

VOGUE

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WOMEN *of the* YEAR
2018
(and the men we love)



VOGUEliving

CASA, TASTE, TRAVEL AND LIFESTYLE

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TRAVEL

FREEZE FRAME

If you are gearing up for ski season in Europe, look no further. From a lair out of a James Bond movie to a design favourite from Courchevel, FREYA HERRING picks six winter experiences you just can't miss

When the snow comes to Europe, and thousands of fairy lights are put up to decorate the streets of quiet mountain towns, suddenly these places, so sombre in the summer, become busy and bustling again. Fondue pots are fetched from cupboards and hordes of staff move in to take care of guests. The season has already begun. From ski-in, ski-out hotels hoisted up onto mountains to heliskiing in Iceland or France, we've found some of the best luxury ski experiences on the continent.

For those who are more aesthete than athletic, don't miss cold-clime hotels like L'Apogée Courchevel, designed by India Mahdavi and Joseph Dirand, or the architectural triumph that is the Treehotel in Sweden. >

At Sweden's Treehotel, guests can book a room in a pine forest





▲ DEPLAR FARM IN ICELAND

For the ultimate retreat, you can't get much more isolated than Deplar Farm in the northern climes of Iceland. Whether you're taking a room or hiring out the entire lodge, their chef will make every meal for you and your guests. At night the aurora borealis illuminates the skies, and if snow is your poison then their staff will take you heliskiing in the mountainous surrounds. For the rest of us, there's cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and the onsite spa. Elevenexperience.com

KAKSLAUTTANEN IN FINLAND

This is the hotel everyone wants on their Instagram feed. Kakslauttanen's celebrated glass igloos are the big drawcard, where you can watch the Northern Lights swish and sparkle from your bed. Not only that, but given its Lapland locale, the site also plays host to Santa's Home—a yuletide chalet experience, where you can book a personal visit with Father Christmas himself and send the kids into a festive frenzy (in the best possible way, of course). Kakslauttanen.fi



TREEHOTEL IN SWEDEN

Ever dreamt of waking up in the treetops? At Treehotel in Harads, a village in far north Sweden just 50 kilometres south of the Arctic Circle, guests sleep in pods high atop the canopy, watching the snow fall and land on the branches around them. Every treehouse has been designed by renowned Scandinavian architects like Bertil Harström, Thomas Sandell and Mårten Cyrén. Treehotel.se



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◀CHETZERON IN SWITZERLAND

Like a Bond villain's lair, Chetzeron near Crans-Montana in the Swiss Alps is situated halfway up a mountain, and is only accessible by a snowcat in the winter. This ski-in, ski-out hotel features contoured concrete and natural timber set against a shattered glass aesthetic. Laze by the heated swimming pool or gaze over views of the Matterhorn and Mont Blanc from indented window seats in each of its 16 rooms. Chetzeron.ch



OBERHOLZ IN ITALY ▶

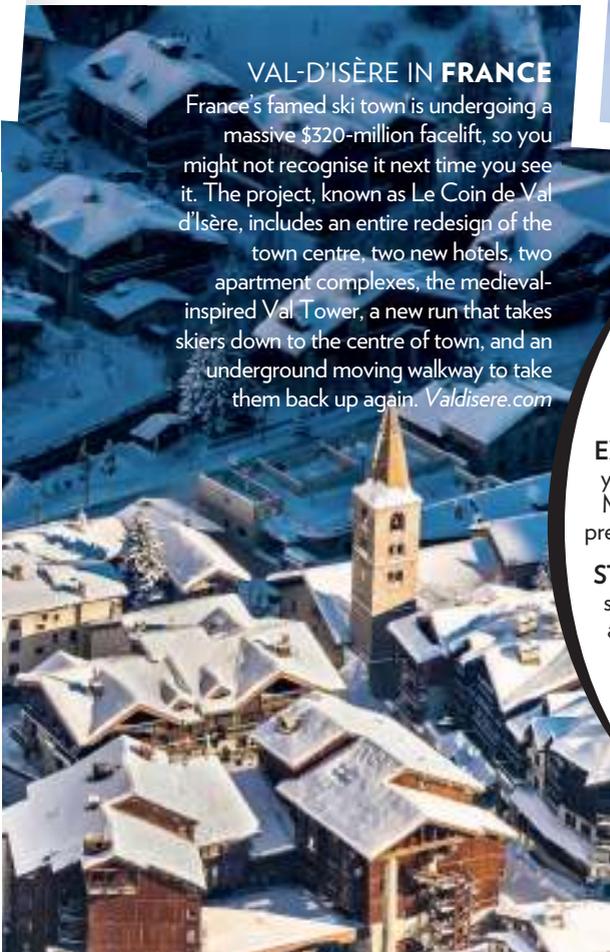
Situated in the heart of the Dolomites in Italy's South Tyrol, and 2,096 metres above sea level, the Oberholz Alpine hut is an architectural feat set within one of the most spectacular scenery in the world. With expansive windows, an exterior of larch wood and an interior of spruce, the building was designed by Pavol Mikolajcak and Peter Pichler (a student of Zaha Hadid, no less). Experience the space by dining at the on-site restaurant. Oberholz.com

COURTESY MADIS MOGENSEN



VAL-D'ISÈRE IN FRANCE

France's famed ski town is undergoing a massive \$320-million facelift, so you might not recognise it next time you see it. The project, known as Le Coin de Val d'Isère, includes an entire redesign of the town centre, two new hotels, two apartment complexes, the medieval-inspired Val Tower, a new run that takes skiers down to the centre of town, and an underground moving walkway to take them back up again. Valdisere.com



BEST OF THE REST

BOOK: Stay on a yacht cruising the Norwegian fjords and go skiing every day in the Lyngen Alps with Elemental Adventure. Try their Icelandic heli-skiing trip. Eaheliskiing.com

EXPERIENCE: If the French Alps are more your thing, your very own ski concierge at the Four Seasons Hotel Megève will find the best conditions around, and then prepare a customised itinerary around it. Fourseasons.com

STAY: Treehotel's second hotel, Arctic Bath, opens this season in Harads, Sweden. In summer the rooms float atop the Lule River, and in winter they form part of its frozen crust. Arcticbath.se

EAT: For a 'New Nordic' food experience try Fäviken in Sweden, where you'll enjoy a sauna with drinks, have dinner by an 18th-century barn and wrap up with Negronis. Favikenmagasinet.se ■

When in Sweden, make sure to reserve a table at Fäviken, run by chef Magnus Nilsson

