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PLACES



5 LUXURY SKI BREAKS

Ultimate winter snow escapes

Looking for a winter sports holiday with an indulgent twist? Stylist reveals our five favourites...

1. LE CHARDON MOUNTAIN LODGES

Where is it: Val d'Isere, France

What makes it special: Each of these luxury chalets boasts a personal butler and chef, cinema room, private whirlpool hot tub on the terrace and an in-resort 4x4 chauffeur service. Complimentary massages, Christmassy husky rides across the snow and Santa visits for the kids are also available.



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Rates 19-26 December 2010: Mantis Group's La Bergerie, Val d'Isere: Sleeps 10 in 5 double rooms. Now only £14,665 (was £20,950) - £1,466.5 per person; Kilimanjaro, Val d'Isere: Sleeps 8 in 4 double rooms. Now only £13,400 (was £19,160) - £1,675 per person. For more information, visit [Mantis Group](#).



2. PUMA LODGE

Where is it: Chile

What makes it special: Located in a remote and stunning area of the central Andes, this eco-designed lodge has its own helipad and exclusive access to parts of the Andes. The stunning lodge accommodates a maximum of 24 guests and features a 'wine cave' and independent tasting room, as well as an intimate library, a spa complete with a fully-equipped gym, a dedicated yoga room and an outdoor pool.

Exsus offers a seven-night package from £8,189 per person. Price includes six nights Full Board at Puma Lodge, six days Private Heliskiing with a IAGM qualified professional mountain guide, one night at the Ritz Carlton, Santiago, International flights and all private transfers. (Price is based on four people travelling).

3. FOUR SEASONS VAIL

Where is it: Colorado, USA

What makes it special: This brand new luxury hotel features a full-service concierge team which promises to help with anything from ski rental needs to assistance with boots, skis, maps, ski conditions and weather reports. We love the sound of their slope-side boot fitting service; guests have a fitting in the warmth of the hotel, and sizing information is then transmitted to the slope-side concierge who select the perfect skis and place them alongside warmed boots in the guest's own locker ensuring cosy toes. The Four Seasons Vail also offers 'helmet cam' rental - helmet-mounted cameras which capture the day's skiing. At the end of the day, staff will present you with a DVD of your self-shot video.



Stay 7 nights for the price of 6 in a Garden King Room from £1649pp based on two sharing, and including flights and shared transfers. Book by 30 November 2010 for travel 2 January - 3 February 2011. For more information visit www.WandOtravel.com/ski or call 0845-277 3325.

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4. MOUNTAIN EXPOSURE'S GOURMET SKI GUIDE

Where is it: Zermatt, Switzerland

What makes it special: For those who want more than just a skiing holiday, luxury chalet company Mountain Exposure offers guests bespoke gourmet itineraries from one to five days depending on guests' culinary desires. A typical day with gourmet guide Donald Scott (who is also an expert on the slopes) involves a hearty breakfast and a long lunch, interspaced with scenic runs and followed by dinner at a cosy mountain-side restaurant where guests can tuck into the best truffle ravioli and chocolate fondant found in Zermatt.

Gourmet Guiding costs from CHF 275 (£175) for 1-4 people per day, and CHF 40 (£25) per additional person per day, not including restaurant charges. Mountain Exposure have a range of self-catered and catered chalets for skiers to choose from.

5. WHITE BLANCMANGE CONCIERGE SERVICE

Where is it: Chalets across Austria, Switzerland and France

What makes it special: A bespoke concierge and lifestyle service, White Blancmange offers chalets with power-jet heated pools and views of the Matterhorn, not to mention private cinemas and wellness areas. On the slopes you'll receive tuition from SAS-trained instructors, while the concierge service can provide everything from on trend fashion and styling tips to advice on the hottest restaurants and bars and non-ski activities such as mountain biking and skidoo driving.

Prices for a one week stay start from £1,100 per person accommodation only. Flights and transfers are not included but can be arranged on request. For more information, visit whiteblancmange.com



Tags: luxury holidays, ski breaks, travel, snow, ski-ing

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