



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**21 January 2025**

## **THE ERTA 2025 BELONGS TO NEW ZEALAND**

*The more than 10,000 spectators in the stands of the ERTA were eagerly awaiting the triumph of the "Tiger", Federica Brignone. However, it was New Zealander Alice Robinson who emerged victorious, earning the title of Princess of Kronplatz. Hopes of celebrating a victory by Federica Brignone, who led after the first run, were dashed when she went off course after only a few gates in the second run. Lara Colturi delivered an excellent performance, finishing in 4th place, while Lara Della Mea moved up from 22nd to 11th, recording the third-fastest time in the second run.*

Kronplatz – The race day, which began with light snowfall and overcast skies, quickly transformed into a lively festival as warmer temperatures and the sun made their appearance just in time for the start of the first run. Federica Brignone, the overall World Cup leader, seized the lead early on with bib number 2 and laid the foundation for what could have been her triumph on the slope where she had won the inaugural Audi FIS Ski World Cup Kronplatz in 2017. With a time of 56.04 seconds, she claimed first place after the first run, leaving last year's winner, Swiss skier Lara Gut-Behrami (+0.19), and the 2022 champion, Swedish skier Sara Hector (+0.27), behind her. Eight competitors were within one second, including Norwegian Thea Stjernesund (+0.42), New Zealander Alice Robinson (+0.49), and Italian skier Lara Colturi, who represents Albania (+0.96). A lapse in concentration cost star skier Sofia Goggia her race, as she made a minor inside-ski error on the flat section of the first run. Strong performances came from other Italian athletes, including Asja Zenere (20th), Lara Della Mea (22nd), and Ilaria Ghisalberty (26th), all of whom qualified for the second run. However, South Tyrolean skier Elisa Platino narrowly missed out on

the top 30 by just one hundredth of a second, as did Giorgia Collomb, Alessia Guerinoni, and Carole Agnelli.

The stands, spectator areas, and finish zone were packed for the second run, where the lower section of the course was in shadow, further complicating conditions. Additionally, the Norwegian course setter made the second run more technical and angular compared to the first, increasing the risk of skiers going off course. The first standout performance came from Italian skier Lara Della Mea, who, with the third-fastest time of the run, sat on the leader's throne for a long time and ultimately moved up from 22nd to 11th, tying with Norway's Kajsa Vickhoff Lie. Asja Zenere (ITA), who was 20th after the first run, could only manage the 25th-fastest time and finished 24th overall. A dramatic back-and-forth followed among the American skiers A.J. Hurt, Nina O'Brien, and Paula Moltzan, who took turns holding the lead in rapid succession until it was Lara Colturi's turn. The young Italian, racing under the Albanian flag and sitting in 8th place after the first run, posted the fifth-fastest time and moved just behind Moltzan, making her the skier to beat.

The finale was breathtaking – Alice Robinson, the New Zealander in 5th place after the first run, clocked the fastest second-run time with 58.75 seconds and moved into the lead. She successfully held off an attack from Norwegian Thea Stjernesund, who was 4th after the first run, as the top three competitors sealed the result. Sara Hector (SWE) lost her balance on a small crest in the upper part of the course and fell. Lara Gut-Behrami (SUI) also struggled on the same crest, staying in the race by sheer luck but squandering her chance for victory. Finally, the highly anticipated Federica Brignone, who led after the first run, lost her ideal line at the same spot and missed the next gate. With that, the dream of a double victory for the "Tiger", after her success in 2017, came to an abrupt end, and the thousands of fans fell silent.

Instead, there were celebrations for Alice Robinson and the entire New Zealand team for this outstanding victory on one of the toughest courses in the women's World Cup circuit, as well as for claiming the red bib of the Giant Slalom leader. Second place went to defending champion Lara Gut-Behrami (SUI), while third place went to Paula Moltzan (USA).

### **Special Award for the “Best Rookie”**

Once again, the special award “Best Rookie,” established by the organising committee “Al Plan Events,” was presented. The award, given to the athlete who qualifies for the second run with the highest starting bib number, consists of a holiday voucher worth 2,000 euros. This year, the prize went to the young Italian Lara Della Mea, who entered the top 30 with bib number 39.

## **Recap of the results:**

1) ROBINSON Alice	NZL	1:55.28
2) GUT-BEHRAMI Lara	SUI	1:55.84 (+0.56)
3) MOLTZAN Paula	USA	1:56.22 (+0.94)
4) COLTURI Lara	ALB	1:56.50 (+1.22)
5) LJUTIC Zrinka	CRO	1:56.60 (+1.32)

## **Comments of the day**

### **Alice Robinson – winner – NZL**

"This is a very special moment – I've achieved many podium finishes since last year, but it's been such a long time since my last victory. During this time, I've often asked myself whether I'm still capable of winning. I'm thinking of my family who are watching me, and I'm proud for them as well. I've learned a lot during this period. I was young when I started winning, and so much has changed – my life as a whole. Moreover, I wasn't in top form last month due to the flu. I had ups and downs, but this race makes up for everything."

### **Danny Kastlunger – OC-Chairman Kronplatz**

"Of course, a victory by Federica Brignone would have turned our stadium at the foot of the ERTA into a boiling cauldron, but we celebrate every athlete who manages to conquer this now-legendary course because anyone who wins here has truly earned it. Alice Robinson is a Kronplatz princess of the highest calibre, and we are all delighted for her. Overall, it was a day to remember, and as always, I want to thank all of our more than 400 volunteers and staff members, without whom none of this would be possible."

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