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PEAK VIEWING The indoor pool at Mont Tremblant, above, in the French resort of Méribel

EUROPE'S BEST NEW SKI CHALETs

It seemed impossible that chalets could get bigger, or more luxe, but they have. The hottest property this winter is, unsurprisingly, in the chalet motherland of Courchevel. The sleek **Blossom Hill**, in Le Praz 1650, not only has matt concrete walls and sleek furnishings that lend it an industrial warehouse vibe, but an indoor/outdoor infinity pool with mountain views, a private cinema with a 10ft-wide screen and a wine cellar with its own kitchen (oxfordski.com; from £11,850 a week b&b, sleeping 10).

One valley over, in Méribel, the game-changing new kid on the block is **Mont Tremblant**, which blends traditional Savoyard touches – scalloped wooden eaves, vaulted ceilings and stone columns – with state-of-the-art

technology, modern art and a spa that leads out to a large heated outdoor pool and hot tub (luxurychaletcollection.com; from £22,500 a week chalet-board, sleeping 12). In Switzerland, Verbier's **Place Blanche** is pushing the luxury level up another notch. Initially built as two W Verbier private residences, and thus in the midst of the ski, party and shopping action, the rustic chalet has one of the resort's biggest master bathrooms in which guests can stargaze while they bathe beneath an enormous skylight (skiverbiereexclusive.com; from £27,000 a week chalet-board, sleeping 10).

Over in France, **Chalet Jajalp** in Morzine is the quintessence of Alpine sophistication, with its

picture windows, aged wood and silky soft cashmere and tweed furnishings – although the double-height living areas, which encircle a dramatic two-storey glass wine tower, and its wraparound terrace and sunken Jacuzzi are more super-home than ski-chalet (consensiochalets.co.uk; £15,975 per week chalet-board, sleeping 10). Finally, while **Baita 1697** doesn't offer floating staircases or infinity pools, it delivers something even rarer: luxury catered chalet accommodation in Italy, with six cosy bedrooms, living areas within the 17th-century farmhouse's vaulted stables, and a timber hot tub on the hayloft terrace (baita1697.com; from £12,150 per week chalet-board).

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