

UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE - 2020/21 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



FC Salzburg

Stadion Salzburg - Salzburg

Thursday 18 February 2021

21.00CET (21.00 local time)

Round of 32, First leg



Villarreal CF

Last updated 16/02/2021 16:00CET



Match background

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Match background

The two clubs who have played the most games in the UEFA Europa League go head to head in the round of 32 as Salzburg take on Villarreal.

- The Austrian club finished third in their UEFA Champions League group during the autumn, behind holders Bayern München and an Atlético de Madrid side that clinched qualification at the expense of Jesse Marsch's team with a 2-0 win at the Stadion Salzburg on Matchday 6. Villarreal, meanwhile, cruised to first place in UEFA Europa League Group I ahead of Maccabi Tel-Aviv, Sivasspor and Qarabağ.

Previous meetings

- Honours are even in the clubs' previous meetings with each having won two of the four matches and scored five goals.

- Salzburg got the better of Villarreal in the 2009/10 UEFA Europa League group stage, beating them home (2-0) and away (1-0) as they topped the section with maximum points, but it was the Spanish side who prevailed when the teams re-encountered each other in the 2014/15 round of 32, winning 2-1 at home and 3-1 away.

- Having lost twice to Atlético in this season's UEFA Champions League – they also went down 3-2 in Madrid – Salzburg's record against Spanish clubs is now W4 D2 L10. Three of those four victories have come at home, the most recent against Real Sociedad in the 2017/18 UEFA Europa League round of 32; that 2-1 win sealed a 4-3 aggregate success in a campaign in which Salzburg progressed all the way through to the semi-finals.

- Villarreal's other four games against Austrian teams have also come in the UEFA Europa League – all against Rapid Wien – with two home wins plus a draw and defeat in Austria. The most recent encounters came in the 2018/19 group stage, Villarreal winning 5-0 at home and drawing 0-0 in Vienna a fortnight later. The Spanish club's record in Austria is W1 D1 L2.

Form guide

Salzburg

- Salzburg were crowned champions of Austria for the seventh successive year in 2019/20, a season in which they also competed in the UEFA Champions League group stage for the first time in 25 years, finishing third in their section behind Liverpool and Napoli.

- This season Salzburg returned to Europe's flagship club competition, ending a run of 13 successive eliminations in UEFA Champions League qualifying since their first group stage appearance in 1994/95 by overcoming Maccabi Tel-Aviv in the play-offs (2-1 a, 3-1 h). Marsch's men took four points off Lokomotiv Moskva (2-2 h, 3-1 a) but lost all four games to Atlético and Bayern (2-6 h, 1-3 a), finishing third once again.

- The Austrian club have therefore returned to the UEFA Europa League, where they are making a joint-record tenth appearance in the competition proper. This is their eighth participation in the round of 32, the previous seven having produced three qualifications and four eliminations. Defeated by Standard Liège in 2009/10 (2-3 a, 0-0 h), Metalist Kharkiv in 2011/12 (0-4 h, 1-4 a), Villarreal in 2014/15 and Eintracht Frankfurt last season (1-4 a, 2-2 h), they overcame Ajax in 2013/14 (3-0 a, 3-1 h), Real Sociedad in 2017/18 and Club Brugge in 2018/19 (1-2 a, 4-0 h).

- Salzburg's home record in the UEFA Europa League knockout phase is W6 D3 L3, with no defeats in the last seven such encounters (W5 D2) since that 1-3 defeat by Villarreal six years ago. In European competition overall, however, they have won just one of their last seven home fixtures, losing four.

Villarreal

- Villarreal finished fifth in the 2019/20 Spanish Liga to return to Europe after a season's absence and participate in the UEFA Europa League group stage for a record-equalling eighth time.

- The Spanish club, who have reached the UEFA Europa League semi-finals twice (in 2010/11 and 2015/16), have yet to finish outside the top two in their eight group campaigns and have now gone through as section winners four times. Unai Emery's side won Group I at a canter this term, scoring 12 goals in winning their first three matches before sealing first place with a 1-0 win at Sivasspor on Matchday 5.

- Villarreal have won four of their previous seven round of 32 ties. The victories came against Napoli in 2010/11 (0-0 a, 2-1 h) and 2015/16 (1-0 h, 1-1 a), Salzburg in 2014/15 and Sporting CP in 2018/19 (1-0 a, 1-1 h); the defeats were by Wolfsburg in 2009/10 (2-2 h, 1-4 a), Roma in 2016/17 (0-4 h, 1-0 a) and Lyon in 2017/18 (1-3 a, 0-1 h). Their away record at this stage is W3 D2 L2.

- Villarreal are unbeaten in eight UEFA Europa League matches outside Spain (W4 D4), this season's away fixtures bringing wins in Turkey against Qarabağ (3-1) and Sivasspor and a 1-1 draw in Israel against Maccabi Tel-Aviv. Villarreal's last defeats in this competition were against local rivals Valencia – 1-3 at home and 0-2 away in the

2018/19 quarter-final – and they are now undefeated by non-Spanish opposition in 16 European matches (W10 D6).

UEFA Europa League squad changes

• Salzburg

In: Nico Mantl (Unterhaching), Bernardo (Brighton, loan), Brenden Aaronson (Philadelphia)

Out: Dominik Szoboszlai (Leipzig), Masaya Okugawa (Bielefeld, loan), Jérôme Onguéné (Genoa, loan), Majeed Ashimeru (Anderlecht, loan)

• Villarreal

In: Étienne Capoue (Watford), Hassan Haissem, Andrei Rațiu

Out: Soufiane Chakla (Getafe, loan), Vicente Iborra, Takefusa Kubo (end of loan)

Links and trivia

- Salzburg's tenth participation in the UEFA Europa League, group stage to final, is a competition record that they share with Ajax.
- Salzburg's long-serving skipper Andreas Ulmer played in all four of his club's previous matches against Villarreal.
- Salzburg's Maximilian Wöber spent the second half of 2018/19 on loan at Sevilla, playing 90 minutes in a 3-0 defeat away to Villarreal.
- Salzburg's Bernardo, who joined in January on loan from Brighton, made his Premier League debut for the English club on 11 August 2018 in a 2-0 defeat away to a Watford side that included Villarreal's new signing Étienne Capoue.
- Villarreal have played more matches in the UEFA Europa League, group stage to final, than any other club. Including their cancelled Matchday 6 encounter at home to Qarabağ, which was officially awarded as a 3-0 victory, this is their 81st encounter – eight more than second-placed Salzburg.
- The 17 goals credited to Villarreal this season have lifted their all-time total in the competition to a record 141, 12 more than Liga rivals Sevilla. They also now hold the record for most UEFA Europa League wins (43), one more than Sevilla and four more than third-placed Salzburg.
- Villarreal coach Emery has overseen 84 matches in the UEFA Europa League proper – 26 more than any other coach. He led Sevilla to all three of their trophy successes from 2013/14 to 2015/16 and was also a losing finalist with Arsenal in 2018/19.

Legend

Competitions

Club competitions

UCL: UEFA Champions League
ECCC: European Champion Clubs' Cup
UEL: UEFA Europa League
UCUP: UEFA Cup
UCWC: UEFA Cup Winners' Cup
SCUP: UEFA Super Cup
UIC: UEFA Intertoto Cup
ICF: Inter-Cities Fairs Cup

National team competitions

EURO: UEFA European Football Championship
WC: FIFA World Cup
CONFCUP: FIFA Confederations Cup
FRIE: Friendly internationals
U21FRIE: Under-21 friendly internationals
U21: UEFA European Under-21 Championship
U17: UEFA Under-17 Championship
U16: UEFA European Under-16 Championship
U19: UEFA Under-19 Championship
U18: UEFA European Under-18 Championship
WWC: FIFA Women's World Cup
WEURO: UEFA European Women's Championship

Competition stages

F: Final	GS: Group stage
GS1: First group stage	GS2: Second group stage
3QR: Third qualifying round	R1: First round
R2: Second round	R3: Third round
R4: Fourth round	PR: Preliminary round
SF: Semi-finals	QF: Quarter-finals
R16: round of 16	QR: Qualifying round
R32: Round of 32	1QR: First qualifying round
1st: first leg	2QR: Second qualifying round
2nd: second leg	FT: Final tournament
PO: Play-off	ELITE: Elite round
Rep: Replay	3rdPO: Third-place play-off
PO - FT: Play-off for Final Tournament	GS-FT: Group stage – final tournament

Other abbreviations

(aet): After extra time	pens: Penalties
No.: Number	og: Own goal
ag: Match decided on away goals	P: Penalty
Pld: Matches played	agg: Aggregate
Pos.: Position	AP: Appearances
Pts: Points	Comp.: Competition
R: Sent off (straight red card)	D: Drawn
Res.: Result	DoB: Date of birth
sg: Match decided by silver goal	ET: Extra Time
GF: Goals for	GA: Goals against
gg: Match decided by golden goal	t: Match decided by toss of a coin
Y/R: Sent off (two yellow cards)	W: Won
f: Match forfeited	Y: Booked
	L: Lost
	Nat.: Nationality
	N/A: Not applicable

Statistics

-: Denotes player substituted
*****: Denotes player sent off

+: Denotes player introduced
+/-: Denotes player introduced and substituted

Squad list

D: Disciplinary

*****: Misses next match if booked

S: Suspended

QUAL: All UEFA qualifiers

UEL: Current season total UEFA Europa League appearances from the group stage onwards prior to the current matchday

UEL: Total appearances in the UEFA Europa League, group stage to final only

UEFA: All-time total appearances in UEFA club competition including qualifying

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