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FRANCE

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Today

SECRET TARN

Adventure behind the scenes in the deep south

WIN
A RETURN TRAIN
JOURNEY FOR TWO
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YOUR CHOICE
WORTH £500

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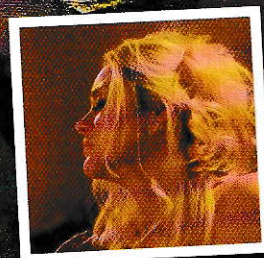
**WWI UNTOLD: THE
LAST SOLDIER TO FALL**

VERSIDE JOURNEYS

THE LURE OF THE LOIRE

LAUBAN

**IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF
THE KING'S VAGABOND**



**MARION
COTILLARD**

On playing a
careless mother
in *Angel Face*

WINTER BREAKS GUIDE 2018/19

From ski resorts to Christmas markets, your holiday starts here



FRANCE MEDIA

THE GUIDE

WINTER BREAKS 2018/19



With Christmas right around the corner, our thoughts turn to twinkling markets and cosy nights by the fire (ideally with a glass of spicy *vin chaud* in hand). France's list of things to see and do in the festive season is endless, so we've narrowed it down for you over the next few pages – whether you're looking for an exciting family holiday, a relaxing spa break or that long-overdue rendezvous with the pistes. »

WORDS BY RHIANNON REES

IMAGE © CHAMONIX.COM

Auberge & Chalets SUR LA MONTAGNE

CATERED OR SELF-CATERED SKI CHALET &
APARTMENTS AT SAINTE FOY TARENDAISE IN
THE HEART OF THE FRENCH ALPS

Auberge
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Ski lifts give you the chance to warm up and catch your breath before the next run

humble, it started life as a plain old cowshed before being lovingly transformed into luxury accommodation. During your stay, if you can bear to pull yourself away from your cosy bed (or the dinner table), the local transport is also exemplary. A minibus takes guests to the area's slopes in ten minutes or less, meaning there's never a dull moment. Being central, Châtel is within easy reach of Avoriaz, Les Gets and Morzine, or the comparably quiet resorts of Champéry, Morgins and Torgon. www.chaletcannelle.co.uk

Hôtel les Arolles

Based in the heart of Les 3 Vallées, stark against the snow and fairly glowing at night, is Hôtel les Arolles. This attractive three-star lodging in Méribel-Mottaret has an undeniably classy feel, with a spacious interior, heated swimming pool and sauna, plus an outdoor deck for dining and watching folks roll in off the piste – quite literally in this case, as there are slopes on Les Arolles' very doorstep. (No excuse not to practise, then!) The hotel also boasts an on-site shop for rental and purchasable ski gear, so you never have to stray far for supplies, as well as a handy repair workshop. Perfectly positioned to welcome weary powder hounds, this is ski accommodation at its best. www.arolles.com

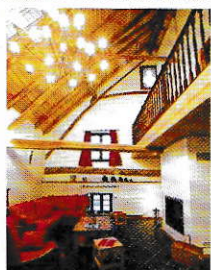
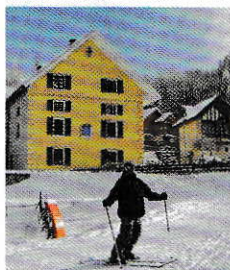
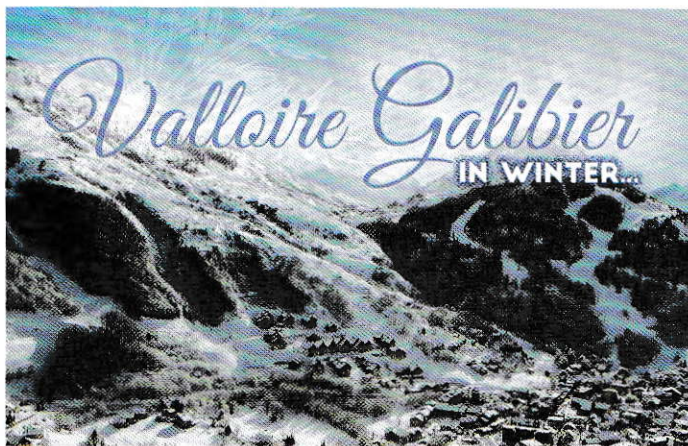
Maison La Cerisaie

Maison La Cerisaie is a beautifully renovated 1830s

stone farmhouse located amidst stunning Alpine scenery in Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval, one of France's best ski areas and most picturesque villages. With its exterior green shutters and warm pine interior, this is a property guaranteed to charm your socks off – especially if you take a dip in its deluxe hot tub! There's a wealth of indulgent features here, including a wood-burning stove, boot warmers, spacious living areas and free WiFi. There are four ensuite bedrooms, which can accommodate up to 12 beds, and scope for a catered, self-catered or B&B stay. Close to the Swiss border, this property is just over an hour's drive from Geneva airport, making it an easy first port of call. www.maisonlacerisaie.com www.gva.ch

Marquis du Pontet

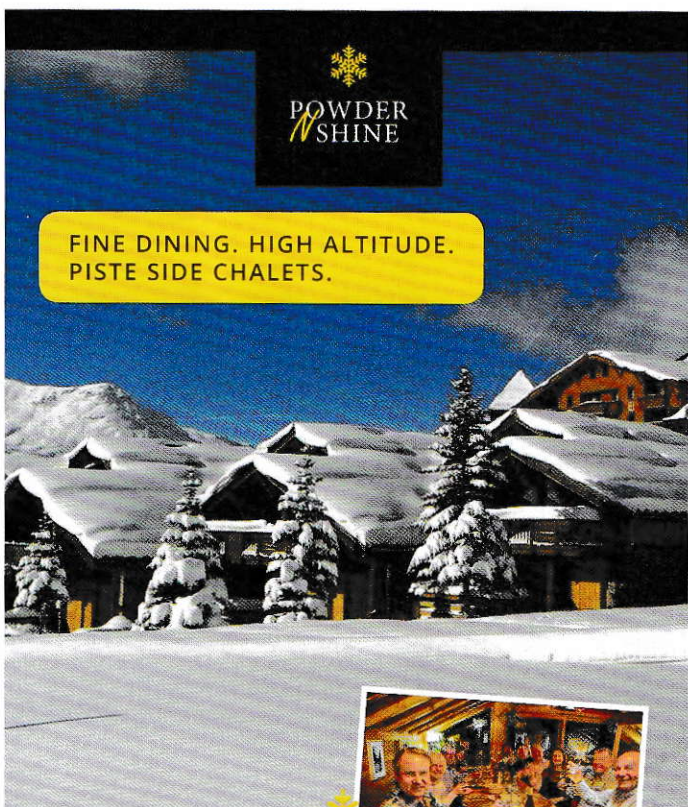
If you're Valloire-bound, consider the brilliantly positioned Marquis du Pontet. This four-star ski-in/ski-out chalet is located on the fringe of the slopes, close to shops, the main ski lifts (cable cars Sétaz and Crêt de la Brive), ski schools and plenty of other amenities. You'll find a quintet of comfortable apartments here, delightfully simple in décor and accommodating different numbers of people. After a day's skiing, the living room and private terrace practically beg for a well-earned *chocolat chaud* to thaw off and unwind. Valloire is the ideal destination for a pleasant getaway in the »



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.



Chez le Marquis du Pontet
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lionel@chezlemarquis-valloire.com
chezlemarquis-valloire.com



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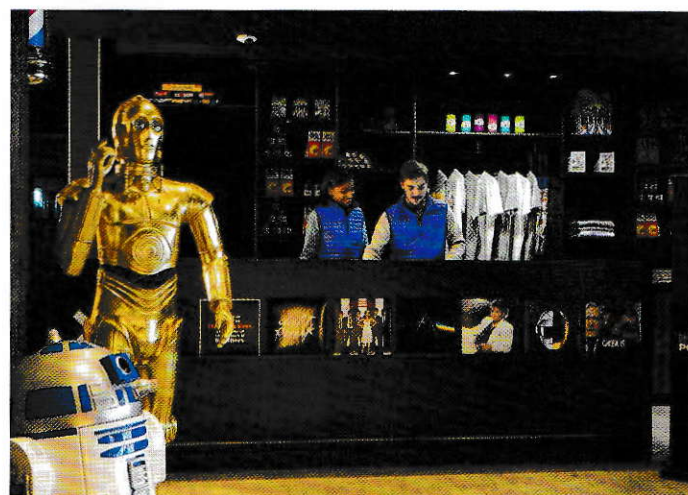


IMAGE © ROCKYPOP HOTEL

Fun and character are the watchwords at Chamonix's RockyPop Hotel

French Alps and these carefully appointed apartments make for a seriously cosy stay.

www.chezlemarquis-valloire.com

Powder N Shine

All wooden beams and roaring fires, these chalets are exactly what you'd expect from a traditional Alpine village. You'll find them in piste-side Reberty, above Les Menuires, allowing direct access to the vast 3 Vallées ski area – although it's not just hardcore skiers that stay here: Powder N Shine welcomes guests from around the world – single skiers through to small and large groups, families and friends, skiers and non-skiers, foodies and fussy eaters! You're guaranteed to tuck into a scrumptious feast while you're here, whipped up by a crew of professional chefs with backgrounds at some of the best restaurants in Europe, including Michelin establishments. Whatever brings you to the mountains, this could be your next home away from home.

www.powdernshine.com

Powderwhite

The ability to customise your holiday is Powderwhite's greatest gift, and it works beautifully. Choose a catered chalet, hotel or self-catered apartment from its impressive roster, select flights and transfers if required, and add ski passes, equipment hire and lessons, depending on your needs. Scattered throughout the

resorts of Méribel, Courchevel and Val d'Isère, each of the properties is individual in style, designed to a high standard and equipped with an equally high level of service, with a friendly chalet host, cooked or continental breakfast, afternoon tea, three-course evening meal with wine, fresh bed linen, towels, toiletries and free WiFi to boot. Not one to be sniffed at!

www.powderwhite.com

RockyPop Hotel

Passing under a faux cinema sign to stamp the snow off your boots, you're met in the foyer by R2-D2 and C-3PO. Snack-inspired cushions, a *Simpsons*-style doughnut pouffe and functioning arcade machines are just some of the other quirks of this endearing getaway. The bedrooms are even zanier than the communal areas. One suite is loudly furnished in tartan; another decked unapologetically in red and green upholstery. There's character here and, with 148 rooms in single, double, mezzanine or penthouse styles, no shortage of accommodation either. Amid all the funky furniture, the only common thread you'll find is comfort.

www.rockypop-chamonix.com

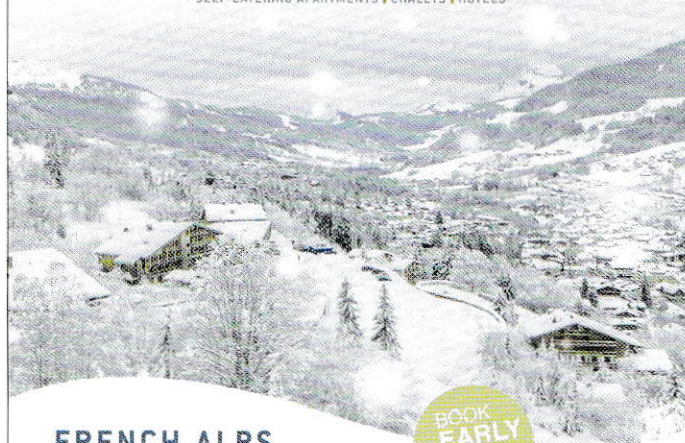
VIP SKI

Continuing the trend of impeccable service, VIP SKI specialises in creating an unforgettable stay at one of its 66 luxury chalets. There's a distinctive selection of

LAGRANGE

SKI 2018-2019

SELF-CATERING APARTMENTS | CHALETs | HOTELS



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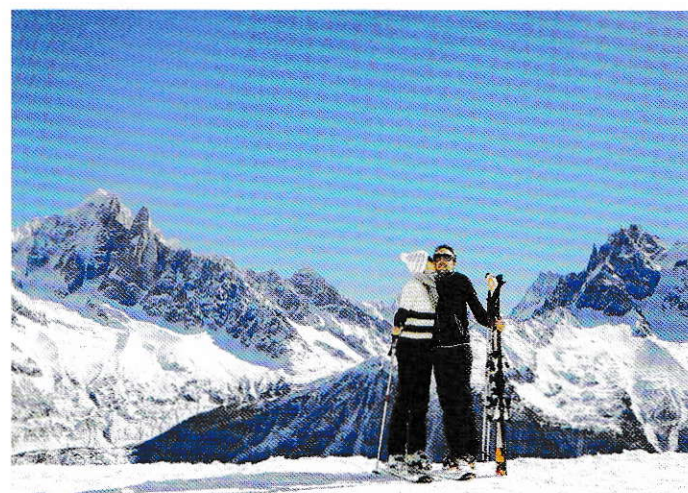


IMAGE © CHATNOIX.COM

Skiing opens up a whole new altitudinous landscape of mountains and valleys

Valloire (Alps)

Nestled at the foot of the Col du Galibier mountain pass, Valloire is a ski resort that has all the charm of a village. This twinkling cluster of chalets and ski runs is beloved by families in particular, thanks to its facilities catering to all levels of ability, a variety of accommodation and some truly stunning views. There's also a fiercely competitive tournament that takes place here every year called 'Sculptures sur neige'. This year running from January 22-25, 2019, the unusual gathering sees competitors from around the globe go head-to-head in an enormous snow-sculpting battle, with exceptional results. There's nothing quite like it!

Galibier-Thabor area open from December 22, 2018 – April 19, 2019

www.valloire.net

SPAS

After all that excitement, you'd be forgiven for wanting to slip away somewhere quiet. Fortunately, France has its fair share of spas – both luxury and more affordable – in which to relieve those aching joints. Soothing baths in natural springs, saunas, hammams, blissful massages and beauty treatments abound in these kernels of warmth, so read on and plan the relaxing finale to your winter escape.

Bains de Dorres

The hot springs of Bains de Dorres in the Pyrénées provide a

beautiful setting for an open-air dip, even in the heart of winter. With a constant temperature of 38°C, the sulphur waters in the outdoor granite pools offer a chance to relax whatever the weather. They're open daily all year round, apart from a brief closure from the end of November to early December.

www.bains-de-dorres.com

Les Sources de Caudalie

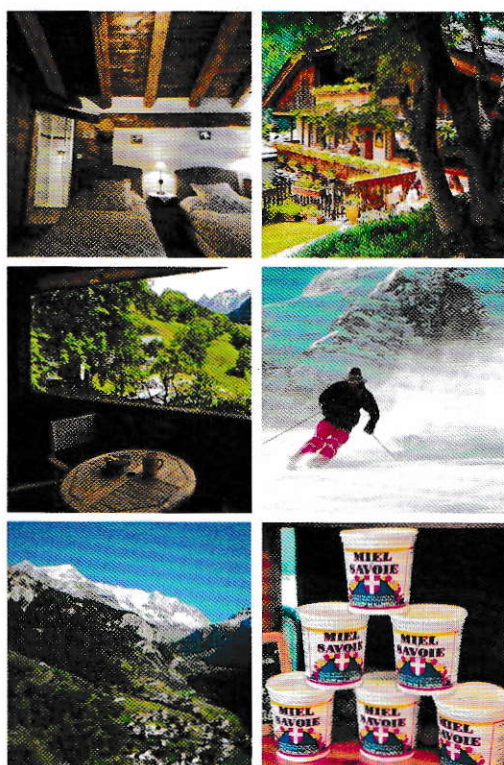
What could possibly be more French than basting oneself in wine? 'Vinothérapie', as it's called, was coined by luxury brand Caudalie and can be enjoyed at its hotel Les Sources de Caudalie in vineyard-smothered Martillac. This approach to therapy blends spa treatments with the hallowed grape juice for ultimate refreshment – or, in the company's own words, "combines the virtues of natural hot spring water drawn from 540m beneath the earth with the most recent scientific discoveries of the benefits of the grape and the grapevine".

www.sources-caudalie.com

Salins-les-Bains

Two hundred million years ago, what is now the town of Salins-les-Bains was completely submerged by water. As the water levels gradually fell, layers of rock salt were formed, which mixed with the water to create saline springs. Today, Salins-les-Bains in the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté region is famed for its >>

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