

# HELLO!

NUMBER 1880 • 3 MARCH 2025 • £3.60

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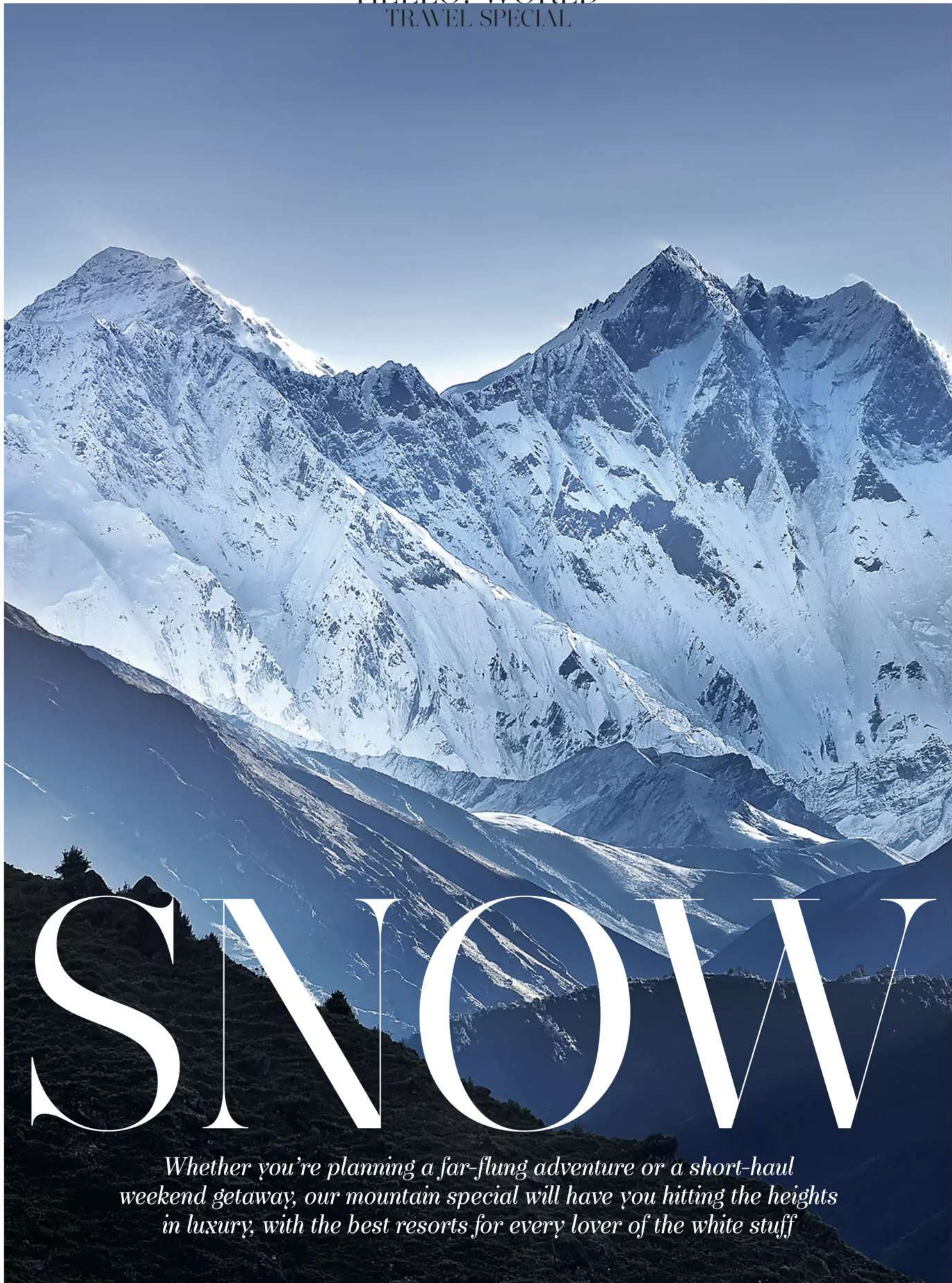
'THIS MAY PROVE  
TO BE THE MOST  
CRUCIAL USE OF  
ROYAL POWER FOR  
A GENERATION'

# FACING THE FUTURE

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HELLO! WORLD  
SNOW SPECIAL

# VAL D'ISERE

*A favourite with celebrities, this luxury hotspot can be your perfect ski destination, too. And the chalet voted France's best is waiting for you, reports Orion Scott*



Chalet Machapuchare is set over three storeys (top) and sleeps up to 15 in luxe en-suite bedrooms (above), offering oodles of space (below right) in the snowy paradise of Val d'Isère

**N**ested in the French Alps and sharing a vast 300km ski area with neighbouring Tignes, Val d'Isère is known for its impeccable runs, idyllic town centre and luxury vibe. No wonder it's the chosen place for a winter escape for the likes of Margot Robbie, Hugh Grant and Ed Sheeran.

As for where to stay, there's really only one choice – Chalet Machapuchare, voted France's Best Ski Chalet two years in a row.

Operated by luxury chalet company Purple Ski, it's kitted out with everything you could dream of, including an on-site chef, a team of staff to cater to every need, a private driver and – my favourite touch – an unlimited supply of Veuve Clicquot champagne.

Every inch of the chalet, which was designed and built by Val local and ski instructor Yoann Marchand and his wife Charlotte, evokes indulgent luxury while still feeling homely.

From the moment you set a weary ski-booted foot inside, it becomes clear just how much time, effort and thought has gone into

every aspect. Natural materials such as wood, stone, wool, metal and leather add warmth to the interior, while charming vintage ice skates and skis nod to the Alpine town's rich history.

I was lucky enough to enjoy one of the en-suite bedrooms for a weekend. The chalet sleeps up to 15 in seven of these, plus an additional bunk room, with mountain views and access to all areas of the three-storey complex, including a hot tub under snow-capped trees, an indoor lap pool with a waterfall, a cinema room, a massage room, an open-plan living room and a well-equipped gym.

I was treated like royalty, with no request impossible for the Purple Ski staff.

The pistes, shops and nightlife are just a three-minute chauffeured drive from the chalet. After a morning spent skiing, my chauffeur met me and my out-of-practice ski legs at the bottom of the mountain and transferred me back to my new home away from home in the exclusive and wonderfully private area of Le Crêt.

After taking off my kit in the boot room – which comes with heated boot racks, a mini bar and a TV – I was welcomed back with a glass of champagne and an on-site massage.

The evening proceeded with drinks and charcuterie in the main living room, followed by a five-course meal with accompanying wine pairings prepared by Hugo, the chalet's accomplished in-house chef.

Whether you want a unique ski holiday or are simply after a touch of solace in possibly one of the dreamiest places on Earth, Chalet Machapuchare is an escape like no other.

To book, visit [purpleski.com](http://purpleski.com).

