



Slope style: Luxury ski hotels in the Alps to book this winter

FROM SHI-IN, SKI-OUT RETREATS TO MAJESTIC MOUNTAIN LODGES, GET COS IN EUROPE'S MOST OPILIAST MOUNTAIN STATE

e don't want to jinx it but, it seems, ski season is in full swing.

Now that pandemic-induced pandemonium is in the past, it's time to check in to a luxury ski hotel in the Alps and get your annual fix of fresh mountain air, off-piste trails and breathtaking alpine views.

While your skiing skills may be a little rusty, you can trust the time you spend out of your <u>salopettes</u> will be nothing short of exceptional with a stay at these luxurious boltholes. We've handpicked the best ski hotels in Alps, nestled in the European peaks of Austria, France and Switzerland.

SEVERIN'S THE ALPINE RETREAT, LECH, AUSTRIA





Just on the outskirts of the picture-perfect Austrian town of Lech, you'll find Severin's The Alpine Retreat: a luxury boutique hotel at the centre of three skiing villages — Zürs, St Christoph and St Anton. Boasting a warm vibe inside but cool exteriors, the hotel is made from ancient Tyrolean wood, stone and copper, naturally complementing the alpine playground it watches over.

The hotel's nine elegant suites all come with log fireplaces, balconies overlooking the snow-capped mountains of Lech am Arlberg, and high-tech furnishings, including iPad lighting controls, hidden sound systems and Amazon Prime and Maxdome movies for cosy nights in. You'll also find that all-important coffee machine to fuel a day on the slopes and a well-stocked mini-bar for a post-apres tipple.



For picture-perfect privacy, book the separate four-bed Residence which extends over two floors. The spacious living room, featuring Italian Minotti furniture and a grand piano, leads to an intimate terrace and bubbling whirlpool — the perfect way to relax and soak those aching muscles. The Residence also has a ski room of its own, with heated lockers to dry out your mountain attire so you can slip into toasty salopettes before hopping on the ski-lift to the world-class pistes of Lech and St Anton.

After you've blown away the cobwebs on the slopes, return to Severin's Wellness Spa, featuring a 12.5-metre indoor pool with counter-current, waterfall and several whirlpool settings to ensure muscles receive active relaxation. Then, warm your cockles in the two saunas, steam bath or infrared cabin — the best way to end a day of mountain exploring.

From £662 per night, slh.com

LE COUCOU, MERIBEL, FRANCE



Situated in an enviable piste-side location, Le Coucou Hotel is a luxurious alpine hideaway offering a ski-in ski-out experience. Guests are surrounded by magnificent views at every turn and this five-star hotel blends seamlessly into its environment at the heart of the Three Valleys. Its selection of suites feature Scandi-inspired decor with red-toned walls and cosy terraces, where guests can admire the incredible mountain scenery.

After a day on the slopes, skiers can unwind in the spa and wellness area which features pools, a fitness centre and a sauna. This year, there's a whole new host of spa experiences on offer, including mother-daughter and fatherson treatments from the organic brand Minois. The hotel's indoor and outdoor pool, six massage treatment rooms with specialist treatments from Tata Harper and sauna area offer guests a deeply relaxing experience after a long day. Make sure you also visit the indoor pool, which is divided by a bay window to create a stunning, trompe-l'oeil effect with views of the striking vista outdoors.



Head down to the hotel's new alpine restaurant, Le Fumoir, which offers classic European cuisine with seasonal produce. It will be opening on 9 December and is located in the cosy eaves of the hotel, serving a delicious selection of mountain favourites from raclette and fondues, to tartiflette and smoked meat dishes.

From £540 per night, lecoucoumeribel.com