

DESTINATIONS OF THE WORLD
news

Essential travel intelligence **15** December 2021

15
YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

FUTURE WORLD

The Red Sea Project reveals first luxury hotel partners

SNOW FALL

Frost yourself in diamonds and pearls

TREASURE ISLAND

Five-star Robinson Crusoe vibes at this UAE resort

MAY OH, MAY-AN

An adventurous dive into Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula



BABY, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE

EAT, SLEEP, SPA AND SKI IN SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL RESORTS

EXCLUSIVE TIMEPIECES



EXQUISITE JEWELS



UNIQUE ESCAPES



LUXURY CARS



ITALY'S ICONIC SKI RETREAT

Beneath the majestic peaks of Lavarella and Conturines in Italy sits the charming mountain village of San Cassiano. At its heart, Rosa Alpina, an Aman Partner Hotel, serves up unparalleled access to the UNESCO World Heritage ski destination of the Dolomites Superski and Sella Ronda network of pistes. Home to 52 rooms and suites, it's the exclusive three-bedroom Penthouse or the spacious private retreat of Chalet Zeno, sleeping six, that max on privacy and luxury. Head to three Michelin-star restaurant St. Hubertus for the very best local and seasonal produce that celebrates the mountains, or to the Rosa Alpina spa for some adult-only holistic wellness in the Dolomites. A 'mindful skiing' retreat in the most magical setting. www.aman.com

DECEMBER

ESCAPES

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow... There are few things more magical than spending the festive season in some beautiful alpine setting, so here are some of the best... And for those more urban in taste, a few city hotels to celebrate in, too



BLACK FOREST BEAUTY

The historic spa town of Baden Baden was recently awarded UNESCO World Heritage, and is home to Brenners Park-Hotel & Spa. Cosy up here, in the crisp, storybook surrounds of the Black Forest, to make the most of the magical chills and thrills of festive season. Celebrations begin on Christmas Eve, with a four-course menu at Orangerie, followed by aperitifs in the hotel's classic bar Kaminhalle, before concluding with a beautiful five-course traditional Christmas dinner at the Wintergarten restaurant. On Boxing Day, you can stroll to the Christmas Market to discover local delicacies and enjoy a complimentary warming glass of Glühwein, German mulled wine. For NYE, there's also a special gala dinner in the Orangerie, as well as an opulent dinner at super-cool Fritz & Felix restaurant. www.oetkercollection.com

SWISS FESTIVE FORMULA

For a gourmand getaway this holiday season, head to Kulm Hotel St. Moritz, and sample the delights of superstar chef Mauro Colagreco, who opened his first venture in the Alps in the hotel's restaurant The K back in December 2020, which also won a Michelin star just six weeks later. With over 160 years of ski hospitality under its belt, the service and experience here is impeccable. The Ski Special package gives those staying three nights or more, half-board accommodation, a ski pass, and complimentary ski transfers to Corviglia base station. Stay in the Presidential Suite for open log-fire chic, with a bedroom and balcony facing the lake for the most beautiful views. Relax at the spa, ice skate at Lake Champfer, take a helicopter flight above the engadine or a carriage ride at Val Roseg for true festive feels. www.kulm.com





**WINTERY
FESTIVE
ESCAPES**

SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP

This one's for the Christmas shopaholics amongst us... The Lanesborough London has partnered with neighbouring luxury department store Harvey Nichols to launch an exclusive shopping experience, where each guest will have a Harvey Nichols Private Shopping Consultant on hand, first with a pre-appointment consultation to discover your fashion requirements and needs and, then to present you with a meticulously curated selection of wares in the comfort of your suite, while one of the Lanesborough's butlers keeps your Champagne glass topped up. Once you've found the perfect outfit, you can show it off on New Year's Eve during a five-course dinner in Michelin-star Céleste, with its live festive entertainment and glass of champagne on arrival. www.oetkercollection.com



FESTIVE FANCIES À LA FRANCE

Conjuring up notions of beautiful winter wonderlands, both inside and out, Royal Champagne Hotel & Spa is the Champagne region's first contemporary-designed five-star hotel, set in the hills above the area's most famous towns, Épernay and Reims, of Dom Pérignon fame. Kicking off a sparkling festive season in effervescent style, guests staying two nights or more will be greeted with a glass of bubbles as you check into your Junior Suite with vineyard views, followed by Christmas Eve dinner or Christmas Day lunch, as well as an afternoon tea served by the roaring fireplace in the hotel's Salon Fines Bulles. Or, to ring in 2022, there's a New Year's Eve offer that includes a decadent party with dinner prepared by chef extraordinaire, Jean-Denis Rieubland, followed by a healthy brunch the next morning. www.royalchampagne.com



LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW

Brand new for your Little Black Book of ski lodges is Ultima Courchevel Belvédère, opened just in time for ski season 2021/22. Perched all snowy and pretty on the Belvédère slopes, the lodge sits between Courchevel 1850 and La Rosière, offering the experience of an ultra-luxury five-star resort within the privacy of 13 private chalets. Anyone who knows Ultima Collection will know it's the last word in super-luxury experiences, and this is no different. Opt for the full Ultima experience, complete with ski butler, massage therapists, transfers to Courchevel 1850 and famously extravagant breakfasts. Enjoy the floor-to-ceiling windows for max-impact snow-kissed views, all the trappings of an in-house designer ski store, an indoor and outdoor pool, hammam, Jacuzzi, sauna, fitness room and beauty salon, with visits from leading wellness experts on request. www.ultimacollection.com