

FAMILY TRAVELLER



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Why does the French ski resort of Méribel hold so much appeal for families? **Sean King** recently went on a fact finding mission to discover the ways in which Méribel wins over kids and woos their parents, year after year. Here's what he found out.



The French ski resort of [Méribel](#) is one of the most visited in the world. If you like fun facts, you might be interested to know the resort was discovered by a Scottish Colonel, Peter Lindsay, in the 1930s. This might explain why it has long been such a favourite with British skiers and families. However, I suspect that popularity has more to do with the vast array of ski runs – 600km in total – as well as off-piste in the heart of the Trois Vallées: the largest ski area in France.



Méribel proving it's one of the prettiest French ski resorts ©Sylvain Aymoz

A French ski resort with a sustainable ethos

There are runs to suit everyone here regardless of level. Plus, tree-lined Méribel is undoubtedly one of the prettiest resorts in the French Alps.

But the good folk who run this particular French ski resort are also looking ahead. As a result, Méribel is constantly evolving to cater to today's increasingly discerning and environmentally-conscious families. Ultimately the ambition is to ensure the resort has a sustainable future even in the face of the climate-change issues affecting ski resorts globally.

The skiing in Méribel, Courchevel and [Val Thorens](#) is as amazing as ever, and for most skiers that's the number one reason for choosing the 3 valleys. However, what's really striking is how much effort and investment Méribel has put into making sure it also caters for families and those looking for more out of a French ski resort than just being on the first run and last lift of the day.



Family-friendly extends to relaxed mealtimes at Méribel ©Sylvain Aymoz

- [Le Maya Altitude](#) is a new restaurant which opened last December and has already established itself as one of Méribel's must-visit dining terraces. Its 360° panorama over Mont-Blanc will take your breath away and the menu and decoration are Himalayan-inspired. But, word of warning, the desserts will blow your mind!
- For a more traditional Savoyard experience we chose [Le Clos Bernard](#). At this high-altitude restaurant in the Altiport area, you can start by relaxing on the deckchairs in the sun. And as an added bonus kids have tobogganing or colouring-in to keep them happy. That's before they eat in their own children's tepee. Very cute.
- Wine lovers should consider a visit to Partâgo, the new gourmet destination in Pierre et Vacances L'Hévana 5-star residence. Only opened in December 2022, its concept combines a wine cellar with 350 fine wines, a delicatessen and a restaurant run by chef, Charles Erik Hostier.
- Five-star Le Coucou hotel sits at the foot of the Rond-Point des Pistes and offers a number of fine dining experiences. We chose aptly named, The Beef Bar, renowned for Black Angus beef from Argentina and the US, as well as Japanese Wagyu beef.