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TRAVEL: CHALET MERLO

Snow Place Like Home

The French Alps may be a world class ski destination teeming with jet-setters, but Europe's fashion cognoscenti are now flocking for another reason: Chalet Merlo. Nestled in the heart of the sweeping Tarentaise Valley amongst three of the region's top ski resorts, this six-bedroom luxury lodge offers a five-star experience minus the coat and tie at dinner. From a Swiss helicopter transfer via the stunning Mont Blanc, to custom slippers and chilled hibiscus Tattinger around the fireplace upon arrival, the chalet is a vacation unto itself. With whitewashed walls, rustic wood beaming, and plush leather chairs, the inherent coziness extends outdoors to a hot tub with dramatic glacier views. The dedicated staff will chauffeur you to the nightlife of nearby Val-d'Isère or ski you over the mountain to dine in neighboring Italy. That is, if you want to leave. Chef Lucy Robertson prepares fresh, local ingredients—wild strawberry muffins with your afternoon tea?—and four-course, gourmet suppers at the candlelit farmhouse table. Chalet Merlo offers their guests a feeling that their home is yours—and this home is straight out of a storybook. —ANDI TERAN

Go to www.chaletmerlo.eu

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