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NOVEMBER 2019 £3.90

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Ski special



Les Chalets du Mont d'Arbois, Megève

FRESH TRACKS

The latest buzz on the slopes, from hotel openings to the best après spots

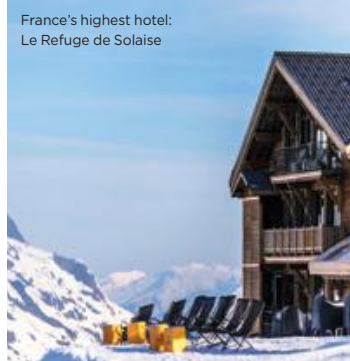
The renaissance of the luxury Alpine hotel continues apace, with France this winter's indisputable hotel hotspot. While 2018 saw the Four Seasons join high-end hotel brands such as the Chedi, W Hotel and Aman in the Alps, this season sees them continue their collaboration with the de Rothschild family, with the reopening of the family's historic five-star hotel, Les Chalets du Mont d'Arbois, in Megève. The three interlinking chalets vary in style, from traditional to bohemian chic, and can be rented individually or by the room (fourseasons.com).

There are two significant launches in Val d'Isère. The Mademoiselle is a ski-in, ski-out 'castle' on the Place de Neige, inspired by an aristocratic Haute Époque residence, with 41 bedrooms and suites (airellescollection.com). And the Refuge de Solaise will become France's highest hotel when it opens in December. This converted cable car station is perched 2,500m up the Solaise, claiming the best views as well as a slick restaurant, cocktail bar and swimming pool (lerufuge-valdisere.com). Francophiles familiar with the hip hotels created by the Pariente family in Saint Tropez and Provence will be delighted they're also launching in Méribel. Hotel Le Coucou, just above the Rond Point, is set to hit all the minimalist, laid-back-luxury notes the brand is famous for (lecoucoumeribel.com). In neighbouring Courchevel, the renowned Sivolière has been completely refurbished by British designer Sara Copeland (hotel-lasivoliere.com), and Le Chabichou is reopening under new management (chabichoucourchevel.com).

Stateside, there is a new W Hotel in Aspen, its first ski property in North America, risen like a phoenix from the ashes of the famed Sky Hotel: bigger, better and taller than before, with rooftop bar, dance floor and pool overlooking



Chalet Alice, one of Les Chalets du Mont d'Arbois



France's highest hotel: Le Refuge de Solaise



Restaurant with a view at Le Refuge de Solaise

OFF-PISTE



CHEZ VRONY, ZERMATT

Quite possibly the best mountain restaurant in the Alps. With stunning Matterhorn views from its triple-tiered terraces, lunch here is an Alpine rite of passage. chezvrony.ch



LA FOLIE DOUCE, AVORIAZ

Now an Alpine institution, the Folie launched its latest outpost last winter. Book an outside table at the adjoining La Fruitière for lunch, then join the après, Avoriaz-style. lafoliedouce.com



JAGDHOF, STUBAI VALLEY

Spa award of the winter goes to the Jagdhof Spa Chalet, 3,000 sq/m of immersive spa indulgence featuring 20 different wellness experiences. Perfect for a ski spa break. hotel-jagdhof.at

Heli-ski with Leo Trippi

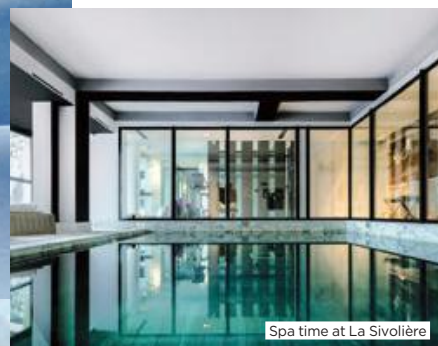


Aspen Mountain (marriott.com). Fly there with United Airlines' new direct London-Denver flights. Direct flights to Salt Lake City are also back for this winter with Delta, perfect for Deer Valley and the famed powder of Utah.

For all the comforts of a hotel, it can be hard to beat the intimacy of a chalet. Cutting-edge style and contemporary art lovers should add the freshly-built Bella Rocca in Verbier to their bucket lists, and if you like contemporary design with your stone and timber, plump for Chalet Machupuchare in Val d'Isère (brambleski.com). Reconnect with your inner child at Chalet Tataali in Morzine, complete with indoor corkscrew slide and a swing over the pool (oxfordski.com).

Chalet Tango in Tignes is a genuine one-off: a wild, wacky flight of imagination from four-time world ski champion and rally driver Guerlain Chicherit, complete with furnishings from a 1950s military plane and the best children's playroom in the ski world (gc-kollection.com).

For those seeking extreme adventures, it's all about Antarctica. When Aurora Expeditions sets the pioneering Greg Mortimer on her maiden voyage this November, the 100 passengers will enjoy ski touring, snowshoeing and camping on the ice cap (auroraexpeditions.com). Meanwhile,



Spa time at La Sivolière



The Greg Mortimer embarks on her maiden voyage this winter

polar exploration specialist Quark Expeditions is offering heli-skiing with a side of polar cruising on the soon-to-launch, 199-guest, Ultramarine (quarkexpeditions.com).

If you prefer not to share, charter the 252-foot La Datcha expedition yacht. This six-deck splendour comes with two helicopters, two snowmobiles, a spa and 25 crew, and is available for charter in Antarctica (ladatcha.com).

Closer to home, Leo Trippi is launching the ultimate heli-ski safari, an exhilarating ten-day cross-border, deep powder adventure in Switzerland, Italy and France (leotrippi.com). Or try Scott Dunn's ultimate round the world ski experience, taking in five countries and three continents over 33 days (scottdunn.com). ■

WHEN TO GO

**24-26 JAN**

Sport simply doesn't get more glamorous than polo on snow. Don't miss St Moritz' Snow Polo World Cup. snowpolo-stmoritz.com

**5-8 MARCH**

Compete with wounded veterans at Supporting Wounded Veterans Ski Challenge in Klosters. supportingwoundedveterans.com

**12-15 MARCH**

Join stellar chefs, including Tom Kerridge and Claude Bosi, at Courmayeur's Mountain Gourmet Ski Experience. momentumski.com

**30 MARCH TO 3 APRIL**

Tim Minchin (above) was in last year's live comedy line-up in Mayrhofen. Marcus Brigstocke heads 2020. altitudefestival.com

**14-18 APRIL 2020**

Soak up acoustic performances from stars such as Passenger and James Bay at Zermatt Unplugged. zermatt-unplugged.ch