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INSPIRATION

The best ski resorts in France for 2022/2023

The French ski resorts to know about

BY TEDDY WOLSTENHOLME
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The countdown to the 2022/23 ski season is officially on. And if you're still wondering which [ski resort in Europe](#) is for you, push France to the top of the list. With the Trois Vallées gearing up to host the Alpine World Ski Championships in February, a flurry of new restaurants and [ski hotels](#) hitting the slopes and Eurostar's direct Saturday [ski train](#) making a triumphant return, it's safe to say that French ski resorts are well and truly back to their pre-pandemic best. Whether you're looking to master your parallel turns or float through pristine powder, settle into a long lobster lunch or stay over in an enchanting mountain village plucked straight from a postcard, here are our favourite French ski resorts worth putting on your radar.



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Meribel

Best for: covering a serious amount of ground

A much-loved Brit classic, Meribel sees the same loyal visitors flock back year after year. This family-friendly resort's biggest draw is its sheer footprint. As part of the mega Trois Vallées, it sits at the heart of the world's biggest ski area, with 600km of sun-dappled pistes stretching out from the lofty peaks of Val Thorens to the sybarite's paradise of Courchevel. But it's happily unpretentious, and visitors come here to ski rather than show off, with beginners finding their feet on the sheltered slopes around the Altiport. Powder-hunters make a beeline for the resort's off-piste and hair-raising drops – the formidable La Face slope was created especially for the Winter Olympics, while Le Roc des Trois Marches offer some pretty intimidating descents. At 3pm, it's time for table-stomping at the Folie Douce or Ronnies; after that, everyone throws off their skis and heads into town for burgers, beer and dancing well into the night.

Where to stay: The lion's share of Meribel's accommodation comes in the form of high-end chalets, but if a hotel is more your bag, opt for [Le Coucou](#) – owned by the same family behind Provence's Crillon Le Brave and Lou Pinet in St Tropez, interiors are designed by heavyweight French designer Pierre Yovanovitch and the Tata Harper spa is a godsend after a long day on the slopes.