

FRANCE

Today

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Wild at heart

CORSIKA

Taming the Isle of Beauty

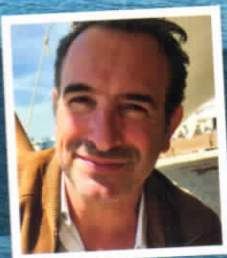
CHAÎNE DES PUY

CONQUERING
AUVERGNE'S
SLEEPING GIANTS

SUZANNE VALADON

FROM ARTIST'S MUSE TO
MONTMARTRE IT GIRL

CHRISTIAN DIOR

THE COUTURIER
WHO MADE FASHION
LOOK NEW**JEAN DUJARDIN**The Oscar winner goes
off the deep end in *Deerskin*WIN
A VIP RETURN
FERRY CROSSING
WORTH
£200COURS
CÀMARGUAISI

A DIFFERENT BULL GAME

WINTER BREAKS GUIDE 19/20

The top ski resorts, Christmas markets, festivals and spa getaways





France is a fantastic destination for winter sports and Christmas markets



flavourful loaf, it can also come iced, studded with candied fruits or lined with ganache – there are even miniature jam-filled versions called *nonnettes*! Keep your eyes open for them at the market, which is held in the place de la Libération, or head

Rihour provides a dramatic backdrop to this colourful wonderland, complete with a star-topped tree, a lit-up Ferris wheel and a sprawl of around 90 charming stalls. Shopping here is a pleasure thanks to the abundance of local artisanal

“THE FESTIVE SEASON SEES A SPECTACULAR TRANSFORMATION AS TWINKLING LIGHTS ARE STRUNG UP”

straight to the home of the only remaining master bakers at The House of Mulot & Petitjean on place Bossuet.

www.destinationdijon.com

Lille

Every year, Lille hosts a bustling Christmas market right in the city centre. The gothic Palais

goods and seasonal treats – get ready to gorge on whiffy Maroilles cheese, *babelutttes de Lille* (butter caramel sweets), gingerbread and warming mulled wine, not to mention wares from much further afield, including arts and crafts from Russia, Canada and Poland.

www.noel-a-lille.com >>



Come wintertime, resorts like Valloire Galibier become wonderlands of white snow and blue skies

white, and daring powder-hounds sniff out the toughest black runs and backcountry descents to test their mettle. Not sporty? There's also a vibrant après-ski scene, excellent shopping and a wealth of snug chalets to make that 'winter wonderland' dream a reality.

Chalet Cannelle

We love a good makeover, and they don't come more radical than this cowshed-cum-chalet. Situated in the traditional Alpine village of Châtel, Cannelle lives its life these days as a spacious ski base with all the trimmings: a sprawling lounge, vintage leather armchairs, seven bedrooms (two

brand new for winter 2019), a log fire and a hot tub with mountain views. Foodies will be well catered for with the freshest free-range ingredients, and the bread, pasta, pastries and ice cream here are all made from scratch. The team bags bonus points for having veggie, vegan and gluten-free options!

www.chaletcannelle.co.uk

Chalets 1066

Allow us to set the scene: you've woken up in your cabin in the heart of Les Gets, and you're feeling a mite peckish. The idea of swaddling yourself in layers and braving the snow is nothing short of daunting – at least until

you've had your first coffee and a spot of breakfast. Well, the shrewd folks at Chalets1066 are one step ahead. Not only do they offer guests a round of fresh pastries, delivered from the local pâtisserie just in time for your *petit déjeuner*, but there's also the option of hiring a personal chef, having your snow boots and ski passes delivered straight to your door, and choosing from a range of accommodation to suit all budgets. Perfect!

www.chalets1066.com

Chez le Marquis du Pontet

Based in Valloire Galibier, a pretty little resort in the Maurienne Valley, Chez le

Marquis du Pontet is a former farmhouse that has been lovingly repurposed into five separate apartments. Whether you're travelling as a small unit, a medium-sized group, or as a flock of up to 15 people, you'll find kitted-out accommodation to suit your needs and welcome you into this congenial corner of Savoie. Poised as it is on the edge of the slopes, close to shops and amenities and just a short distance from the main ski lifts, you couldn't ask for a better location – and what this friendly nook may lack in stardom, it makes up for in charm, so prepare to be wooed.

www.chezlemarquis-valloire.com >>



Collineige

The Chamonix Specialists

Beautiful chalets in wonderful locations – from a cosy hide-away for 2 to a fabulous catered chalet for 15, let us help you to plan your perfect skiing holiday in Chamonix Mont-Blanc. We are a small, family run company with almost 40 years of experience and hence have many local connections here. That means we can help you to find the best ski instructors and guides, organise husky sledding, ski the Vallée Blanche, choose the best local restaurants, buy the right ski passes, find a good nanny... *and anything else you need!*

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IMAGE © COLLINEIGE

If there's one place that does luxury chalets extremely well, it's Chamonix

Collineige

Chamonix is one of the most renowned winter resorts in the world, so it makes sense that it's home to more luxury chalets than you can shake a ski pole at. Having been in business for over 35 years, family-run Collineige is up there with the best of them, boasting a roster of tip-top chalets of varying sizes for the season. Choose between catered or self-catered (though with on-site chefs cooking sautéed lamb, chestnut velouté with truffle and homemade tiramisu, is it really a choice?), drink in the staggering views of Mont-Blanc from Chalet Valhalla or thaw off in Les Tissourds' glorious hot tub.

www.collineige.com

French Alps Escape

The clue here is very much in the name. Focused on helping frazzled holidaymakers escape into the mountains, this family-run business is a tempting prospect if you happen to have a little extra cash to splash. Dotted around the Tarentaise, Les 3 Vallées and Annecy, the self-catered accommodation here ranges from holiday apartments to traditional wooden chalets, most of which provide easy (and sometimes immediate) access to the slopes. The cherry on the cake is the list of guest services, which includes maps for first-timers, restaurant

suggestions and access to discounts on ski passes and hire. In our experience, it's these small touches that really make a place a home from home.

www.frenchalpsescape.com

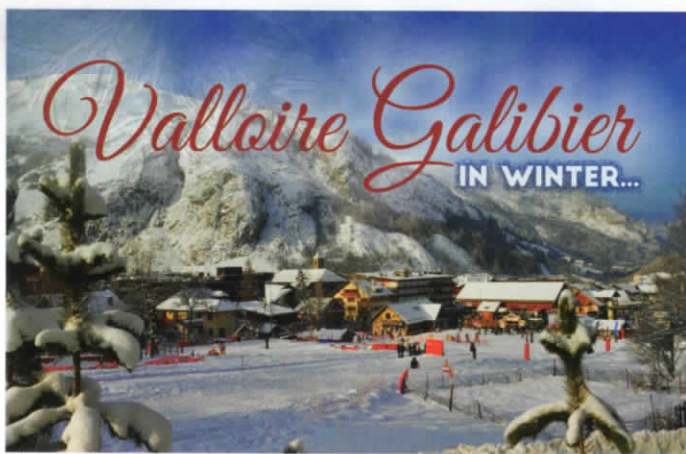
Over the Moon

Looking for a fairy-tale escape with your better half? You'd be hard-pressed to find a more romantic cubbyhole than Over the Moon, winner of the accommodation award at last year's Trophées de la Montagne Française. Perched on the 2,400m peak of L'Arpette in the heart of La Plagne ski resort, this former snow groomer now serves as a love nest atop the very pistes it used to tend. Guests begin their journey at nearby Plagne Bellecôte, before being driven up to the summit in the portable pad itself and left to spend the night in complete privacy, enjoying the queen-size bed, heating, home theatre and all-important coffee machine for the next morning.

www.skipass-laplagne.com/fr/over-the-moon

Ski France

Perhaps you're not interested in a chalet at all? If you'd rather hunker down in a hotel, don't miss what's on offer at Ski France. It's still possible to bag your classic snow-topped cabin, but there are some brilliant deals at a number of major hotels and



Exceptional ski-in/ski-out chalet split over 5 apartments and ideal for families. Located at the foot of 150km of slopes, in the centre of the village of Valloire, the winter art ski resort.



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