

PROPERTY SECTION

HIGH SOCIETY

Looking for chic chalets and Alpine views?

Claire Pilton selects seven of the swishest snow homes in Europe



Well placed for Crans-Montana

Set between a river and forested area in the village of Bluche are two south-facing chalets at Le Domaine de la Forêt, on the books with *Chesterton Humberts* (020 3040 8210) for

CHF2.62 million (for the 193sq m, four-bedroom chalet) and CHF2.75 million (for the 210sq m, five-bedroom chalet). Bluche's free shuttle-bus service will see you on the slopes in

less than five minutes, with access to more than 30 lifts and a skiing domain of some 170km. Or go shopping in nearby Crans which also boasts the largest tennis centre in the Swiss Alps.



Ski-in, ski-out from Courchevel 1850

A stone's throw from the Pralong lift and the Bellecôte ski slope into Courchevel 1850, this has to be one of the most conveniently located chalets in the entire resort. Fluttering a price tag of €16 million



through *Knight Frank* (020 7629 8171) and its Courchevel representatives Cimalpes, it not only provides the perfect base from which to explore the skiing of the Trois Vallées, but also offers *très chic* accommodation where you can entertain in true Alpine style. Extending to 320sq m over four floors, complete with a garage, ski room and wine cellar, it features an indoor swimming pool, Jacuzzi and hammam, five bedroom suites, and a fabulous double-height salon and dining room that opens onto a south-facing terrace with views to the mountains above Courchevel; the main terrace, which sports an outdoor Jacuzzi, affords 'ski side' views onto the Pralong piste.



Overlooking Morzine

Accessed via its own private cable car and within walking distance of Morzine town centre, the design of this four-bedroom, 220sq m chalet complements its elevated location, with picture windows and a large sun-deck off the split-level dining and reception room. Available through *Winkworth* (020 8576 5582) for €2.2 million, the chalet is set in a 1,828sq m plot which, for those looking to expand its potential, is large enough to allow for the possible construction of another two properties on the land.

A model village

The self-contained village of Arc 1950 comprises over 750 apartments with its own ski school, kids' club, outdoor pools, shops and restaurants. Its completion in 2007 went hand in hand with the sale of all apartments – predominantly to UK and Irish buyers. Situated at a height of 1,950 metres with skiing up to 3,000 metres, Arc 1950 affords easy access to the slopes of Paradiski which, combined with the neighbouring resort of La Plagne, offers 425km of slopes. The village, which is car free and enjoys ski-in ski-out status, is linked via a free shuttle-bus service to Arc 1600, Arc 1800 and Arc 2000; a

funicular between Arc 1600 and Bourg St Maurice whisks you up the mountain in just seven minutes. During the winter, Eurostar operates an eight-hour service from London to Bourg St Maurice, which makes leaving the car at home a very real option. *Erna Low (020 7590 1624)* has a choice of one-, two-, three- and four-bedroom apartments at Arc 1950, priced from €165,000, €250,000, €430,000 and €850,000 respectively. Available on either the French leaseback scheme or 'classical' ownership, all come with large store cupboards, a ski locker and underground parking.



Facing Mont Blanc

Sporting a private helipad and its own state-of-the-art spa facilities, this contemporary chalet in the Coupeau area is a 10-minute drive from Chamonix and five minutes from the ski slopes. It offers open-plan sitting and dining areas, a sleek designer kitchen and six bedrooms, including a master suite designed by Philippe Starck; and a separate four-bedroom guest chalet provides ample room to house family, friends and staff. Set in 1.5 acres of grounds that are surrounded by Nature Reserve Forest, it features a 27-metre outdoor swimming pool, a second heated pool for children and an eight-seater Jacuzzi, and is on the market at a suitably accommodating price guide of over €15 million through *Sotheby's International Realty (020 7495 9580)*.

In the centre of Verbier

Verbier's most famous hotel, King's, with its popular nightspot The Farm Club, needs no introduction. Owner Marcus Bratter, who has more than 30 years' experience operating hotels and restaurants in 'one of the Alps' greatest playgrounds', is now re-developing a 1960s hotel in the centre of Verbier to create a new five-star establishment as well as just 13 private apartments. Set 100m from the children's ski club and beginners' ski run, and a short shuttle-bus ride from the main lift at Medran, the Cordée des Alpes apartments will enjoy access to all the hotel facilities and services; these include 24-hour concierge, housekeeping and laundry, a

wellness spa, pool, sauna, hammam and gym, a business centre and conference room, and a bar and restaurant (which will arrange room service and private catering). They are designed to a contemporary specification that reflects the mountain environment, with classic Alpine interiors that feature local granite, reclaimed wood and distinctive cedar balconies. Prices start through *Savills Alpine Homes* (020 7016 3740) from CHF1.2 million for a 67sq m studio, and from CHF1.975 million and CHF3.178 million for the two- and three-bedroom apartments. The largest four-bedroom duplex, which measures 322sq m and has three terraces, costs CHF8.72 million.



At the top of Verbier

Positioned at a height of nearly 1,800 metres, this four-bedroom chalet was built in 2004 to take full advantage of its Alpine outlook. Extending to 320sq m over four floors, the chalet's main living area incorporates a large kitchen, bar area, dining room and a cathedral-style living room with a wrap-around terrace affording 360-degree views of the mountains, where you will find a stone barbecue area and a wooden hot tub for six. A floating oak staircase ascends from the living room to a gallery and the master bedroom where even the ensuite bathroom affords 'peak views' from a roof-top window. It comes complete with a second terrace, ski room, wine cellar, double garage and storage space; *Aylesford* (020 7349 5100) is quoting €12 million.

