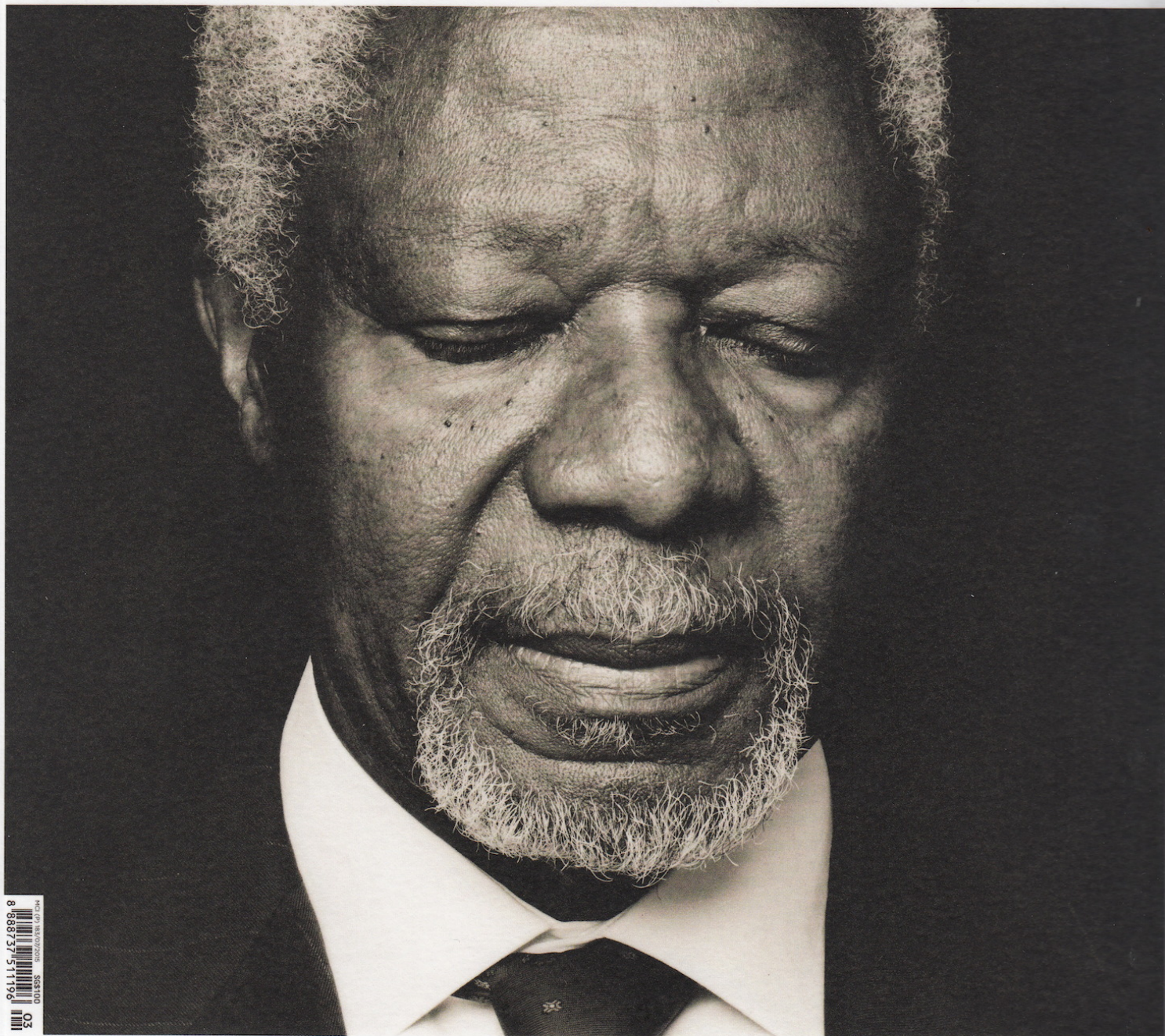


BILLIONAIRE



THE GIVING ISSUE

EXPLORING THE HARMONY BETWEEN LIVING WELL AND DOING GOOD

COVER STORY • Former Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan on how leadership through philanthropy can change the world.

THE ART OF HOSTING • The Billionaire special guide to hosting a great dinner party this festive season.

CULTURE • As art patronage shifts from West to East, will the future of art fall in the hands of the Chinese?

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TRAVEL

Powder Party

Billionaire picks some of the Alps' coolest
luxury chalets for this year's ski-fest.

by Tara Loader Wilkinson





NOVEMBER CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING:
it's time to book your ski holiday.

The concept of the ski-chalet holiday dates back to the 1950s, when British tour operator Colin Murison-Small placed an advert in *The Daily Telegraph*. "I have hired a chalet in Grindelwald," read the ad. "An English girl, Loveday, who will be living in the chalet for the whole season, will feed you and do all she can to make you comfortable and keep you happy."

Murison-Small's ground-breaking rented chalet was all-inclusive. Well, almost. "In addition to continental breakfast, lunch and dinner," he wrote, "you will be welcome to have tea with bread and butter and jam at no extra charge, although you will have to buy your own cakes."

Ski chalets have come a long way since then. Now, the most luxurious come with a couple of veteran chefs on hand to cook up nightly six-course feasts. Mod cons such as under-floor heating, fully equipped gyms with sauna, steam room, and serious swimming pools are *de rigueur*. Some chalets will pick you up from the airport in a luxury 4x4 or, if you're in a rush to catch the powder, by helicopter.

Pine Lodge ▲

Dolomites, Italy

Sleeps: Eight

Weekly price range: US\$24,500–US\$40,000

Based in Selva Gardena, in the heart of the Italian Dolomites, Pine Lodge is a chalet with art at its heart. The chalet provides the services of a luxury boutique hotel and the comfort and privacy of a home, but with the feel of an art gallery. The owners, Susanna Scott, a British interior designer, and her Italian husband, hotelier Georg Planker, are collaborating with renowned artists from the region, including traditional sculptors Aron Demetz and Gehard Demetz. The exhibits are all for sale and change from season to season. With its own private concierge, personal chef, butler and housekeeper, all four bedrooms at Pine Lodge are en suite and have access to the garden and sun patio.
www.pineloggedolomites.com



No. 14 Verbier ▲

Verbier, Switzerland

Sleeps: 26

Weekly price range: US\$47,700–US\$209,600

No. 14 is the largest private chalet in Verbier. With room for 26 people, serious party animals only need apply. The chalet comes with professional chefs, in-house massage therapist and treatment rooms, a 10m swimming pool, spa with hammam, plunge pool and Jacuzzi, two outdoor cedar hot tubs, a home cinema room and 15 staff. There's a private jet hub at nearby Sion that means you can be sipping Champagne on a sunny terrace or buying the latest Moncler jacket within 45 minutes of landing.

www.skiverbierexclusive.com

Corvatsch Tower, Kempinski Residences

St Moritz, Switzerland

Sleeps: Eight

Weekly price range: US\$35,000–US\$95,000

St Moritz is arguably Switzerland's most elite skiing destination, with a legendary dry "Champagne climate" producing 300 days of sunshine a year. This ultra-modern duplex apartment is located next to the iconic Kempinski Grand Hôtel des Bains in St Moritz, and has access to all the hotel amenities, including the gorgeous Kempinski Spa. Spread across the fifth and sixth floor with four bedrooms, the expansive duplex has a fabulous balcony to enjoy views of the Engadin valley. The décor is 'modern Alpine', furnishings are chic and all the amenities are state of the art.

www.aylesford.com

Chalet Blanche

Courchevel 1850, France

Sleeps: 12

Weekly price range: US\$43,000–US\$189,000

Courchevel 1850 in France's Three Valleys is known for celebrity-spotting and designer labels. But its 600km of pristine pistes and knee-deep powder fields are just as remarkable. Chalet Blanche is located in the private domain of Bellecôte, a 100-yard ski down to the main lift of Courchevel 1850. The chalet has five floors with a private lift, swimming pool and Jacuzzi, steam room and relaxation area. Each of the six double bedrooms have marble ensuite bathrooms and balconies. A helicopter transfer is available on request.

www.sjvillas.co.uk

Le Grand Joux

Portes du Soleil, France

Sleeps: 10

Weekly price range: US\$27,000–US\$53,000

Le Grand Joux is a 100-year-old luxury alpine lodge, tucked away in the mountain hamlet of Graydon, only accessible by snow mobile or helicopter in the winter months. There are three floors, with open-plan living and dining around an original open fireplace. Surrounded by fir and pine trees, the lodge has a spa that opens out onto a spacious yoga deck with an outdoor wood-burning hot tub and a barrel sauna with a glass wall overlooking the valley. The spa has two full-time therapists using Sodashi spa products, two treatment rooms, and a dry flotation bath, swimming pool and steam room.

www.legrandjoux.com

Chalet White Pool ►

Zermatt, Switzerland

Sleeps: 10

Weekly price range: US\$22,900–US\$95,000

With Matterhorn mountain views and open fireplaces, this chalet is located in Zermatt's only ski-in, ski-out district, Winkelmatten. Known as the 'Beverly Hills' of Zermatt, from the chalet you can ski through the meadow, down to the Klein Matterhorn Express and back to the door of the chalet down the Moosweg ski-run. There's a swimming pool, sollenbad, sauna, massage room and an outdoor hot tub, as well as a cinema room, games area and bar. Chefs and chalet staff are on hand to provide a chilled glass of Champagne in the Jacuzzi, to organise a massage and prepare breakfast, afternoon tea and a six-course gourmet evening meal.

www.aylesford.com

**Chalet Madeleine**

Klosters, Switzerland

Sleeps: 10

Weekly price range: US\$25,000–US\$48,000

Klosters, close to Davos, is good for all levels of skier, with well-groomed slopes and tough off-piste. The first British skiers arrived in the village in 1904 and it has remained a firm favourite among families and international VIPs ever since. Chalet Madeleine is the classic chocolate-box chalet with lots of wood panelling, pretty fabrics and fur throws. It's an old chalet with an excellent renovation, including a large cosy fireplace and a south-facing terrace. Madeleine is in a quiet location but there's a driver on hand within easy reach of all the après ski joints in Klosters.

www.sjvillas.co.uk