

IRISH TATLER

THIS YEAR'S
BEST IN
BEAUTY

DECEMBER 2021

Women of 2021

FEATURING
CLARE DUNNE
SARAH GRACE
THE CLANN
PROJECT
JOANNE MCNALLY
KATIE HANNON
KELLIE HARRINGTON
TOLÜ MAKAY
GERALDINE BYRNE
NASON

Business Post



From left: Adventures in British Columbia with Mabey Ski; Wau House Igloo, one of the stops on Off the Map Travel's Stars of Scandinavia tour; a pool with a view at the Courmayeur Mont Blanc

LIVING

THE LUXE RADAR

Goggles and gloves at the ready. **Jillian Bolger** finds new highs in the world's most exclusive ski resorts.

In search of the best ski experiences out there, Luxe Radar has been looking at some of the world's chicest ski resorts. We're taken by the cool aesthetic at **Méribel's** Hotel Le Coucou, a cosy ski-in, ski-out five-star in the central resort of the Three Valleys, the largest ski area in the world. The traditional chalet exterior belies the creative interior, an understated re-interpretation of alpine style, where minimalism meets luxury. With two restaurants, a bar overlooking the slopes and two swimming pools – one of which is outdoors – there's also the swish Tata Harper Spa, perfect for a restorative treatment, or soothing massage after a day on the slopes. £440 a night, lecoucoumeribel.com.

With *House of Gucci* on the big screens, we quite fancy a side order of Italian style with our après-ski this year. **Courmayeur Mont Blanc**, on the Italian side of Mont Blanc, ticks the boxes with its incredible setting and great winter sports scene. We're especially impressed with its drive toward becoming a fully accessible ski resort with adaptive skiing and snowboarding and ground-breaking disabled snow sports equipment. There's also heli-skiing, off-piste and cross-country skiing, joy skating, climbing, cycling and more. Stay at the glam Gran Baita hotel, and when you need a little rest head for Pre-Saint-Didier's thermal baths, where the warm water gushes from the heart of Mont Blanc. courmayeurmontblanc.it/en

Prefer a road trip on skis? No bother. **British Columbia's** Powder Highway, is just the destination for intrepid skiers, with an incredible winter adventure designed by Mabey Ski. Starting at RED Mountain resort, making your way to Revelstoke via Nelson and Whitewater, you'll experience a mix of tree skiing, open bowls, and deep powder, accessed by snowcat, helicopter

and lifts on this epic cross-country Canadian adventure. £3,300 per person include 10 nights' accommodation, lift passes, three days guiding, one day cat-skiing and one day heli-skiing. mabeyski.com

For accommodation that looks straight out of a Wes Anderson movie, it's hard to resist **St Moritz's** Upper Engadine mountains. Here you'll find the fantastical Suvretta House, one of Switzerland's most iconic and luxurious heritage hotels. Over 100 years old, the majestic alpine hideaway is a ski-in ski-out hotel in its own private estate. With St. Moritz the birthplace of winter tourism in the mid 19th century, this glamorous resort still draws A-listers with its old-school hospitality and thoroughly

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modern offering including snow yoga, a swanky spa and lavish dining options. From CHF 660, suvrettahouse.ch

Another Swiss favourite is the fabulous resort of **Gstaad**, where glamour and glühwein go hand in hand. We'd plump for The Alpina Gstaad, a traditional and trail-blazing ski hotel where they do luxury with a capital L. Ultra cosy and intimate, with three impressive restaurants, including the Michelin starred Sommet, and a Six Senses spa, you'll have as much fun indoors as you will out on the slopes. If you wonder what the golden age of travel looked like, it's alive and well in this ravishing retreat. From CHF950, thealpinagstaad.ch

A little more pared-back, but equally memorable, are the new glass igloos in Finland, designed to enhance your Northern Lights viewing pleasure. Lie back on your bed at Wau House Igloo and enjoy the wonder of the Aurora Borealis through your glass-roofed cabin. Part of a six-day Stars of Scandinavia experience, taking in Tromsø in Norway and the Finnish village of Kilpisjärvi. Travel south to Rovaniemi, and another glass-roofed bedroom at the Lappish Kammi Suites. From £1,795 per person, excluding flights, offthemap.travel

And if you're over Europe, and craving something more far-flung, keep an eye on **Japan's** borders. Once open, we'd make a beeline for the cooler than cool Ritz-Carlton Reserve at the base of Mount Niseko Annupuri. We've fallen for Kasara Niseko Village Townhouse there, a set of six private dwellings with traditional Japanese architecture and luxurious interiors. Each townhouse can accommodate up to six and offers sweeping panoramas of Mount Yotei and direct access to over 2,000 acres of skiable on-and-off piste terrain. For a completely different season on the slopes, this is the stuff Luxe Radar's dreams are made of. ritzcarlton.com



Above: A luxurious bathroom and the traditional Japanese architecture of Kasara Niseko Village Townhouse



From left: Suvretta House; a junior suite at The Alpina Gstaad; the ski-in ski-out Le Coucou Méribel



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