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Tove Alexandersson dominates the 42km du Mont-Blanc, Rémi Bonnet delivers a masterclass

Marathon du Mont-Blanc 2026

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Marathon du Mont-Blanc confirms its place among the world's premier mountain marathons

The Marathon du Mont-Blanc once again lived up to its reputation as one of the world's benchmark mountain trail races. **The flagship event of the weekend brought together an exceptionally deep elite field in Chamonix, with many of the world's top mountain runners lining up to test themselves against one another.**

After overnight thunderstorms, race day offered almost perfect conditions. **Cool temperatures during the opening kilometres and spectacular morning light accompanied the athletes as they set off on the iconic 42 km loop around the Chamonix valley.**

The 2026 edition will be remembered for an extraordinary performance. Already the 2025 Short Trail World Champion and winner this season of both Zegama-Aizkorri and the Grand Raid Ventoux by UTMB, Mistral Marathon Trail, **Sweden's Tove Alexandersson added the Marathon du Mont-Blanc to her remarkable carrer.** Running alone from start to finish after setting off thirty minutes ahead of the men's field, she completed the course in 3:55:07, becoming the first woman ever to break the four-hour barrier in Chamonix. **Her winning time was 20 minutes faster** than Joyline Chepngeno's 2025 course-winning performance (4:15:20). It also made her the first woman in the history of the race to physically cross the finish line ahead of the men's winner.

In the men's race, Switzerland's **Rémi Bonnet returned to the top of the podium on a course he knows exceptionally well.** Winner in 2023 and runner-up in 2024, Bonnet claimed his second Marathon du Mont-Blanc title in 3:33:14 (12.4 km/h average speed), reaffirming his place among the world's leading mountain endurance athletes. The victory was particularly significant

after a difficult period disrupted by injury and came against one of the strongest elite fields ever assembled for the race.



Rémi Bonnet masters the race to reclaim the Marathon du Mont-Blanc title

From the opening kilometres, a lead group of five favourites took control of the race: Kenyans Kevin Kibet and Sammy Rotich Chelangat, Swiss runners Rémi Bonnet and Adrien Briffod, and Frenchman Frédéric Tranchand. **The first decisive move came on the climb to Aiguillette des Posettes, where Bonnet launched a blistering attack that immediately shattered the front group.** Only Tranchand and Kibet were able to respond. Tranchand was the first to lose contact, followed shortly afterwards by Kibet, allowing the Swiss athlete to crest the Posettes climb alone.

But the race was far from over. On the descent, Frédéric Tranchand showcased his outstanding technical skills. The newly crowned double European champion in trail and mountain running, who also boasts seven World Orienteering Championships medals, quickly bridged back to Bonnet, swept past him and moved into the lead. The two runners then engaged in a thrilling battle all the way to Col des Montets, where Bonnet gradually worked his way back onto Tranchand's shoulder.

The decisive moment came on the climb to Le Béchar. Rémi Bonnet launched another powerful acceleration. Tranchand fought back brilliantly, staying within twenty metres without ever cracking. Knowing that one of the world's finest descenders was right behind him, Bonnet decided to make his move before La Flégère, taking every risk to build a decisive gap before the final descent, convinced his rival could reel him in downhill. It proved to be the winning strategy. Despite charging down the final descent at full speed, Tranchand was ultimately unable to close the gap.

Rémi Bonnet, one of the world's leading ski mountaineering athletes with 34 ISMF World Cup victories, crossed the line in 3:33:14 to reclaim the Marathon du Mont-Blanc title after winning in 2023 and finishing runner-up in 2024. Tranchand completed an outstanding race to secure second place in 3:35:46.

Behind this spectacular duel, Spain's Manuel Merillas lived up to his status as one of the pre-race favourites. Already victorious this season at the legendary Zegama-Aizkorri, Calamorro Skyrace and Chinte Trail, he once again demonstrated his trademark race management. Racing with his distinctive bamboo poles, Merillas remained patient within the chasing group, led for much of the race by Davide Magnini, before making his decisive move on the climb to La Flégère. There he finally dropped Kevin Kibet to secure third place in 3:41:43.

Winner's reaction:

Rémi Bonnet (SUI) - 1st :

"It came down to the very end. Fred never gave up, and knowing he's one of the best downhill runners in the world, I knew I couldn't afford to ease off on the final descent. My calves were starting to cramp, so I had to manage that as well. I really enjoyed battling at the front. This victory means a lot. Last year I spent the whole season injured, and ever since I've been trying to get back to my best without quite managing to deliver over the marathon distance. Today proves that hard work always pays off. Even when things aren't going your way, you have to keep believing."

Men's Top 3 Finishers:

1st Rémi BONNET (SUI) - Team Salomon - 03:33:14

2nd Frédéric TRANCHAND (FRA) - Team Merrell - 03:35:46 (+2:32)

3rd Manuel MERILLAS MOLEDO (ESP) - Team New Balance - 03:41:43 (+08:29)



Tove Alexandersson delivers a historic masterclass

The women's race quickly turned into a one-woman show. From the opening kilometres, Sweden's Tove Alexandersson set the pace and broke away from the field. No one would see her again. **Starting thirty minutes ahead of the men's race, she led from start to finish, crossing the line in 3:55:07. She finished 11th overall, becoming the first woman in the history of the Marathon du Mont-Blanc to break the four-hour barrier.**

Her achievement did not stop there. **Thanks to that remarkable performance, Alexandersson also became the first woman ever to physically cross the finish line ahead of the men's winner**, a moment that will remain one of the defining images in the history of the Marathon du Mont-Blanc. Men's champion Rémi Bonnet still had her in his sights at La Flégère, but knew he would never catch her. As he admitted after the race: *"I knew from the start I wasn't going to catch her considering the shape she was in."*

A former Skyrunning World Champion and multiple World Orienteering Champion, Alexandersson credits her orienteering background for shaping her approach to racing. Accustomed to competing alone, with no visual reference to her rivals and no indication of the overall standings, she has learned to maintain maximum effort until the finish line without ever easing off. That mental strength proved to be one of the keys to her extraordinary performance in Chamonix.

Behind the untouchable Alexandersson, **Norway's Ida Amélie Robsahm quickly settled into a comfortable second place and finished in 4:18:28**, never able to challenge the Swedish leader. **Britain's Naomi Lang secured third place in 4:21:23**, holding her podium position all the way to the finish. **France's Émilie Bulle produced an impressive comeback, steadily moving through the field.** Although she closed the gap on the leaders, she was unable to reel in the three lone breakaway runners and finished just outside the podium in 4:35:58.

Winner's reaction:

Tove Alexandersson (SUE) - 1st:

"Today was a real challenge because, unlike most races where the women start together with the men, I had to push myself on my own for almost four hours. I just had to keep going, even as the fatigue built up, and find the motivation to maintain the pace all the way to the finish. My orienteering background helps me a lot mentally. In orienteering you're alone in the forest, you never know where the other competitors are or what the standings look like. You learn to give everything right to the finish line."

Women's Top 3 Finishers:

1st Tove ALEXANDERSSON (SUE) - Team Salomon - 03:55:07

2nd Ida Amelie ROBSHAM (NOR) - Team Asics Trail - 04:18:28 (+23:21)

3rd Naomi LANG (BRI) - Team Salomon - 04:21:23 (+26:16)

A word from Fred Comte, Director of the Club des Sports de Chamonix

"The 2026 edition will undoubtedly go down as one of the most memorable in the history of the Marathon du Mont-Blanc. The level of competition was simply outstanding, with the deepest elite field we have ever welcomed. Today, the world's best trail runners come to Chamonix to compete against one another, and that is a tremendous source of pride for our entire team. The performances we witnessed throughout the weekend perfectly reflect the evolution of trail running. Athletes are now better prepared, better supported and build their seasons around carefully targeted goals. The result is faster races and performances that continue to push the limits of the sport, as illustrated by Tove Alexandersson's extraordinary display and Rémi Bonnet's victory against an exceptionally strong field.

This edition was also shaped by particularly challenging weather conditions. We had to adjust the schedule of several races and make the difficult decision to cancel the Duo Étoilé. Those decisions were taken in close consultation with our safety committee and were essential. The safety of our runners, volunteers and everyone involved will always remain our absolute priority. Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the more than 1,000 volunteers, rescue teams, timing crews and everyone who helped deliver such a successful event despite the challenging conditions. The Marathon du Mont-Blanc has become a benchmark event on the international trail running calendar, but above all, it remains a remarkable human adventure, deeply rooted in the Chamonix Valley."

42km du Mont-Blanc Results



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