

LAAX OPEN media contact:
Astrid Nehls, open@laax.com, +41 79 9024215, +43 676 4314410

Press release
LAAX, Graubünden, Switzerland
27/01/2023



LAAX OPEN 2023

A fabulously successful freestyle festival with all the frills: from the best sporting performances of professional freestylers in pipe and park, to relaxed runs in the fresh snow with four open-air live concerts in the rocksresort, the LAAX lives freestyle in every facet - and has done so for over thirty years.

“It is my second time at the LAAX OPEN. There is so much history in this event and that makes me so excited to be here,” says current Slopestyle Olympic champion Zoi Sadowski Synnott, who can now also call herself a LAAX OPEN champion. In 2021, she had to give way to the eternal best, Jamie Anderson (five OPEN victories in LAAX) but now, in 2023, it’s the young snowboard ladies who are at the top, one of whom is also Mitsuki Ono, winning her first LAAX OPEN title and at the same time, her first World Cup pipe victory in the LAAX superpipe, previously dominated by Kelly Clark and Chloe Kim. It was a different story in the women’s freeskiing competition, where experience and routine still take precedence over whippersnapping. With Johanne Killi, the same winner as in 2014 beamed from the top podium in 2023.

Figures abound: 150 accredited members of the media equal the number of volunteers, a World Cup team of 400 including riders, coaches, service staff for material, psyche and physique, 165,000 CHF prize money, 6,000 World Cup points for 6 new champions, 12,000 passionate people in minus 15 degrees at Crap Sogn Gion, 2,252 metres above sea level, marveling at the high-flyers in the superpipe, reaching heights of over 6 metres from the coping, so 13 metres in total before landing safely in the flat. What a performance by Scotty James and Queralt Castellet - who practically live in the LAAX pipe - and especially Valentino Guseli and Kaisha Hirano! However, in the end, it was Ruka Hirano who raised the winner’s trophy into the LAAX night sky.

The concept of combining freeskiing with snowboarding at Europe’s most renowned freestyle event was a success, not only but also because of the winner and local hero Andri Ragettli, who attracts a fan base aged 0-100 who simply adore him. It was great to see the togetherness during the slopestyle on the Ladies’ Friday or on the final Sunday when snowboards, skis and riders meshed in the start zone before the contest began. Creative riding and jibbing through the Snowpark LAAX – a la the pros, now once again open to everyone.

For those who wish to follow the sporting contest in slopestyle again online, [YouTube LAAX](#) is recommended for the preliminary rounds and [Red Bull TV](#) for the finals. For total immersion in the LAAX OPEN 2023 for 2 minutes, watch the [Event-Wrap-Up-Edit](#).

Further information and all results can be found on laax.com/open. #LAAXOPEN

