for mountain bike's rainbow stripes heads to Val di Sole in Italy this year with cross-country and downhill titles on the line.

Thirteen Canyon riders are aiming for glory in the Dolomites, including **Mathieu van der Poel** (pictured), who has set his sights on a Cross Country (XCO) World Championship title in his fourth discipline, plus defending women's elite XCO champion **Jenny Rissveds**, and reigning German downhill champ **Henri Kiefer** (pictured below), who'll be looking to go one better than his second place in 2025.



The cross-country riders will tackle a technically demanding 4 km course packed with tree roots, loose boulders, rock gardens, short switchbacks and 190 m of elevation.

Downhill riders will face a steep, gnarly 2 km course, widely considered to be one of the steepest and most punishing on the international race circuit.



▲ VDS_Worlds26_009A5559.JPG

Custom bikes for national heroes

With Canyon athletes representing their national teams rather than their trade teams, they'll still be on their familiar race bikes. Cross-country riders will be racing on the new rocket-fast **Lux World Cup CFR** while the downhill riders will be sending it on the **Sender CFR** with each athlete's bike being decked out in the colours of their country flags, such as Valentina Corvi's bike pictured here.



Tune in for all the action

The action starts for Canyon on Thursday 27th September with junior rider **Noa Filippi** (FR) in the Cross-Country (XCO) race, followed by U23 stars **Thibaut Francois** (ES) and **Valentina Corvi** (IT), and Elites **Luca Schwarzbauer** (DE), **Jenny Rissveds** (SW), **Sam Gaze** (NZ) and **Puck Pieterse** (NL, pictured) in the Elite short track (XCC) race.



Attention switches to Downhill on Friday 28th. **Aletha Ostgaard** (US), **Henri Kiefer** (DE), **Luca Shaw** (US), **Troy Brosnan** (AUS) and **Marine Cabirou** (FR) will be hoping to breeze through qualification before storming the

finals on Saturday 29th.

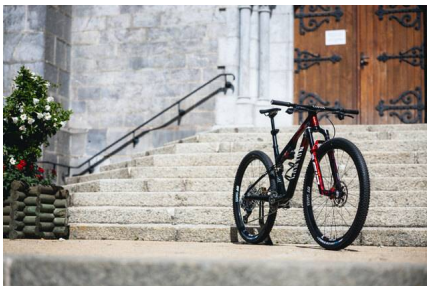
The cross-country focus resumes on Sunday 30th with the U23 and Elite XCO races where **Francois, Corvi, Schwarzbauer, Gaze, Pieterse** and **Rissveds** will be back in action, along with the hotly anticipated MTB World Championships return of **Mathieu van der Poel** (NL), who will be aiming to add a coveted fourth jersey to his Road, Cyclocross and Gravel World Championship titles.

For all the latest up-to-the-minute information be sure to check out [@canyon MTB on Instagram](#), or to watch the racing action live with Canyon, visit the [Pure Cycling Festival](#) taking place in Koblenz this weekend.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. A full gallery of Canyon team bike images are available per discipline. See below for examples or click the links for more images.

Cross-country



[Additional XC bike photos available here.](#)

Downhill



[Additional DH bike photos available here.](#)

About Canyon

What started in founder Roman Arnold's garage has grown into the world's leading direct-to-consumer bicycle manufacturer. Renowned as one of the most innovative brands in the industry, Canyon designs bikes for every discipline – from road, triathlon and gravel to mountain, city, trekking, and e-bikes.

Canyon partners with the finest athletes and teams on the planet, taking insights from the toughest race conditions to engineer bikes and components for the highest levels of the sport. The result: award-winning bikes that set the standard for performance, innovation, and engineering – built to deliver at the highest level on any terrain.

"Pure Cycling" is the mission driving Canyon to ignite a passion for cycling around the world thanks to a streamlined direct-to-consumer model, smart digital services, and Canyon Stores and service partners offering expert advice, community experiences, and full support. At the same time, Canyon is committed to responsible business practices, sustainable production, and the safety and well-being of employees, partners, and the environment.

Canyon bikes are available at canyon.com, through the Canyon app, and at selected Canyon Stores worldwide.

Contact details

Ben Hillsdon

Director of Communications

Copy link

<https://media-centre.canyon.com/en-INT/269663-mountain-bike-world-championships-preview-canyon-medal-prospects-in-downhill-and-cross-country/>