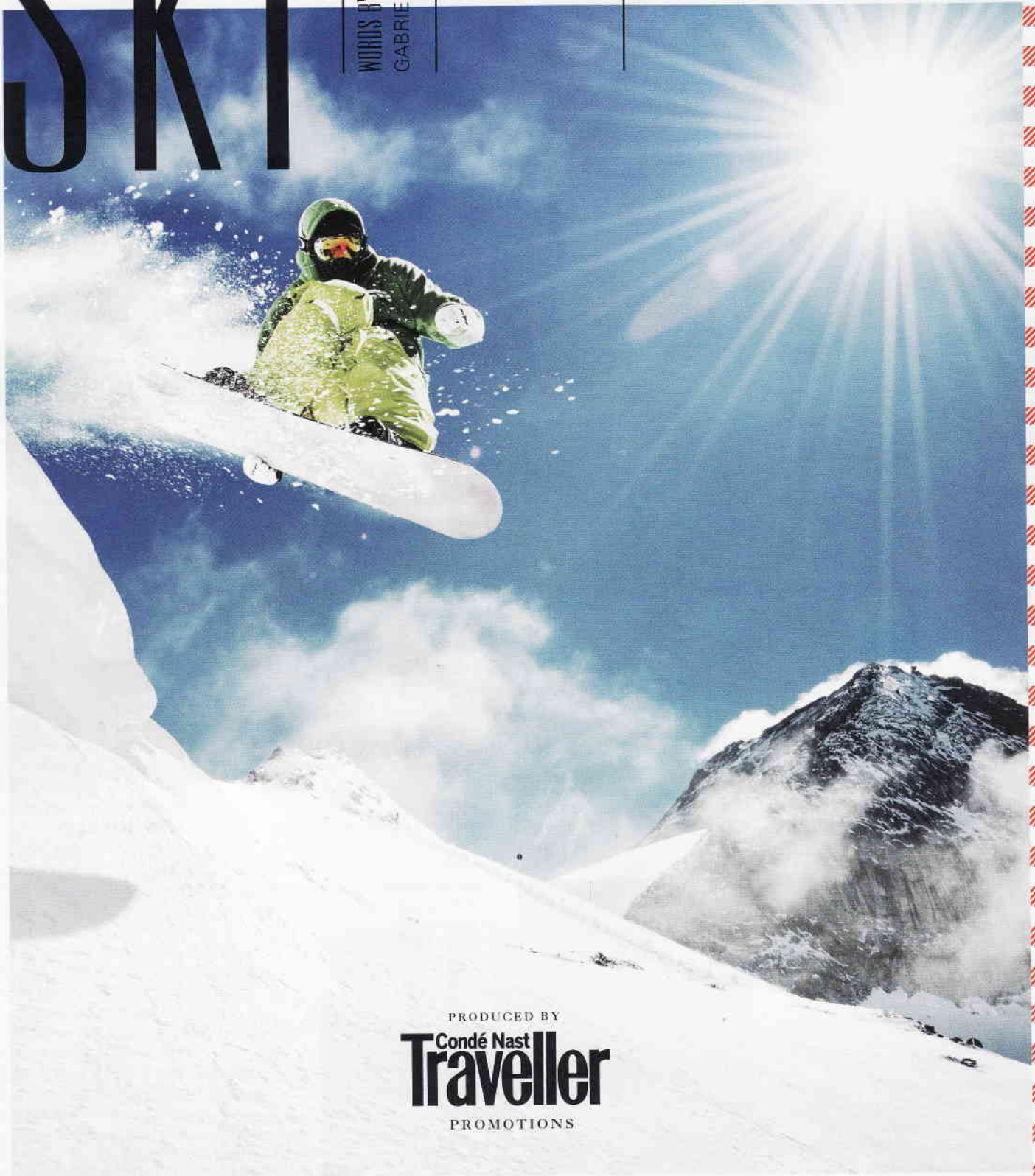


SKI

WORDS BY
GABRIELLA LE BRETON

SEASON
2015



PRODUCED BY
Condé Nast
Traveller
PROMOTIONS



SKI

TRAVELLER PROMOTION

SEASON
2015

SECTION
INTRO



INTRODUCTION

Mankind has been skiing for centuries but never, thanks to technology, has it been easier, more luxurious or more varied

It's official: skiing is good for you. Research shows that skiing not only burns calories, tones your thighs and tummy, perks up your bottom, improves your cardiovascular fitness and boosts vitamin E levels but also increases your endorphin levels. But then, we don't need a doctor to tell us that whizzing down a freshly-groomed piste is exhilarating, that soaking up endless vistas of snow-clad mountains is the perfect antidote to stress, or that cheese and wine-infused meals in cosy mountain huts might clog up the arteries but are food for the soul.

The art of sliding on snow has captivated humans for centuries but, thanks to modern technology and innovative ski resorts, it's never been easier or more fun. We now have comfy ski boots and skis that virtually turn themselves. Helmets, magnetised chairlifts and mobile apps keep our little ones safe and ski clothing is so stylish you can wear it back at home (unless you're still embracing the neon trend). Après-ski isn't strictly about dancing

on table tops – you can go husky sledding, snowmobiling, ice-fishing and snowshoeing or drop the kids off at a supervised waterpark and spoil yourself with some shopping and spa time.

This winter sees chalets continuing their inexorable rise from ultra to über. A dazzling array of newbies is upping the ante in terms of scale, facilities and service offering up vast outdoor infinity pools, priceless art collections

and wine cellars, helipads, full-service spas and the sort of high-tech toys that boys dream of.

Whether you're looking to tone those thighs, treat the children, indulge the husband or splash out on the holiday of a lifetime, the mountains are calling. And, while they won't come to you, there are ski specialists out there who'll make booking a holiday feel about as effortless as exactly that eventuality.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: ICELANDIC SKIING IS ON THE UP; LE GRAND JOUX, NEAR MORZINE IN FRANCE; RESTING UP AT KULM SPA IN ST MORITZ

STOP PRESS

- The family-owned Maisons & Hotels Sibuet group, who brought us Fermes de Marie in Megève and Altapura in Val Thorens, is launching the revamped Hotel des Dromonts in Avoriaz this December. The 1970s hotel will retain its iconic pine cone shape and gain three restaurants, a Pure Altitude Spa and signature Sibuet styling. hoteldesdromonts.com
- The Fairmont Château Lake Louise, near Banff in Canada, is launching a new Ski & Yoga Retreat this winter led by the celebrated yogic, Tracey Delfs, while the Fairmont Château Whistler is celebrating its 25th birthday this winter by launching a two-night, adrenaline-packed Heli Ski Adventure. fairmont.com
- The innovative ski specialist Powder White is the first operator to introduce catered chalet weekends, available in select properties in Courchevel and Verbier for three- and four-night bookings. powderwhite.com
- The Rosa Alpina, our favourite hotel in Italy's stunning Dolomites, is launching a new three-bedroom suite this December. With its own private access, lift and outdoor hot tub, Chalet Zeno will combine the amenities of the Rosa Alpina with the privacy and seclusion of a chalet. rosalpina.it
- Global ski and snowboard rental company Skiset has partnered with the geolocation services provider Ma P'tite Balise to create an app which enables parents to track their children's location on the slopes. Simply rent a Ma P'tite Balise GPS beacon from your nearest participating Skiset shop and enjoy a worry-free holiday. skiset.co.uk
- If you're seeking blissful isolation, the new Le Grand Joux chalet has your name on it. The 100 year-old restored auberge lies in Alpine meadows near Graydon, a hamlet outside Morzine in France, and is only accessible by snowmobile and helicopter. Not so rustic are the chalet's timber-clad bar, oversize leather chairs, fur throws, swimming pool, floatation bath, and outdoor hot tub and sauna. legrandjoux.com

SEASON
2015SECTION
ACCOMMODATIONSKIING
IN STYLE

Make sure you get to stay at one of the most sumptuous addresses ever fashioned on the world's mountain sides

LE GRAND BELLEVUE
HOTEL AND SAANEWALD
LODGE, GSTAAD

Are we getting older or is Gstaad getting cooler? Regardless, we're particularly enamoured by two of the Swiss classic's freshly revamped hotels: Le Grand Bellevue and Saanevald Lodge. The former is a grand old hotel on Gstaad Promenade whose new young owners (who met and got married at the hotel before buying it) have injected it with eclectic style, a Michelin-starred restaurant, lively bar and heavenly spa. The latter is a quirky mountain lodge, which channels its 1960s heritage with vintage furnishings and a secluded wood-burning hot tub in the forest. camelsnow.com; 020 8123 2859; slh.com; gstaad.ch



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE:
CHALET MONT BLANC IN
MEGÈVE; CERVO MOUNTAIN
BOUTIQUE RESORT IN ZERMATT;
CHALET QUEZAC IN TIGNES

CHALET QUEZAC, TIGNES

New to Tignes this winter, this remarkable chalet is owned and designed by the French rally driver and professional freeskiier Guerlain Chicherit. It turns out the 36 year-old local lad has a passion for contemporary art, cutting-edge design and high-tech toys: the chalet's six suites feature bold, vibrant murals and sculptures, sleek furniture and state-of-the-art sound systems and bathrooms. Wrap-around terraces, a professional kitchen, LED mood lighting and even the Lazareth motorbike used in *Babylon A.D.* starring Vin Diesel, complete Chicherit's fantastical world. luxurychaletcollection.com; 01993 899 429; tignes.net

or as a whole, each featuring its own spa, with a main chalet housing a welcoming restaurant, bar and lounge. Locally sourced antiques and materials like felt, loden and stone blend with stylised deer antlers, minimalist furnishings and glass-encased wall fires to reflect the warmth and beauty of the mountains, providing a sanctuary within them. cervo.ch; 0041 27 968 1212; myswitzerland.com.

CHALET MONT BLANC,
MEGÈVE

We're extremely excited about the quintessentially French resort of Megève, which is about to have fresh life breathed into its cobbled streets and designer boutiques as it welcomes the infamous open-air bar, restaurant and club La Folie Douce and this winter's hottest new property, Chalet Mont Blanc. This modern chalet offers its 12 lucky guests ski-in/ski-out access, a heated outdoor infinity pool overlooking Megève, an indoor pool, spa, hair salon, home cinema, wine cellar, helipad, mezzanine bar with double-height floor to ceiling windows... we could go on (and on). consensioholidays.co.uk; 0203 393 0833; megeve.com

CERVO MOUNTAIN
BOUTIQUE RESORT,
ZERMATT

The family-owned Cervo Mountain Boutique Resort is one of Zermatt's most contemporary and unusual properties: a cluster of traditional wooden buildings in a forest clearing that comprise five-to-eleven-room chalets, available separately



CHALET PELERIN, LE MIROIR, FRANCE

Luxurious yet understated, Chalet Pelerin is tucked into the French hamlet of Le Miroir near Sainte Foy, providing the intimacy of an authentic Alpine community and chauffeur-driven access to the neighbouring resorts of Val d'Isère, Tignes and Les Arcs. Spend your days enjoying the local off-piste with Pelerin's dedicated guides or grab a helicopter from the back garden to explore further afield. Feast on the finest foie gras at Le Miroir's legendary Chez Mérie restaurant and relax in the chalet's indoor saltwater pool, outdoor hot tub, Finnish sauna and steam room. elevenexperience.com; 001 970 349 7761; saintefoy-tarentaise.com



NIRA MONTANA, LA THUILE, ITALY

When it opens in La Thuile this December, Nira Montana will become the popular Italian resort's first five-star hotel. Located in the picturesque old town just steps away from the ski slopes and built in traditional Aosta Valley style, the 55-room hotel's traditional exterior belies slick, contemporary interiors, an extensive spa and what promises to be La Thuile's hottest new restaurant, serving authentic Italian cuisine to match the resort's celebrated on-mountain restaurants. nirahotelsandresorts.com; 020 7630 0808; lathuille.net



SKI CAPSULE

1 CANADA GOOSE W'S HYBRIDGE LITE VEST, £290. NETCLOTHING.COM; 2 CANADA GOOSE AVIATOR'S HAT, £230. CANADA-GOOSE.COM; 3 RITUALS SUN PROTECTION FACE CREAM, FACTOR 30, £16.50 - 60ML: RITUALS.COM; 4 OAKLEY AIRBRAKE JET BLACK W-FIRE, £200. OAKLEY.COM

KULM HOTEL, ST MORITZ

St Moritz is synonymous with winter yet originally enjoyed popularity as a summer destination, known for its therapeutic mountain air and waters. In 1864, the then-owner of the Kulm Hotel, Johannes Badrutt, laid a bet with his British summer guests that a winter visit would be equally delightful; if not, he'd cover the cost of their holiday. He won the bet and within two years the hotel was fully booked with winter guests. The Kulm remains a St Moritz stalwart today, with its newly-launched spa continuing the tradition of invigorating guests throughout the year. alpineanswers.co.uk; 020 7801 1080; stmoritz.ch

MONT TREMBLANT, MÉRIBEL

Despite its location just a few minutes' walk from central Méribel, Mont Tremblant sits in sizeable private grounds with one of the only outdoor swimming pools in town. Having nearly doubled in size following an extensive refurbishment, the six-bedroom chalet bursts onto Méribel's luxury scene this winter, with a particularly impressive double-height master bedroom occupying the entire first floor. The chalet retains traditional styling like timber-panelled rooms and wood burning fireplaces while adding state-of-the-art bathrooms, a cinema and games room. meriski.co.uk; 01285 648518; les3vallees.com



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: MONT TREMBLANT, IN MÉRIBEL; KULM HOTEL, IN ST MORITZ; NIRA MONTANA IN LA THUILE, ITALY; OUTDOOR HOT TUB AT CHALET PELERIN IN LE MIROIR, FRANCE

SKI

SEASON
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SECTION
APRÈS-SKI

APRÈS SKI

Save some energy to party into the winter's night at some of the hottest party spots on the slopes

ISCHGL, AUSTRIA

The compact, traditional farming community of Ischgl might date back to the 10th century but today's largely car-free ski town combines the old-school luxury of resorts like Kitzbühel and St Moritz with a modern party scene to match (if not out-do) St Anton and Verbier. Ischgl's winters kick off and end with legendary on-mountain concerts given by big names like Robbie Williams, Kylie and Rihanna and continue through the season with lively après-ski and table-top dancing at Ischgl icons Niki's Stadl, Romantik Hütte and Pacha (yes, Pacha of Ibiza fame). ischgl.com; 01483 345 723; ingham.co.uk



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ISCHGL IN AUSTRIA; THE DAS CENTRAL HOTEL IN SÖLDEN, AUSTRIA; ROOM AT L'APOGÉE, COURCHEVEL; THE POOL AT W VERBIER; DOWNHILL AT ISCHGL



VERBIER, SWITZERLAND

It could be argued that Verbier didn't need to launch W Verbier last winter, the first Alpine branch of the hip hotel brand, to confirm its position as the preferred winter destination of party-loving celebrities. The W's chic Living Room cocktail bar and rocking Destination Bar instantly made Verbier's list of hot spots, joining the infamous Farm Club, Casbah, Farinet and Le Rouge. Complete with a spa, stylish shops and a restaurant from two Michelin-starred Spanish chef Sergi Arola, the W is the cherry on the icing on the Verbier cake. oxfordski.com; 01993 899 420; verbier.ch



SÖLDEN, AUSTRIA

Although well known in Europe for its virtually year-round glacier skiing and unfettered après-ski, Sölden flies under the radar for most Brits. But it shouldn't do. The skiing on its three dramatic 3,000ft glaciers is seriously impressive. As the sun goes down, Sölden's main street echoes to the sound of après-ski rocking the 80-odd bars, clubs and restaurants that pack it out. Our top tips: retreat from the après madness to Sölden's only five-star hotel, Das Central, and don't walk the vertiginous Tiefenbachkogel viewing gangplank with a hangover. central-soelden.at; 0043 5254 22600; soelden.com

SKI CAPSULE



1. MONCLER JUNIOR ARRIOUS, FROM £435, HARRODS.COM
2. WATERPROOF ELSA UGG BOOTS, £180, UGGAUSTRALIA.CO.UK
3. GUCCI MEN'S SKI GOGGLES, £120, GUCCI.COM
4. SALOMON RANGER C AIR, £115, SALOMON.COM

COURCHEVEL, FRANCE

Courchevel is a place of unashamed excess, wearing its manicured ski slopes, ultra-luxury chalets, Michelin-starred restaurants and vodka and champagne-spraying bars with pride. Located in Courchevel's particularly exclusive ski-in/ski-out Jardin Alpin enclave, hotel L'Apogée was launched last December and quickly established itself as one of the resort's most sought-after addresses. L'Apogée positively oozes hip glamour from its three-bedroom Penthouse with rooftop hot tub and intimate Champagne Lounge serving Périgord truffle hot dogs to the stylish Bar de L'Apogée, where resident DJ Maxee Bee and guest DJs play each night. scottdunn.com; 020 3642 9060; courchevel.com



SKI

TRAVELLER PROMOTION

SEASON
2015

SECTION
FAMILY



FAMILY

Some of the finest ski resorts in the world are heaven sent for snow-lovers travelling with their little people

VAIL, COLORADO

It's hard to beat Vail for skiing with a young family. The slopes are quieter than in European resorts, the snow is more reliable, the instructors are unfailingly patient and friendly and children's classes are kept small. Add to that special ski lessons for kids and teens such as the new Ski Girls Rock camp created by Olympic gold medalist Lindsey Vonn

for girls aged 7-16, dedicated kids' adventure zones on the mountain, and a pedestrianised village packed with family-friendly restaurants and attractions and, as locals would say, it's a no-brainer. ski-i.com; 0131 516 4026; vail.com

LA PLAGNE, FRANCE

Comprising ten villages and 225km of

CLOCKWISE FROM
ABOVE: THE
FAMILY-FRIENDLY
RESORT OF LAXX IN
SWITZERLAND; CHALET
AT LA PLAGNE IN
FRANCE; SKIING AT
PORTES DU SOLEIL
IN FRANCE



mostly beginner and intermediate pistes, in addition to a further 200km of trails in the larger Paradiski ski area, La Plagne is big. And, for families, big is beautiful, particularly when staying at the plush self-catered Les Granges du Soleil apartments. Located in Plagne Soleil & Plagne Village, a smattering of traditionally-styled chalets in a sun-drenched bowl above Plagne Centre, Les Granges du Soleil offers ski-in/ski-out convenience, a spa, indoor pool, sauna and daily breakfast deliveries. skicollection.co.uk; 0844 576 0175; la-plagne.com

LECH, AUSTRIA

Lech has long been favoured by the rich and royal, who have flocked here for its exceptional hotels, skiing and snow. The picture-perfect Alpine village takes exclusivity seriously, limiting daily lift ticket sales to 14,000 to prevent guests feeling crowded on the mountain. The unusual policy works: hotels enjoy unparalleled repeat guest numbers, with families returning year after year, particularly to the Goldener Berg in Oberlech, a smattering of hotels located above Lech, which is reached by cable car and has its very own ski kindergarten. powderbyrne.com; 020 8246 5300; lech-zuers.at ➔

SKI

SAINT MARTIN DE BELLEVILLE, FRANCE

It's impossible not to fall under the spell of Saint Martin de Belleville as you ski into it. The sleepy cluster of authentic Savoyard timber and slate-roofed farms and stables is watched over by an old church, several of them transformed into cosy restaurants like Le Montagnard, which offers farm-to-table dining. Boasting sweeping views over the village, the self-catered Les Chalets du Gypse apartments offer ski-in/ski-out access to quiet nursery slopes, which lead up to the vast Three Valleys skiing area.

peakretreats.co.uk; 0844 576 0170;
st-martin-belleville.com

GEILO, NORWAY

Perched on a frozen lake and wedged between dramatic fjords, Geilo is the epitome of winter wonderland perfection. And, while the resort delivers fantastic skiing for beginners and intermediates, Geilo also offers husky-sledding, horse-drawn sleigh rides, snowmobile safaris, guided nature safaris and ice-fishing. For the ultimate winter experience, stay in the Forest Chalet, a traditional log cabin nestled in dense forest and warmed by wood fires. The catered chalet sleeps eight, comes with a sauna and is a few minutes' walk from the lifts, ski school and kindergarten. crystalski.co.uk;

0203 733 1918; geilo.no

SKI CAPSULE

1. DIOR ENIGMATIC SUNGLASSES, £365. DIOR.COM 2. CHANEL SKIS, POA, CHANEL.COM 3. WATERPROOF ADIRONDACK BOOT, £220, UGGAUSTRALIA.CO.UK 4. VOLCOM EH GORE-TEX GLOVES, £109.99, GORE-TEX.CO.UK 5. PICTURE ORGANIC CLOTHING APOLLA SUIT, £479.99, PICTURE-ORGANIC-CLOTHING.COM

ASPEN, COLORADO

There's something about a grand hotel like the St Regis in Aspen that captivates children like little else. The sparkling chandeliers, roaring fires, dapper bellboys



CLOCKWISE FROM THIS IMAGE: APRES SKI AT ASPEN, COLORADO; SKI PARK IN GEILO, NORWAY; FRESHLY GROOMED PISTES AT LAAX IN SWITZERLAND

and dainty footprints in fresh snow that lead to steaming hot tubs create memories that last a lifetime. Combine this with learning to ski in one of the world's most iconic resorts and you'll also create the habit of a lifetime. Aspen Snowmass offers skiing across four diverse mountains, including Buttermilk, whose forgiving slopes provide one of the world's best places to learn to ski and snowboard. oxfordski.com; 01993 899 420; aspensnowmass.com

LAAX, SWITZERLAND

The relatively young resort of LAAX should be on every skiing family's bucket list, particularly if your clan includes a budding snowboarder or freestyler. Together with its lift-linked neighbours Flims and Falera, LAAX is Europe's leading freestyle resort offering 235km of ski terrain, including 40km of dedicated freeride terrain, four snow parks, a superpipe, minipipe and Europe's first indoor freestyle training centre. The stylish self-catered Rocks Resort apartments in LAAX offer ultimate convenience, handily located at the base of the ski area amongst the restaurants, bars and shops. skisafari.com; 01273 224060; laax.com

LA TOUSSUIRE, FRANCE

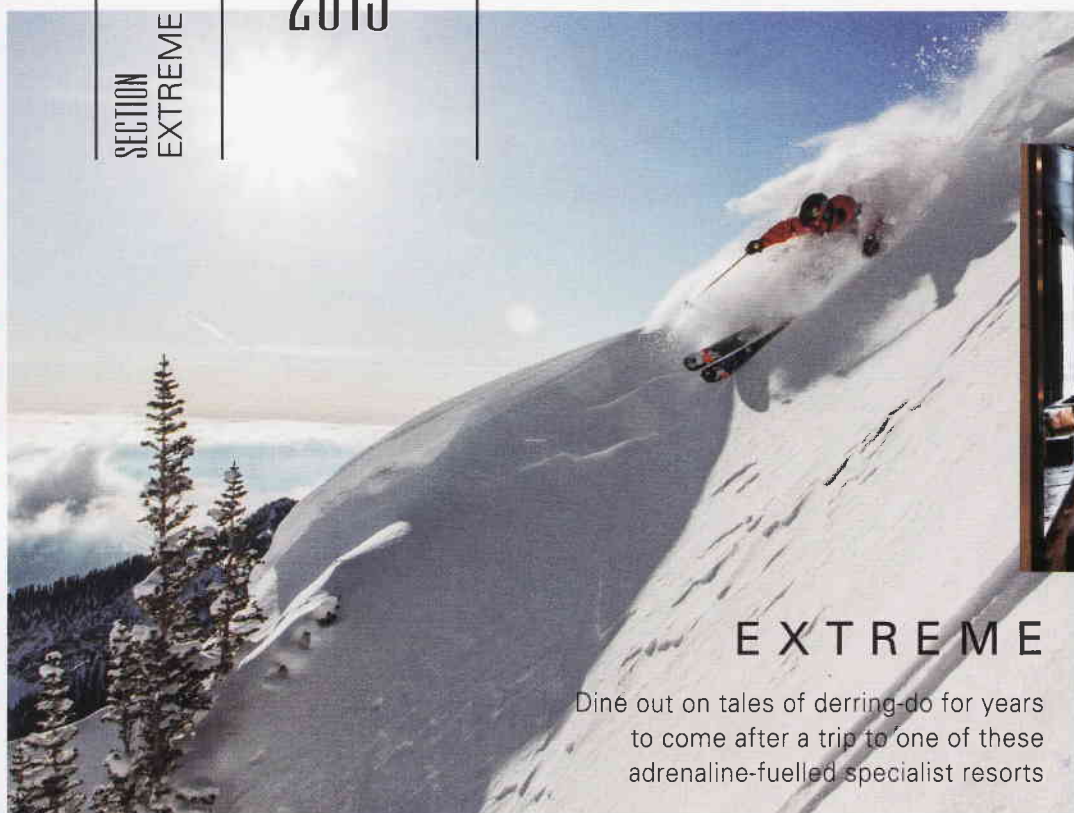
The Maurienne Valley is the final frontier of French skiing: a scenic, rural area encompassing 22 small resorts you've probably never heard of. Among them is the old farming village of La Toussuire, which offers 55km of pistes with plenty of space dedicated to children and beginners. It's also lift-linked to five other villages, creating the Les Sybelles ski area, which boasts a surprisingly extensive 310km of pistes, virtually all of which are perfect for beginners and intermediates. peakretreats.co.uk; 0844 576 0170; maurienne-tourisme.com



SEASON
2015

TRAVELLER PROMOTION

SKI

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:
DOWNHILL AT SALT LAKE IN
UTAH; DINING AREA AT THE
CHEDI IN ANDERMATT; SKIING
IN ICELAND IS COMING OF AGE

EXTREME

Dine out on tales of derring-do for years to come after a trip to one of these adrenaline-fuelled specialist resorts

ANDERMATT AND
DISENTIS, SWITZERLAND

Andermatt, a small Swiss town with big mountain skiing, was catapulted into the headlines last winter when it welcomed the first Alpine Chedi, which outshines many (more expensive) hotels in St Moritz and Verbier. With the imminent launch of more hotels, apartments and villas, Andermatt's previously deserted slopes are getting busier, so grab the train to neighbouring Disentis for guaranteed fresh tracks. Currently a favourite among freeskiing Swedes – the divining rod of epic off-piste skiing – Disentis is our top powder tip this winter, complete with the hip new Lodge SAX, opening in December and run by some of those Swedes. thechedi-andermatt.com; lodgesax.com; myswitzerland.com

SKI SALT LAKE, UTAH

For the ultimate powder safari, put Utah's claim to have 'the greatest snow on earth' to the test. Ski Salt Lake comprises the four resorts of Alta, Brighton, Snowbird and Solitude in the Cottonwood Canyons, delivering some of the world's finest powder skiing on one lift pass. The towns are small, quirky and low-key while the terrain ranges from snow-choked glades and open powder bowls to cliff bands and pillow lines. Just don't bring your snowboard if you're heading to Alta – it's strictly skiers only. skisafari.com; 01273 224060; utah.com

DEPLAR FARM, ICELAND

When it opens next spring, Deplar Farm will take adventure travel in Iceland to a whole new level. Set in a remote valley near Iceland's rugged north-western coast and encircled by 3,000ft peaks, Deplar is currently being transformed from a working sheep farm into a luxury retreat. Guests can enjoy heli-skiing and ski touring from the peaks of glaciers to the ocean, descending the flanks of deep fjords under the midnight sun, as well as heli-fishing for Atlantic salmon in pristine rivers. elevenexperience.com; 001 970 349 7761; iceland.is



SKI CAPSULE



1 WOMENS BLACK WOOL KNITTED COLLAR, DIOR.COM; 2 SKI GOGGLES, £250, CHANEL.COM; 3 WOMENS ARC TERYX ANDESSA JACKET, £650, ARCTERYX.COM; 4 MIMI BERRY ZERMATT TRAVEL BAG, £375, MIMIBERRY.CO.UK; 5 CHANEL UV ESSENTIEL SUN PROTECTION CREAM SPF 30, £41, CHANEL.CO.UK

WHAKAPAPA,
NEW ZEALAND

As bragging rights go, skiing down a live volcano is up there with the best. Whakapapa, New Zealand's largest ski area, cannot only boast that 75 percent of its runs are for intermediate and advanced skiers but also lays claim to the country's best backcountry skiing. The undisputed backcountry highlight is the hike up to the peak of Mount Ruapehu (North Island's tallest mountain) to admire the crater lake before skiing into the neighbouring Turoa ski area. The most celebrated ski run in the Antipodes, you'll be dining off tales about volcano skiing for years to come. newzealand.com