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Source URL: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/25-best-new-places-to-stay-in-the-alps-tgm9t2h2l>

THE TIMES

25 best new places to stay in the Alps

From a posh penthouse in Val d'Isère to a hip hotel with live music in Switzerland's Four Valleys, these are the hottest high-altitude openings of the season

Sean Newsom

08 Dec 2023 11:07:55

There's only one thing better than clicking into a pair of ski boots on a sunny morning in the Alps, and that's knowing you'll be clicking out of those same boots somewhere warm, cosy and distinctive at the end of the day. So it's good to know that the stock of stylish stays across the region has increased significantly this season.

From Val d'Isère to Val Gardena, new properties are awaiting their first skiing guests — and we're not just talking about hedge-fund managers and Middle Eastern royalty. What's striking about this winter's newbies is the range of holiday budgets to which they cater. In one, the refurbished Alpine Forest Hotel in the pretty little Italian resort of Champoluc, double rooms start from £64. Meanwhile in the crisp, loft-style Cristaux apartments in Les Arcs in France, seven nights' self-catering for five begins at £1,910 (so under £400pp), including a Eurotunnel crossing.

Even when it comes to swanky chalets there's a refreshing range of prices. Admittedly in some you'll have to do your own cooking or eat out, but that might be a price worth paying for the chance to bunk down somewhere gorgeous like Chalet Moët in the hamlet of Le Châtelard. It's five minutes' drive from a lift that will whisk you into the heart of the vast Three Valleys ski area, and comes with the kind of double-height dining-sitting room that'll make you grin every time you walk in. And yet if you can find 11 other snow-loving friends to share it with you, its sense of luxury can be had for as little as £618pp for a week.

We're also seeing new skiing properties in all sorts of unexpected places. How about skiing at Plose this winter? No, I hadn't heard of it either. But this season the pocket-sized ski area in the Südtirol is on our radar, thanks to the chic Odles Lodges. Fly into Bolzano on the new SkyAlps service from Stansted and suddenly it's a viable short-break escape, with a view of saw-toothed Dolomite ridges your constant companion.

Now all we need is for the early-season snow to continue to fall, without any more annoying thaws on the lower slopes. Santa, are you listening? All we want for Christmas is a cold and squeaky layer of the white stuff, from the top of our favourite piste all the way to the bottom.

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HOTELS

1. Papill'on, La Tzoumaz, Switzerland

Cool hotel with music in the Four Valleys

No wonder Papill'on was a hit almost as soon as it opened 18 months ago. A friendly, unpretentious bar and bistro, it combines hearty stews and wine tastings with a busy programme of live music — close to La Tzoumaz's key lift into the hard-skiing, hell-for-leather Four Valleys ski area. This winter it's also offering nine charming bedrooms, decked out in bright colours and richly textured wood — available for a fraction of the price you'd pay in neighbouring Verbier.

Details

B&B doubles from £138 (papillon-latzoumaz.ch). Fly to Geneva

2. Belambra Club Panorama, Flaine, France

Ski-in, ski-out family fun

No wonder the family of Belambra clubs (as the hotels are called) is growing. Not only are its kids' clubs included in your holiday price — so are all your meals, including lunch if you ski back to the hotel for it. This latest addition may not be in the main hub of lifts and pistes at Flaine Forum. But it's ski-in, ski-out nonetheless, and has its own heated pool and spa. Meanwhile, in the bedrooms, bright colours, big windows and scalloped chairs set a cheerful tone: one that's bound to be boosted by the feisty pistes in Flaine's snowy mountain bowl.

Details [Seven nights' all inclusive](#)

from £929pp, including flights (crystalski.co.uk)

3. Grand Hotel Straubinger, Bad Gastein, Austria

Elegant spa hotel reborn

After decades of shuttered decay, one of Bad Gastein's grandest spa hotels is back. A wedding-cake confection of stucco, neoclassical pediments and parquet flooring, the Straubinger looks for all the world as if it's just arrived on holiday from Vienna's Ringstrasse. Bring your glad rags as well as your ski togs. After a day bombing down the Gastein valley's intermediate-friendly pistes, you'll want to change for dinner in the palatial Straubinger Saal. Bring your bathers too: the rooftop infinity pool overlooks the Gastein waterfall.

Details

Seven nights' B&B from £1,420pp, including flights and transfers (weski.co.uk), travelcharme.com

4. Badeschloss, Bad Gastein, Austria

Colourful, glam hotel in classic resort

The Straubinger (above) isn't Bad Gastein's only striking 2023 revival. On the other side of the same square, the Badeschloss is also back from the brink, and decked out in a playful mix of traditional spa tiles, art deco furnishings and splashes of colour. Cocktails at the Schloss Bar and shared plates at Auntie Heidi's restaurant continue the sense of fun. And if you fancy a break from skiing the three-storey spa offers all kinds of watery treats — from floating meditation to a rooftop pool.

Details

B&B doubles from £192 (travelcharme.com). Fly to Salzburg

CHALETS AND APARTMENTS

5. Solaise penthouse, Val d'Isère, France

Luxe apartment in an epic resort

On the outside, the Hotel Le Val d'Isère looks as if it's built from Lego. Inside, however, it's a mix of faux fur, chocolate browns and wood panelling: topped off by a properly posh penthouse apartment above the hotel's 47 rooms, opening this winter. So bring 11 other mad-keen (and free-spending) skiers, for a

Ride of the Valkyries

week that mixes plunging pistes with full-blooded après-ski and great breakfasts. The view from the dining room is straight up onto Val's sky-scraping suite of peaks.

Details

Seven nights' B&B for 12 from £15,930, B&B doubles at the hotel from £300 (hotel-valdisere.com). Fly to Geneva or take the train to Bourg St Maurice

6. Chalet Moët, St Martin de Belleville, France

Well-priced luxury chalet in the Three Valleys

Admittedly, it's a five-minute drive from this new-build chalet up to the gondola at St Martin de Belleville. But surely that's a price worth paying for the chance to bunk down in such a swanky and — by Alpine standards — underpriced chalet. Downstairs, there are six bedrooms and a sauna. But it's the top floor that'll have you swooning, soaking up the views through the double-height windows or slouching on the fireside sofa. It's the perfect place to put your feet up after a big day in the vast Three Valleys ski area.

Details

Seven nights' self-catering for 12 from £7,423 (cimalpes.com). Fly to Geneva or take the train to Moûtiers

7. Chalet-apartment Portillo, Méribel, France

Cosy flat with sauna and driver in the Three Valleys

Staying in a self-catering apartment doesn't necessarily mean scrimping on your creature comforts. This brand-new flat has its own wood-burning fire, as well as a sauna, a posh kitchen and an on-demand driver service for those exhausted, end-of-the-day moments when you finish on the wrong piste. Mind you, Portillo is only a short walk from the easy, central Rhodos blue run. Once you've mastered Méribel's multifaceted ski area (at the heart of the Three Valleys), getting home should be a doddle.

Details

Seven nights' serviced chalet for ten from £5,217 (fandptravel.com). Fly to Geneva or Chambéry or take the train to Moûtiers

8. Chalet Serbijanka, Manigod, France

Cool stay in the Massif des Aravis ski area

Want a bit of swank without the usual stratospheric ski-holiday prices? Then eschew the big-name ski resorts and head to little Manigod. From Chalet Serbijanka you'll need to drive five minutes to reach the nearest mountain lift. You'll need to ski mid-winter, as most of the slopes are below 2,400m. But you'll also find the pretty, mid-sized Massif des Aravis ski area — which includes intermediate and family-friendly La Clusaz, and epic off-piste at La Balme — blissfully uncrowded. Your base is a stunner too: equipped with a big sunny lounge, luxe bedrooms and a six-bedded bunk room that will be heaven for two or three families' kids.

Details

Seven nights' self-catering for 14 from £4,373 (ovonetwork.com). Fly to Geneva

9. Bio Lüch Ruances, San Cassiano, Italy

Rustic-chic apartments in the Dolomites

In the land of sheer cliffs and rustic-chic accommodation, this collection of five farmhouse apartments is the epitome of Alta Badia style. Think raw, knotty wood, simple but elegant furniture and the kind of mesmerising Dolomite scenery that will quickly exhaust your supply of superlatives. Partly opened last year, the project was completed this summer with a children's playroom and a new bar-patisserie. The lift up to the easy-skiing Pralongia plateau, which links in to San Cassiano and Corvara, is a two-minute drive away.

Details

[Seven nights' self catering](#)

for four from £1,593 (ruances.it). Fly to Innsbruck or Bolzano

10. Böglerhof, Alpbach, Austria

Refuge of dreams with "wellness suites"

Smart, cosy and family-run, the Böglerhof is the kind of wood-panelled Alpine refuge many skiers dream of but rarely find. Not least because it sits in one of the Tyrol's prettiest mountain villages. Now, it comes with an extra dash of elegance — thanks to the imminent opening of the Böglerhof. Here, eight luxe wellness suites are partnered by a heated swimming lake and state-of-the-art spa. When you're done soaking, you'll find the easy-skiing pistes of the local Ski Juwel area pretty soothing too.

Details

Full-board wellness suites from £427 (boeglerhof.at). Fly to Innsbruck

11. Grace La Margna, St Moritz, Switzerland

Fab new five star in glitzy Engadin Valley resort

St Moritz's newest five-star comes courtesy of an old, landmark building — the rugged La Margna, which for years has stood empty on the road up from the railway station. It is, however, more than a revamp. The £82 million budget was big enough to fund the brand-new Grace wing, whose floor-to-ceiling windows frame a fabulous lake and mountain view. Meanwhile, in the older La Margna wing the solid-marble cocktail bar is the star turn. It's the perfect place to toast a day on the Engadin Valley's high, cold and intermediate-friendly slopes.

Details

[B&B doubles](#)

from £372 (gracehotels.com). Fly to Zurich

12. Club Med, La Rosière, France

New posh stay in family favourite

Club Med's state-of-the-art, family skiing resort has just gone posh. Well, part of it has, anyway. Its new Exclusive Collection wing features giant bedrooms that culminate in a 950 sq ft master suite with extra treats such as champagne aperitifs in a private lounge and breakfast in bed. The other facilities come courtesy of the existing resort, opened in 2021. That's no great hardship, given they include a large pool, yoga studio and two restaurants — as well as ski school lessons that start immediately outside the boot room.

Details [Seven nights' all-inclusive](#)

from £2,946pp including flights, lift pass and ski lessons (clubmed.co.uk)

13. Sportlers Lodge, Sölden, Austria

Fun spa hotel for fitness fans

Never mind Sölden's reputation for raucous après-ski. The newly built Sportlers Lodge is aimed at a cleaner-living, fitness-focused audience, thanks to its two-storey gym, three-floor spa and rooftop pool. Rooms are spacious for the Alps — and unfussy too. In common with many modern, city-centre hotels the idea is to hang out in the Living Room bar or Italian-flavoured La Cucina restaurant, rather than squirrelling yourself away upstairs. When you're not bombing down Sölden's broad and ego-boosting pistes, of course.

Details

[B&B doubles](#)

from £210 (sportlers.at). Fly to Innsbruck

14. HotelPlaces by Valamar, Obertauern, Austria

Neon, DJs and games near the pistes

This winter, Obertauern's former Marietta hotel is reborn as the fun-loving HotelPlaces by Valamar — complete with neon wall lights, DJ sets and kooky headboards in the bedrooms. For families there's also a games room and a soft play area — and everyone, young and old, will be grateful they're only a few minutes' walk from the nearest piste. This, of course, is where the real fun is to be had: circling Obertauern's high mountain pass on a 60-mile network of confidence-boosting pistes.

Details [Seven nights' half-board](#)

from £1,560pp, including flights (crystalski.co.uk)

15. Seven Alpina, Klosters, Switzerland

Cool earthy hotel in comeback king resort

Klosters has pretty much fallen off the British ski holiday map since King Charles was a regular. So it's good to see a new broom sweeping through one of its most central hotels — now called Seven Alpina. Expect earthy colours, lush fabrics and an arty, modernist style, as well as an Italian-flavoured restaurant and DJ sets in the WunderBar. You can look forward to almost instant access to the Gotschnabahn cable car too — whisking you up to the intermediate pistes (and plunging powder runs) of the Gotschnagrät mountain.

Details [Half-board doubles](#)

from £284 (seven.ch). Fly to Zurich

16. Alpine Forest Hotel, Champoluc, Italy

Calming, friendly retreat for a lower price

Champoluc isn't like most 21st-century ski resorts. It may crouch beneath the mighty Monte Rosa massif — with a lift system that serves up superb skiing, both on-piste and off. But the atmosphere is quiet and friendly, rather than frenetic, especially when you get up towards the far end of the valley at the Alpine Forest Hotel. After six years of closure, it has just been coaxed back into life by new Italian owners and offers good food, simple but spacious digs and refreshingly affordable prices.

Details:

[B&B doubles](#)

from £64 ([alpineforest.it](#)) Fly to Turin

CHALETs AND APARTMENTS

17. Chalet Arolla, Méribel, France

Pretty base for famous bar and slopes

New to Ski France's expanding portfolio is this pretty, well-equipped bolt hole, just off the road up to Méribel's most famous bar: Le Rond Point. Served by the company's Contactless Chalet Catering Service, it offers the privacy of self-catering, but with your fridge and cupboards well stocked with goodies. When it comes to dinner you just heat the dishes supplied — such as coq au vin and Normandy apple tart. Inside, the double-height dining room, wood-burning stove and steam room add to the sense of sanctuary. Outside, the vast Three Valleys ski area awaits, with a shuttle bus service to deliver you to the slopes.

Details [Seven nights' half-board](#)

for 10 from £11,210 ([skifrance.co.uk](#)). Fly to Geneva or Chambéry, or take the train to Moûtiers

18. Odles Lodge, Brixen, Italy

Luxurious and peaceful Dolomites cabins

If you love the mountains but recoil from the rattle and hum of modern ski resorts, the Odles Lodges are for you. Opened this year by the minimalist five-star Forestis hotel nearby, the four lodges sit on a forested knoll above the pocket-sized Plose ski area, whose lifts and pistes serve the town of Brixen — and almost no one else. Midweek, it's blissfully quiet, though you may want to eschew skiing altogether and spend a day or two hanging out in your stripped-back, pine-panelled accommodation. The view south is one of the most eye-catching in all the Dolomites — towards the jagged Seceda ridgeline.

Details

[B&B lodges](#)

from £457 ([odleslodge.it](#)). Fly to Bolzano

19. The Barn, Lech, Austria

Fully-equipped barn stay in Arlberg

The last thing you'll be thinking of, as you settle into this luxurious, new-build chalet, is a barn. Designed for up to 14 guests it comes with its own butler, chef and chauffeur — as well as a private sauna and swimming pool. It's ski-in, ski-out too. And with the magnificent Arlberg ski area on your doorstep you won't be short of options as you click into your bindings in the boot room. Bump runs, easy pistes, stomach-in-your-mouth off-piste descents: they're all here, as well as the village with the snowiest microclimate in the Alps: Warth.

Details

Three nights' chalet board for 14 from £27,340 ([peppercollection.com](#)). Fly to Innsbruck

20. Chalet Hôtel Blythe, Les Gets, France

Plush spa chalet by the slopes

The Les Gets chalet company Summit Special has just built its flagship property. Chalet-Hôtel Blythe sits on the Route du Front de Neige, close to Les Gets' family-friendly slopes — and stacks five storeys of considerable comfort onto its plot. Interiors have been fashioned by the luxury chalet designers Shep & Kyles and include an indoor pool and spa. If you fancy staying here in a peak holiday week, you'll need to book the eight-bedroom property in its entirety. In quieter weeks, however, individual rooms are available.

Details

Half-board doubles from £695; six nights' half-board exclusive rental for 16 from £37,500 ([summitspecial.co.uk](#)). Fly to Geneva

21. Les Cristaux, Les Arcs, France

Modern apartments above the Arc 1800

Once upon a time, new-build two-bedroom apartments in France were half the size of those in Les Cristaux, which opens this winter, half a step above the Arc 1800. Now, these roomier flats seem like the norm. Here, big windows let the outside in, while the minimalist design adds to the sense of space. Mind you, with Arc

1800's sweep of intermediate pistes on your doorstep you won't be hanging around much during the day. Nor, perhaps after the lifts close. Both the Mille 8 swimming pool and luge are nearby.

Details

Seven nights' self-catering for five from £1,910 including Eurotunnel crossing (peakretreats.co.uk)

22. Chalet Camille, Tignes, France

Great snow-sure option near the lifts

Ski Vertigo is the rarest of British ski companies, a catered chalet specialist offering flights-inclusive holidays that has launched since Brexit. So it's good to see it broadening its portfolio with Chalet Camille in snow-sure Tignes. Camille's not a new-build. But it has had a top-to-bottom refurb, and sits almost on top of two very useful lifts in Tignes Le Lavachet. In other words, it's perfectly poised for a hard-skiing late-season holiday when many lower resorts are wallowing in slush.

Details

Seven nights' chalet board from £999pp, including flights (skivertigo.co.uk)

23. Les Chalets de Tueda, Méribel, France

Cosy self-catering stay in Méribel

Of all the big-name French resorts, Méribel has seen the biggest changes since Covid, with new hotels and apartments peppering its slopes. Here's further proof. One of four self-catering residences opening this winter, Les Chalets de Tueda brings adds extra sparkle to Mottaret, at the top of the resort. Here, lifts will whisk you to some of the Three Valleys' most sumptuous intermediate skiing, while back at base the flats are roomy and richly textured, with wood and stone much in evidence.

Details

Seven nights' self-catering for six from £2,861 (gsi-immobilier.com). Fly to Chambéry or Geneva, or take the train to Moûtiers

24. Chalet Blanc, Cervinia, Italy

Rare smart chalet in snow-sure resort

High-altitude Cervinia is not known for its private chalets. The plaudits all go to its snow-sure slopes — and the breathtaking sight of Monte Cervino, which seems ready to topple over on top of you. Now, however, you can rent a chalet that does justice to the setting. Available to the skiing public for the first time this winter, Chalet Blanc hosts ten skiers in snug, wood-panelled bedrooms and a soaring open-plan living/dining/cooking space. Not surprisingly the windows are vast: so you can stare, slack-jawed, at the view.

Details

Seven nights' self-catering for ten from £24,510 (lecollectionist.com). Fly to Turin

25. Chalet Alpurio, Santa Cristina, Italy

Bond-style pad in Val Gardena

As sleek as a Bond villain's cat — and twice as a cute — Chalet Alpurio sits purring in Val Gardena, beneath the towering cliffs of the Sassolungo. Your private shuttle will whisk you to either of the local ski lifts, and whichever one you take broad, come-hither pistes await. Meanwhile back at base you can make like Ana de Armas or Daniel Craig, slouching on the giant sofas or soaking in one of the giant bathrooms, dry martini in hand.

Details

Seven nights' B&B from £20,850 (leotrippi.com). Fly to Bolzano

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Chalet Moet, St Martin de Belleville

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Publisher: News UK & Ireland Ltd

Published Date: 08 Dec 2023 11:07:55

Article Id: 98625556 **Version:** 6

Word Count: 3279

Character Count: 15565



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