



**ROYAL WORLD EXCLUSIVE 1**

## THE PROOF ANDREW 'SEX ABUSE' PICTURE IS NOT A FAKE

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● Archbishop asked to help resolve crisis ● Duke keeping titles could be part of deal ● But William 'resisting pact'

# KING TO WELBY: I WANT HARRY AT CORONATION

By **Glen Owen** POLITICAL EDITOR

**THE King has asked the Archbishop of Canterbury to broker a deal to allow Harry to attend his Coronation – but has met resistance from William, The Mail on Sunday can reveal.**  
Charles wants Justin Welby to strike an agreement with his warring sons that would

allow Harry and his wife Meghan to attend the Westminster Abbey ceremony in May, senior sources close to Lambeth Palace say. Speculation has been rife about whether the Sussexes would attend the high-profile event since they stepped away from Royal duties –

and especially since the publication of Harry's tell-all memoirs, *Spare*, earlier this month, that contained a string of wounding attacks on senior members of the Royal Family.  
The King is said to believe that the couple's absence would be a greater distraction than

their presence, so is prepared to make concessions to persuade them to attend, but William is understood to be concerned that his brother will use the event to stage a 'stunt' that would overshadow the event.  
Sources say Harry could be guaranteed a high-profile seating position in the Abbey or an informal assurance that he will be able to

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**ROYAL WORLD EXCLUSIVE 2**

From Swiss glitz to America's 'Greatest Snow on Earth', **Tom Chesshyre** uncovers the best places for a ski getaway – whatever your level

GUY LAWRENCE



GUY LAWRENCE / GETTY IMAGES; JEROME GALLAND / SHUTTERSTOCK; JAPANESE TOURISM

# The pick of THE PEAKS



**HIGH LIFE:** Cocktails at Zell am See. Top left: A busy skilift at Pila in Italy

**E**UROPE, according to the best estimates, has 3,962 ski resorts with 24,000 miles of slopes and no fewer than 16,743 ski lifts. Add in some 523 American resorts and 297 in Canada and that's an awful lot of resorts to choose from – and plenty of pistes, too.

With all this on offer, choosing where to go can be bewildering – so here's our guide to help decide on the best resort for you, focusing on ten of the best.

## AN ITALIAN FEAST IN AOSTA

ITALY'S Aosta Valley is a delight for foodies and also has excellent skiing, plus well-preserved Roman ruins on the valley floor.

Most skiers don't spend much time down there though, as they've come for the six main resorts: La Thuile, Courmayeur, Pila, Cervinia (with links to Zermatt in Switzerland), Champoluc and Gressoney.

Courmayeur is perhaps the best pick for intermediate skiers, with red-graded runs aplenty. A highlight is its revolving Skyway cable car that whisks you to 11,300ft and sublime views of Mont Blanc.

Many enjoy these from the brilliant little Bistrot Panoramic, the highest cafe in Italy. Here, an array of local cheeses and hams is served alongside dishes of polenta, spicy sausages, tartiflette (a concoction of potatoes, cheese and onions) and lasagna – all washed down with Cave de Mont Blanc bubbly, if you feel like living it up.

The Aosta Valley has a secretive feel, being the smallest and least populated of Italy's 20 autonomous regions, with just 127,000 inhabitants, and the compact area allows visitors to sample the different resorts. Close to Courmayeur, La Thuile suits both beginners and intermediates – although there are a few expert runs. There's also a link to the French resort of La Rosiere.

At Le Petit Skieur restaurant in

La Thuile expect gorgonzola and walnuts with heaps of penne. It's good value at about £10 a head.

The resort of Pila has fine Matterhorn views and yet more intermediate pistes. After a hard day's skiing, head to Trattoria Praetoria in Aosta town for spaghetti with chamois (mountain goat) ragu. Here, burning calories then putting them back on again is what it's all about.

**Details:** Return London to Turin flights from £100 (ba.com). B&B doubles at Montana Lodge & Spa in La Thuile from £229 per night (montanalodge.it), from £385 at Le Massif in Courmayeur (lemassifcourmayeur.com) and from £145 at Hotel La Chance in Pila (hotellachancepila.it). Information at lovevda.it/en.

## SWISS STYLE

ST MORITZ, with its Gucci and Louis Vuitton boutiques and handful of grande dame hotels that have had swanky makeovers in recent years, is a perfect choice for those who like to ski with a little luxury.

The Kulm Hotel, which is bang in the centre and boasts a top-

class spa and elegant rooms, is a good choice.

**Details:** Doubles for the rest of the season cost from £1,000 a night (kulm.com)

## FAMILY-FRIENDLY FRANCE

ARDENT is a small, peaceful hamlet connected to the slopes of Avoriaz via a gondola.

There are a few chalets with outdoor hot-tubs run by the tour

operator Family Ski and childcare is available.

**Details:** Seven nights for a family of four with two children aged 7-13 at Chalet Les Grolets from £3,356 with all meals, flights not included (familyski.co.uk).

## LAKESIDE LUXURY

JUST before the pandemic the charming resort of Zell am See was connected to several neighbouring resorts via a new lift, forming one of the largest ski areas in Austria. This connection

allows visitors to enjoy the 'Skicircus' comprising Saalbach, Hinterglemm, Leogang and Fieberbrunn – a huge circular route covering 40 miles.

Though many skiers don't get round to doing the entire route, the possibilities for the average skier staying at Zell am See have expanded considerably.

Quiet Zell, as locals call it, also benefits from being one step removed from the hurly burly. Situated by Lake Zell, with jagged peaks rising all around, it is little surprise the town was early to attract a railway – the Salzburg-Tyrol line in 1875 – resulting in its popularity with summer walkers.

The ancient centre is carless and characterful, with a fine stone church boasting a parapet from 1514. But its focal point is the distinguished Grand Hotel Zell am See, opened by the lake in 1894.

Inside, crystal chandeliers and a sweeping staircase dominate the entrance, while a glittery gold bar overlooks the placid water and evocative adverts from the 1920s and 1930s decorate the walls. All is refined sophistication, as though time has stood still for a century.

Zell am See's skiing is diverse and interesting, even if you do not cross to the Skicircus. Enjoy challenging runs or stick to the many intermediate slopes. The joy of

skiing here is seeing Lake Zell spreading out through the mist below: awe-inspiring.

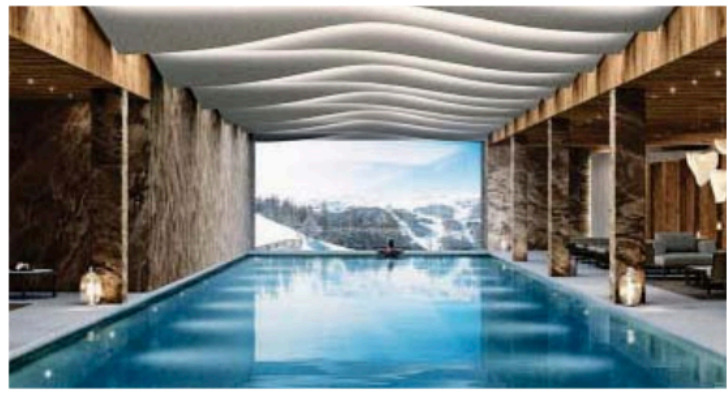
**Details:** Return Gatwick-Salzburg flights from £86 (easyjet.com). Transfers take 1h15m from £26pp

each way (ski-lifts.com). The Sporthotel Alpenblick has rooms from £120 per night (alpenblick.at). Information at zellamsee-kaprun.com.

## MAGNIFICENT MERIBEL

MERIBEL is in Les Trois Vallées – Europe’s largest connected ski area with 380 miles of runs. For years its slopes, left, have been associated with British skiers and visitors have traditionally stayed in simple chalets. But lately more nationalities have been coming and there’s been a five-star spillover from glitzy neighbouring Courchevel 1850. The result is first-class accommodation to match anywhere in the Alps.

Antares is a case in point. A luxurious new apartment-hotel with 64 sumptuous rooms, a first-rate clinic/spa and ski-in, ski-out access, plus its own boot room. There are two sleek little bars, but no restaurant. Instead, guests order from a restaurant-style room service



**TIME TO UNWIND:** The luxurious pool at the new Antares hotel

menu to have delicious food whisked up to their apartment. It’s a far cry from ski accommodations of old.

Antares is next door to Hotel **Le Coucou**, a stylish enclave opened in 2019 and created by the renowned French designer Pierre Yovanovitch. Rooms

are not as lavish as at Antares and are designed to be extra comfy and cosy.

**Details:** Seven nights at Antares, with flights, from £3,134pp in an apartment sleeping eight ([oxfordski.com](http://oxfordski.com)). Information at [antares-meribel.com](http://antares-meribel.com) and [meribel.net](http://meribel.net).