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# This season's 50 best ski holidays



Our experts pick the very best ski holidays for the winter ahead CREDIT: ISCHGL TOURISM



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Follow **By Peter Hardy and Felice Hardy, TRAVEL WRITERS**  
4 OCTOBER 2019 • 9:00AM

**T**he start of the ski season is almost upon us once again, and we've trawled through all the websites and brochures to pick the very best holidays available. What is right for you - where to go and where to stay - depends on many factors, including desired spend, skill level and overall expectation of a resort.

Here we present our selection of the best 50 holidays in five categories - best for beginners, luxury, chalets, those on a budget and solo travellers. And there's plenty of chance to widen horizons, rather than returning to the same handful of big-name destinations.

While Saint Nicolas de Véroce in France is certainly an unfamiliar name, it links into a big ski area and there's a stylish new hotel here with a gourmet restaurant designed by a Michelin-starred chef. We also show that a ski holiday doesn't have to break the bank, recommending a catered family chalet in La Rosière for just £579 per person with travel included. And we've found women-only ski improvement weeks at a remarkably sensible price in the Italian Dolomites, as well as appealing holidays for complete beginners in the Spanish Pyrenees and the Italian Aosta Valley.

Lots of exciting places to go, but a word of warning - to get what you want, now is the time to book. Each autumn, as children return to school and adult thoughts turn to snow, we unfailingly repeat this mantra. For sure, as always, there will be a flurry of last-minute bargains once the flakes are falling, but in 2019/20 circumstances have changed, and ignoring advice to book as soon as possible could put holiday plans in peril.

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Over the past couple of years, UK ski tour operators have cut the number of package holidays that they offer by as much as 40 per cent. The complex reasons for this are based around Brexit uncertainty, unfavourable exchange rates, and the enforcement of local employment laws that threaten the existence of the traditional British chalet holiday formula.



From glitzy Courchevel to budget Bulgaria we share the best places to stay this winter CREDIT: DAVID ANDRE/DAVID ANDRE

However, for the moment there's still plenty of choice. The options are much greater if you assemble components from flights to accommodation yourself. But remember that if it all goes wrong – overbooked hotels, cancelled flights, or failed transfers because of weather delays – only those who have booked a package from a tour operator with an Air Travel Organisers Licence (ATOL) are protected. Payments by credit card may provide some financial protection for DIY bookers, but that is all.

We've put together, in no particular order and across all price ranges, our top 50 holidays for winter 2019/20

*Unless otherwise stated, prices are per person for seven nights, based on two sharing a double or twin room half-board, and include flights and transfers.*

### Best holidays for beginners

From learning off the beaten track in Spain to mastering your first turns on the snow-sure slopes in Tignes or embracing raucous Austrian après-ski in Niererau, here's our top pick for the best holidays for those making their inaugural trip to the slopes.

### Best for groups

#### Samöens, France

Club Med Grand Massif Samoëns Morillon village is perched on the edge of the Saix plateau at 1,600m above the resort of Samoëns, part of the Grand Massif ski area, with good nursery slopes outside the door. If you have a group of friends of varying standards including beginners, then Club Med is always a good choice. You'll save £150 per person (over 12 years old) for groups of eight or more. As well as this, every fifteenth person stays for free. The price might look higher than some others in this category, until you see what is included: full board, an open bar, kids' clubs, lift pass, ski lessons with the ESF, and all après-ski entertainment.

From £1,471, all-inclusive, with Club Med.



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Club Med Grand Massif Samoëns Morillon village has impressive facilities including two pools

### Best for snow-sure skiing

## Tignes, France

Tignes, linked to Val d'Isère by one of the biggest ski areas in France, is one of the most snow-sure resorts in the Alps, with glacier skiing up on the Grand Motte glacier at 3,456m. Chalet Hotel Aiguille Percée is in a great location at Lac de Tignes, with both the slopes and shops within easy reach. The ski school and the main gondola are 100m away. The property has an indoor swimming pool and sauna, and there's also a crèche if you're bringing little ones. For beginner tuition try British school Progression Ski.

From £1,014, with Mark Warner.

### Best for charm

## Champoluc, Italy

The Monterosa Ski area suits every standard of skier and has a substantial 180km of pisted terrain served by 44 lifts. Yet the region remains relatively unknown to British skiers. Champoluc is the best base for beginners, a delightfully unspoilt Italian village it's 90 minutes' drive from Turin airport or two-and-a half hours from Geneva, via the Mont Blanc tunnel. Hampshire-based tour operator Ski2 has a major presence here, with a number of properties including the four-star Hotel Bellevue, plus its own British ski school and rental shop. A new gondola, from the village centre, takes you up into the ski area with its gentle nursery slopes or a three-minute drive (Ski2 runs a continuous courtesy van service around the village) brings you to the hamlet of Frachey where a funicular give alternative mountain access.

From £1,272, including six-day lift pass, daily guiding and transfers, with Ski2. Flights not included.

### Best for off-the-beaten-track skiing

## Baqueira Beret, Spain

Chalet Salana is in the unspoilt resort of Baqueira Beret in the Spanish Pyrenees, a two-and-a-half hour drive from Toulouse Airport. The chalet-hotel sleeps 22 and is a five-minute walk from the lifts, with communal dining and an in-house bar. Ski Miquel's properties are not luxurious, but they are warm, comfortable and offer great value for money. The resort is an unknown gem, with some excellent skiing and great food. A key factor in its favour is the long-established presence of Baqueira British Ski School with a team of British qualified instructors based in the resort.

From £737, with Ski Miquel.

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Baqueira Beret offers off-the-beaten-track skiing CREDIT: JAVIER CABO / EYEEM

### Best for ski-in/ski-out access

#### Arc 1950, France

You won't be able to ski-out from the boot room door on your first day, but in no time at all you'll be whizzing around this attractive satellite village of Les Arcs. Rental shop and ski schools are all nearby and the beginner slope is right in the village centre. Last winter a new blue run was widened from the village down to the lift below it, making the next stage of learning a little less daunting. Spirit 1950 is a highly recommended ski school for beginners. one-bedroom apartment for four at Pierre & Vacances' premium residence, Arc 1950 Le Village, is made up of eight different apartment complexes, each with a different style, and is totally pedestrianised with ski/in-ski/out access.

From £295, based on two people self catering in a studio apartment, with Pierre & Vacances. Travel not included.

### Best for low prices

#### Livigno, Italy

Livigno is close to the Swiss border with its own micro-climate and tax-free status. It's a traditional village with a friendly ambiance sprawled across 3km of bars, restaurants and duty-free shops. Beginners are well served with some excellent English-speaking ski schools, and you can find one to suit you through Maison Sport. With ski-in/ski-out access Hotel Garni Francescato is a converted barn that is run by the Bormolini family and is decked out with their own handmade furniture – its breakfast comes highly recommended.

From £494pp, with Neilson.










### Best for après-ski

#### Niederau, Austria

Nothing beats raucous Austrian après-ski, Tirolean in particular. Niederau is the traditional beginner resort, small and pretty with enough gentle skiing to keep novices happy for a week. Harmony Hotel Sonnschein is a four-star with two indoor pools and a spa area. There's also a games room with a pool table. The Tennladen nursery slopes are a short walk away, and once you progress to the main slopes, the Sonnschein lift is about a 10-minute walk from the centre of town. The Wildschonau Ski School has a long history of sympathetically teaching the basics to Brits. It offers group and private lessons for beginner skiers and snowboarders.

From £589, with Crystal.

### Essential guide | The world's best ski resorts

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### Best for village ambiance



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## Saint Sorlin, France

Saint Sorlin is a traditional mountain village resort in the Maurienne Valley, which provides an affordable alternative for those looking for a getaway to the authentic and uncommercial side of the French Alps. The village has managed to retain its traditional charm, yet it offers all the amenities of a modern resort at a fraction of the price of better-known places. The main ski school here is the [ESF](#). The three-star Résidence Les Fermes de Saint Sorlin is at the foot of the slopes and close to all the main resort action.

From £543 total, for six people self catering in a two-bedroom apartment, with [Ski France](#). Travel not included.

Best for comfort

## Arinsal, Andorra

The main gondola in the centre of Arinsal, one of Andorra's budget-friendly resorts, takes you up to the Comallempa nursery slopes. This is a dedicated beginner area, so you won't have to worry about other skiers rushing past as you learn. Like Livigno in Italy, the resort is also duty free, which means good-value nightlife after skiing. The four-star Princesa Park has spa facilities, good food, and evening entertainment. The holiday price includes lift pass, lunch vouchers and equipment hire, drinks like wine, beer and soft drinks with dinner and unlimited bar drinks from the Bar Club Menu – as part of Inghams added-value offering. Vallnord-Arinsal ski and snowboard school is warmly recommended for beginners.

From £1,069, with [Inghams](#).

Best for variety of activities

## Isola 2000, France

Isola's best nursery slopes are right in the heart of the resort. Most of the skiing is above the treeline and on a clear day you might be able to spy the Mediterranean sea. But in spite of its southerly location, the resort gets a surprising amount of snow. If you don't want to ski every day there are all sorts of alternative activities on offer, including snowmobiling, ice-skating, ice-driving and karting on ice. There are helicopter trips, too, with a flight from Nice or Monaco taking just 25 minutes. Ski schools include the [ESI](#) and [ESF](#). The three-star Chalets Harrod's, which is 200m from the lifts, slopes and shops, houses six apartments that sleep up to 10 guests.

From £1,507, based on six people self catering in a two-bedroom apartment and including Flexiplus Eurotunnel crossings for self-drive, with [Ski Collection](#).

Best budget holidays

Whether you're looking for genuine Austrian ambiance, rocking après or an unbeatable all-inclusive deal, our top picks of budget-friendly deals will help you find what you're looking for... without breaking the bank.

Best for all standards

## Vaujany, France

If you want to ski the giant Alpe d'Huez ski area at a lower cost, choose one of the outlying satellite villages such as Vaujany, Oz-en-Oisans, Villard Reculas, or Auris. Vaujany is an ancient farming village that has embraced tourism with enthusiasm. But while development has been substantial over the past 30 years, goats, cows, sheep and hens still outnumber Gore-Tex clad visitors each winter. Stay at the two-star Résidence le Dome des Rousses, which is close to the shops and 350m from the giant cable-car or gondola that take you up into the ski area.



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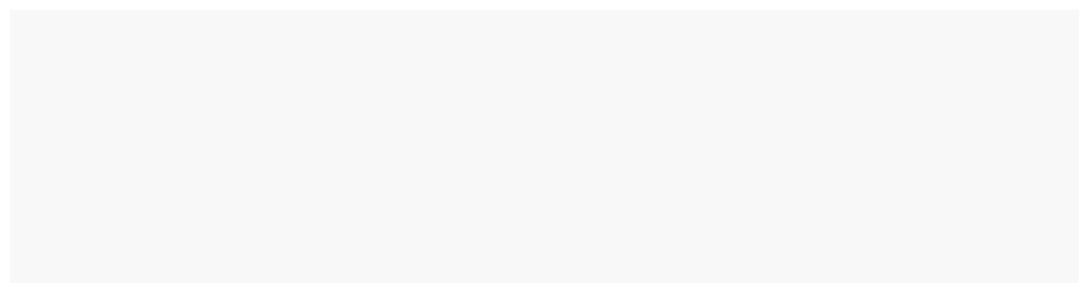
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From £436 based on three people self-catering in a studio apartment and including return Flexiplus Eurotunnel crossings for self-drive, with [Erna Low](#).



Résidence le Dome des Rousses is a two-star in lesser-known Vaujany

**Best for first-timers**

### Kranjska Gora, Slovenia

Situated just a few miles from both the Italian and Austrian borders, the pretty village of Kranjska Gora is set in spectacular surroundings with the majestic Julian Alps as its backdrop. The resort is ideal for first-time skiers and improvers who will be well looked after by the excellent ski schools and the price of lessons is generally lower than in Italy or Austria. However, the six chairs and 13 drag lifts serve limited terrain and there's not enough skiing here for advanced intermediates. Hotel Kompass is a family-friendly hotel close to the slopes.

From £519, with [Inghams](#).

**Best for all-inclusive holidays**

### Tignes, France

Action Outdoors is the UK arm of UCPA, a non-profit organisation that offers all-inclusive sports holidays in some of the top ski resorts in France at unbeatable low prices. Rooms are normally on a shared basis for four people, but twin rooms are available with a supplement. Holidays are geared towards 18-45 year olds, but older age groups are welcome and there are also specific family weeks. The centre has had a makeover in recent years and Tignes is now one of their top destinations.

From £537, full-board, six-day lift pass, equipment hire, two half-days with a UCPA instructor and evening entertainment with [Action Outdoors](#). Travel not included.

**Best for rock bottom prices**

### Borovets, Bulgaria

Borovets is located in the beautiful Rila mountains, a 75-minute drive from Sofia, and is Bulgaria's oldest ski resort. The skiing goes up to a respectable 2,500m, but snow cover can be unreliable and limited terrain means that it is best suited to beginners and low intermediates. The resort scores top points for its good-value après-ski - Bulgaria is not in the Eurozone - which revolves around the many bars and discos. Prices in the resort - these include tuition and food on the mountain - are at least 25 per cent cheaper than in mainstream ski destinations. However, it has to be said that in terms of atmosphere and terrain few holidays in Eastern Europe compare favourably with the overall experience of a ski holiday in the Alps. Three-star Hotel Moura is located at the centre of the resort near the gondola. Inside, it is decorated with a bold design, dynamic colours and it has a friendly atmosphere. The hotel has a bar and nightclub.

From £390, with [Co-Operative Ski](#).



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Borovets is known for its cheap and cheerful approach to ski holidays

**Best for reliable snow and uncrowded pistes**

### La Rosière, France

The frontier resort of La Rosière is one of the best value destinations in the Tarentaise region of the French Alps, and is known for its reliable snow conditions and uncrowded pistes. The skiing goes up to 2,650m and is linked to La Thuile in Italy via the Petit San Bernard pass, where the road becomes a piste in winter. Chalet Papillon 4 has six en suite bedrooms sleeping 12. It is located 50m from the piste. It has a cosy sitting room with log fire, as well as a sauna. You can either ski across the frontier for a reasonably-priced lunch in Italy or pack a picnic to take up the mountain on the more expensive French side, especially as there's tea and cake to look forward to straight after skiing.

From £579, with Ski Beat.

**Best for vast choice of runs**

### La Plagne, France

La Plagne Montalbert is one of the 10 villages that makes up the resort of La Plagne, which is linked by a double-decker cable car across a giant gorge to Les Arcs. Together they offer a mighty 435km of skiing for all standards, although 75 per cent of weekly holidaymakers tend to stick to the resort in which they are staying. The more adventurous can ski all the way across Les Arcs to the outskirts of Villaroger – allow plenty of time to get home again though. Four-star Chalet Anniek sleeps 14 in seven bedrooms and is a short walk from the piste and lifts. The chalet has Ski Amis' premium service, with extras such as a hot tub, and drinks before, after, and during dinner.

From £594, with Ski Amis. Travel not included.

**Best for rural French charm**

### Aussois, France

Little Aussois lies in the Maurienne Valley in a beautifully sunny setting on the edge of the Vanoise National Park. The Maurienne adjoins with the Tarentaise Valley, home to major resorts like Courchevel and Val d'Isère. While the terrain is superb, resort prices here are considerably lower than its big-name neighbours. If you're looking for an unspoilt French village with beautiful scenery and easy beginner and intermediate skiing, Aussois fits the bill. The ski-in/ski-out Résidence les Flocons d'Argent is at the foot of the slopes and near the ski school meeting point. Facilities include free access to an indoor pool and fitness room.

From £119, based on five people self-catering in a two-bedroom apartment and including FlexiPlus Eurotunnel crossings for self-drive, with Peak Retreats.

**The Telegraph**

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## Best for après-ski

### Arinsal, Andorra

Andorra is still one of the cheapest ski destinations in Europe, with duty free status – meaning that alcohol and therefore après-ski is cheaper than in many other places, although its location in the Eurozone offsets some of this advantage for British skiers at present. Four-star Hotel Palarine is run by a British couple and is located in Erts, a five-minute bus ride from the main gondola and Arinsal resort centre. Inside it is spacious, traditional and nicely decorated; the restaurant and bar have a south-east Asian theme.

From £399, with [Crystal Ski](#).

## Best for flexible catering

### Les Gets, France

[Les Gets](#) lies just a 65-minute drive from Geneva airport. Its relatively low 1,200m altitude is compensated for by the fact that the local slopes dominate stone-free mountain pastures where just a few centimetres of snow can provide sufficient cover. Les Gets is also linked into the giant 650km Portes du Soleil ski area that includes Morzine and Avoriaz as well as Champéry in Switzerland. Despite the demands of tourism, the village manages to maintain its considerable rural charm. The Loft chalet is a 10-minute walk or short ski bus ride from the centre. Grocery deliveries, freezer meals or chef service are add-ons available at extra cost.

From €98, based on 12 people self catering, with [Chalets1066](#). Travel not included.

## Best for genuine Austrian ambience

### Kitzbühel, Austria

The fashionable medieval town of [Kitzbühel](#) may seem an unlikely inclusion in a list of budget destinations, but prices in the heart of the Austrian Tirol compare favourably with those in offbeat French resorts if you shop with care. Kolpinghaus Apartments are basic, but comfortable and located just outside the city's buttressed walls. The ski bus stop is approximately 100m away or it's an eight-minute walk across town to the Hahnenkamm gondola.

From £477, based on six people self-catering, with [SNO](#).



Kitzbühel is a traditional Austrian resort CREDIT: MICHAEL WERLBERGER/MICHAEL WERLBERGER



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### Best luxury holidays

With chauffeurs and champagne on tap, and hot tubs and home cinemas as standard here's our pick of the best holidays for those of you looking for the five-star experience on the slopes and all the extra luxury trimmings.

### Best for first-timers

#### Les Gets, France

Les Gets has gentle nursery slopes and a good choice of ski and snowboard schools including some excellent ones that are British-run. LGS - Les Gets Snowsports has a growing reputation as one of the best. Located in the heart of the resort, Ben Nevis is a brand-new luxury apartment, which sleeps eight adults and two children. It is set on the third and fourth floors above a lovely spa and pool complex. The superb entertaining area features a bar, pool table and a second seating area to relax around the fire. There's also a sauna and steam shower, as well as a large hot tub on the balcony.

From €6,200 per week for the whole property self-catered with Consensio. Travel not included.

### Best for challenging terrain

#### Andermatt, Switzerland

With multi-million pound backing from an Egyptian-born entrepreneur, Andermatt is making a strong bid for true international resort status. Last winter it opened up a whole new ski area suitable for intermediates and now it has 120km of piste and a mainly modern lift system. But none of this commercial expansion detracts from the magic of the mighty 2,961m Gemsstock that remains wisely unconnected to what is now the main ski area. This is serious terrain for accomplished skiers, served by an ancient two-stage cable-car which is the reason why this mountain generally remains crowd-free – the queues are at the lift station and not on the slopes. The main face of 900m vertical consists almost entirely of black runs and off-piste routes to mid-mountain, and the one run to the valley is also a black, albeit easier. Hotel Chedi is where the Alps and Asia entwine. It's a gorgeous place, bang in the centre of town, with superb cuisine, and a lovely swimming-pool and spa to relax your legs after a hard day's skiing.

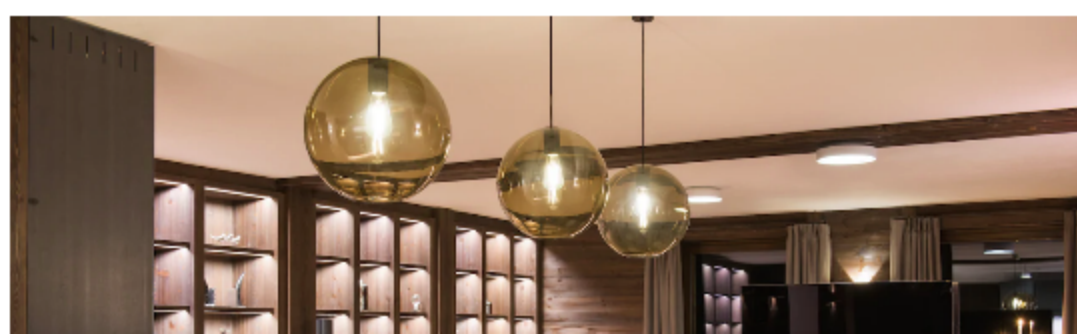
From £2,295, bed and breakfast, with Snow-Wise.

### Best for high-mileage skiers

#### Lech, Austria

The huge Arlberg ski area now has 305km of piste and 88 lifts, making it the largest ski area in Austria. It includes St Anton, St Christoph, Stuben, and Zürs as well as Warth-Schrocken beyond Lech. If you are someone who likes to clock up the miles and get the feeling of going somewhere each day, then Lech is the resort for you. The stylish Nidus Residence opened in 2018/19 and is located in a peaceful position, a 10-minute walk from the centre. Mountain access is via a chair-lift six minutes' walk away, but if you take the fully catered option for your holiday a chauffeur service is included. The complex is split into five luxurious apartments. Nidus 4 sleeps 10 and is decorated with lots of wood, leather, velvet and fur fabrics. The master suite has its own dressing room and sauna.

From €23,390, based on 10 people catered, with Bramble Ski. Travel not included.



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The Nidus Residence is split into five luxurious apartments CREDIT: COPYRIGHT YVES GARNEAU 2015/YVES GARNEAU

### Best for a charming village

## Zermatt, Switzerland

Arguably the most iconic and beautiful ski resort in the world, Zermatt has lots of ancient chalet-style buildings, but also some cutting-edge architecture. Situated between the village centre and Matterhorn Express gondola and with views towards the Matterhorn, the Backstage Loft is the newest addition to the portfolio of luxury properties in the resort created by celebrated local artist and builder Heinz Julen. Available on a catered or self-catered basis, the enormous five-star chalet for ten people is staffed by Heinz's own team, in conjunction with the Backstage Boutique Hotel.

From CHF 30,000, based on 10 people catered, with Matterhorn Chalets. Travel not included.

### Best for foodies

## Saint-Nicolas-de-Véroce, France

It's always great to find a lesser-known resort with inviting and stylish accommodation and L'Armancette Hotel & Spa fits this bill. This new five-star boutique hotel is in the village of Saint-Nicolas-de-Véroce, near Saint-Gervais, which links into the 400km Megève ski area. With 17 stylish bedrooms and beautiful views of Mont Blanc, the hotel is a great place to relax. It houses a gourmet restaurant, La Table d'Armante, with a menu designed by Michelin-star chef Antoine Westermann. The property is on the site of a former bakery and, following in this tradition, has its own on-site bread and pâtisserie shop. In addition, the hotel has a tea room, wine bar and a full spa with gym and inside/outside swimming pool.

From £3,032, including FlexiPlus Eurotunnel crossings for self-drive, with Peak Retreats.

### Best for ski-in/ski-out

## Avoriaz, France

Avoriaz is one of the best-looking purpose-built resorts in the Alps. It was conceived in the 1960s with lots of angular buildings in wood that blend into the rocky landscape and, remarkably, it still looks futuristic even today. Brand new Chalet Sakami offers accommodation for six people over three floors. The huge windows and balconies allow you to enjoy mountain panoramas from every room. Built into the side of the mountain, the open-plan living area provides a comfortable space to relax after a day on the mountain. The chalet is located just above the main resort hub, with spectacular views of the surrounding peaks and a short walk to everything you need.

From £1,299, with VIP SKI.



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Avoriaz is a purpose-built resort in France CREDIT: DOMINIQUE GRANGER

### Best for a unique experience

#### Val d'Isère, France

Mademoiselle Val d'Isère is a new five-star hotel built in baronial style, with staff decked out in medieval costumes, that opens in December 2019, right on the edge of the piste. It's also close to the shops and all the resort's popular après-ski spots. It has 40 rooms, 11 suites and five apartments with private butler service as well as four restaurants and a gallery of boutiques hosting iconic brands. Purists argue that it's better suited to glitzy Courchevel where the owners are based. But certainly in comfort and maybe cuisine terms it will raise Val's game to a new level.

From €5,950, with [Powder White](#). Travel not included.

### Best for après-ski

#### Verbier, Switzerland

Verbier is one of the top party resorts in the world, so it's apt that even apartments can come with 24-hour drivers, an essential holiday component when you need a pick-up in the small hours. Chalet Sherwood sleeps eight and is a penthouse apartment with an open-plan living area. Floor-to-ceiling French windows look out onto the terrace, which boasts views of the valley beyond. Extras such as heliskiing and dog sledding can be arranged for an additional cost.

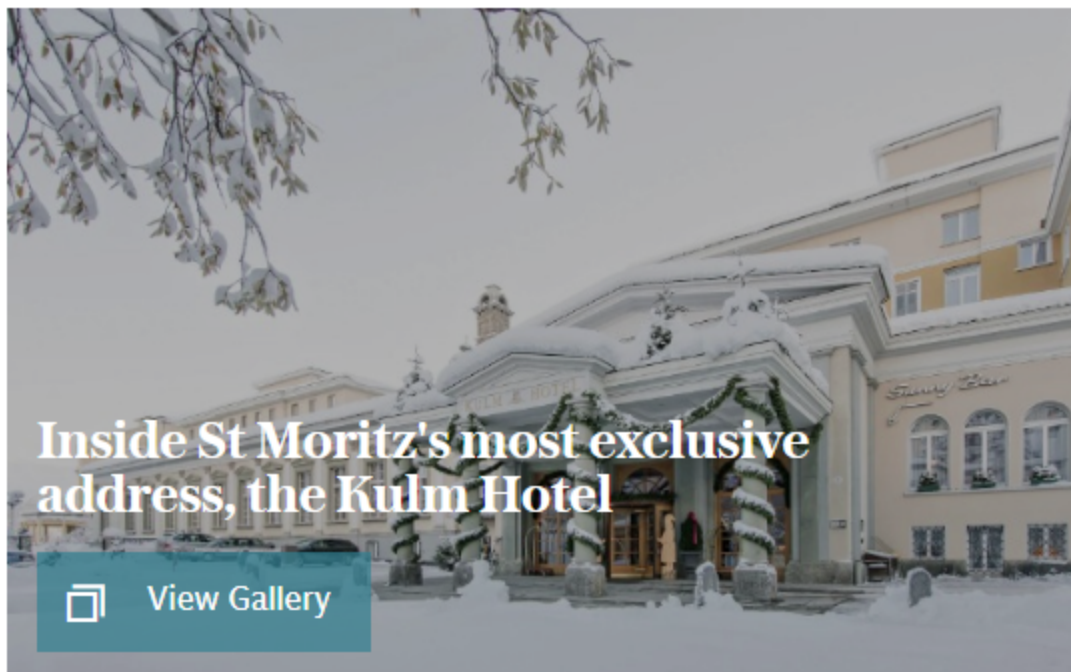
From CHF 13,000 total, based on eight self catering, with [Ski Verbier Exclusive](#). Travel not included.

### Best for non-skiers

#### St Moritz, Switzerland

If you're travelling with a non-skiing partner or friend you'll need to choose a resort where there's plenty going on away from the slopes. This chic and exclusive resort attracts a cosmopolitan crowd, thanks to its glamorous programme of events such as the Snow Polo World Cup and White Turf horse-racing that both take place on the frozen lake along with golf and even cricket. And there's so much more to do in [St Moritz](#) such as the Cresta Run and bobsleigh, hot-air ballooning or taking a helicopter ride over the Engadine Valley. The Kulm Hotel has a history that spans over 160 years, but the Niarchos family, who have owned it since 1968, have invested heavily in recent years to ensure that the hotel offers a complete immersion in luxury.

From £3,095, including first-class train transfers, with [Powder Byrne](#).



Inside St Moritz's most exclusive address, the Kulm Hotel

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### Best for peace and quiet



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Best for peace and quiet

## Chamonix, France

Chalet On The Rocks opened last winter and is far removed from the traditional Alpine look, aiming to be more high-end and sophisticated. The chalet has cool architecture and a cutting-edge interior, decorated with lots of wood and stone. It is set on a hill above the [Chamonix](#) valley, providing unobstructed views of Mont Blanc, the Aiguille du Midi and Glacier des Bossons. It sleeps 10 in five bedrooms, with two living areas, three balconies, a sauna and one of the best-placed hot tubs in the Alps. Massage treatments, pilates, yoga, helicopter transfers, a chalet chef, and dinner on a reindeer farm are a few of the extras that can be arranged.

From €1,500, with [Sno](#). Travel not included.

### Best chalet holidays

The traditional chalet holiday has long been a firm favourite with British skiers and snowboarders, but over the past 18 months operators have been forced to make changes to the tried and tested formula. Despite these changes and many of the UK's key ski holiday operators significantly reducing the number of chalets they are offering next season it still remains the most popular choice for us Brits, here are some of the best for the upcoming winter.

### Best for experts

## St Anton, Austria

VIP Club Fritz is an attractive new chalet that's located in a quiet, elevated spot with lovely views across te. It's six minutes' walk down to the main lift, piste and village centre. Contemporary in style and design, the chalet makes a good base from which to explore the extensive Arlberg ski area with its 305km of piste and 88 lifts. The large dining room has a cosy log fire, and the chef creates a flexible menu plan with a choice of dishes.

From £1,209, with [VIP SKI](#).

### Best for intermediates

## Courchevel, France

Chalet Mistral is a smart new property in [Courchevel](#) Moriond (1650), a quieter and less glitzy alternative to 1850. You'll be able to avoid the crowds here, even during high season, because Moriond has its own extensive ski area tucked away from main inter-resort routes of the Trois Vallées. While this is seamlessly connected to the rest of Courchevel and the rest of the region, the link is not obvious and most of the traffic from Méribel skis on down to 1850. A new property for British chalet operator Le Ski, Chalet Mistral's living area is spacious, light and airy, with pale wood floors and ceilings. The four bedrooms all have balconies and large en suite bathrooms, and there's also a sauna for relaxing muscles at the end of the skiing day.

From £938, with [Le Ski](#).



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### Best for beginners

#### Morzine, France

Chalet Le Rucher sleeps ten people in five bedrooms and is cosy and homely. It's set right at the heart of British favourite Morzine, 190m from the lifts. From the living room windows there are views of the resort's Super Morzine ski area on one side and the slopes of Pleney on the other. Morzine has good, gentle nursery slopes and a clutch of British ski schools including The British Alpine ski and Snowboarding School (BASS) along with New Generation. The chalet serves all organic wines with dinner, and the bathrooms have organic products too.

From £549, with Skiology. Travel not included.

### Best for ski-in/ski-out

#### Reberty-les-Menuires, France

Reberty is an attractive hamlet on the edge of the piste, just up the road from better-known Les Menuires. It has grown in recent years to become a small community in its own right, with a restaurant, bars and an equipment shop. Powder N Shine has three chalets here, all of them similar, but slightly varying in size. They are not luxurious but the standard of food and cooking is on a par with that of companies charging twice the price. Chalet Neve sleeps 15 to 18 people, and is flexible in that you can book by the room. The chalet has a sauna, and a hot tub on the terrace.

From €488, with Powder n Shine. Travel not included.

### Best for après ski

#### Ischgl, Austria

Abendrot is a comfortable, but modest chalet hotel sleeping up to 63 guests in the bustling Austrian resort of Ischgl. It's located in a quiet position just above the main street- and such tranquillity is essential in a resort known for the volume of its après-ski. Lively bars and nightclubs in the centre of town are just a short walk. Après-ski begins long before the lifts close for the day and continues well into the night. It's also just a three-minute stroll to the nearest lift with main mountain access, but it is possible to ski back to within 50m of the chalet.

From £809, with Ski Total.



Ischgl hosts annual open-air concerts CREDIT: 2015 GETTY IMAGES/JAN HETFLEISCH

### Best for village ambiance

#### Montalbert, France

Chalet Anniek is located in Montalbert, one of the 10 villages at different altitudes that make up the mega resort of La Plagne, which is linked to equally big Les Arcs. Together they form the Paradiski region with 435km of pistes. Unlike most of the other resort villages



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in La Plagne, Montalbert is an old farming community that despite the inevitable inroads of tourism still manages to retain its traditional atmosphere. Anniek is positioned a short walk from the piste, lift and village centre. The chalet has a spacious open-plan living and dining area with a log fire, and lovely views across the valley towards Mont Blanc. In the afternoons, you can unwind on the sun terrace or relax in the hot-tub and sauna.

From £609, with [Ski Amis](#). Travel not included.

**Best for foodies**

### Vaujany, France

Chalet Saskia is in the quiet little resort of Vaujany that's linked into the giant Alpe d'Huez ski area, which has 248km of pistes and 84 lifts. The property sleeps 20, divided into two linked and mirrored halves. Facilities include a hot tub and sauna, and all the bedrooms are en suite and have balconies. But the main reason for staying in Saskia is the cuisine, which is varied and delicious – including a buffet dinner, a curry night, a raclette evening and five-course dinners on the other nights.

From €899, with [Ski Peak](#). Travel not included.

**Best for peace and quiet**

### Val d'Isère, France

Sanville is a free-standing chalet that opens this season with four bedrooms on the edge of piste M, the main red run back down into the resort. It's in the perfect ski-in, ski-out position, a 30-second glide from the two main gondolas, which is a real rarity in [Val d'Isère](#). On the downside, the village centre is a scenic 10-minute walk away, but YSE runs a free shuttle service. There's a spacious sitting-dining room with huge windows offering spectacular south-west views up towards Le Charvet and north-east across the slopes to the church and the old village. Facilities include a 10m indoor swimming pool and a sauna.

From £1,050, with [YSE Ski](#).



Val d'Isère is one of the most popular resorts with British skiers and snowboarders

**Best for spa and pampering**

### Méribel, France

Chalet Le Grenier is situated on the edge of [Méribel 1450](#), just across the road from the Morel chairlift that provides access to the main slopes and the Trois Vallées beyond. This truly sumptuous chalet is beautifully designed. Its lower ground floor spa has a sunken Jacuzzi large enough to fit an entire family, sauna, massage room, and a gym with a state-of-the-art equipment and a fully integrated sound and TV system.

From €23,900 total, based on 12 guests including open bar and in-resort chauffeur service, with [Consensio Chalets](#). Travel not included.



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Best for ski weekends

## Megève, France

Bargain-priced accommodation in chic Megève is a rare find, but Stanford Skiing has three catered chalets here, including Les Clochettes, which is located close to the centre of this beautiful medieval town. It's also 150m from the main Rochebrune lift, making it highly convenient for skiing, important when restricted by time on a short break. The chalet itself has a large sitting room and five bedrooms all en suite, and two hot tubs. It can be booked whole or by the room. If your group is larger than ten people, the apartment above it can be used as an extension to sleep another four to six people.

From £470, for three nights, with Stanford Ski. Travel not included.

### Best holidays for solo travellers

Skiing is essentially a social sport that is usually best enjoyed in the company of partner, family or friends. Experiencing that empty first run down flawless corduroy solo or eating alone in the evening in a hotel with a book and your phone for companions is hardly ideal. But what do you do if your partner and your friends don't ski or have decided to give up skiing? You can either join a mixed chalet group with operators who waive single supplements or seek out an operator specialising in singles.

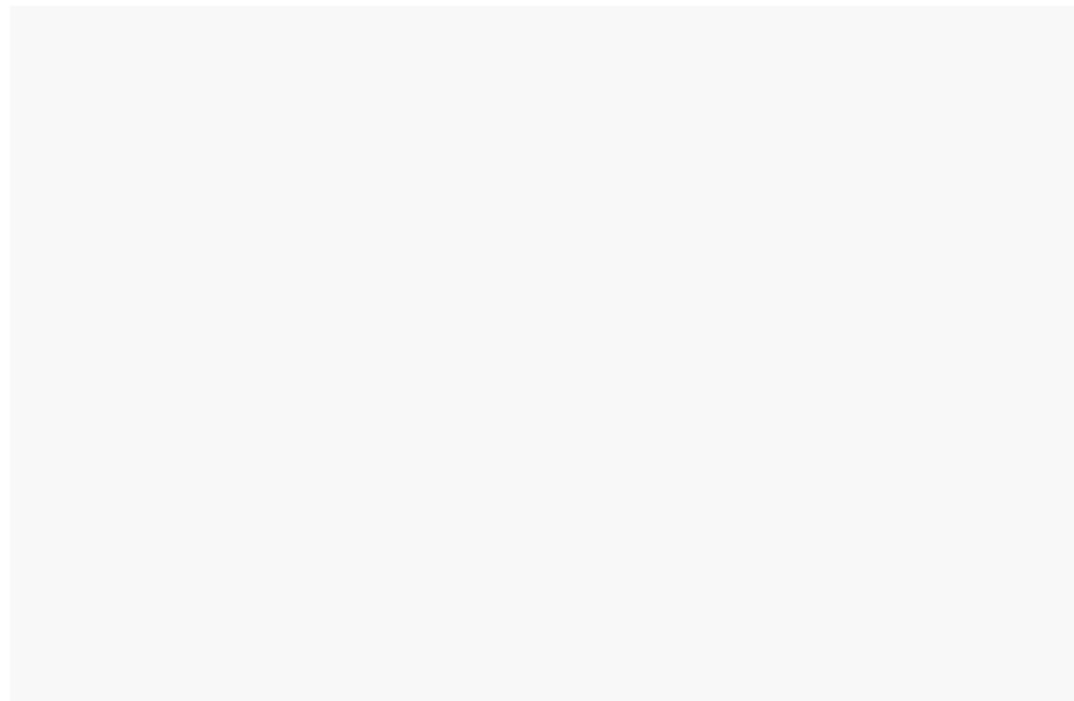
*Unless stated otherwise, prices are the starting rates per person for sole occupancy for a seven-night stay with half-board accommodation, flights and transfers.*

### Best for high-mileage skiers

## Arabba, Italy

The Italian resort of Arabba is a gateway to some of the most challenging skiing in the Sella Ronda ski area with its backdrop of soaring crags of dolomite rock that turn a mesmerising hue of pink in the light of the setting sun. The compact village has a selection of shops, bars and restaurants. This is not a group singles' holiday with other like-minded individuals, but there's no singles' supplement in the family-run Hotel Evaldo, which has 40 rooms and is close to the resort centre. The hotel runs a free shuttle to and from the lifts in the mornings and evenings.

From £939, with Inghams.



The Sella Ronda circuit is in the Italian Dolomites

### Best for skiing convenience

## St Christoph, Austria

Here's skiing at its most convenient, yet in a traditional resort. Three-star Sporthotel St Christoph is ski-in/ski-out, with a drag-lift right outside the door. Two minutes' walk away is a covered quad chairlift that whisks you into the St Anton sector of the ski area. You'll find a mix of ages in the chalet-hotel, typically between 25 and 65 although there is no upper age limit. Local hosts look after



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singles, from organising airport transfers and lift passes, to arranging afternoon tea and après-ski activities.

From £895, with [Friendship Travel](#).

### Best for improving your skiing

#### Tignes, France

Ski Club holidays are good ways to meet like-minded skiers, with a mix of ages. The focus is for good intermediates to improve their technique on this piste improvement holiday, with five full days of tuition in groups of seven to eight, headed by local instructors. [Tignes](#) shares its ski area with neighbouring Val d'Isère and between them there are 300km of pistes. In the evenings you can relax in your own single-occupancy room at no extra supplement.

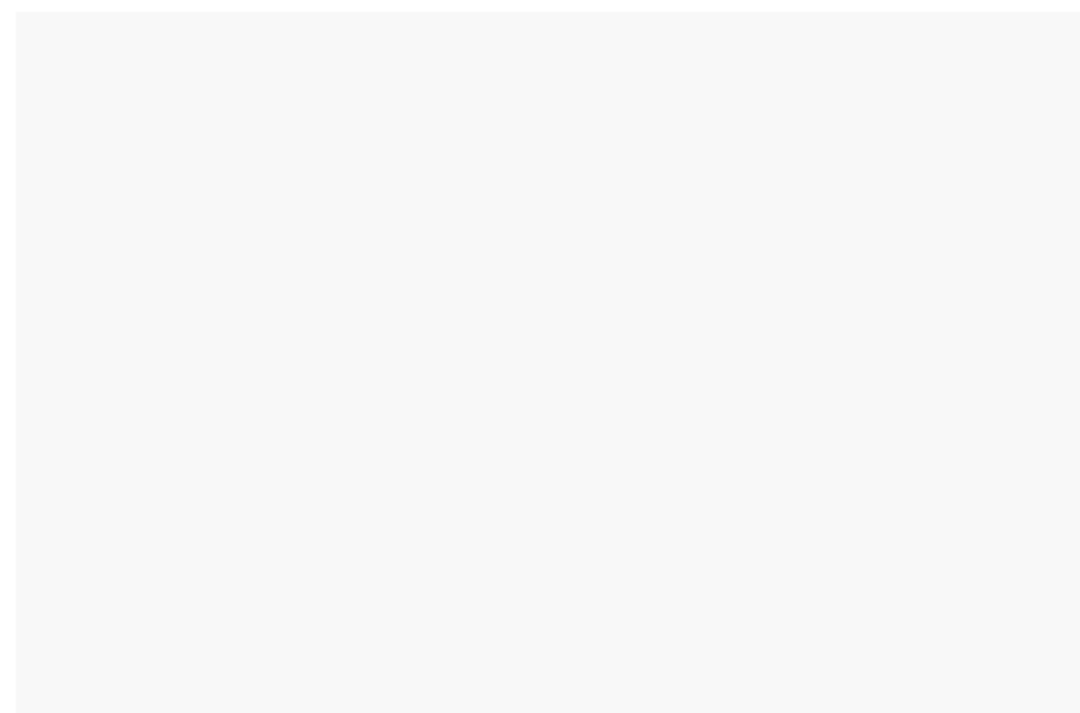
From £899, instruction included with [Ski Club Holidays](#).

### Best for spa lovers

#### Bad Hofgastein, Austria

This giant ski area, in relatively unheard of [Bad Hofgastein](#), lies little more than an hour's drive from Salzburg airport and is great for intermediates, with 250km of piste spread across the Gastein Valley and beyond. At four-star Johannesbad Hotel Palace the ski bus stop is outside the door and there's a bar with live music and a swimming-pool. Apart from skiing, the resort is just as well known for its outstanding natural thermal springs, which bubble up in spas and hotel swimming-pools. The average size of a Solos holiday group is 15.

From £1,275, with [Solos Holidays](#).



Bad Hofgastein is one of a number of resorts in the Gastein valley

### Best for spring skiing

#### Morzine, France

The Ski Gathering is a co-operative of small chalet operators in four French resorts, including Morzine, who have joined forces to jointly market singles' weeks. You can share a chalet over the Easter holiday period with like-minded solo travellers and enjoy some great skiing – either on your own or with new companions. Chalet Chez Claude sleeps 10, and guests of a similar standard tend to spend their days together. Rooms vary from singles to shared twins and triples.

From £620, with [The Ski Gathering](#). Travel not included.

### Best for experts

#### Courchevel, France

Ski Total offers single rooms without supplements in chalets or chalet hotels in seven different resorts. Chalet Cascades in [Courchevel 1650](#) has four single rooms, so you are likely to find other solitary holidaymakers. The chalet-hotel sleeps up to 78 people and is convenient with the main gondola just across the road. From here



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is convenient with the main gondola just across the road. From here you can head up towards Courchevel 1850 and try one of the resort's notorious couloirs before heading beyond in the giant Trois Vallées ski area. Other challenging choices in the area include the Suisses and Jerusalem pistes.

From £649, with [Ski Total](#).

### Best for luxury

## Chamonix, France

Cold Fusion Chalets is a singles specialist with luxury accommodation. This season it has a new chalet called Chalet Arberons in Argentière, five miles south of [Chamonix](#) – it is one of the operator's two chalets for singles in the Chamonix Valley. The ski-in ski-out property is at the base of the Grands Montets, at the end of the Pierre Ric home run, and sleeps 14 people. There's an indoor spa room with sauna and Jacuzzi and an outdoor hot tub on the balcony. The chalet is a short walk from the village centre, with its many bars and restaurants and its own little après-ski scene. There is also a supermarket, pharmacy, and ski shops within walking distance. Should you need it, there's in-resort transport in the chalet's private minibus.

From £499, for three nights including transfers, with [Cold Fusion](#). Flights not included.

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The best resort for Christmas		The best resorts for intermediates	

### Best for après-ski

## Mayrhofen, Austria

Not a singles holiday specifically, but you can avoid paying extra when travelling solo in a variety of properties that have small or no single room supplement in Austria. One of the best resorts for nightlife is [Mayrhofen](#) in the Austrian Tirol, and you can stay at The Ferienhof, which is a small hotel with oodles of charm. It is located on a quiet side street, yet close to the Penken gondola and the resort's lively nightlife.

From £849, with [Neilson](#).

### Best for women's skiing

## La Villa, Italy

WoW Ski Tours' women-only weeks include an introduction to off-piste specifically created for the solo female skier. Based in the village of La Villa in the Alta Badia region, there's a choice of three- and four-star local hotels, or you can stay at Casa Zilli which sleeps six. Everyone then comes together for the daily ski course where there's a maximum of eight to a group.

From £1,299, including five-day course and transfers, with [WoW](#). Flights not included.



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Best for budget

## Itter, Austria

The pretty little resort of Itter is part of the giant SkiWelt area, where the skiing is great for beginners and intermediates. This is not a singles' holiday as such, but there's no single supplement if you stay at the simple, but clean Pension Schmiedhof. A lift pass is included in the holiday price and there's a five per cent reduction on ski school lessons. The ski bus stop is 50m away from the hotel, and the nearby Salvista-Stadl is a good place for lively après-ski, with drinking and dancing.

From £532, bed and breakfast including six-day SkiWelt lift pass, with [Snowtrex](#). Travel not included.

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