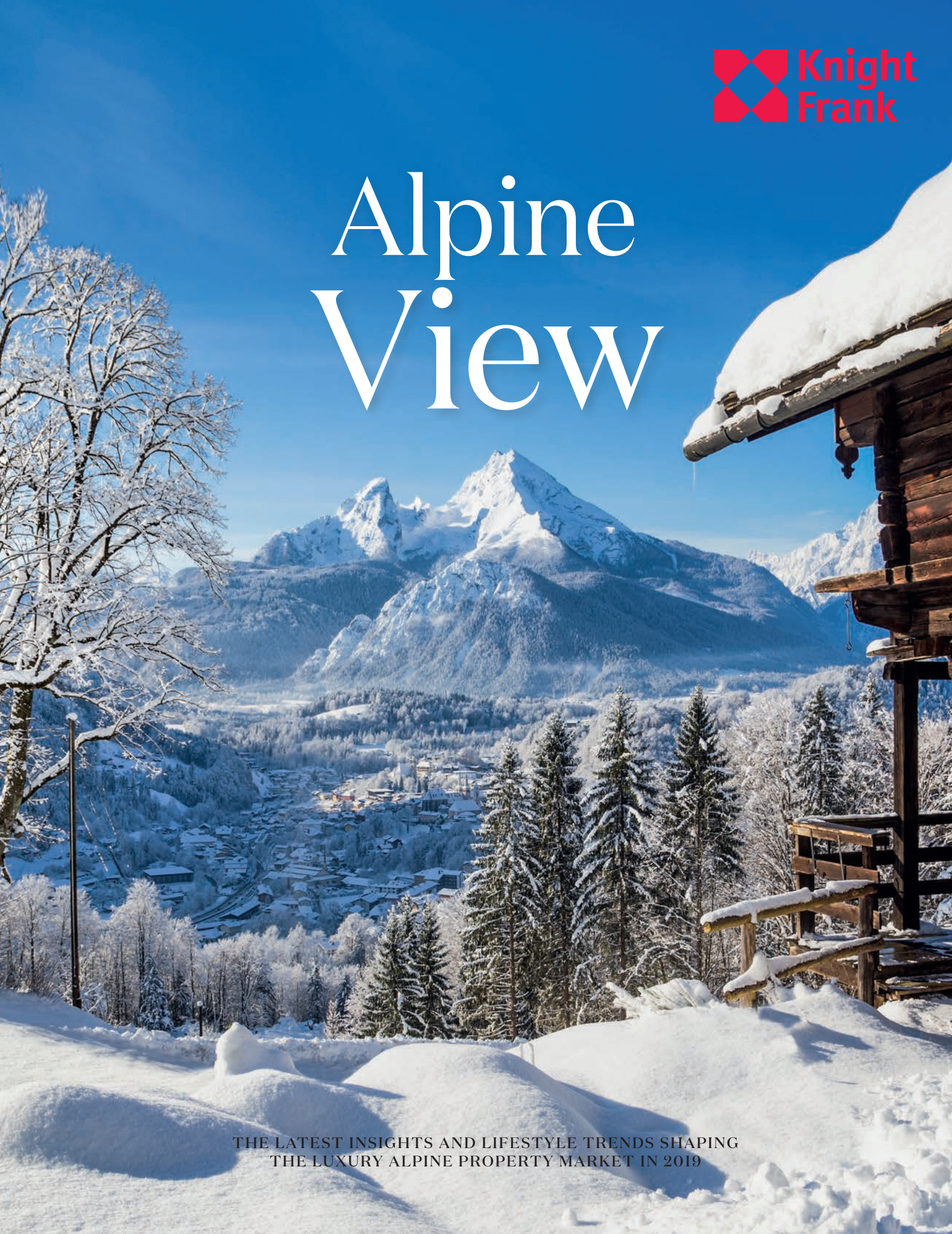

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Alpine View

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THE LUXURY ALPINE PROPERTY MARKET IN 2019

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A WARM WELCOME

Over the past 12 months, the Alpine market has performed remarkably well. The majority of resorts recorded increasing prices, snow reached record levels, and there continues to be heavy investment into infrastructure. As demand for the Alps grows with no signs of slowing down, the future of this thriving market has never looked so bright.

Regular readers of Alpine View may notice the new style of our magazine. Here at Knight Frank, we understand that investing in the Alps is about more than expanding your property portfolio; it's about giving you and your loved ones access to the ultimate aspirational lifestyle. As such, in addition to presenting a selection of the finest homes currently on the market in the French and Swiss Alps, as well as the US resort of Aspen, this edition features an array of articles on topics we hope will be of interest to you.

Articles this year range from exploring the latest tech must-haves for hitting the slopes (p.34), to the ultimate Instagram-friendly homes (p.16) and eco-friendly chalets (p.30). In addition, pages 22-25 feature expert insight from four members of our International team into local ski markets and their top tips for spending time there.

As you plan your next trip to the Alps and consider your next property investment, we hope Alpine View provides you with both information and inspiration. Whether you're a serious skier, a nature enthusiast, or simply looking to relax in total luxury, we have the perfect home for you – and we'd love to help you find it.

For our full property listings, please visit knightfrank.com. If you have any questions, or wish to find out more on how our team can help find your dream Alpine home, please get in touch. We'd love to hear from you.

Mark Harvey
Head of European Sales

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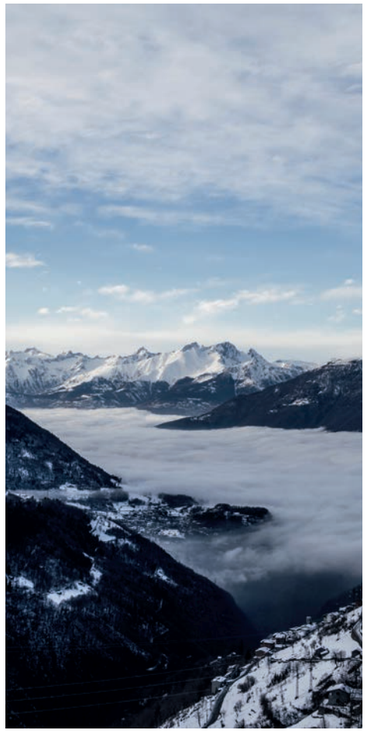

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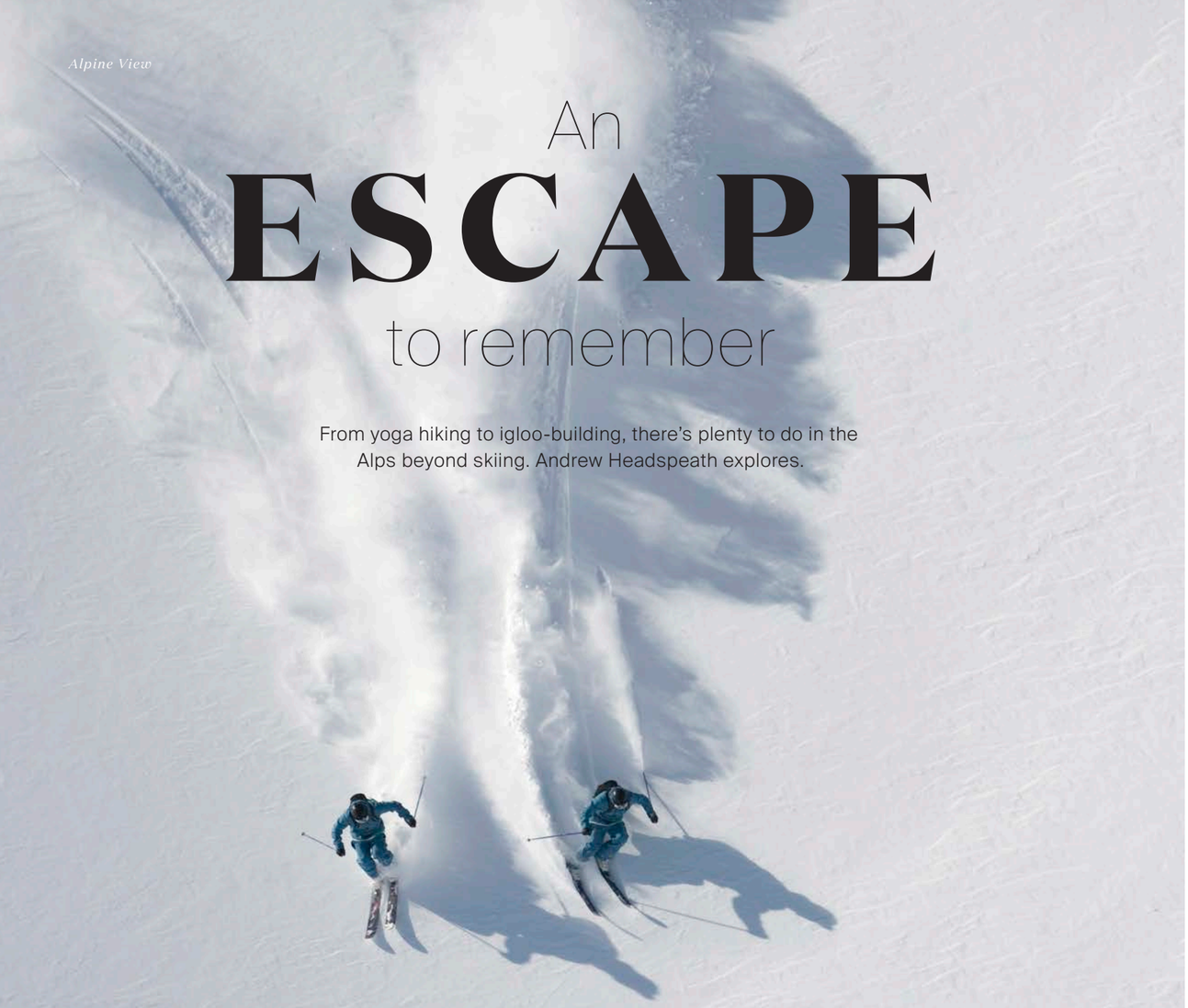
An ESCAPE to remember

From yoga hiking to igloo-building, there's plenty to do in the Alps beyond skiing. Andrew Headspeath explores.



No destination says 'tradition' quite like the Alps. Skiing adventures on sheer pistes, leisurely strolls through charming hamlets, and roaring fires inside cosy taverns make this magical region a romantic's dream. Yet this timeless charm comes with a price, with resorts experiencing overwhelming popularity and increasing concern for their environmental impact. The present is catching up – and the tourism industry is having to act fast to redefine the Alpine experience.

Across Europe's largest mountain range, people are discarding the postcard-perfect rulebook and innovating travel. From foraging tours to igloo expeditions, here's how to best enjoy an alternative weekend in the Alps.

Ice diving and snow yoga

Sitting 2,300 metres high above the Tarentaise Valley, Val Thorens is a legend in Alpine tourism. Europe's highest-altitude resort is most famous for its ski slopes, yet is also worth considering for a rejuvenating winter weekend for both body and mind. Visitors can take the plunge into an ethereal world beneath the frozen surface of Lac du Lou, floating in the silent, light-dappled abyss, as the -15 degrees celsius cold envelopes your drysuit and awakens your senses.

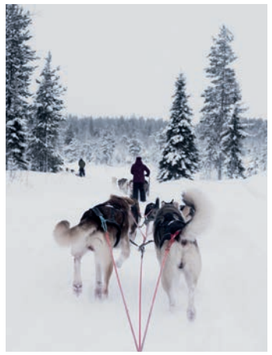
Rise early the following morning for a yoga hike with Raquette Nature. Devotees are invited to practice sun salutations and a seated meditation across from the majesty of an ancient glacier.

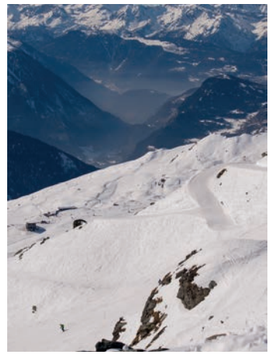
Snowshoeing and avalanche rescue training

Buckle on your snowshoes for a brisk hike through the winter wonderlands of Méribel. Adventurers can reconnect with nature completely transformed by thick, powdery snow and offering breathtaking views. Under the guidance of ex-army officer Mark Tennent, traipse through hidden peaks and valleys to spot chamois and lynxes, while mythical-looking bearded vultures watch from the skies.

Tennent left the UK for a slice of Alpine life and has more than 30 years of experience in traversing mountains. He also offers Avalanche Search and Rescue Training courses, which will prepare you to overcome the worst if you venture off-piste.

There are a multitude of things to do in the Alps for all skill sets. All activities mentioned are currently available in the Alps.





Igloo expeditions and husky sledding

The vast, rolling mountains of Écrins National Park are a hiker's dream in the summertime. Here in the Southern French Alps, fairytale villages teeter over glacier valleys as golden eagles soar above nearly 1,000 square kilometres of rugged terrain. Come winter, visitor numbers drop drastically – leaving the reserve in a pristine blanket of snow.

Undiscovered mountains will lead you into a world unknown, as you traverse powder-white hills and valleys to create your very own igloo. Building a home from any material, let alone snow, takes time and patience; equipped with your shovel, you'll construct everything from a sleeping platform to air vents made entirely out of ice.

After a hard day's work, you'll be rewarded with a campfire dinner under the twinkling Alpine stars. And you can rest assured in the knowledge that igloos make for a surprisingly cosy night's sleep.

The following day will give you the chance to show your prowess as leader of the pack as you hurry a team of energetic huskies into the wilderness. Sledding is surprisingly tiring work, so a musher will be at hand to show you the ropes. Your furry friends will be with you for the duration of the trip, so it's important you pet and feed them to establish bonds between man and beast.

Alpine foraging and cheese tours

In the narrow, remote valleys of the Val de Bagnes, daily life has changed little in the past few centuries. It's a region where cowbells ring between quaint pastures, and locals' deep connection to the earth forms both their identities and dinner plates. A custom tour with Epic Europe will take you to the heart of one of Switzerland's wildest communes and teach you how to fully reap nature's bounty.

The day starts with a visit to the Alpine dairy Alpage de Mille for a Raclette cheese-making demonstration (and, of course, tasting). Dating back to 400 BC, the local Raclette du Valais AOP is legendary: at one point in history, the Romans even used it as payment. The cheese tastes just as it did over a millennium ago, using raw milk from cows fed solely on local grass and hay.

It's then time to venture into the region's mossy forests, where bolete and chanterelle mushrooms are ripe for picking under the warmth of the summer sun. Though these woods are a famous fungal paradise, local foragers fiercely guard their prized spots. A knowledgeable guide will lead you to the tastiest pickings, before it's time to head back for a wholesome feast of cured pork, melted Raclette cheese and your very own hand-selected mushrooms.

Sure, the Alps may well be a traditional ski destination – but it's also the perfect place for you to indulge your inner yogi, forager or traveller (or maybe a bit of all three). Now's the time to start exploring.

Ski Aspirations

Thinking of making a purchase in the Alps? Sophia King explores the considerations involved when making the leap into the Alpine property market.

A ski home has long been the ultimate lifestyle purchase; a symbol of luxury and a cosy retreat for you and your loved ones. And whether you're looking to conquer black runs, sip hot chocolate beside a glowing fire or make a savvy investment (or all three), you need look no further than the Alps.

Spanning eight countries, Europe's highest mountain range is home to more than a third of the world's ski resorts and attracts 77 million visitors every year. Each resort has its own unique appeal; all have thriving property markets. Of the 16 French and Swiss Alpine resorts tracked by Knight Frank's recently released Ski Index, 10 recorded rising annual prices. Topping the index was the Swiss resort of Villars which, in the year to June 2018, saw its prime prices increase by 6%.

This strong performance reflects the seemingly limited impact of economic and political factors on the sentiment and transaction volumes of Alpine properties compared to the mainstream housing market. The global financial crisis, geopolitical tensions and property regulations have been offset by wealth flows and heavy investment into infrastructure – and, ultimately, the deep affection so many feel for the Alps and all it has to offer.

Rental requirements

Nonetheless, practical considerations have an important role to play. Almost every buyer in the Alps intends to rent out their property at some point. This intention is particularly strong if the property in question is an off-plan or new-build in France, where buyers can claim a 20% tax rebate in return for meeting certain stipulations, including an agreement to rent out the property and offer hotel services.

Given the popularity of the Alps, the cost of properties there and the increasing availability of low-cost flights, renting out your ski home makes sense – but it's essential to do your research first. Rental values, occupancy rates and competition varies significantly throughout Alpine resorts.

Take, for instance, the year-round appeal of a property. Chamonix and Verbier see the most demand for rentals during the summer season, but Gstaad and Verbier have the longest seasons. In terms of convenience and affordability, Combloux and Megève are closest to the airport and have the cheapest ski schools. Each resort has its own pros and cons; it's up to you to decide which are the most important.

Infrastructure investments

As visitors' demands for an unforgettable experience grow ever stronger, ski resorts in the Alps face a relentless challenge to improve their offering and increase profit margins. Consequently, many resorts are currently investing in their infrastructure.

One such example is Val d'Isère. Investments in the French resort include the creation of the country's highest hotel, Le Refuge de Solaise, at 2,551 metres; the resort's first palace hotel, the Mademoiselle Val d'Isère; and the much anticipated €250 million Le Coin de Val redevelopment. Furthermore, in response to the increasing threat of climate change, the area has a snow factory that produces 2,500 cubic metres of snow every hour for distribution across the slopes.

Meanwhile, Villars in Switzerland has invested CHF 20 million into a new apartment project at Domaine du Roc, CHF 30 million into ski and non-ski infrastructure, and another CHF 40 million into parking. While these figures may raise eyebrows, there's already been promising signs of return on investment. After lagging behind French resorts in the Ski Index last year, Verbier and Villars saw increases of 3.4% and 6% respectively, attributed to increasing tourist numbers, buyer demand and chalet pricing.

Above: *Bois du praz, is an exclusive development in Courchevel. Offers 2-3 bedrooms.*
Prices from: €810,000 - €1,900,000
Left: *An authentic Alpine residence, Manali offers 10 prestigious apartments in Courchevel.*
Prices from: €1,800,000
Properties are for sale with Knight Frank.

Looking ahead

Of course, when investing in any property it's important to consider not only how the market is performing now, but how it's set to perform in the future.

Highlighting ten trends set to influence ski markets, the Ski Index flags the importance of exchange rates, with approximately 40% of ski home purchases involving a foreign buyer and/or vendor. Another key consideration is climate change. While many resorts are looking into clever solutions to decreasing snow levels, it may be best for keen skiers to focus on high altitude resorts such as Courchevel, Val d'Isère and Zermatt.

For those considering ski homes beyond the Alps, Aspen is also a great place to consider. Its light dry powder snow may have made it America's leading ski destination, but it's just as popular in summer as winter. Landmark events, year-round activities, and a vibrant arts and restaurant scene culminate in a thriving resort that continues to attract celebrities, politicians, artists, C-suite professionals and other ultra-high-net-worth individuals, both domestically and internationally. This, in turn, has prompted rising property prices that show no signs of slowing down.

A ski property can be considered a strong investment, but it's also so much more. It's an aspirational lifestyle; a place to bond with friends and family, embark on adventures, indulge in fine dining, and immerse yourself in the beauty of your surroundings and that crisp Alpine air. Buying a home in the mountains is the beginning of a treasured collection of memories with the people you love – and that will always be priceless.

The perfect home for entertaining, Divide Drive offers five bedrooms, six bathrooms, ski-in ski-out access and ultimate privacy.
Guide price: US $8,000,000
For sale through
Douglas Elliman | Knight Frank

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A SECRET HIDEAWAY IN CHAMONIX

The word "unique" is over-used in property descriptions but certainly not here. Four years in the creation, this property will never be repeated in such a central location nor with such style.

Chamonix, or 'Cham' as it is affectionately dubbed, is a global destination; you'll hear languages from every corner of the world in the streets of this mountain-surrounded town. The visitors who make their way to this summit share the same way of thinking and love for mountaineering – mountainous it is, with 4,810 metres of rock, snow, ice encompassing the town.

The valley offers 430 kilometres of hiking trails that can be enjoyed by visitors of all abilities, be it on foot, horseback or mountain bike. Away from the panoramic paths are an array of retail and leisure amenities that make Chamonix a year-round destination for keen shoppers, lovers of fine food and those in need of relaxation and indulgence.

And set in the heart of this special mountain town is Le Lustre, a new duplex apartment painstakingly created within the historic Pas de Chevre building.

Overlooking the Quai d'Arve between the famous statues of Jacques Balmat, Horace-Benedict de Saussure and Michel Gabriel Paccard, Le Lustre is centrally located with an entrance on Avenue Michel Croz. Rumour has it that the daughter of a famous French family once occupied the property with her Chamoniard lover; look out for their initials carved into the metal doors.

Le Lustre presents the perfect harmony of old and new; historic structures coming together with modern construction techniques and contemporary design. On the top floor, a defective old mansard roof has been replaced with a light wooden structure that includes a low pitch roof to maximise ceiling heights. A magnificent copper skin covers the entire roof structure, hand-fitted by specialists over a three-month period. Original granite stairs and hand-forged iron balustrades stand alongside a new stylish pneumatic lift, while a second contemporary staircase entices you to the second floor. Here, vast living area features triple sliding doors that open onto the roof terrace overlooking the traditional town squares and offering breathtaking views of Mont Blanc, the Aiguille de Midi and the Glacier des Bossons.

Le Lustre is a five bedroom penthouse for sale in the centre of Chamonix with unrivalled 360 degree views of the mountains. Guide price: €6,850,000 For sale with Knight Frank.

Chamonix is, quite rightly, protective of its heritage buildings and cultural presence. When the owners bought the space that was to become Le Lustre, it had been in a state of extended development for some years. The owners only began work once they'd persuaded the Mairie, the Architecte des Bâtiments de France and the building's co-owners of their genuine motivation to improve the building. The owners worked with local architect FedArch Studio throughout the process to ensure that every element fitted the overall vision.

Le Lustre is the result of four years' hard work; a spectacular, modern apartment of the highest specification and finish, set in one of the world's finest locations.

WHY THE NAME LE LUSTRE? In 1928, Americans escaped the rigours of prohibition at small hidden bars known as "speakeasies". Le Lustre takes its name from the location of one of the original speakeasies on Chicago's Lustre Street, and includes its own hidden speakeasy equipped with a genuine 1932 bar sourced from an auction house in Lots Road, Chelsea.

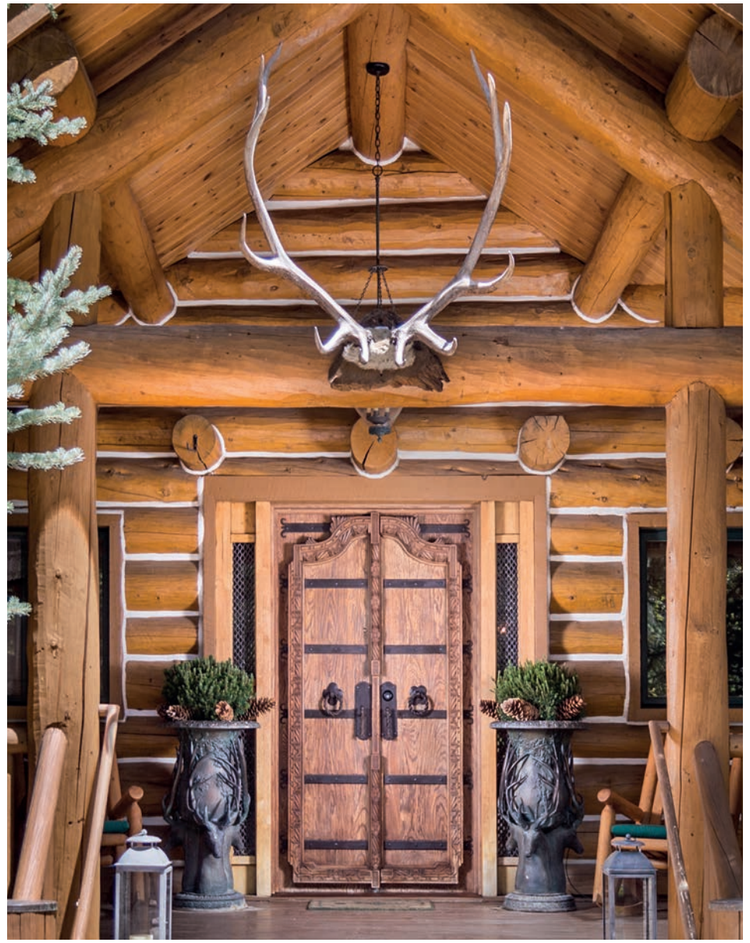
TOP PISTE

Three Aspen Olympians share their insights with Sophia King on what makes America's leading ski resort so special.

Wiley Maple

With a family that's lived in Aspen since the late 1960s and a ski instructor grandfather, Wiley seems destined to have found his calling out on the slopes. He competed in downhill at the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics.

Left: *Wiley Maple*
Bottom: *Built on the Gold Medal river frontage, Woody Creek Lodge offers seven bedrooms, six bathrooms, a games room and an authentic river rock fireplace. Guide price: US $7,995,000 For sale through Douglas Elliman | Knight Frank.*



MY IDEAL SKI would be in Aspen or Chamonix, either in late January or early March. Nearly one metre of fresh powder would've fallen overnight, and the sun would shine in the blue sky to make falling flakes glitter.

I GOT INTO COMPETING PROFESSIONALLY from a young age, but it wasn't until freshman year that I decided to focus solely on skiing. I was named to the national team during my graduating year and have been doing it ever since.

MY MOST MEMORABLE SKI is almost impossible to choose! The best days are those spent climbing mountains and snagging peaks to ski with friends. They're more memorable for me than race days – if you didn't ski the way you wanted to, you can swing straight up the lift and do it again, whereas you have to wait another year to conquer a race.

MY FAVOURITE THING ABOUT ASPEN is that it has so much life: music, great food, bars, the MotherLode and Ruggerfest tournaments, the Aspen Ideas Festival and climate summits. It has as much happening as a big city, yet is a small and beautiful town, with mountains on your doorstep and the daily commute no more than a five-minute bike ride. It's the best place I've ever been.

I LOVE SUMMERS IN ASPEN, the weather is perfect – I spend a lot of time on my mountain bike, and get involved with volleyball, softball, the skate park, paddle boarding, outdoor music and high mountain barbecues.

MY DREAM SKI HOME WOULD BE a one-storey log cabin in Aspen, complete with a loft and big windows on the river. It'd have an open living room and kitchen, but still be small and cosy.

Alex Ferreira

After competing locally at the age of ten, freestyle skier Alex went on to participate in countless national and international competitions. His most recent triumph saw him take home the silver medal for halfpipe at the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics.

MY FAVOURITE THING about Aspen is its lifestyle. I feel healthy and life seems simple when I'm home. It's the best of both worlds; you can ski the Highlands Bowl, hike Tiehack and spend a day exploring, yet feel this "small city" vibe when you head into town at night. It's like walking around a mini New York City where you know everyone.

I LIKE TRAINING IN ASPEN because there's so much privacy. I learn best when I'm alone, so Aspen is perfect; it isn't nearly as crowded as many other resorts.

MY DREAM SKI HOME is on Thunderbowl Lane, right at the base of Highlands with ski-in ski-out access. It's a luxurious log cabin with accents of a classic Austrian-style "ski haus", has huge windows to enjoy the view, and a hot tub slope side!

Left: *This four bedroom four bathroom house in N Starwood Drive offers stunning view of Aspen Valley. Guide price: US $4,950,000 For sale with Douglas Elliman | Knight Frank.*
Bottom: *Alex Ferreira*

MY MOST MEMORABLE SKI was training on the halfpipe at Buttermilk Mountain, with my coach Elana Chase and best friend Torin Yater-Wallace. I watched the footage back the other day – we look so happy just to be skiing.

MY IDEAL SKI is in spring time when it's sunny and soft snow. I love starting the morning off at Buttermilk, skiing the park and pipe before heading over to Highlands around noon to enjoy a little Cloud Nine action and getting some runs in on Scarlets.

COMPETING IN THE WINTER OLYMPICS was enthralling! To represent my country on the world stage with my best friends competing by my side was a once in a lifetime experience – it will remain with me forever. Coming home with a medal was just the cherry on top.

Alice McKennis

After embarking on a full ski racing program at just five years old, Alice qualified for the US ski team in 2008 and began competing internationally a year later. She's raced in both the 2010 and 2018 Winter Olympics, securing fifth place in downhill at the latter.

I DISCOVERED MY PASSION FOR SKIING when I was two years old, holding on to my Dad's ski pole and learning to ski at Sunlight Mountain Resort near Glenwood Springs. I fell in love with the freedom and exploration of skiing as a small child and have never looked back!

MY MOST MEMORABLE SKI was four years ago. My teammates and I had just finished our last world cup of the year in Méribel so went to Chamonix for a few days, and were lucky enough to ski two laps of the Vallée Blanche! Skiing such a classic off-piste twice in one day with those people will always stay in my mind as one of the best ski days ever.

Top: *Alice McKennis*
Bottom: *Located in Méribel Village this spacious six bedroom chalet offers a Jacuzzi and balcony with magnificent mountain views. The guide price is available on request. For sale with Knight Frank*

COMPETING IN THE WINTER OLYMPICS was a dream come true. I've dreamt of competing at the Olympics since I was little, so participating in two events (Super-G and Downhill) in PyeongChang was really special for me. I'd been unable to race in the 2014 Olympic season due to injury, so to come back and place fifth in the 2018 Olympic Downhill was really meaningful.

MY ONE PIECE OF SKIING ADVICE would be to always maintain shin contact with the tongue or front of your boot. This helps you ski "offensively" instead of being in a "defensive" position in the back seat.

THE ALPS IS MUCH VASTER THAN ASPEN, especially in places like Méribel or Les Trois Vallées. I wouldn't say either has a better terrain, but certain areas of the Alps are only suitable for advanced skiing, whereas Aspen has something for the whole family.

MY DREAM SKI HOME would be a ski-in ski-out property over on the Thunder Bowl. It'd have lots of room for friends and family to visit, and a super-cool room filled with bunk beds!

CAMERA READY

Instagram is now the ultimate treasure trove of holiday home inspiration. A recent study found that two-fifths of millennials choose a travel spot based on its Instagrammability, and this obsession with appearances is driving demand for picturesque properties. But Instagram, has become so much more than a collection of pretty photos; it's experiential and all about moments and spaces on a relatable human level – let people in to how you're living in your holiday home.

Whether you're tracking your home renovations, sharing your interior style, celebrating your holiday home or simply looking to draw in the likes, we've got you covered. Here's our selection of Instagrammable holiday homes currently for sale with Knight Frank (filter optional).

Aspen, United States

An Instagram home essential: perfect lighting. With soaring ceilings and an aesthetic reminiscent of an iconic national park lodge, just looking at this Colorado luxury log home is relaxing. Soft furnishings, plush cushions and hard wood floors alongside multiple fireplaces make for the perfect snapshot set-up.

Show off your cosy evenings in the garden next to the soft glow of the Creekside fire pit or share the breathtaking views of the Flatirons – no filter required. With almost three million posts on Instagram with #western, the exposed brick meets log cabin interior, complete with cowhide throws and rocking chairs, will have you producing Insta-worthy posts in no time.

Méribel, France

Located at the entrance of Méribel Village, this chalet's mix of covetable decors and impressively grand exteriors will have you reaching for your phone again and again. The property combines snug traditional mountain decoration with high statement ceilings and views of the surrounding slopes. If that's not enough content for your followers, there's a steam room and indoor Jacuzzi for some spa-inspired shots.

Villars, Switzerland

Carefully designed to showcase the region's finest materials, this Swiss chalet features fresh contemporary living throughout. Large sun-filled balconies with backdrops of sweeping mountain panoramas make for the perfect place to relax (and capture on camera), day or night. Unlike the many seasonal resorts, Villars is fully operational throughout the year and the Instagram opportunities are endless, whether you're hitting the slopes, going horse riding or boating on the lake. For something a bit more intimate, set up a party in the private wooded garden, complete with twinkling fairy lights, petal strewn tables, decadent punch bowls and awe-inspiring food. The ultimate #instaworthy set up.

Chamonix, France

Located in an eagles nest position with sweeping views of the Mont Blanc mountain range, this chalet in Les Houches offers a plethora of image opportunities, from what must surely be the Chamonix valley's highest swimming pool. With luscious green surroundings and clear #viewgoals of Europe's highest mountain, this year round Alpine home is the perfect holiday home post backdrop.

Courchevel, France

Situated in a quiet spot with panoramic views of the surrounding mountains, this charming chalet is located in the much sought-after area of Courchevel Village. Add champagne and stargazing to the outdoor Jacuzzi for an out-of-this-world snap or, recline in the picturesque copper bathtub indoors. Take eye-catching photos of the majestic scenery from the top floor balcony, before heading inside to take advantage of the wooden open shelving – an Instagram favourite – and style it up to suit your mood. Likes guaranteed.

The Influencer

Johan Lolos' talent for capturing the raw beauty of nature has caught the attention of more than 450,000 Instagram followers and big brands around the world. The Belgian 31-year-old takes a break from his camera to share tales of his travels with Sophia King, and explain why being an influencer isn't all that it seems.

Johan has traveled around the world both on assignment and for personal photo projects, including this photo featured by National Geographic.

How did your career as a photographer and influencer begin?

After graduating in PR five years ago, I bought a one-way ticket to Australia. I spent a year there; exploring, taking photos and sharing them with my friends and family on Instagram. Everything changed for me the day National Geographic featured one of my photos – I gained 5,000 followers on Instagram overnight. I started being more strategic, using certain hashtags and following similar accounts, and my following gradually began to grow. I decided to focus on Instagram full-time at the start of 2015.

Where do you find inspiration?

Magazines, books and exhibitions, mostly. I'm leaning more and more towards a documentary style of photography rather than landscape, so I've been studying all the big names, like Raymond Depardon and Henri Cartier-Bresson. I also love discovering work by photographers I haven't heard of before.

How does Instagram influence your work?

I use Instagram like a search engine; if I see a piece of work I like, I'll look up the photographer and follow them to find out more.

It's also great for showcasing my work and reaching potential clients. So far, social media has seen me work with the likes of Nikon, Bose, Toyota, Jack Daniel's and Delta Airlines.

What key message would you like to give your followers?

Instagram isn't real life; being an influencer is great, but it's also a lot of hard work. My account doesn't show the endless hours I spend at my laptop, although I do always try to caption my images with the story behind them.

How did your book Peaks of Europe, published earlier this year, come about?

Last year, I went on a five-month trip around Europe and wanted to document my journey in a genuine way. So I made it my personal project to post between 20 and 30 pictures to my Instagram story every day, sharing the narrative behind each image. The response was amazing; my followers suggested I collate the pictures into a book, so that's what I did!

What's your favourite image in Peaks of Europe?

I love the image on the cover page so much – it took a lot of luck to get that perfect shot. We weren't supposed to go that high because of the weather conditions, but on the third day myself and two friends decided to go for it. As we reached the top, the fog faded and we had just five minutes to capture the shot.

What else do you get up to besides photography?

To be honest, most of my time at home is spent working; dealing with emails, meeting clients, editing photos and planning new projects. I'm also renovating my house in Belgium at the moment – it's been a busy few months!

Do you ski? Where's your favourite place to go?

I first skied when I was 20 years old and haven't improved much since! I started skiing in Les Trois Vallées and, even though I've since skied in Colarado, British Columbia and New Zealand, that's still my favourite place to hit the slopes.

What pieces of photography equipment would you recommend?

For me, it's the lens that really matters. My favourite lens is 24-70mm; I use it for 80 to 90% of my work. For portrait shots, the 35mm lens is great. My advice would be to invest in a good lens rather than a good camera – that's what will make you stand out.

Where's your favourite place you've visited so far?

New Zealand is definitely special – I have lots of fond memories from the year I spent living there. Wanaca in particular is incredibly photogenic and beautiful. I also find Northern Norway and the Highlands of Iceland really inspiring.

What are your plans for the future?

Still on my list of places to visit are Patagonia and Greenland for landscape shots, and Asia for a more documentary-style approach and to absorb the local culture. I'm planning to spend next summer travelling across Africa – follow me on Instagram to keep up with my journey there!

Follow Johan at @lebackpacker or visit his website at johanlolos.com.

OFF-PLAN LIVING - HEDONIA

The new development of Hedonia Residence Alpine offers the ultimate in luxury – and the opportunity to own a second home in the world-class resort of Villars.

With a stable currency, excellent transport links and chocolate box picturesque villages, Switzerland is a popular destination enjoyed by visitors from around the world. But buying a second home here can be tricky. The country's Lex Weber laws mean that a second home can be purchased only in areas where less than 25% of properties are secondary residences. These opportunities still exist, but they're few and far between – making Hedonia all the more special.

A cultural oasis combining life in the great outdoors with the convenience of nearby towns and cities, Villars isn't just the place to be now – it's the place your children and grandchildren will want to be in the future. Following significant investment into infrastructure, Villars topped the recent Knight Frank Ski Index, beating 15 other resorts in the Alps with a prime price change of 6% in the year to June 2018. New ski lifts, hotels and sport centres are among the many newly improved features of this popular resort.

There's plenty of other reasons to invest in Hedonia, too. Comprising two chalet-style buildings complete with small retail units on its ground floor, the development blends contemporary design with traditional heritage, counting stone, wood and slate among the natural materials used to create it.

Hedonia's 20 apartments range in price from CHF 1.3 million to CHF 2.85 million, with each home featuring open and stylish spaces brought to life by natural light flooding in through expansive windows. Whether you opt for a one-storey 3.5-room apartment, a 6.5-room duplex, or something in between, you'll have the opportunity to handpick the fixtures, fittings and finishing to create a sanctuary that feels truly personalised to you. An underground garage provides ample space for parking and includes charge points for those driving electric cars.

Set on a natural south-facing plateau 1,300 metres above the Rhone Valley, all homes above floor one feature balconies. Here, residents and visitors alike can enjoy panoramic views of Mont Blanc, Les Dents du Midi and the Diablerets Glacier – made all the more enjoyable by the guarantee that these breathtaking views will remain unobstructed forever.

It'd be easy to spend an entire week unwinding in the comfort of Hedonia's residences, but for those looking to make the most of Villars, there's plenty to do throughout the year. The village features shops, leisure centres and public transport, all in close proximity to Hedonia. There's an 18-hole golf course, tennis centre, indoor skating rink and the Bains de Villars spa, complete with semi-Olympic pool, wellness zone and children's recreation area.

For those looking to hit the slopes, the ski area rises from 1,200 metres to 3,000 metres and offers 125 kilometres of slopes to suit all levels. Villars is also home to two wine-making regions, Bex and Ollon, both offering award-winning wines and unforgettable experiences.

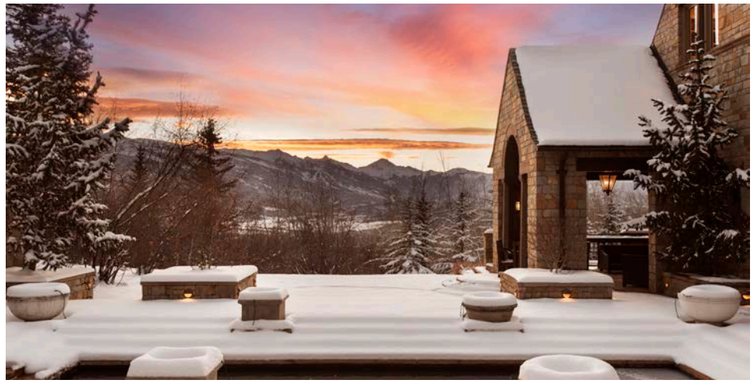
Situated within two hours of Geneva airport, Hedonia enjoys easy accessibility via a short train, bus or taxi ride from Aigle or Bex stations. Its connectivity is emphasised by the 800 international students attending the four private schools in Villars, contributing to the area's distinctive vibrant atmosphere. And, of course, this further heightens the rental potential of homes here, where students' parents, staff and general tourists frequently ascend.

Hedonia ticks all the boxes: location, style, amenities. It's a worthy investment and a calming escape from everyday pressures. In fact, the only downside of this beautiful new development may be the speed at which you'll have to act if you wish to secure a home for yourself. As the last new development in Villars and a completion date of December 2019, these properties are unlikely to remain on the market for long.

Hedonia is a new development offering 2-4 bedroom apartments and duplexes overlooking the Rhone Valley. Prices from CHF 1,400,000 For sale with Knight Frank.

In View

As one of the world's leading International property consultants, Knight Frank takes great pride in marketing and selling the finest luxury homes in key destinations across the globe. The Alpine Team share their knowledge with Sophia King on the French, Swiss and Aspen prime residential market, and their take on the perfect Alpine holiday.



This four bedroom, four bathroom house in Starwood Drive offers stunning view of Aspen valley.
Guide price: US $4,950,000
For sale with Douglas Elliman | Knight Frank.

Jason Mansfield,
Aspen

How has the market in Aspen performed over recent times?

Property prices have increased quite considerably, primarily because there isn't much land left to build on. Beyond this, Aspen has almost become more popular in the summer than in the winter; it's a true year-round destination. This has heightened the appeal of owning a home there and has further driven up property prices.

Who typically invests in Aspen?

The Aspen property market is mostly domestically driven and attracts a vibrant mix of celebrities, politicians, artists and C-suite professionals, as well as families looking to spend time with their loved ones.

Describe the typical properties and price points found in Aspen.

At the very centre of Aspen is the gondola for Aspen Mountain; property prices are strongly influenced by their proximity to it, as well as the views they offer. For those with a large family and a willingness to not be in the middle of everything, Snowmass is a great place to be. Prices there are considerably less, yet it's just a 20-minute ride into the city centre.

What are the key reasons for investing in Aspen?

Founded in 1881 during the Colorado Silver Boom, Aspen has long been America's leading ski destination and enjoys long-term price appreciation. While many come for the people watching and outstanding restaurants, the area is most famous for its snow. Its light, dry powder falls over an enormous terrain spread over four distinct mountains: Aspen Mountain, Highlands, Buttermilk and Snowmass.

What are your predictions for Aspen's property market over the next 12 months and beyond?

Aspen will always be a desirable place for ultra-high-net-worth individuals; its prices will reflect this and continue to hold their value over the long-term.

Describe your dream Alpine holiday.

I'd love to spend a summer in Aspen. First I'd attend the Food & Wine Classic, a magnet for chefs and wine experts from around the world, then it'd be on to one of the landmark events in the global calendar: the Aspen Ideas Festival. Produced by the Aspen Institute, it's one of the nation's premier gatherings for leaders around the world to discuss challenging current issues. I'd stick around until September to watch the countless Aspen trees along the mountainsides change to a vibrant yellow.

Laetitia Hodson,
The French Alps

How is the market performing?

There's steady and sustainable price growth across the French Alps, with Val d'Isère and Chamonix performing particularly well. The former is benefiting from significant infrastructure investment while the latter is one of the oldest Alpine resorts and a town in its own right, with a broad range of amenities and activities for both skiers and non-skiers.

Who typically invests in the French Alps?

My clients tend to be families looking for a second home for long weekends or holidays. The majority are British, although we still see a great number of French and Italian clients.

What are the typical properties and price points there?

The Alps caters to a vast range of budgets, with property prices per square metre starting from €8,000 all the way up to €25,000-plus. Properties I'm currently marketing include a two-bed apartment in an off-plan development in Combloux for €500,000 and a four-bed renovated chalet in Chamonix within walking distance of the town centre. At €1.295 million, it's just below the threshold for wealth tax and has a good rental income.

The most popular properties are within walking distance of either the town centre or the ski lifts, have views, can be easily rented out and present good value for money. New builds tend to be more expensive than resale homes, but potentially offer a VAT rebate for those looking to rent. Generally speaking, the higher altitude the resort, the higher the price.

What are the key reasons for investing in the French Alps?

Ultimately, people buy a home in the Alps because they love the mountains and want a place to spend quality time with their family and friends. The low interest rate and potential for good rental income also make it an attractive investment.

What are your predictions for the French Alpine property market over the next 12 months and beyond?

I believe the strong property market will stay stable. All the main factors influencing property prices look promising; resorts are looking at how to combat the effects of climate change, and there's ongoing investment into infrastructure in the main resorts.

The Alps is also developing its appeal as a year-round destination, with resorts such as Chamonix and Megève offering an array of summer sports including mountain biking, paragliding, swimming and hiking.

Describe your dream Alpine holiday.

One that involves plenty of time at the spa! Ideally at the Four Seasons in Megève or Le Chabichou in Courchevel 1850. I'd also love to go hill walking in Chamonix during the summer to appreciate the fresh air and beautiful views.

Renovated in 2014, Chalet Beau Soleil is a five bedrooms, five bathroom house in Les Houches, Chamonix. Offers spa and separate one bedroom apartment.
Guide price: €2,250,000
For sale with Knight Frank.

Roddy Aris,
The French Alps

How is the market performing?

Over the past four years, the very top end of the market has cooled while the lower end has warmed up. Ongoing investment into developments, particularly in satellite villages within prime resorts (such as Courchevel Le Praz, Courchevel Village and Courchevel Moriond within the Courchevel Valley), has contributed towards strong price growth.

Who typically invests in France?

A chalet in the Alps is the ultimate aspirational lifestyle purchase. My clients are typically families looking for a second home where they can spend time with their loved ones. There is huge demand for properties in Chamonix and Megève, particularly from French, Swiss and Italian clients living in nearby Geneva.

What are the typical properties and price points in the French Alps?

An apartment in Chamonix, Megève, Méribel or Val d'Isère costs between €1 million to €4 million; a chalet is between €2.2 million to €10 million.

Apartments in Chamonix and Megève start slightly lower at around €600,000 and €750,000 respectively. Property prices in Courchevel and Val d'Isère are almost identical, but they cater to two very different clients. Courchevel is more lifestyle-orientated with a focus on luxury, whereas Val d'Isère is all about the skiing.

What are the key reasons for investing in the French Alps?

The current low interest rates and potential VAT rebate are two big factors. The latter applies to eligible off-plan properties in return for a commitment to rent out your property for 20 years. Another key reason is personal experience; it is an incredibly dynamic market to be a part of and offers an exciting lifestyle.

What are your predictions for the French Alpine property market?

The market will continue to thrive, with a continuing strong demand for lifestyle properties and safe haven environments.

I predict that Val d'Isère will continue to surprise us and outperform the rest of the Alpine market. The small satellite resorts of Courchevel Le Praz and Village, Le Fornet, Méribel Village and Combloux , to name a few, will continue to perform well.

Describe your dream Alpine holiday.

My ideal Alpine holiday would be with my wife, children and friends in late March. It would involve time in Val d'Isère with a guide, being pampered at the K2 Palace Hotel in Courchevel, a walk to the top of La Vallée Blanche followed by a ski down the glacier to Chamonix, and a day racquet-walking amongst the snow drifts and pine forests of the Servoz plateau. And, since it's a dream holiday, I'd use a helicopter to get around!

Located on the edge of a ski slope, this new build five bedroom, five bathroom chalet in Megève offers a spa, and private swimming pool.
Guide price: €3,900,000
For sale with Knight Frank.

Alex Koch de Gooreynd,
The Swiss Alps

How is the Swiss Alpine market performing?

The market can be separated into two distinct categories: primary residence and second home.

The primary residence market is performing very well. After an initial slide at the start of the financial crisis, prices have largely returned to their original levels, with buyers attracted to Switzerland's stability, safe haven status and the strong currency.

The second home market remains a relatively safe form of investment, but the strength of the Swiss Franc and subsequent expensive prices have deterred some potential European buyers. Regardless, the right apartment in the right resort will always attract interest.

Who typically invests in Switzerland?

It's straightforward for non-Swiss residents to buy a Swiss property as a holiday home, but not as a pure investment asset, so investors tend to be domestic. There's been a slight increase in interest from Asia and the Middle East, but mostly from expats looking to reinvest back into Europe with a holiday home that can generate rental income.

Located at an altitude of 1,450 metres this ski-in ski-out chalet in Villars offers five bedroom, a terrace and private parking
Guide price: CHF 3,200,000
For sale with Knight Frank.

Describe the typical properties and price points found in Switzerland.

We focus on key resorts such as Verbier, Gstaad, Crans-Montana and Villars, where apartment prices start at €1 million and chalet prices at €4.5 million. In the smaller, more authentic resorts, apartments can be secured for under €1 million; in this respect, the Canton of Graubünden is particularly popular with British buyers.

What are the key reasons for investing in Switzerland?

A ski chalet is somewhere to spend time with your family, but it can also generate a healthy rental income, particularly if in a resort with year-round activity. Even owners of chalets in the €30 million-plus bracket tend to rent out their home – it's an easy way to recover costs and requires little effort if organised through a professional management company.

What are your predictions for the Swiss Alpine property market?

The next 12 to 24 months will reveal the impact of Brexit as the sterling reacts and has a knock-on effect on the currency of the Eurozone. However, most resorts have healthy stock numbers and, once the currency settles, Switzerland will remain a strong place for investment.

Describe your dream Alpine holiday.

My dream ski holiday would be with my family in late March. I'm keen to try skinning; climbing up a hill before skiing down it. The trip would involve plenty of good food and wine, perhaps lunch with a view at Le Carrefour and supper at Le Shed in Verbier for the best burgers in town. Ideally, I'd have a couple of dream Alpine holidays; and one in winter for a magical white Christmas!

ROCK STAR

Aspen, Colorado has long been a haven for celebrities, with many taking up residence in unique properties like Star Mountain Ranch. Andrew Headspeath explores why this property is such a hit with the stars.

For the best part of a century, Aspen has offered weary souls a respite from city life. Its majestic slopes, cosy lodges and fresh mountain air attract thousands of annual visitors, all seeking rejuvenation in this rustic pocket of the American landscape.

The area has become renowned for its perfect balance of nature and city life. There's plenty to enjoy, whether you're drawn to the twinkling coloured lights and buzz of activity in the town, or to the chance to reconnect with nature in the great outdoors.

Beyond the ski resorts and upscale shops, hidden behind dense, verdant pine forest lies a true sanctuary. Just three miles northwest of Aspen, nestled in the heart of the Rocky Mountains are green pastures spanning approximately 388 hectares. Welcome to Starwood, one of the most private communities in all of Colorado.

To own a home in Starwood is to own a part of history. Movie stars, bestselling authors and world-famous musicians (including several members of The Eagles) are immortalised as former residents. Past the imposing, 24-hour security gate lie miles of fertile ranchland. Unparalleled views of the Elk Mountain Range paint the skyline. Here, multimillion dollar homeowners are immersed in the vast American wilderness – a place where the passage of time floats like a soft mountain breeze.

Only a select few have experienced the sanctity of Starwood. Now, a rare invitation to join this exclusive community has been extended to potential buyers.

Star Mountain Ranch is, as the folk song goes, a true home on the range. Sitting at an elevation of 2,500 metres, the magnificent property towers over the rolling hills of the Woody Creek Valley. Blending contemporary design with a rugged character, this $30 million build is perfectly attuned to its mountainous environment: offering a level of luxury practically unmatched in all of Aspen.

To say this is a home fit for royalty is no understatement. Star Mountain Ranch was built in 2004 for the daughter of a former Saudi Arabian ambassador to the United States. Traces of this history are built into its grand design: the property encompasses a massive 1,337 square metres, housing seven bedrooms, 13 bathrooms and approximately 26 hectares of private land. Separate staircases and elevators exist for staff and guest workers, hinting at a lifestyle where your every possible need is catered for. Quite simply put, they don't build them like this anymore.

One of Starwood's finest estates, Star Mountain Ranch offers seven bedrooms, 13 bathrooms, steam room and three elevators. Guide price: US $29,500,000 For sale with Douglas Elliman | Knight Frank.

The sheer grandeur of Star Mountain Ranch makes it an ideal place to entertain. Polished French limestone floors give way to decorative crown moldings and white oak panelling, infusing the classic furnishings with the warmth of a cosy mountain home. A full commercial kitchen rests on its lower level, perfectly accessible for roaring dinner parties in the dining room above.

For more intimate occasions, the living room comes equipped with a special ventilation unit – allowing you and your companions to light up cigars with a late night tipple. A hand-carved Italian limestone mantle frames the fireplace, stretching up towards the impressive six metre ceiling.

Outside, explore Star Mountain Ranch's granite water features, with the build's reclaimed aged-oak timber siding reflected in its pools. When the time comes for a spot of pampering, leisurely dip inside the property's ornate indoor swimming pool before unwinding in the hot tub and steam room. Or simply look out the window – most rooms in the house offer breathtaking views of Aspen. From this height, you can see storms roll in from several miles away. All within the sanctity of your own mountain home.

BUY to RENT

As General Manager at Cimalpes Knight Frank, Benjamin Berger sells homes in Courchevel, Méribel, Val d'Isère and Saint-Martin-de-Belleville. Here are his top tips for finding the perfect home in the Alps, for both you and your potential tenants.

1. Spend time there first

95% of my clients stay in the Alps before buying a property there. It's a great way to get a feel for different resorts, suss out what you're looking for and consider what will perform well in the rental market. And it's a good excuse for a holiday! Each resort has its own pros and cons, from its ski conditions to après-ski and non-skier activities, such as restaurants, shops and spas.

(1)

2. Check out the figures

The Alps' rental and resale markets are inextricably linked, so it's logical to invest in a safe market and to expect rental income to cover charges, taxes and various expenses. The overall rental market is growing ever stronger as it gains shares in the hotel business; the markets in Val-d'Isère, Courchevel and Méribel are performing particularly well.

(2)

Images 1 & 2:
Five bedroom chalet in the Brigues area of the Alpine ski resort of Courchevel Village, providing ski-in ski-out access out onto a number of pistes. A great property for keen skiers, this property also offers a home cinema, spa and terrace.

3. Consider the long-term

Homes in the Alps can offer up to 3.5% return on investment, but it's important to think long-term. At present, the world-famous Les Trois Vallées and Val d'Isère resorts have particularly strong occupancy rates throughout the season thanks to the international clientele it attracts. Don't invest in a ski property with an ambitious and short-run approach to your return on investment; look instead for a property that will steadily increase in value.

4. Consider year-round appeal

While half-term and New Year are the busiest times of year in the Alps, December and February are also popular months, particularly with the Eastern Europe, Russian and Benelux markets. Excellent sun and snow conditions also make March and April a good time to visit; clients from the Middle East, South East Asia and Europe tend to visit during this period.

(3)

5. Decide your type of property

Are you looking for an apartment or chalet; a new-build or resale? At the moment, Val d'Isère, Courchevel and Méribel have some exceptional new rental properties on the market, offering amazing facilities with that much sought-after chalet ambiance.

(4)

(5)

Images 3 & 4:
Five bedroom chalet in Val d'Isère, Rhône-Alpes, France. Keen skiers will appreciate this new chalet's close proximity to the ski slopes in the heart of the old village, complete with breathtaking views of the Olympic side of Bellevarde.

(6)

Image 5 & 6:
Five bedroom chalet in Megève, Rhône-Alpes, France. With two reception rooms, a swimming pool and a wine cellar, this brand new chalet is perfect for big groups looking for a relaxed trip away.

6. Seek guidance and take your time

Local expertise is key to finding the right figures in terms of rates per week, rental costs and seasonal attendance. Look for a professional who specialises in both sales and rentals as they'll be best positioned to advise on your purchase. And don't rush – your dream property is worth the wait!

7. Consider how you'll manage your property

Knight Frank work with professional and specialised rental agencies that operate year-round to present your home at its very best, from providing hotel services and administrative management, to clearing the snow and delivering wood. Be particular when choosing a local expert; your ski property deserves the best local team to look after it and keep everything running smoothly.

Going Green

As the threat of global warming grows ever stronger, Sophia King explores the benefits of making your ski chalet eco-friendly.

There's no denying it, the planet needs us to lead more environmentally friendly lives. The endless news reel of apocalyptic-style natural disasters can feel overwhelming, but reducing your carbon footprint doesn't need to mean drastically changing your lifestyle. You're probably already drinking from reusable coffee cups, shopping with recyclable bags and eating organic produce, so why not invest in an eco-friendly home?

An increasing number of properties are transforming into environmentally-friendly havens, constructed with sustainable materials and powered by nature – and Alpine properties are no exception. Switzerland has used geothermal heating for more than 30 years, and Aspen and Chamonix are among the numerous ski resorts taking steps to reduce their environmental impact. Earlier this year, the Wolf Creek ski resort in Colorado became the world's first to become entirely solar-powered.

Top: *Located in the heart of Villars-sur-Ollon, Domaine Du Roc are luxury apartments in a truly private and tranquil setting. Offers 1-4 bedrooms and ski-in ski-out facilities. Prices from CHF 2,600,000 For sale with Knight Frank.*
Bottom: *Sopris Mountain Ranch. Guide price: US $5,900,000 For sale with Douglas Elliman | Knight Frank.*

Heating up

After a day out on the slopes in sub-zero temperatures, nothing beats the warm welcome of a cosy chalet. Except, that is, a carbon-free cosy chalet.

One eco-friendly solution is geothermal heating, a method that uses the earth's temperature three metres below the ground to provide heating and hot water. This method presents significant cost savings of up to 80% compared to harmful fossil fuels, so installation costs can be recovered within a decade. In Villars, the Domaine du Roc development implements geothermal heating to warm its solid wood and stone floors, ensuring maximum comfort underfoot at all times. For those who prefer to visit their ski chalets during the summer months, geothermal heating also transfers heat into (rather than away from) the ground, so you can stay comfortably cool.

Another popular eco-friendly feature is solar thermal heating panels. While this method's reliance on the sun means it's unlikely to power your home alone, using it in conjunction with your city's power supply presents cost savings of up to 50% and requires little maintenance once installed. Indeed, Sopris Creek, a 14 hectare equestrian property in Basalt, Colorado, is up to 80% powered by a 72-panel solar system that provides energy to its mountain contemporary main residence, guest house and 111 square metre heated barn.

It's the small things

Big investments such as geothermal heating and solar panels aren't the only ways to make your ski home greener. Simple switches slike lighting your home with LED bulbs, using renewable materials like sheep's wool for insulation, wood from local trees, and efficient ventilation systems can make a big difference. And going green doesn't always mean employing the latest technology, either. A five bedroom chalet currently on the market with Knight Frank in Val d'Isère features natural wood and other sustainable materials to keep warmth in and create a cosy, authentic Alpine ambiance.

Going green with your home doesn't only make sense for the environment – it makes sense for you. Incorporating elements of nature into our homes lifts our spirits and improves our sense of wellbeing. Nothing beats the feeling of standing on top of a mountain, taking in beautiful views and deep breaths of fresh air, so why not continue the theme into your ski home?

So there we have it: an eco-friendly home is good for the planet, your wellbeing and your bank balance. It's an investment with long-term rewards; energy efficient homes are fast becoming a top choice for both those building and those buying, so you're also likely to reap the rewards should you ever decide to sell or rent your home. It's just another way to make your favourite holiday of the year even better.

Top: *Sopris Mountain Ranch is a stunning 14 hectare equestrian property with five bedrooms and six bathrooms. Guide price: US $5,900,000 For sale with Douglas Elliman | Knight Frank.*
Bottom: *located on the on the Jaillet slopes in Megeve, this chalet offers five bedrooms and six bathrooms mountain views and an outdoor Jacuzzi. Guide price: €3,900,000 For sale with Knight Frank.*

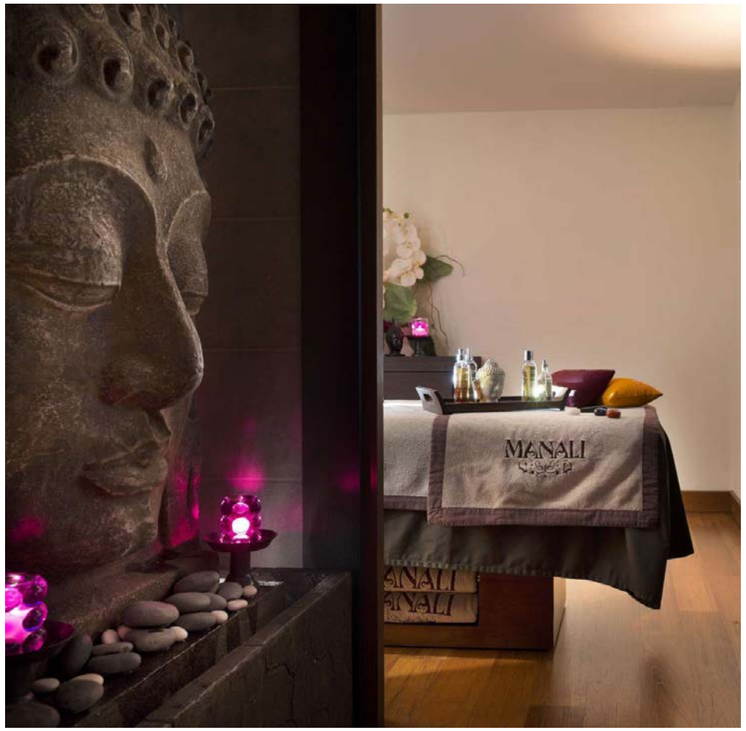
SPA goals

words: *Andrew Headspeath*

The world's attitude toward self-care is changing. The global wellness industry is now a US $4.2 trillion market, with more and more people proactively taking steps to attain balanced levels of physical, mental and emotional wellbeing.

And the reason behind this growing desire for wellness? Stress. In these increasingly busy modern times, over a third of us have reported feeling completely overwhelmed with pressure at work. So, in addition to going to the gym and eating your vegetables; taking a long, hot soak in a relaxing spa can also play an important role in enhancing our quality of life.

These beautiful homes are designed with wellness in mind; equipped with luxurious facilities to untangle your knots, revitalise your senses, and soothe your body and soul.



(1)

Chalet Sargamarta
Verbier, Switzerland

Take your wellbeing to new heights in this magnificent chalet, sat high on Verbier's mountainous inclines. Awe at the sheer vastness of the Swiss Alps from its 180-degree south-facing aspect, with perfect views of Pierre Avoi and Les Attelas. Inspired by the surrounding environment, the spacious, open-plan design is home to the largest swimming pool in the resort and offers approximately 25 metres of exclusive laneway facing a breathtaking, snow-capped vista. Pair your physical wellbeing with time spent relaxing in the steam room, plunge pool and Jacuzzi for some true inner peace.

The guide price is available on request.

Manali Lodge
Courchevel Moriond, France

This idyllic Alpine retreat in the heart of Courchevel is perfect for those whose idea of self-care involves a spot of skiing. The charming residence of this former five-star hotel evokes a warm nostalgia of decades gone by, presenting 10 elegant apartments styled after traditional Savoyard chalets. Cosy furnishings rest on rustic wooden architecture and look out onto breathtaking views of the snow-blanketed Trois Vallées. After a day on the slopes, soak your weary muscles in the pool before unwinding in the luxurious spa complex.

Prices from:
€1,800,000

(2)

La Cordée
Chamonix, France

Nestled in the sheer majesty of the Mont Blanc mountain range on the precipice of Chamonix, these exclusive luxury apartments provide an oasis of warmth and wellness. All 80 apartments have a distinct Alpine character, ranging from one to four bedrooms (approximately 40-164 square metres) and each has its own private terrace or balcony. Feel your tension evaporate as you soak in the heated indoor swimming pool, surrounded by arched wooden windows and twinkling lights. The ornate hammam is an inspired, awe-striking feature, inviting you to lavish yourself in hot air before plunging into an ice-cold pool.

Price from:
€365,000

Evans Ridge
Aspen, United States

This stately Colorado home comes with an impressive ground-level swimming pool and sweeping panoramic views of the Rocky Mountains. Comprising nearly 4,200 square metres of pure elegance, the property features Doric columns standing proud on polished marble floors, high ceilings, tall windows and plenty of soothing natural light. Reconnect with friends and family in the spacious entertainment wing and dining areas, while indulging in the offerings of the cavernous wine cellar. For a moment of peaceful clarity, stroll through the immaculately manicured gardens, surrounded by approximately 14 hectares of fresh pine forest.

Guide price:
US $12,900,000

Images 1 & 2:
Manali Lodge, Courchevel Moriond, France and Evans Ridge, Aspen, United States. For sale with Douglas Elliman | Knight Frank.
Images 3 & 4:
La Cordée, Chamonix, France and Chalet Sargamarta, Verbier, Switzerland. For sale with Knight Frank.

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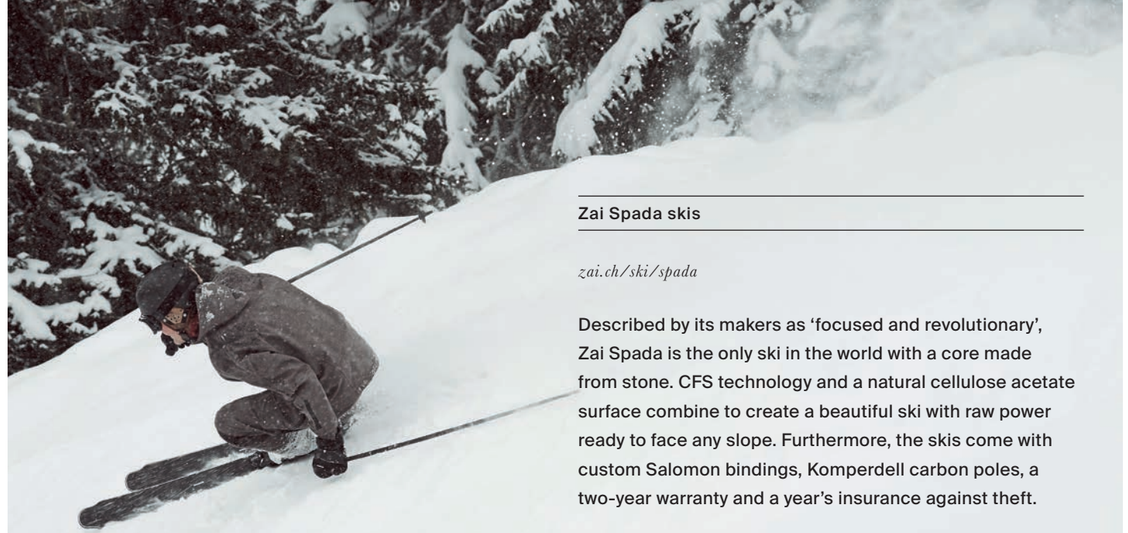
(4)



Zai Spada skis

zai.ch/ski/spada

Described by its makers as ‘focused and revolutionary’, Zai Spada is the only ski in the world with a core made from stone. CFS technology and a natural cellulose acetate surface combine to create a beautiful ski with raw power ready to face any slope. Furthermore, the skis come with custom Salomon bindings, Komperdell carbon poles, a two-year warranty and a year’s insurance against theft.

SKI TECH

words: *Sophia King*

Your essential list of tech gear for hitting the slopes and beyond.

Oakley Prizm React Goggles

oakley.com

These new googles offer a revolutionary level of flexibility. Unlike traditional photochromatic lens which can take several minutes to adjust, the tint of these goggles changes to clear, medium or dark within seconds via a user-controlled electric current. Whether you're skiing under the bright sun or amidst shady trees, you need never to worry about visibility again.

Garmin VIRB Ultra 30 HD 4K Action Camera

buy.garmin.com

Three axis image stabilisation captures smooth video on even the rockiest of terrains, while built-in sensors and GPS record your distance, speed and height. An easy-to-operate LCD colour touch screen means there's no risk of facing heartbreak when you realise the camera wasn't recording, and the high-sensitivity microphone captures audio with total clarity. Lights, camera, action!

Sweet Switcher MIPS

sweetprotection.com

Don’t be deceived by the simple exterior of this versatile all-mountain helmet. MIPS technology diffuses brain-damaging rotational movement when impacted from an angle, and advanced hybrid in-mould and hard shell technology provide maximum protection with minimum weight. Strategically placed vents and audio features means you can feel cool in more ways than one when skiing to your favourite playlist.

Thermic Bluetooth Heated insoles C-Pack 1700B

herm-ic.com

Embedding these thermic insoles into your boot's footbed will ensure your feet stay warm and comfortable throughout your day on the slopes. Gone are the days of rolling up your trousers to adjust the setting; a Bluetooth function lets you adjust the heat intensity via your phone. Charge overnight, and your insoles will keep you warm for up to 17 hours.

Phil Gordon
Equipment buyer
at Snow + Rock, top pick:

snowandrock.com

“It’s hard to choose just one as there’s so many good items out on the market! But these heaters, while not revolutionary, mean you can ski in true comfort – what’s not to love about that!?”

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