

SAVOIE
MONT
BLANC
FRENCH ALPS



PRESS PACK

WINTER 2023/2024



SAVOIE MONT BLANC FRENCH ALPS

110



SKI RESORTS IN ONE WORLD-CLASS
WINTER-SPORTS DESTINATION

2



RESORTS FEATURING AMONG
THE TOP 10 IN THE WORLD ⁽¹⁾

ACCOUNTS FOR **55%**
OF FRENCH SKI TERRAIN ⁽²⁾



20



LINKED SKI AREAS ⁽³⁾

5



CROSS-COUNTRY SKI AREAS
IN FRANCE'S TOP 10 ⁽⁴⁾

39.3



MILLION TOURIST
OVERNIGHT STAYS IN WINTER
2022/2023 ⁽⁵⁾

72%

FRENCH
VISITORS ⁽⁶⁾



28%



INTERNATIONAL
VISITORS ⁽⁶⁾

(of which 32% are British)

33

MICHELIN-STARRED
RESTAURANTS



62

RESTAURANTS AWARDED
GAULT&MILLAU TOQUES

16



PRODUCTS CARRYING
THE LABELS AOP

(appellation d'origine protégée),
IGP (indication géographique
protégée) and/or IG
(indication géographique)

TOP

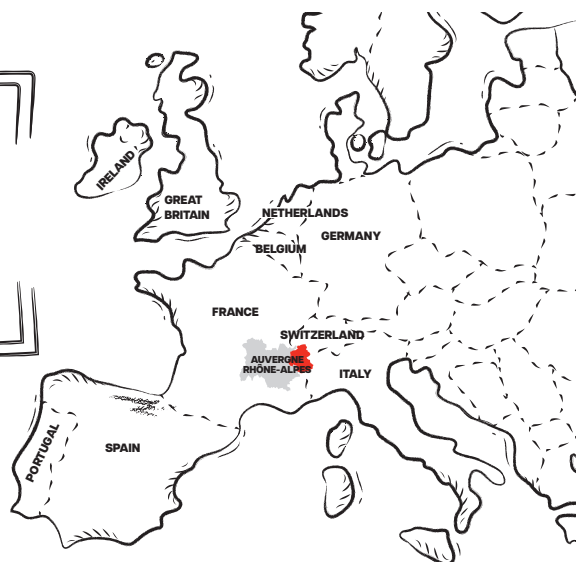
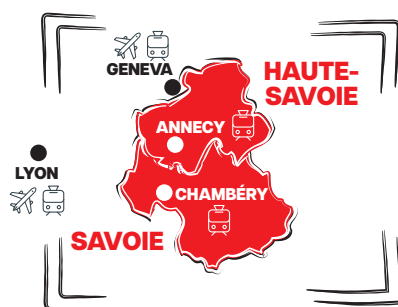


MOUNTAIN REGION
ON THE WORLD
ON SOCIAL MEDIA ⁽⁷⁾



LABELS

- 16 RESORTS
WITH THE FLOCON VERT LABEL
- 21 RESORTS
WITH THE FAMILLE PLUS LABEL
- 4 RESORTS WITH THE VILLES D'ART
ET D'HISTOIRE LABEL
- 49 VENUES WITH THE TOURISME
ET HANDICAP LABEL



⁽¹⁾ Laurent Vanat - average of the last 5 winters
(Les Arcs and La Plagne)

⁽²⁾ Atout France 2017

⁽³⁾ Apidae - Winter 22/23 (linked by skiing or shuttle)

⁽⁴⁾ Nordic France - Winter 2021/22 (Savoie Grand Revard,
Les Saisies, Bessans, Le Grand-Bornand and Plateau des Glières)

⁽⁵⁾ BET - F. Marchand (Savoie Mont Blanc snow perimeter)

⁽⁶⁾ INSEE - Winter 2021/22 (accommodation surveys)

⁽⁷⁾ We like travel - Work and social media study 2021

EDITO

A TRUE MOUNTAIN EXPERIENCE

With the ski season just three months away, we reveal what Savoie Mont Blanc has come up with to give holidaymakers some truly memorable experiences this winter.

Savoie Mont Blanc's reputation is second to none, with 18 linked alpine ski resorts ranked among the very best in the world – and amazing Nordic skiing to boot.

This destination offers much more than (admittedly beautiful) lakes-and-mountains vistas, taking in 110 ski resorts offering a deliberately diverse range of options. And in Savoie Mont Blanc you get a healthy dose of our heritage too, in mountain towns and villages crammed with local characters, crafts and traditions.

Savoie Mont Blanc offers you an exhilarating yet somehow familiar mountain experience, where you can cosy up and recharge your batteries, reconnecting with what matters in away-from-it-all surroundings. And where fleeting moments of total peace make it feel like time has slowed down.

That's why our pick of the season doesn't focus solely on what's new for 2023/24 but reflects the way society is changing, indulging our need to immerse ourselves in the vastness of the landscape; to rediscover the meaning in our lives through traditions that bring us reassurance; to choose a winter holiday that makes an exciting and carefree break with the everyday. The accommodation, eateries, activities, events, experiences and initiatives featured in this press pack, always with our responsibility to the environment in mind, have been selected to show you a destination that is constantly changing.

The people who make Savoie Mont Blanc what it is have been working hard behind the scenes to adapt their strategy and their offer, taking responsibility for their future and the future of this incredible destination. Alongside the nuts and bolts of this press pack, we think it's important to give space to the initiatives and input from the people who are helping tourism to change and meet the challenges of our transition to a cleaner, greener world.

The mountains are the realm of an awe-inspiring magic that our destination will always do its utmost to bring you. Enjoy the winter.

Céline & Rhonda



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- A packed programme of events this winter

**LET THE MAGIC OF WINTER
COME OVER YOU**





© SMB - IDUVETPOUR2



© SMB - IDUVETPOUR2

With falling temperatures, shorter days and the occasional sprinkling of white showing on the mountain tops, winter is starting to make its presence felt. And with the first snow falls, the ski resorts of Savoie and Haute Savoie are getting ready to roll out the welcome mat to winter sports lovers. Powder hounds, backcountry fanatics, groups of friends ready for fun, skiers with a penchant for immaculately groomed pistes, all are checking over their ski gear, sharpening their edges and already dreaming of carving those first turns in the white stuff. A skiing destination with an international reputation, Savoie Mont Blanc is home to the world's finest skiing, everything from tucked-away boutique resorts to XXL skiing meccas, where winter sports devotees can fill their boots, soaking up the thrills of endless forest skiing and legendary black runs. And when the intoxication of speed has faded, catch your breath, pinch yourself and savour the feeling of actually being here, amidst the magnificent scenery.

© SMB - IDUVETPOUR2

THE MOUNTAINS - EXPERIENCING IS BELIEVING

In these picture-postcard surroundings, some like to jump on a lift to experience the adrenaline rush of a fast descent. But others prefer to linger a while, soaking up the soft, silent surroundings of the snowy landscape. They adopt a slower pace, taking in every moment of a snowshoeing ramble or winter walk with someone special. Marvelling at the tumbling journey of a single snowflake. Drinking in the beauty of nature at its wildest and recognising the happiness you feel when you're away from it all, just you and the elements, far removed from everyday life. Or perhaps enjoying the rush of a sledge ride with the kids, or a snowball fight that ends with everyone a winner. When dusk comes, the ski lifts cease their endless to and fro and the streets light up. A fire crackles in the hearth, the restaurants and bars slowly fill with beaming skiers - and the sky soon scintillates with a shower of stars. It is then that the mountains, this place where authenticity and creativity, tradition and innovation come together, become the antidote to the stresses and strains of modern life. And the values inherent in everything around us remind us that what really counts is here, among these lakes and mountains.





© SMB - LANSARD

TREND #01

With breathtaking landscapes and surroundings begging to be explored, the mountains are the ultimate thrillseeker's destination. But thrills come in different guises. On a sheer rockface or under the ice, in the first light of dawn or the silvery moonlight, in the air, on land or under water, our need to immerse ourselves in nature, face to face with the elements, to get to grips with the untamed mountainside and feel its power, has never been so keenly felt. Nor has the desire to explore nature all around us, to absorb its benign influence and energy. To immerse ourselves in the mountains and feel truly alive.

BEING AT ONE WITH THE ELEMENTS



© SMB - MATT-CHARLAND



© SMB - MATT-CHARLAND



© SMB - 1DUVETPOUR2

LIV SANSOZ, THE MOUNTAINS THROUGH AND THROUGH

A prodigious climber, experienced mountaineer, passionate paraglider and seasoned skier, Liv Sansoz has made the mountains of Savoie Mont Blanc her playground. And her home.



AT ALTITUDE, THERE'S
NO FILTER: YOU FACE
THE UNVARNISHED TRUTH

Being one with the mountains. On a rockface most of the time, but also descending a snow-covered mountainside on skis or flying high above under a paraglider, or simply walking through the snow. This is the life of Liv Sansoz, born in Bourg-Saint-Maurice, raised within a ski lift's span of the resorts of Savoie and Haute Savoie and steeped in tales of the climbing exploits of Bonatti, Messner and Rebuffat. In a decade of competitive rock climbing, Liv has racked up some 50 podium places.

She now lives in Chamonix Valley-Mont Blanc, where she recently won her spurs as a fully qualified mountain guide, a role in which she can pass on her passion for the mountains. What makes her tick? Glacial landscapes and jagged peaks outlined against the sky, sheer walls of granite or limestone, the babbling of a mountain brook, the view from the summit and the sunrise that greets her in her mountain-top bivvy.

"I like being outdoors, in touch with nature. My approach to the mountains is softly, softly," says the supremely athletic multiple world rock climbing champion, who likes to experiment with every possible way of going up and coming down a mountain.

In 2017, after completing the world's finest and most challenging climbs, she decided to attempt every one of the 82 four-thousand-metre peaks in the European Alps – without using any ski lifts and descending on skis or by paraglider. *"I wanted to do something befitting the kind of person I am, that ties in with my values and my take on*

the mountains. The idea was not to achieve an exploit but to rediscover the wilder side of the mountains and remind myself I have an unlimited playground accessible from where I live. It also gave me the opportunity to climb summits I didn't know." This adventure, shared with some 20 different climbing companions along the way, taught her a lot. *"You never stop learning from the mountains. You learn a lot about yourself, and about others too. At altitude, there's no filter: you face the unvarnished truth. You're in incredible natural surroundings. That gives you energy but also involves an element of risk. You have to approach the mountains with a lot of humility, tame them and keep a cool head, aware of your abilities and limits and those of your climbing companions, keeping an eye on the weather, taking the right gear, preparing thoroughly..."* says Liv, who advocates climbing with a guide to enable you to tap in to everything that fascinates about the mountains.

All too aware of the impact of climate change on our mountains, in 2020, Liv – who was already working with Protect Our Winter and Mountain Riders – co-founded the association 'Une Bouteille à la Mer', which encourages outdoor brands to reduce their use of plastics in packaging and creates visual campaigns to raise public awareness of climate change. She is currently taking part in an air quality data collection campaign in the mountain areas where she spends time. For Liv, Savoie Mont Blanc is simply where she belongs. It is here that she gets her energy, working tirelessly to educate everyone around her about just how fragile the mountains are – but also about the endless joy of immersing yourself in the Great Outdoors here.

GET SHIVERS DOWN YOUR SPINE



ICE DIVE WITHOUT EQUIPMENT

Dressed warmly in a thick neoprene wetsuit, enjoy a magical dive into the silent blue icy world of the Lac de Tignes. An experienced guide will teach you to manage your breathing and the cold in order to be fully present in the moment. You can also take part in this intoxicating sensory experience at the Lac de Lou in Les Menuires and the Lac de Montriond near Morzine and Avoriaz.

en.tignes.net
st-martin-belleville.com/en
avoriaz.com/en

SWIM IN ICE-COLD WATER

Plunging into icy water releases endorphins, which relieves stress, reduces anxiety, and increases one's general sense of wellbeing. Find out for yourself in Samoëns, the new capital of swimming in icy water – a growing sport that may well make it into the Olympic Games in 2026. The Grand Massif resort, which only last winter welcomed the world champions in the sport, offers training sessions in the Lac au Dames, ranging from a simple cold dip lasting 10 to 20 minutes to a full-on experience comprising breath control, walking and bathing, lasting 90 minutes to two hours. You emerge feeling more alive in body and mind.

Or at Saint Pierre d'Entremont, in the Chartreuse Mountains, Delphine offers revitalising bathing sessions in a cold river.

samoens.com/en
chartreuse-tourisme.com/en

MAKE LIKE A MONK WITH SOME COLD YOGA

Invented on the high plateaux of the Himalayas, Toumo or cold yoga is used by Tibetan monks to counter glacial temperatures. The ancient practice has now made its way to Les Saisies, where Hélène, yogi and mountain guide, offers snowshoeing followed by a yoga session in the snow, allowing you to discover the power of your inner fire. You can also do this in Courchevel, Méribel or Le Grand-Bornand, pushing the limits of your resistance to the cold and unleashing a wave of happiness hormones.

sentiers-helene.com
courchevel.com/en
meribel.net/en
masalayoga.fr

EXPERIENCE EXTREME COLD

In Evian-les-Bains with its famous thermal baths, cold is held to have many benefits. Used at a moderate level (from -5 to -9°C) for 45 to 60 minutes, it banishes mental fatigue and stimulates the metabolism. Alternatively, there's cryotherapy, which means exposing the body to extreme cold (down to -150°C) for a very short time (3 minutes) to boost oxygenisation and cellular activity, detoxify the body and promote healing. The technique is on offer in the resorts of Méribel, at the Antarès Wellness Clinic, and Courchevel, at Aquamotion.

lesthermesevian.com
antares-wellness.com/fr
aquamotion-courchevel.com/en

FLOAT ON THE ICE LAPPISH STYLE

A quirky form of meditation popular in Lapland, ice floating consists of lying flat, swaddled in a fat wetsuit, in water of about 5°C. Try it in the Lac du Lou in Les Menuires, by moonlight or candlelight. Both body and soul relax within moments. This method of immersing yourself in nature is also available in Val Cenis and Val d'Isère.

50shadesofblue.fr
sensationsvanoise.com
valdisere.com/en



EXPERIENCE TOTAL IMMERSION



© ISTOCK

GO ON AN ADVENTURE BY PULKA SLEDGE

In the Chartreuse Mountains, Alpes Ascensions offers you the chance become a trapper for two days. Linked to a pulka containing their belongings, wearing snowshoes, and led by a guide, adventurers explore the massif from the Désert d'Entremont to a site specially set up for building an igloo for the night. Once the encampment is set up, there's a well-deserved campfire and fondue by moonlight. At first light, the adventure continues with some wildlife viewing, before you head back to civilisation with memories that will last a lifetime.

alpes-ascensions.com/en

SPEND THE NIGHT IN A MOUNTAIN REFUGE

A hike up to a mountain hut to spend the night there is one of those quintessential mountain experiences that people fantasise about. Departing from Tignes with a qualified, highly experienced guide from Oxygène ski school, you'll head up to a cosy high-altitude refuge wearing Nordic skis or a splitboard. Still dazzled by the stunning landscapes you've traversed, you'll get to savour a well-deserved Savoie meal before sinking into a reviving sleep in your room.

oxygene.ski/tignes-ski-school



© ISTOCK

SPEND THE NIGHT ON A GLACIER

This mind-blowing descent of the legendary Vallée Blanche beneath a full moon is a true fairytale experience for highly experienced skiers, who descend 20km and 2000m between ice ridges and crevasses, amidst the peaks and spires of the Mont Blanc massif. Led by the high-mountain guides of the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix, the descent ends with a warming dinner in the Refuge du Requin. The same Compagnie des Guides offers a night's camping on the Glacier du Géant at the heart of the Vallée Blanche.

chamonix-guides.com/en

GO OUT LOOKING FOR WILDLIFE

In Les Gets, mountain guide and amateur ornithologist Dominique will teach you all the secrets of mountain wildlife during her family-friendly snowshoe excursions – great opportunities to learn about environmental responsibility and the protection of the mountain environment.

The same reverence for nature is the inspiration for two excursions in the Bauges natural regional park: The 'Preservation of Local Wildlife' walk in the Cœur de Tarentaise, and outings to observe endemic alpine species in Praz de Lys-Sommand.

lesgets-raquette.com
parcdesbauges.com
rando-montagne.fr
en.prazdelys-sommand.com

HORSE-RIDING BY STARLIGHT

In the mountains the nights are just as gorgeous as the days, which is why resorts are increasing the number of night-time activities. In Pralognan-la-Vanoise, the Ranch de l'Ancolie organises horse-riding beneath the stars for both beginners and experienced riders.

In this same mountain village, Thierry offers fun workshops teaching you to recognise the stars, planets, and constellations, accompanied by short sessions in how to photograph the night sky. You'll come away with personalised souvenir photos. Other astronomy evenings are offered in Arêches-Beaufort, Saint-Jean-de-Sixt and the Alpes du Léman (in French only).

pralognan.com/en
areches-beaufort.com
en.saintjeandesixt.com
en.alpesduleman.com

A SUNSET WALK

Like sunrise, sunset is a special moment for connecting with the elements and meditating. At Les Saisies, you start with a gentle snowshoe walk, followed by breathing exercises then a moon-themed meditation session led by a mountain guide, to relax and revitalise you. Reconnected with the nature around you, you'll come away with a great feeling of mental and physical tranquility.

lessaisies.com

DISCOVER NEW PISTES

FOLLOW WINTER TRAILS

Whether you're an occasional or a frequent runner, running in snow allows you to improve your technique and endurance in pristine nature. You'll discover unique sensations in Samoëns during half days out with a mountain guide.

In Praz-de-Lys Sommand, Vincent offers an 'off-piste' white trail in snowshoes, allowing you to venture into semi-virgin spaces.

samoens.com/en
parmontsetmerveilles.fr



© SMB - MARTELET

GO BACK UP THE SLOPES

In Arêches-Beaufort, a Nordic skiing mecca, swap the chairlift for skis fitted with synthetic seal skins in introductory sessions run in partnership with Dynafit during the school holidays, including trail loops, guided outings, and safety and best practice advice.

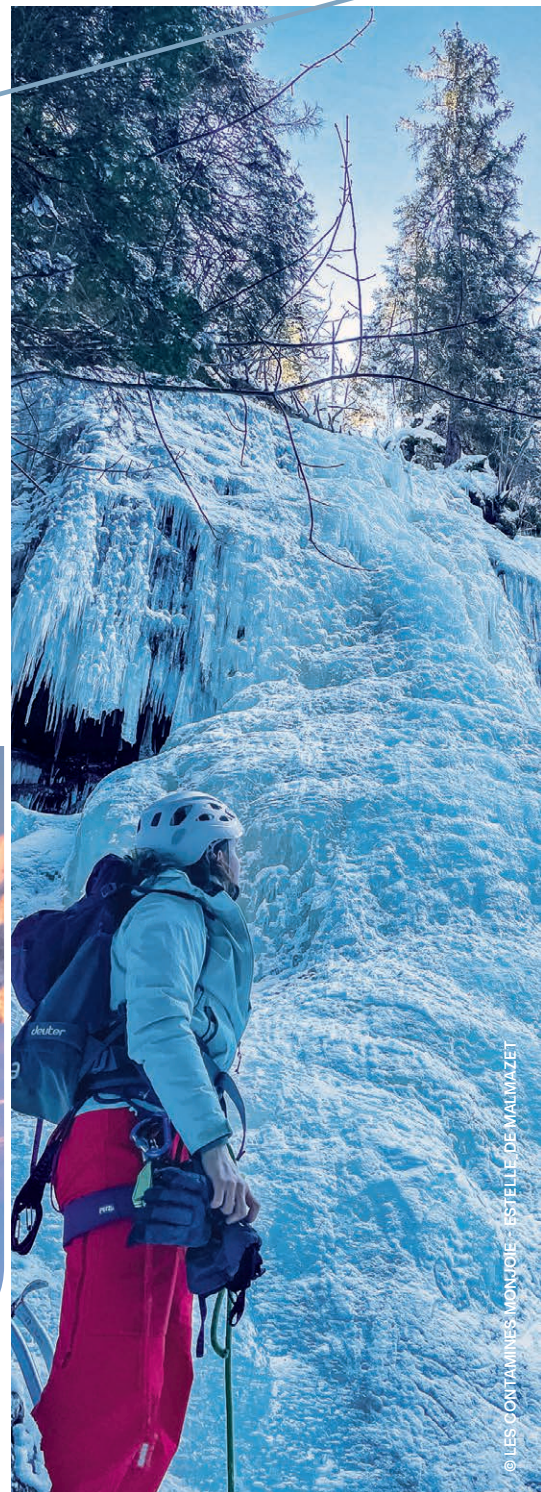
The joy of skiing and climbing combined is also available in Cluses Arves in training by high-mountain guide Olivier, and in Bessans, with Thibault Anselmet, 2023 world champion in ski mountaineering.

areches-beaufort.com
cluses-montagnes-tourisme.com
haute-maurienne-vanoise.com

WORK ON YOUR TURNS

An ancient nordic sport, telemark has had a resurgence, and this winter, in Méribel, skiers seduced by the elegance of the style can learn it with Chris, Phil and Sven Lau, a trio of award-winning champions. Alternatively, at Les Contamines-Montjoie, the Association Val Montjoie Télémarmark organises sessions for beginners or improvers all through the winter, including week-long workshops in how to move fluidly on all kinds of terrain. Morillon in the Haut Giffre and Peisey-Vallandry are also turning to telemark with fun half-day initiation sessions.

esf-meribel.com
lescontamines.com
zigzagski.com
peiseyvallandry-skischool.co.uk



© LES CONTAMINES-MONTJOIE - ESTELLE DE MALMAZET

GO AGAINST THE CURRENT

Less strenuous than climbing frozen waterfalls, ruisseling consists of ascending frozen streams using crampons and ice axes. This highly immersive nature experience can be enjoyed in Les Contamines-Montjoie, where staff at the guides office get you familiar with the tools before you set out on one of several secret itineraries at the heart of the national nature reserve of Les Contamines, the highest in all France. And in Samoëns, walkers can climb frozen streams and rivers wearing snowshoes.

lescontamines.com
samoens.com/en

... AND ÄLSO...

Here are some other experiences perfect for holidaymakers who want to fully experience the immensity of the mountains.

LET TREES AND OTHER PLANTLIFE REVITALISE YOU during a forest-bathing session in Morzine-Avoriaz (snowandtrek-morzine.com).

LEARN TO BUILD AN IGLOO like a real trapper, in Méribel (prosneige.fr; for 5- to 13-year-olds) and Faucigny Glières (didiercottureau.com)

PILOT A BOBSLEIGH down the icy Olympic track in La Plagne (en.la-plagne.com).

TRAIN IN MOUNTAIN AVALANCHE RESCUE in the Chartreuse, with instructors certified by the Association Nationale pour l'Étude de la Neige et des Avalanches (chartreuse-tourisme.com/en), and in à La Rosière with its Safety Shred Days from 10 to 14 January (larosiere.net/en).

PLUNGE INTO THE DEPTHS OF NATURE with a workshop in winter survival at the Monts de Genève (montsdegeneve.com) or Sainte-Foy-Tarentaise (saintefoy-tarentaise.com/en).

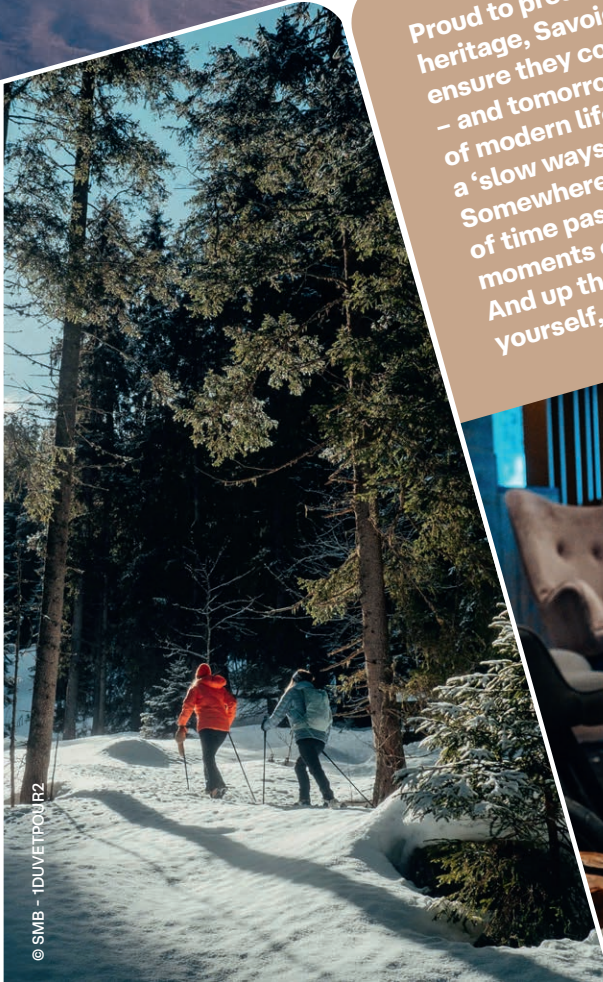
CHALLENGE YOURSELF BY CLIMBING AN ICE WATERFALL in the vallée de Peisey (peisey-vallandry.com), or in Bessans (haute-maurienne-vanoise.com), winter canyoning in the Haut-Giffre (latitudecanyon.fr) or drytooling (a dry version of an ice waterfall, using crampons and an ice axe to climb the rock) in the Alpes du Léman (en.alpesduleman.com).

GO BEYOND YOUR LIMITS with disabled sports and equipment courtesy of the Comité Départemental Handisport Savoie: downhill and Nordic skiing and hire of all-terrain wheelchairs (handisport.org).

TREND #02

ESCAPING THE EVERYDAY

Proud to preserve and maintain its cultural identity and heritage, Savoie Mont Blanc is revisiting its traditions to ensure they continue to appeal to today's mountaineers – and tomorrow's too. Far removed from the hectic pace of modern life, our mountain destination is keen to cultivate a 'slow ways' mentality, creating a soft, reassuring cocoon. Somewhere visitors can take refuge, where they are conscious of time passing. To focus more on the now, soak up fleeting moments of inner peace and hold on to them for ever. And up there, far from it all, you can reconnect with what counts: yourself, and others.



© SMB - 1DUVETPOUR2



© SMB - 1DUVETPOUR2

© AGENCE BLUE1310

ROMAIN TROLLET, A FRESH TAKE ON MOUNTAIN HOSPITALITY

Visionary founder and managing director of the Assas Hotels group, Romain Trollet has come up with a hotel philosophy that breaks with convention to provide a true mountain experience.

Ensuring that guests enjoy a shared experience – together. That's the ambition that drives Romain Trollet, a graduate of EHL Hospitality Business School in Lausanne and founder of Assas Hotels in 2011. *"People who choose the mountains for their holiday destination want to share something with others: time, activities, encounters, experiences,"* he says. To meet this need, he came up with the idea of hotels that lend themselves to experience-sharing.



© ASSAS HOTELS

**WHAT MAKES YOU
COME BACK TO A
HOTEL, IS THE WAY
YOU WERE TREATED
WHEN YOU WERE HERE
THE TIME BEFORE.**

Places that offer much more than just a bed for the night, where guests can tap in to a social environment with their family, friends or colleagues and create shared memories. *"When we opened the Heliopic in Chamonix-Mont-Blanc back in 2013, the mountain hotel industry was still essentially family-run and poorly structured,"* says Romain. *"Our idea was to bring something different to the mix."*

A champion of the philosophy of bringing people together to enjoy a shared experience, a value that is typical of mountain people, Romain creates unusual and appealing social spaces, where a guest arriving in the vast lobby is offered a coffee before being asked for their credit card details; where the spaces are designed so that groups of people can sit and spend time together. Like at the Araucaria in La Plagne, which boasts a 1,000m² social space that includes a cocktail bar, stage with piano, children's play area and games for adults too. Lively places with the feel of a large family home, where coffee and cakes are served to guests returning from the pistes while their kids are having fun with face-painting. Keen to *"provide a brand-new customer experience,"* Romain encourages guests to meet the locals – like at the Heliopic where, every morning and evening, guides and mountain professionals pop along to share a hot drink with holidaymakers.

Because the mountains are different to other places, and venturing out there requires a certain level of trust. *"We run mountain hotels from the mountains. So it's important to us that our hotels embrace the culture of the Alps."* It's a view shared by all the hotel staff, aware of the importance of providing the kind of welcome that reflects the strong mountain tradition of hospitality. *"You might first come to a hotel because of the pictures you've seen on social media, but what makes you come back is the way you were treated when you were here the time before,"* says Romain. And that applies to the local residents too. *"Our hotels have to appeal to different kinds of guests and adapt to the locations they adopt so that they become an integral part of local life."* For example, whereas the Araucaria is firmly aimed at the family-friendly end, the RockyPop Hotels in Flaine and Les Houches apply a more unusual, financially accessible approach. In Val Thorens, the Hôtel Marielle, which has taken over

the former ski school premises built by Marielle Goitschel in the 1970s, features a timeless 'sports chic' look in homage to the French skiing legend. Proof that there is more than one way to express the mountains, even if the desire to escape to them is universal.

STEEP YOURSELF IN TRADITION



© HÔTEL DES DROMONTS - AVORIAZ 1900

BE COSSETED IN A MOUNTAIN CHALET WITH A SPA

From an ancient farm chalet belonging to his family, Philippe Carteron has created a remote and timeless refuge inspired by the spirit of sharing and helping others that is so dear to mountain dwellers. Tucked away in alpine meadows between the Beauregard plateau and Aravis mountains, this charming 1787 building has a refined but authentic ambiance in its blend of antique and flea-market finds with modern tech. It includes newly created B&B suites sleeping two, four or six, a separate hut in an old storehouse, a spa with a new massage and relaxation room, and a restaurant serving mountain recipes based on dishes by Philippe's grandmother. It's very much a place for serenity and for letting go.

lafermedesvonezins.com

STAY IN AN ICONIC BUILDING

Like a lighthouse, the legendary Montenvers refuge has been watching over the Mer de Glace glacier since 1880. Built facing the Aiguille Verte, the Drus and the Aiguilles Rouges to accommodate the first downhill skiers and 'glacier tourists', this venue up at 1913m is a gem of alpine heritage, with a granite facade and red-painted shutters evoking the heyday of mountain exploration but also embracing modern comforts. It's a unique experience you should pair with a visit to the ice cave reached by a new cable-car opened as part of the development of the Montenvers-Mer de Glace site. From December 2024, there will also be the new Centre d'interprétation du Climat et des Glaciers du Montenvers, an immersive museum looking at glaciers, their history and how they have fared under climate change, but from this winter you can also learn about the impact of climate change from guides.

en.refugedumontenvers.com
montblancnaturalresort.com/en



© AGENCE BLUET310

CHECK OUT A HOTEL AND BAR WITH A 1960S VIBE

The first hotel in Avoriaz and a major work by visionary architect Jacques Labro, the Hôtel des Dromonts can be recognised by its unique architecture in the shape of a pine cone. It's home to one of the hippest bars in the ski resort, open to all: Le 67, named for the year this ski resort was created, serving vintage cocktails (Dirty Martini, Bloody Mary, Speakeasy 70s...) amidst 1960s-inspired decor.

hoteldesdromonts.com

SPEND THE NIGHT IN AN AUTHENTIC FARM

With its typical mountain decor and warm family atmosphere, this old Beaufortain farm converted into a hotel has a comforting charm. Nestled at the foot of the pistes, La Ferme du Chozal, also famous for its high-end cuisine, offers 12 elegant rooms and suites, one in a converted storehouse, plus a wellbeing zone and a cosy library where one can swot up on the glory days of the mountain pioneers.

lafermeduchozal.com/en

STAY IN A HAVEN OF FAMILY NOSTALGIA

In 2013, cousins Valérie and Audrey took on the hotel that had been created by their ancestors in the heart of Val d'Isère, transforming it into a cocoon of 17 guestrooms with sturdy wooden furnishings and reupholstered antique armchairs, plus a huge family-friendly dining room serving recipes handed down by their grandmother, decorated by old family photos.

les5freres.com/en

HOLE UP IN
THE MOUNTAINS

© CHEZMILGONNET
alcohol abuse is dangerous for your health, consume in moderation

GO REMOTE

At the top of the Joux Plane pass, Chalet Mappelet is in the middle of nowhere in the commune of Samoëns. An old summer camp turned into a cossetting nest, it has a vast living room with an imposing chimney, a double room, a seven-space dorm, and a bathroom carved out of the rock. It's the perfect spot for absorbing the silence and splendour of the mountains.

samoens.com/en

STAY IN A HIP REFUGE

In the commune of Le Grand Bornand, perched at 2,164m on a cliff overlooking the valley, Refuge Gramusset is famous for its sunset views and Natura 2000 listed limestone surroundings. Also known as the Refuge de la Pointe Percée, it's been fully renovated to offer 46 beds: 36 in a new chalet and 10 in the historic hut built in 1928 by the Club Alpin Français, which has also been refurbished. An ideal base camp for ski touring skiers, it's one of very few refuges open and staffed in winter.

refugelapointepercee.ffcam.fr

FIND A HAVEN OF PEACE

At the heart of the Vallée des Belleville, 30 minutes on foot (or by snowshoe) from civilisation, this authentic former milk storehouse has been transformed into cosy lodgings for four. A tiny meadow chalet of stone and wood, it's a dream location for simple pleasures far from the crowds: a digital detox, contemplation, feasting on fondue and hot-tubbing beneath the stars.

chezmilgonnet.com

LEARN TRADITIONAL SKILLS



© PETER PAN BOIS

LEARN TO MAKE AN OLD-FASHIONED TOBOGGAN

In the Haut-Giffre, Jérôme Guillot, a highly creative carpenter, has a passion for paretts - one-person wooden toboggans in the form of a stool attached to a single wooden ski. They were once used by children to move around the Vallée de Manigod in winter. Guillot has already made more than 450 paretts, which he personalises by request. In Chambéry Montagnes, you can take part in a paret-making workshop and take the finished product home with you.

haut-giffre.co.uk
e-tabli.fr

BENEFIT FROM LOCAL HERITAGE

The new Pépites en Chartreuse, Patrimoine et Savoir-faire route unites a network of artisans, farmers, and cultural venues keen to share their passions. Among them are Charlotte and Marion of Champs du Pain, who set up their oven in the old schoolhouse in Saint-Même le Bas in the Chartreuse massif. Their organic natural-sourdough bread is sold on site and from a van that does the rounds of the villages. In Entremont-le-Vieux, Pierre, one of the last wood-turners in the Chartreuse massif, shares his secrets in wood-turning and sculpture lessons in his Peter Pan Bois workshop.

champsdupain.fr



© A. ROYER

CHURN YOUR OWN OLD-STYLE BUTTER

Aside excellent cheeses, milk from Savoie farms has always been used to produce tasty alpine butter. The Musée d'Oé in Aussois has put its churn back to use in sessions during which some of the elderly folk of the village will teach you to make their butter, which you can then taste on bread from a local baker.

aussois.com

CREATE ON THE MOVE

In the Val d'Arly, Sandrine offers snowshoe walks designed to awaken our inner artists. You'll stop off to sketch - on the small objects or wooden boards provided - plants, landscapes and any other simple alpine subjects that inspire you.

sandrinecoulaud.blogspot.com

FASHION SOME POETIC POTTERY

Savoie pottery has evolved since the 12th century: it's still made by hand from local clay, but the shapes and decorations have evolved to fit modern use - as in the case of the highly contemporary creations produced by Anne Marmottan in her Sainte-Foy-Tarentaise workshop. Shaped, decorated and fired using ancient techniques, these unique pieces are distillations of the poetry of the mountains.

alpine-concept-store.com

... AND ALSO...

There are so many things to do in the resorts, we have a few more suggestions.

In the Vallée d'Aulps, Vallée d'Abondance and Vallée du Giffre, Maxime dresses up in traditional costume to introduce visitors to the gentle, **SOBER SOUND OF THE ALPINE HORN** during educational outings by snowshoe (savoiejurarandonnee.wixsite.com/maximegay/english).

CHANNEL ALPINE SPIRIT in the five-star Hôtel Altapura in Val Thorens with its design mixing retro pop with Scandi-chic and a homage to Savoie nature in the form of larch trunks (en.altapura.fr).

SEE LOCAL HERITAGE IN A NEW LIGHT at nightfall, with guided lantern-lit history tours through the snowy, shadowy streets of Bonneval sur Arc, Champagny-en-Vanoise, Pralognan-la-Vanoise, Saint-Martin-de-Belleville, Bessans, Val Cenise Lanslevillard and Val Cenise Termignon (fondation-facim.fr). Some are led in English.

After a good hike in the mountains, **WARM UP WITH A MEAL** or even a whole night on the Glières plateau, in the Notre Dame des Neiges refuge, which can only be reached on foot (gite-refuge-les-glieres.fr).

ADMIRE THE SUNSET in complete peace from the Refuge de l'Arpettaz in the middle of the pastures of the eponymous pass at 1581m, accessible wearing snowshoes or Nordic skis (refugearpettaz.com).

TREND #03

There is the simple happiness of the sun rising over the mountains, or the magic of an evening by the fire putting the world to rights. The childlike joy of carving through powder after the long haul up, the pleasure of skating through the trees on a freshly groomed Nordic trail. There is the taste of the local beer or a hot chocolate, made all the more enjoyable by the effort of the long trek up to the mountain hut in good company. And there is even pleasure in the biting cold, safe in the knowledge that the day will end with a delicious raclette in a warm, cosy mountain bistro. Where you'll mix with regulars who live here all year round, or perhaps a ski instructor out to celebrate with her group their medal success at the end of their course. Sometimes, it might continue into the wee hours, in the electric atmosphere of a live band or the spectacle of a drone ballet against the starry sky. Among the peaks, happiness is purer feeling.

EMBRACING LIFE

© SMB - IDUVE POUR 2



© SMB - MATT-CHARLAND



© SMB - BIJASSON

ÉRIC CHARMEL, CONNECTING WITH THE MOUNTAINS, QUITE SIMPLY

This mountain guide from the Vanoise guiding company says that these days, his clients are looking for simple pleasures and memorable moments, shared with others. A trend he welcomes with open arms.



WHAT CLIENTS REALLY LOVE IS THRILLING EXPERIENCES THAT HAVE AN EXCLUSIVE FEEL TO THEM.

For as long as he can remember, Éric's gaze has always strayed to the mountains. This long-serving mountain guide with the Vanoise guiding company has discovered a resurgence in the popularity of his destination – and a shift in what his clients are looking for. *"In recent years, I've noticed a more profound desire for authenticity, which goes hand in hand with a need for a group experience, a shared effort."* Having new and thrilling experiences, completing a climb or activity they thought they weren't capable of, the sound of the wind on a high ridge, the crunch of skis in the snow... What people want today is to experience and share simple pleasures. There will always be the trail runners who want to "climb Mont Blanc" in a day and rack up 3,000 metres of ascent in hours, but now there's another breed of person who comes to the mountains simply to explore a realm they're not familiar with – and enjoy new experiences. *"A lot of people want to get back to nature. What appeals to our clients more than anything is the idea of an overnight bivvy, or of sharing supper by candlelight in a mountain hut with their family or a group of friends."* Not so long ago, those same clients would have happily yomped up Mount Fuji and back in three days, just to tick another big-name climb off their list.

Something else that more and more of his clients are asking for: learning to read the landscape. As if, aware of the mountains' fragility, they are keen to wonder at it all while it's still unspoilt. *"And to do that, you have to learn how to really look,"* says Éric. It's a sign of the times that the prestigious training undertaken by mountain guides, as purveyors of knowledge, includes a four-day course on climate change. Just as popular is the First Tracks activity, which gives early risers the opportunity to ski with the pisteurs before the pistes open, followed by sharing a sunrise breakfast with them. These exciting opportunities help turn a ski holiday into a truly memorable experience. *"The mountains are inherently a place of excitement and enjoyment. What clients really love is thrilling experiences that have an exclusive feel to them."* But more simply, the pistes are also somewhere that the pleasures of snowsports in all their forms are accessible to everyone. *"Setting off on touring skis or snowshoes with a tasty packed lunch that*

you eat while gazing at untouched mountain peaks, that gives you a really special feeling. It's all about getting back to the simple pleasures in life," sums up Éric. *"There's something really satisfying about creating such a joyful experience in such a simple way."*

MAKE NEW FRIENDS



© OXYGÈNE

BE THE FIRST ON THE SLOPES

Get off on a good foot by joining Tignes' pisteurs at daybreak as they meet near the snowfront by the lake to get make sure the pistes are safe for the day. You'll head for the freshly groomed Palafour and Tovière pistes with the feeling of being all alone in the world, before enjoying the best coffee and croissant of your life on a high-altitude terrace – a moment of pure delight and gratitude.

You can also experience this little miracle in Les Arcs-Bourg Saint Maurice, La Plagne, Les Menuires and several other resorts; ask at the Tourist Offices.

en.tignes.net
en.lesarcs.com
en.la-plagne.com
lesmenuires.com/en

HANG OUT IN A LOCALS' CAFÉ

The place where the mountain guides met up in the days when 'Monchus' (non-locals – in this case, wealthy English or Parisian visitors) – travelled by mule, and where sportspeople and journalists hung out during the first Winter Olympics, in 1924, the historic Brasserie des Sports is the place to inhale an authentic flavour of Chamonix Mont-Blanc. Guides, ski instructors and other pro skiers still mingle here with amateurs to swap tales from their day on the slopes.

Visitors and locals intermingle in the relaxed Coin des Amis in Val d'Isère, the brand-new P'tit Caf de Poche in Habère Poche in the Alpes du Léman, and in Wild&Savage in Val Thorens and Les 2 Guides in Le Grand Bornand.

en.chamonix.com
valdisere.com/en
ptitcaf.fr
📍 Wild and Savage
legrandbornand.com

REVEL IN THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

To fully enter into the fairytale that is Christmas in the mountains, come to Saint-Martin-de-Belleville for Feu & Glace from 24 December to 7 January. In this lesser-known Three Vallées village built in stone and wood, all ages delight in concerts, walks, ice sculptures and lantern-lit descents. The festive mood starts here as early as 6 December, when locals and visitors alike gather to watch the Christmas lights on the tree and around the resort be switched on.

In Megève, the winter season kicks off with the turning on of the LED-lit Christmas tree on 2 December.

st-martin-belleville.com/en
megeve-tourisme.fr/en

SLIP
SLIDING AWAY

ENJOY FUN WINTER SPACES

To enjoy the slopes to the max, bend, stretch and make use of the well-designed fun parks in many resorts. The latest is in Bessans in the Haute Maurienne-Vanoise, complete with tunnels and jumps with bells to ring as you improve your skills in the company of local mascot Gervais le Bessannais.

In Pralognan-la-Vanoise, follow a marked trail through a non-groomed area of forest complete with twists and obstacles. In Courchevel, vary the ways you slide by trying out an airboard, a paret toboggan or a snake glisse on a dedicated piste. In Les Sybelles, head to the Lauze-Claforay zone (at the bottom of Saint-Sorlin-d'Arves).

bessans.com

sybelles.ski/en

pralognan.com/en

courchevel.com/en



© SMB - IDUVE7POUR2

GO MOUNTAIN KARTING

Avoriaz's Avo Kart is a three-wheeled vehicle with hydraulic brakes and a very low centre of gravity that means it holds the road beautifully. Comfortably wedged into a tub seat, one pilots it down to the resort over 3.2km and 600m of descent. In Flaine, you can drive all-terrain karts down from the top of the Aup de Véran cable-car.

avoriaz.com/en

en.flaine.com



© SMB - IDUVE7POUR2

DRIVE OVER THE MOUNTAINS
IN A ZERO-IMPACT WAY

A swincar is a 100% electric, 100% French all-terrain vehicle that looks a bit like a giant spider as it makes its way over the pistes of La Féclaz in the Parc Naturel Régional du Massif des Bauges. Able to twist and turn on the pistes while remaining very stable, it's ideal for exploring the mountains without disturbing nature. It has a top speed of 30km/h and a battery life of 3 hours 30 minutes.

chauffmarcel.fr

PARTY
ON

ENJOY SOME FROZEN APRÈS-SKI

This winter, Les Contamines-Montjoie are breaking the ice by transforming their outdoor ice-skating rink into an animated show. The electro-flavoured Color Shows feature organised group games including the irresistible 'Where is Charlie?' – a mystery on skates!

lescontamines.com

WATCH SOME NIGHT-TIME SHOWS

In Flaine, drones steal the show this winter. On 27 December, 3 January, 14, 21 and 28 February and 6 March 2024, a flotilla of 110 illuminated drones will take flight. Once up in the air, they will perform a fairytale-like – and eco-friendly – ballet with changing colours.

Every Thursday in Les Menuires, there are a 90-minute LED-lit descent of the piste, drone shows and poetic walks. In Les Gets every Monday during the February holidays, the Red Ski Show will see groomers, pisteurs and ski instructors dress up in period costume or LED-lit clothing. And a lantern-lit descent, surprise show and appearance by huskies and their mushers are the focal point in Cordon every Wednesday in the school holidays.

en.flaine.com
lesmenuires.com/en
lesgets.com/en
cordon.fr



GET INTO THE PARTY SPIRIT

This winter from 18 November, the Strike, a 1200m² music space, will host live groups and resident DJs every Tuesday evening. And every Tuesday to Saturday, après-ski sessions and evenings can be enjoyed in the four bars, finger-food corner and VIP space. You'll score points with your teens by taking them to one of the Folies Douces, which, until 3pm, have a family atmosphere. Après ski also has a party flavour on the snowfront of Les Gets and at the Chalet des Praz in La Clusaz, where locals and holidaymakers share authentic moments.

le-strike.com
lafoliedouce.com/en

PLAY ICE PETANQUE

A close relative of curling, Eisstock is like a kind of petanque on ice. The aim is to throw a 4.3kg disc as close as possible to a pallet serving as a goal. You can try out this strange sport on the ice rink in Megève, as well as bubble foot, where each football player is protected in a blow-up sphere. In Valmorel, there's even human curling, with the stone replaced by a tyre that the player sits in!

megeve-tourisme.fr/en
valmorel.com/en

... SEE ALSO...

To take full advantage of all the great moments on offer in the mountains, here are a few more suggestions.

REVEL IN THE JOY OF SPENDING TIME TOGETHER

in the Village Montana in Tignes. Holder of the Famille Plus label, it's transformed daily into a kids' party zone with a bar, snacks, games, birthday parties, a buffet and a magician (**village-montana.com**).

BE INTOXICATED BY THE SPEED of a night-time snowtube descent in Manigod (**manigod.com**) or Praz-sur-Arly (**prazsurarly.com/en**).

In Orelle, **SAMPLE SAVOIE FONDUE** in an igloo at an altitude of 2350m in igloo and talk about changing the world with mountain professionals on Tuesday evenings (**orelle.net**).

As the lifts close in Valmeinier, **TAKE A LAST TOUR OF THE PISTES** on a 45-minute tour by electric moonbike (**valmeinier.com/en**).

BE CARRIED AWAY by Champagny le Haut's convivial, quirky Gorzderette, an unusual event mixing classic challenges (curling, orienteering, ice climbing, biathlon...) with wackier ones (pulling a sledge of hay, kayaking or wakeboarding on snow, throwing tree trunks...) (**gzd.fr**).

PARTY at the Alta Festival in Arêches Beaufort, from 28 March to 1 April. On the agenda are evenings in the village or on high-altitude terraces, with concerts and DJ sets and fun and sociable challenges on the pistes (**Alta Festival**).

SHOPPING

100% local things to buy in Savoie Mont Blanc.
Discover hand-picked objects
evoking winter and snow, all designed
and made in an eco-friendly way in Savoie
and Haute-Savoie.



© LES 2 MARMOTTES

2 MARMOTTES HERBAL TEA

The latest offering from 2 Marmottes, 'Tout Schuss' is a subtle blend of cinnamon, lemon verbena, lemon savory and peppermint, all 100% French grown. €5.50. These herbal teas are sold in all French supermarkets.



LES 2 MARMOTTES
les2marmottes.com
(see also page 32).



© BLACKPEUF - CH. HASSEL

A CABLE-CAR LAMP

The shiny designer cable-car lamps by Black Peuf can be personalised with the name of your favourite ski resort. €200.

BLACK PEUF
blackpeuf.com

MULLED WINE

Les Délices d'Alpages' traditional *vin chaud* tastes like après-ski and Christmas markets. Free of additives, artificial colours and preservatives, it has just the right amount of spices. €10.70 (950g).

LES DÉLICES D'ALPAGES
lesdelicesdalpage.fr



© LES DÉLICES D'ALPAGE

AN ALPINE-SCENTED ARTISAN CANDLE

Bâl's candles scented with the needles and sap of local pine trees are hand-made to order in two sizes. €29 and €44.

BÂL
balbougie.com



© BÂL BOUGIE

© SKITEC



THE CHANCE TO HANG UP YOUR SKIS (AGAIN!)

SkiTEC makes old skis into coat-pegs that as well as being practical, and giving ski equipment a second life, add a unique decorative touch to hallways. They can be personalised too. From €55.

SKITEC
skitec.fr

A NEW TAKE ON FONDUE

Bring a touch of imagination to the well-loved fondue by replacing bread with Vermicellerie Chiron & Fils's tafagnon – pasta in a shape specially designed to hold cheese, made in Savoie Mont Blanc from the best local ingredients. From €3.15 per packet.

VERMICELLERIE CHIRON & FILS
chironetfils.fr



© ANTHONY COTTAREL

SOAP MADE WITH MOUNTAIN HONEY

Gentle and all-natural, Saly's Savoie soap suits all skin types, even the most sensitive. Its smell calls to mind alpine wildflower meadows. €5.20 for 30g, €9 for 120g.

SALY SAVON
salsavons.fr



© SALLY COSMÉTIQUES



A 100% ECO-FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS TREE

Tonton Carton's tree made from recycled cardboard doesn't lose its needles, is reusable and can be coloured using crayons or paint to suit your mood. €39.50.

TONTON CARTON
tonton-carton.fr



TONTON CARTON



NEW IDEAS AND FAVOURITES FOR THIS SEASON

Every season, our ski resorts bend over backwards to give guests the time of their lives on their stay in the mountains, with inspirational places, special places to eat and fantastic activities. The following are our pick of the new offerings and our favourite things to see and do this season.



NEW

LOVELY PLACES TO STAY



© BELAMBRAPHOTOAGENCY

NEW: LE FLAINE PANORAMA

After 40 years, Belambra is reinventing itself with a new holiday club in Flaine. The upmarket Le Flaine Panorama runs on an all-inclusive basis so you can relax to the max: packages embrace full-board dining including snacks, unlimited drinks, kids' clubs including evening sessions and escorting them to ESF group ski lessons. Open from December 2023.

belambra.fr

AT A CROSSROADS

La Grange à Gaston is a country chalet in the hamlet of Bois in the heart of the Champagny-le-Haut valley, 200m from the cross-country pistes of Champagny-en-Vanoise, 3km from the entrance to the Vanoise national park, and 5km from the pistes of Paradiski. Sleeping 10 and pet-friendly to boot, it's the perfect place to relax at the end of the day: warm and cosy, with classic mountain decor.

gites-de-france-savoie.com

NEW BUT ALL GROWN UP

This is the first winter season for the four-star Chalet Hôtel Cordon, an authentic Savoie property at the top of Cordon, with stunning panoramic views over the Mont-Blanc massif and 12 tranquil rooms and suites for ages 16 years and up. It's eco-friendly, too, with a wood-fired stove for hot water, water-saving devices and a focus on local produce.

lechaletotelcordon.fr

ON THE SNOWFRONT

Two steps from the central square at the departure point for the pistes of Flaine Forum, the new Hôtel Alhena, owned by MGM Hôtels & Résidences, has 40 rooms and suites for couples and families, varying in size from 30 to 130m², plus a restaurant and the Spa Montagnes du Monde with its indoor pool, sauna, hammam and hot tub. The location is brilliant for skiing as a family on the 265km pistes of the Grand Massif.

mgm-hotels-residences.com/en

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

This wonderful region has accommodation for everyone, of which the following are just a few examples.

AT THE TOP OF AIX-LES-BAINS Riviera des Alpes, right near the Thermes Chevalley, **Hôtel Gallia** in its grand building from the end of the 19th century is now under the dynamic ownership of Emilia and Cyril, who have renovated its 36 rooms and created Le Sens Unique bistro and wine bar (galliahotel.fr/en).

IN VAL THORENS, the iconic five-star **Koh-I-Nor** has been taken over and renovated by Les Étinzelles. Now the Voulez Vous Hôtel, it's perfect for skiers who love the finer things in life (etincelles.com).

IN CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC, the old Hôtel Mercure has been taken over by the Best Mont-Blanc group. Now the **Lykke Hôtel & Spa**, it has 132 rooms exuding calm and relaxation (en.chamonix.com).

IN COURCHEVEL 1850, the five-star **Le Pralong** with its direct access to the pistes has been taken over by the Dokhan Luxury group (alpeshoteldupralong.com-hotel.com/en).

IN LA ROSIÈRE, in the resort of the same name, **Club Med La Rosière**, which opened in 2021, has a new building of two- to five-person suites with its own concierge team (clubmed.fr).

IN CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC, the five-star **Grand Hôtel des Alpes**, which opened in 1840, has two new suites by architect Hartmut Grabowski, who also oversaw the 2019 renovation (grandhoteldesalpes.com/en).



IN THE CHAPELLE D'ABONDANCE, a peaceful mountain village, the four-star Les Gentianettes chalet-hôtel – much-loved for its traditional Savoie style – has added a number of junior suites (gentianettes.fr).

IN LE GRAND-BORNAND, the family-run four-star Best Western **Chalet Les Saytels** has had a full renovation of its 30 rooms, restaurant, bar and lounge, lobby and meeting rooms (bestwestern-chaletlessaytels.com/en).

IN SAINT-JEAN-DE-MAURIENNE, the brand-new Best Western **Hôtel Cœur de Maurienne** has 54 rooms at the foot of the ski resorts (bestwestern.fr/en).

IN TIGNES, there's been a full renovation of the **Aigle du Montana** chalet-hotel with its 21 rooms with a view. It's situated beside its sister Hôtel Village Montana by Les Etincelles (etincelles.com/en).

NEW

A TASTE FOR THE MOUNTAINS

A NEW DEPARTURE FOR BENOIT VIDAL

The two-Michelin-starred Maison Benoit Vidal is moving from Val d'Isère to the spot once occupied by the Auberge sur les Bois in the hills above the Lac d'Annecy. Guests can enjoy a set menu inspired by daily market offerings at lunch and a tasting menu at dinner. The chef has also opened a bistro space.

maison-benoit-vidal.com/en

AFTERNOON TEA AND OTHER INDULGENCES

In Hauteluce, Mont Blanc Restaurant & Goûter lures folk in in the afternoon for tarts, cakes, marshmallows and other treats home-made by expert pâtissier Benoît.

In the Grand Hôtel du Soleil d'Or in Megève, La Chocolaterie with its deep armchairs is the place to chill out or warm up over a hot chocolate with home-made Chantilly cream and forest-fruit marshmallows. Don't miss a slice of toast with farm butter and chocolate chips.

In Val d'Isère, on your way back from the pistes, stop off at Maison Chevallot, a famous traditional bakery, to try its breads, pastries and chocolates home-made under the helm of Patrick Chevallot, winner of the Meilleur Ouvrier de France Pâtissier award 1993.

And in Saint-Gervais Mont-Blanc, spend a leisurely late afternoon at Maison Fattier, snacking on pastries, chocolate goods and other sweet treats in its tea room. Don't leave without a decorative box of its famous 4810 chocolates, inspired by the shape of Mont Blanc.

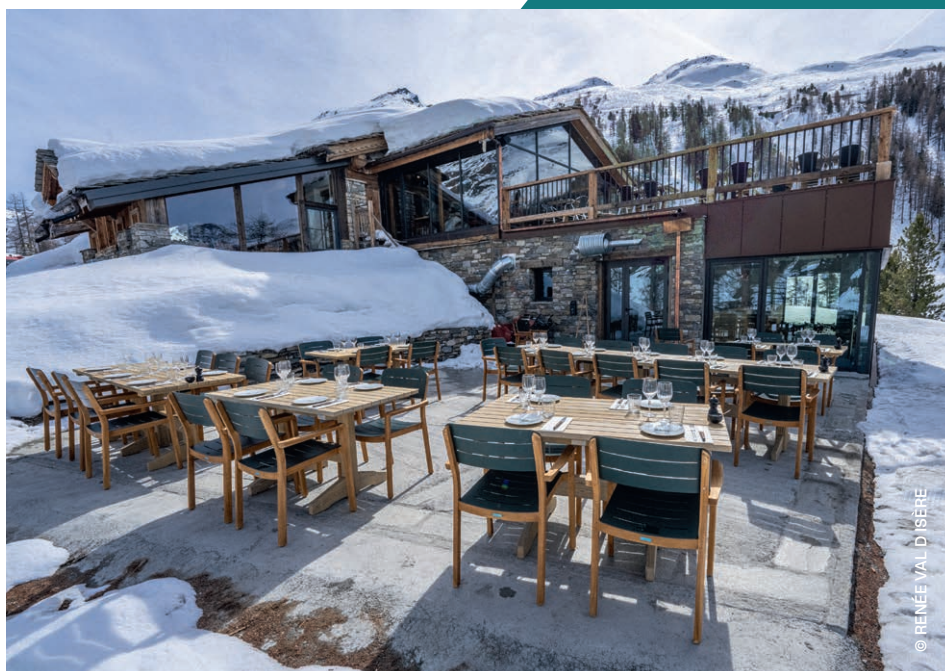
montblanc-restaurant.com
lesoleildor-megève.com/en
maisonchevallot.com/en
boutique.petitsgourmands.fr

INSPIRATION RIGHT ON THE DOORSTEP

Iconic characters in Courchevel, the Pinturault family who own Annapurna are bringing a new chef into the business. Jean-Rémi Caillon, who presided over the Michelin-starred Le Kintessence, is a chef and forager with a reverence for mountain traditions. He brings his sustainable philosophy to L'Alpage, which has been fully renovated this summer. Also at the Annapurna, Le Guinguette offers traditional regional and French cuisine.

annapurna-courchevel.com/en

SAVOIE MONT-BLANC. A HOTBED OF NEW TALENT



They're young and talented – and they love living in the mountains! We've showcased a few chefs working away from the main resorts, with a desire to work in small-scale, sustainable and affordable ways.

- **Florent Meyer.** Her very first restaurant, Signature in an old farm at the heart of Combloux, has already gained a stellar reputation for its modern take on mountain cuisine and its charming little bar serving everything from sapinette des Aravis (fir tree liqueur) to Savoie beers.
- **Judith Fraissard and Alexandre Damiens.** They picked La Rosière 1850 as the setting for Le Terroir des Vignobles with its alpine bistro menu based on fresh local products. Wood-clad, simple and warmly welcoming, it has a wine bar with organic and biodynamic offerings.
- **Maxime Bonnevie.** His restaurant René, named for his epicurean grandfather, is hidden away amidst larches and arolla pines, beside the piste of the off-the-beaten track Combe du Fornet near Val d'Isère. Its speciality is charcoal grills.
- **Alban Chanteloup and Aymeric Velluz.** Their 20-head restaurant Choral in a quiet part of Annecy has a small but appealing menu and wines from sustainably minded small producers.
- **Adrien Lavorel and Enzo Duchesne.** Their restaurant Le Bourgeon has blossomed in the heart of the medieval town of Alby-sur-Chéran, with a menu showcasing seasonal produce with low food miles (the likes of Bornes pork, purée of butternut from the Jardin des Murmures, confit onions and jus of Alby black garlic). Wines are original, eclectic and local.
- **Maxime Ardin.** This young chef took over the Auberge du Pont in Gruffy in the Bauges natural regional park, keen to imprint his style on a venue that had lain disused for a decade. Now called Abîme, it offers local cuisine based on lots of vegetables, such as trout with ground ivy in a butter sauce.

combloux.com/en
@leterroirdesvignobles
valdisere.com/en
choralrestaurant.com
restaurantlebourgeon.com
auberge-abime.com

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

Low food miles, seasonal produce and dishes, up-and-coming or established chefs, beautiful decor... Savoie Mont Blanc is a foodie destination par excellence.

SAVOIE MONT BLANC CONTINUES TO LEAD THE WAY WHEN IT COMES TO DINING.

In 2023, the region has 33 restaurants that between them hold 48 Michelin stars (you can find a full list on savoie-mont-blanc.com/en) and 62 restaurants awarded between two and five toques by Gault&Millau). In addition, among the 'young blood' of up-and-coming chefs unveiled in Gault&Millau's groundbreaking '109' list, 10% are from Savoie Mont Blanc (gaultmillau.com).



THE SAVOIE MONT BLANC EXCELLENCE NETWORK NOW INCLUDES HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS.

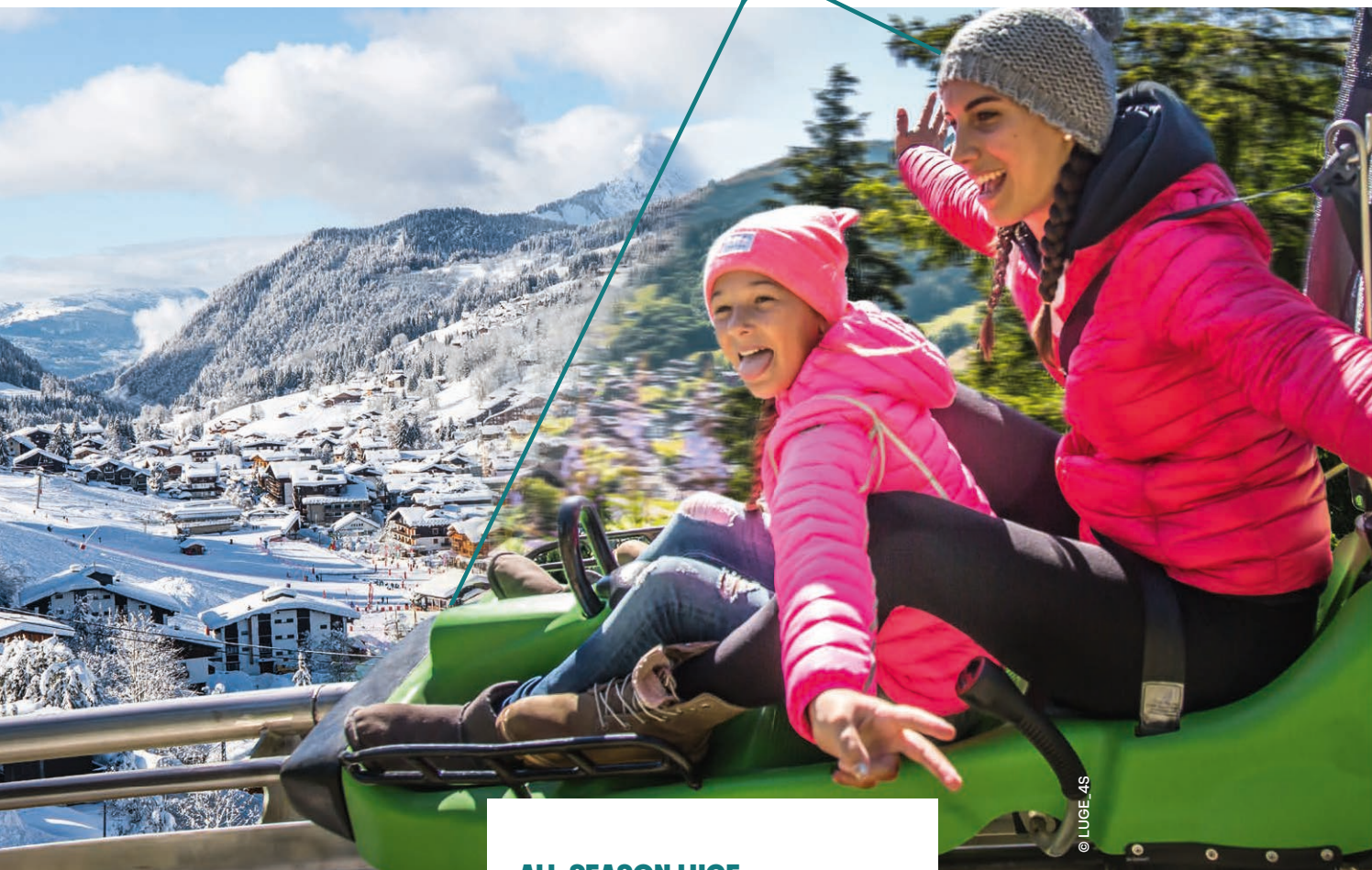
For a venue to be accepted, it has to show real commitment to its region, to a circular economy (one based on sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling) and to sustainable tourism. Today six hotels and restaurants have been accepted and two others are being assessed. (pro.savoie-mont-blanc.com).

IN LES GETS, la Piste Noire, one of the restaurants at the Hôtel Marmotte, is going 100% vegetarian with a new minimalist, bistro-style menu of dishes made from fresh, local, seasonal produce from sustainable farms (restaurant-lapistenoire.com).

PRODUCERS WITHIN THE BAUGES NATURAL REGIONAL PARK HAVE GOT TOGETHER TO CREATE THE NEW SIGNATURE

GÂTEAU DU PARC, made from local ingredients including whey (produced during cheese-making but often thrown away) infused with seasonal plants, instead of butter (parcdesbauges.com).

NEW A PREVIEW



SAVOIE
MONT
BLANC
EXCELLENCE

A SUSTAINABLE COLLABORATION

They have the same values, so it was natural for Agence Savoie Mont Blanc and Haute-Savoie herbal-tea brand Les 2 Marmottes to join forces to create the new blend Tout Schuss. It's part of a larger project that has included Les 2 Marmottes donating €10,000 to the Demain Savoie Mont Blanc endowment fund set up by Essentiem. This sum is intended to support initiatives to collect rubbish in the resorts at the end of winter, and to raise awareness of biodiversity in the Parc de la Vanoise from summer 2024.

les2marmottes.com/en

MOVING INTO THE FUTURE

France's first 'intelligent' zip-wire is arriving in Valloire. Able to slow down or speed up to vary the intensity, as well as electrically recharging during the 1,380m descent (300m in terms of altitude), the new zip-line can also go back up the slope by itself and position itself at the starting point.

tourism.valloire.net

ALL-SEASON LUGE

Les Gets has installed a year-round luge track 1,100m long (a 104m change of altitude) with a top speed of 40km/h. Making its debut winter season this year it can be ridden by anyone over eight years of age (or three if they ride with someone 16 years old or over), and two adults can also ride together.

lesgets.com/en

EUROPE'S FIRST WEATHER GUARANTEE

Its geographic location and high profile allow Val Cenis to guarantee great-quality snow. However, bad weather can sometimes impact on ski holidays. To mitigate against this, Val Cenis now offers guests the option of signing up for its 'Weather Guarantee'. On days with more than three hours of snow- or rainfall between 9am and 5pm, the client can claim back the cost of their lost ski day.

valcenis.ski/en

JUST ONE CLICK

It can be fiddly to book a stay in the mountains, getting all elements of the trip just how you want them. Luckily Superhead, a new booking platform, takes care of everything. Based in Annecy, this digital start-up creates offers tailor-made to your profile, including accommodation, activities and services. The platform currently covers Val d'Isère, Tignes, Les Arcs, La Plagne and La Rosière, and is expected to expand.

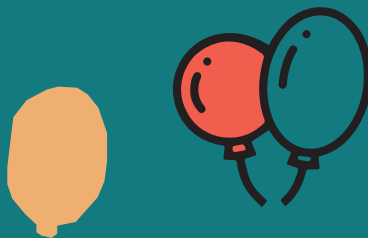
superhead.me

A WINNING PARTNERSHIP

In the mountains, transport accounts for 77% of CO2 emissions (source: Ademe 2018). To encourage lovers of the great outdoors to use eco-friendly ways of getting to the pistes, Protect Our Winters approached Antidots, an enterprise behind Go Savoie Mont Blanc, to develop a version of the platform without flight options. The partnership, based on a skills transfer, was made possible by the Demain Savoie Mont Blanc endowment fund, one of the pillars of which is carbon-free movement.

protectourwinters.fr

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS TO US!



From 15 to 100 candles... This season, a whole host of our ski resorts are celebrating everything that makes them so special.

**20TH
BIRTH
DAY**

PARADISKI AND LES SYBELLES

First opened 20 years ago, Paradiski came into being after the construction of the Vanoise Express cable car linking the La Plagne, Les Arcs and Peisey-Vallandry ski areas.

The birthday celebrations will include a brand-new and timeless roaming exhibition experience.

In Les Arcs-Bourg-Saint-Maurice, plans are afoot for a programme of festivities including special evening events and a musical grand finale at the end of January.

Les Sybelles is also celebrating its 20th birthday by making youngsters feel like grown-ups and giving adults and seniors the chance to rediscover the child inside them.

To mark the occasion, France's fourth-largest linked ski area is publishing a book about its history, due out in November, with birthday celebrations starting on 16 December and continuing throughout the season.

paradiski.com

sybelles.ski/en/the-sybelles-are-20-years-old/

**30TH
BIRTH
DAY**

CLASSICAVAL

This celebration of music in the mountains, which first came to Val d'Isère 30 years ago, is celebrating its big birthday with two amazing concert programmes.

From 15 to 18 January and from 11 to 14 March 2024, the general public and classical music buffs are invited to birthday concerts in the stunning surroundings of the church of Saint-Bernard de Menthon, known for its amazing acoustics.

festival-classicaval.com

**50TH
BIRTH
DAY**

VALMEINIER

The Maurienne-based ski resort is celebrating its 50th birthday, with lots of celebrations in store on two separate dates: 13 January and 29 February. Highlights include light shows, concerts and a photo exhibition, plus lots of other fun, inclusive events to which both locals and holidaymakers are cordially invited!

valmeinier.com/en

LES SAISIES

To celebrate its 60th birthday, every Wednesday during the February school holidays, the ski resort of Les Saisies will be decorated with all kinds of light projections. These giant images on the snow telling the story of key periods in the resort's development will immerse holidaymakers in its history, and live shows will bring additional excitement to the proceedings.

en.lessaisies.com

**60TH
BIRTH
DAY**

MEGÈVE'S ROCHEBRUNE CABLE CAR

This was the first ever cable car designed for skiers, who had previously had to make do with drag lifts. With a capacity of 20 passengers, the Rochebrune cable car, built in 1933, took 10 minutes to convey powder enthusiasts up the mountain from La Croix de Rochebrune. Since then, the cabins have been changed six times and today the lift has a capacity of 500 skiers per hour, but the original striking red cabin is still on display at the village entrance. The resort will be celebrating this special birthday in style in January 2024.

megeve-tourisme.fr

**90TH
BIRTH
DAY**

THE 1924 WINTER OLYMPICS

With more than 250 athletes from 16 nations competing in 6 disciplines and attracting nearly 10,000 spectators, the first Olympic Winter Games in Chamonix-Mont-Blanc were a roaring success. Two exhibitions are celebrating this special moment in history: 'Chamonix 1924: l'invention des Jeux Olympiques d'hiver' at La Maison de la Mémoire et du Patrimoine, from 2 December to 15 March 2025, and an exhibition about the Olympic champions at the Maison de Village in Argentière, from 2 December to 4 March 2024.

en.chamonix.com

**100TH
BIRTH
DAY**

A PACKED PROGRAMME OF EVENTS THIS WINTER

Over the winter season, Savoie Mont Blanc's ski resorts organise a host of sporting and social events designed to appeal to holidaymakers and champions alike – crowd-pleasers that are an energetic celebration of our mountain values.



24-26
NOV

SKI MOUNTAINEERING WORLD CUP

VAL THORENS

This season, Europe's highest ski resort is hosting three Ski Mountaineering World Cup events: the Sprint and Mixed Relay – two spectacular and intense races set to feature in the 2026 Winter Olympics in Cortina d'Ampezzo – and the Vertical Race. An impressive demonstration of explosive climbing, this event consists of a challenging pure ascent in which the competitors' task is to climb 1,000 metres of vertical ascent in the fastest time possible.

valthorens.com

7-10
DEC

SKI CROSS WORLD CUP

VAL THORENS

For the eleventh year in a row, the Jean-Frédéric Chapuis piste in Val Thorens will host the world's top ski cross competitors. This highly spectacular event, adopted as an Olympic sport at the 2010 Vancouver Games, consists of groups of four skiers racing each other. They set off simultaneously to ski a course full of turns, rollers, berms and jumps – and the first to get to the finish wins!

valthorens.com

9-10
& 16-17
DEC

CRITÉRIUM DE LA PREMIÈRE NEIGE

VAL D'ISÈRE

The legendary alpine ski competition that kicks off the winter season, the Critérium de la Première Neige is back in Val D for two weekends of skiing with a capital S. On 9 and 10 December, the top technical skiers will compete on the legendary Belvedere Face in the Giant Slalom (Saturday 9) and Slalom (Sunday 10). The following weekend (16 and 17 December), it will be the turn of the women's speed specialists, racing the Downhill and the Super-G on the Oreiller-Killy piste. A great spectacle is in store with these events, which count towards the 2023/2024 Alpine Ski World Cup.

worldcup-valdisere.com/en

21
DEC

ALPINE SKI WORLD CUP – WOMEN'S NIGHT SLALOM

COURCHEVEL

The Women's Alpine Ski World Cup is back in Courchevel following its absence during the Ski World Championships last season. On 21 December, the Emile Allais Stadium will host the Night Slalom, which promises to be a fierce battle between the discipline's current leaders, the Slovak Petra Vlhová and the American Mikaela Shiffrin.

courchevel.com/en

2023



3-4
FEB

THE KANDAHAR

CHAMONIX VALLEY-
MONT BLANC

On 3 and 4 February 2024, the world's top skiers will take to the Verte des Houches piste for two Men's Alpine Ski World Cup events: the Slalom and the Downhill, the latter making a triumphant return following a seven-year absence. The races are sure to create a tremendous spectacle on this demanding tree-lined and south-facing black run, creating a frozen surface that glints greenish in the sun, which is how it got its name.

chamonixworldcup.com/en



10-11
FEB

UCI SNOW BIKE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHÂTEL

The very first UCI Snow Bike World Championships will take place on 10 and 11 February in Châtel, Haute-Savoie, in recognition of the resort's wholehearted commitment to cycling. It is open to all members of national cycling federations affiliated to the UCI, who will compete on downhill MTBs. Inspired by alpine skiing, the programme will feature two events: the Super-G, a downhill run with gates positioned every 20 to 25 metres (as in alpine skiing), and the Dual Slalom, comparable to the Parallel Slalom in snowboarding and alpine skiing.

ffc.fr

9-16
MARCH

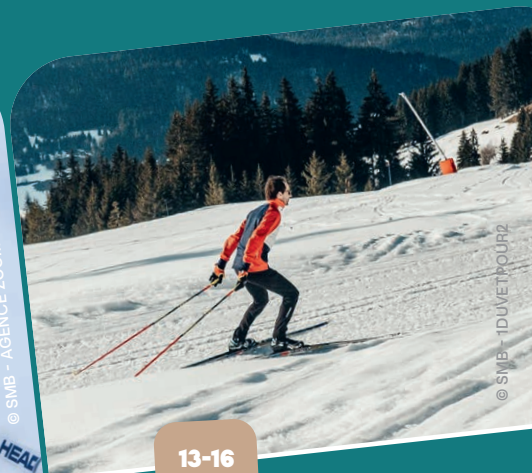
PAR
TEN
AIRE

MOUNTAIN SHAKER TIGNES

TIGNES

In March, for the third Mountain Shaker event, Tignes is set to become the board culture capital. It's a week of festivities punctuated by three major events: the French Freeride Series and FISE Xperience Series, open to amateurs, and the Ski Slopestyle World Cup, which attracts the world's top riders in the discipline and this year will feature, for the first time, a Big Air competition. And on the fringe of the competitions there will be no end of demos, show, concerts, tricks and stunts on offer.

en.tignes.net



13-16
MARCH

PIERRA MENTA ARÈCHES-BEAUFORT

Our flagship ski mountaineering competition is a rite of passage for every elite competitor in the discipline. Every year the Pierra Menta attracts more than 200 two-person teams to this particularly demanding and thrilling race. The 38th edition promises great spectacle and breathtaking exploits.

pierramenta.com

2024



SAVOIE MONT BLANC

FRENCH ALPS



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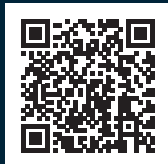
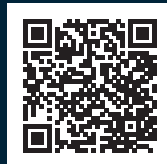
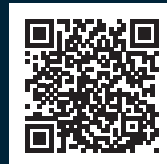


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savoie-mont-blanc.com/en