



## Exceptional performances at the second edition of the Nendaz Backcountry Invitational hosted by Tanner Hall and MGG

The 2nd edition of the Nendaz Backcountry Invitational took place on Saturday the 5th of February 2022 on a slope which was in surprisingly good condition despite the little snow that had fallen in recent days. A selection of the best freestyle and backcountry riders competed in an exceptional setting under the watchful eye of American freeride legend Tanner Hall.

The Plan du Fou sector in Nendaz witnessed an outstanding event today. The second edition of the Nendaz Backcountry Invitational took place under glorious sunshine and with much better snow conditions than were expected. After a 2021 edition with no spectators, the 2022 edition saw a large audience come to admire a show that had already been announced on paper as out-of-this world.

In the men's ski category, the winner of the event Magnus Graner (SWE) blew the audience away with perfectly placed 720, backflip and 360. Second place went to Switzerland's Sampo Vallotton with a huge double backflip in the middle of his run. The former world champion and star of the international freeride scene Markus Eder completed the podium thanks to his committed runs and incredible tricks. Switzerland's Maxime Chabloz, currently leader of the Freeride World Tour, took 4th place with 5 solid and perfectly executed runs.

In the men's snowboarding category, an exceptional moment was experienced during one of Eliot Dänzer's (CH) runs, double junior world champion and member of the Nendaz Freeride Team. He did a 360 on the upper part of the slope, a huge double-backflip in the middle and finished with a gigantic superman frontflip. He finished ahead of former freeride world champion who is currently in 5th position on the Freeride World Tour Cody Bramwell (UK) and Frenchman Hugo Serra.

The ladies were also in great shape and put on an incredible show. In ski category, the Swiss Alisson Charmey achieved the double following her victory last year with a perfectly executed 720. Léa Bouard from France catapulted herself on a gigantic backflip allowing her to take the second place of the competition in front of Léa Klaue (CH) who unfortunately injured her knee.

In the snowboard category, the victory went to the Swiss Celia Petrig with a magnificent 360 and an original line, while the New Zealander Maria Kuzma took second place ahead of the Swiss Elsa Sjöstedt.

This edition was sponsored by none other than Tanner Hall, freeskiing legend and holder of 7 X-Games gold medals. Slightly injured, the "ski boss" didn't want to take the start this morning but when he saw that the conditions were much better than expected, he went to the top to do a demonstration run with a huge double-backflip.

Tanner Hall: "I'm literally speechless...One of the best contests that's ever really gone down in skiing and I know it's a big claim but we had the illest group of riders who laid some runs down today I didn't ever think I would see. Big thank you to you all the athletes for stepping up and crushing it on the highest level it was one helluva show!"

For Mont Gele Gear, the official partner of the Backcountry Invitational, participation in the event was a natural choice. Thanks to shared values with the Nendaz Freeride Association, such as the promotion of the sport, eco-responsible considerations, and a passion for freeride, this second edition was able to take place and offer spectators some truly memorable moments.



## Extraordinary images

All the conditions were present to create breathtaking images of the event. Taken under the supervision of Jonathan Vieu, you can find below a selection of the best shots of the day.

**Link to photos 2022 :**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3z7i45hpbvbb204j/AADSaanPjpSd2rAsBpLTyDQOa?dl=0>

**(Photos Credits : Levy Loye)**

Additional images and videos are available on request.

## Ranking :

### Men's Ski

1. Magnus Graner (SWE)
2. Sampo Vallotton (CH)
3. Markus Eder (AUT)
4. Maxime Chabloz (CH)
5. Alex Hackel (UK)
6. Remco Kayser (CH)
7. Paddy Graham (UK)
8. Tom Ritsch (AUT)
9. Laurent de Martin (CH)

### Men's Snowboard

1. Eliot Dänzer (CH)
2. Cody Bramwell (UK)
3. Hugo Serra (FR)

### Women's Snowboard

1. Celia Petrig (CH)
2. Maria Kuzma (NZL)
3. Léa Klaue (CH)

### Women's Ski

1. Alisson Charmey - CH
2. Lea Bouard - FR
3. Elsa Sjöstedt CH

## Contact person :

Romain Robert-Nicoud  
Association Nendaz Freeride  
Communications Manager  
Tel : +41 79 707 81 18  
Email : [romain@nendazfreeride.ch](mailto:romain@nendazfreeride.ch)