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SKIING

Welcome back to the slopes — they’ve missed you

This year’s season is picking up speed fast. Ski editor Sean Newsom chooses the most exciting resorts to book now, from old favourite France to bargain Bosnia



The French resort Tignes has an upgraded Club Med hotel for the new ski season
ALAMY

Sean Newsom

Sunday October 16 2022, 12.01am, The Sunday Times

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There's plenty of new stuff to look forward to. This season it's a relief to see the green shoots of recovery from ski holiday companies, especially in the provision of the traditional, catered ski chalet. The number of properties on offer is still far below pre-pandemic levels but we can at least welcome one new company into the fold. Ski Vertigo is an off-shoot of the family skiing specialist Ski Famille, and is offering 15 chalets in its flight-inclusive, Atol-bonded programme. What's more, the existing stock for the key dates isn't yet sold out. Check specialist travel agency websites such as [snowfinders.co.uk](https://www.snowfinders.co.uk), [skisolutions.com](https://www.skisolutions.com) and [sno.co.uk](https://www.sno.co.uk) for an overview of what's available.

Meanwhile other companies have got creative with the chalet concept in a bid to keep a lid on costs; where you see "chalet-board", that will include breakfasts, dinners and afternoon tea on most days. Ski France for example is offering a "contactless" catering service: delivering pre-cooked meals to your property while you're out on the slopes. There are new hotels and apartments to consider too, and even a new country to ski in — Bosnia. Add Travelski's new daytime Eurostar to the French Alps ([uk.travelski.com](https://www.uk.travelski.com)), and it feels like skiing is at last beginning to pick up speed. Here are some of the winter's freshest holidays.



Val d'Isère's Chalet Whistler

Val d'Isère, France

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mid-season weeks are still wide open — perfect for a group of hard-skiing grown-ups with their eyes on Val’s signature, straight-down-the-mountain piste: the Face.

Details Seven nights’ half-board from £1,129pp including flights and transfers, departing on January 7 (skivertigo.co.uk)



Jahorina was a venue for the 1984 Winter Olympics

Jahorina, Bosnia

A host resort for the 1984 Winter Olympics, Jahorina is back on the skiing map this winter — and flight-inclusive apartment-based holidays over the peak half-term weeks are 33 per cent cheaper than in an A-list French resort. Admittedly with just 47km of pistes it’s a minnow compared to the big Alpine ski areas. But the lifts are modern, and a self-sufficient family of mixed abilities will enjoy the range of challenges, from easy-peasy nursery slopes to long intermediate descents — and on to the plunging Olimpik black run.

Details Seven nights’ self-catering for four from £759pp including flights and transfers, departing on February 12 (crystalski.co.uk)

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M Lodge hotel is built into the hillside at St Martin

St Martin de Belleville, France

The underrated village of St Martin may lack the bustle of its neighbours Courchevel and Méribel but now, thanks to the opening of the five-star M Lodge hotel, it won't be short of luxury. Built into the hillside, a few paces from the village ski lift, it promises plenty of wood, wool and granite — as well as a spa, gastronomic kitchen and a glittering 26ft bar. Meanwhile, the local slopes are some of the quietest in the vast Three Valleys ski area. So why not add to the sense of serenity by holidaying in January? As well as being uncrowded, the long blue Jerusalem piste to the resort should be in peak condition. **Details** Seven nights' B&B from £2,675pp including flights and transfers, departing on January 7 (skisolutions.com)



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the Hotel de Clos in El Tarter, which has its own in-house nursery and kids' club. Along with regular ski lessons, children and teens aged 12 and up can also join their parents on free two-hour coaching sessions. Aimed at intermediates, they're led by local ski instructors who'll guide their groups to the slopes best-suited to their ability. Given how broad and steady the slopes are here, they won't be short of options.

Details Seven nights' half-board from £822pp including flights and transfers, departing on December 19 (neilson.co.uk)

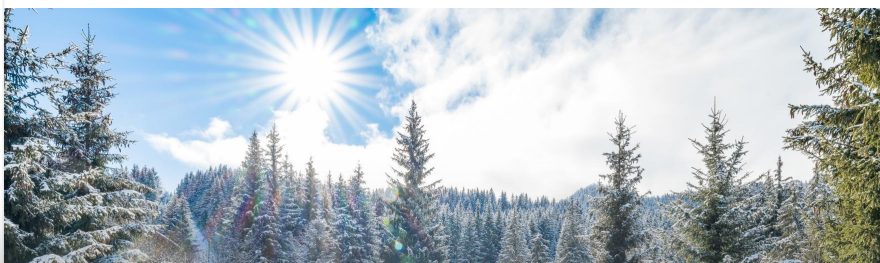


Zalwonder hotel has spacious bedrooms

Ischgl, Austria

Ischgl means to move on from its party-animal past and focus more on sport and wellbeing. So its new Silvretta spa is a key statement of intent. Equipped with several swimming pools and saunas, it's the perfect place to put your feet up after a day on Ischgl's feisty, intermediate-friendly pistes. What's more, once you're done, the new Zalwonder hotel will be waiting next door with chic, spacious bedrooms. Like the spa, it's a step back from the resort's core. So your sense of calm is unlikely to be ruffled by any diehard après-skiers.

Details Seven nights' half-board from £962pp, departing on January 9 (zalwonder.com). Fly to Innsbruck



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La Tania, France

Set close to the key lifts in La Tania, Chalet Lea would suit a group of three self-sufficient families who are lucky enough to have the second of the two February half-term weeks for their holidays. (It’s cheaper and less heavily booked than the first week.) The chalet is just 200m from lifts that will whisk you into the vast Three Valleys ski area. And while you’re out, Ski France’s contactless catering service will deliver dishes such as duck confit, tartiflette and salmon en croûte for your dinner — as well as cakes for tea on your return.

Details Seven nights’ half-board from £982pp, departing on February 18 (skifrance-classic.co.uk). Fly to Geneva



Snowboarding in Gressoney, Italy
ALAMY

Gressoney, Italy

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need to be super rich to try it (heliskigressoney.com). You will, however, need to be nimble on your skis and blessed with the right weather. So pray for a windless, sunny week, and build up to your adventure with off-piste lessons. If the planets align, you'll spend a day in skiing heaven.

Details Seven nights' half-board from £979pp including flights and transfers, departing on January 15 (ingham.co.uk)

- [The best luxury ski resorts in the world](#)
- [Italy's top 10 ski resorts](#)



Tignes on a crystal-clear day
GETTY IMAGES

Tignes, France

For reliable Christmas and Easter snow, affluent families have a new target. This winter Club Med is opening an upgraded resort hotel in high-altitude Tignes. Along with a sizeable 25m swimming pool, yoga studio and spa, it'll feature kids' clubs, locker rooms and a rental centre all gathered as close as possible to the snow. So you can drop off your kids, strap into your boots and step outside to meet your ski instructor without breaking sweat. Vast, freshly cooked buffets welcome you back at lunchtime, too — between your ego-boosting lessons on Tignes' broad and steady pistes.

Details Seven nights' all-inclusive from £2,113pp including flights, transfers, kids' clubs, lift pass and lessons, departing on April 9 (clubmed.co.uk)

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lunchtime lobster at Club Moritzino, the combination of sunny climate, culinary nous and slab-sided Dolomite scenery will make you giddy. It’ll also leave you craving nothing more than snacks at dinner. That’s why a chic apartment in the Villa Trieste makes such sense. Opened in 2021 in the middle of Corvara, these new flats offer quick access to the area’s gentle pistes, as well as the freedom to rustle up light evening meals from the fridge.

Details Seven nights’ self-catering for four from £564pp (villatrieste.it). Fly to Verona or Innsbruck



The spa pool at the Tirolerhof Tux hotel, in Hintertux, Austria

Hintertux, Austria

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If all this snowy talk has got your muscles tingling and you can spare a long weekend in November, don't wait for the mainstream season. Grab your ski boots and head to Hintertux for a winter preview. Already, significant September snowfall has refreshed its varied, high-altitude slopes and there should be more of the white stuff before autumn ends. Book the four-star Tirolerhof Tux in Lanersbach (15 minutes' drive from the lifts) for access to its rooftop spa, outdoor pool and delicious food, and sharpen your technique at the Tuxertal ski school. You'll get your season off to a flying start.

Details Three nights' half-board from £352pp, departing during November (tirolerhof-tux.at). Fly to Innsbruck

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