

# Winter Wonderlands

Makeovers at a trio of ski destinations and the latest chalet openings across the Alps. By **Felice Hardy**

**S**ize and speed are the big stories for the winter ahead. Two resorts in Utah are teaming up with the launch of a new eight-passenger gondola linking them: in terms of kilometres of skiing, the Victorian silver-mining town of **Park City** and the newer resort of **The Canyons** (it first opened in 1968 become the biggest ski area in North America. And it's not just an American trend: Tirol and SalzburgerLand in Austria are tying the knot with the opening of a gondola link called the Tirol-S between little **Fieberbrunn** and large **Saalbach-Hinterglemm**. Their joint new name is the not-too-catchy Skicircus Saalbach Hinterglemm/Leogang Fieberbrunn. The combined 270 kilometres of



piste and 70 lifts puts it in ninth position on the world charts. In France the perennially popular ski town of **Val d'Isère** has entirely reshaped the summit of one of its mountains during the summer. In the first phase of a two-year plan, bulldozers shifted a million tons of earth on the 2,500m Solaise to create the setting for a new mid-mountain station and ski lodge that will become the focal point for skiers. Three covered ski-escalators replace two ancient lifts and provide access to a new beginners' area and snow-tubing park. The second phase will see the replacement of the original cable car and chair-lift with a ten-person gondola.

## BEDDING DOWN IN THE ALPS

**E**ach of the rooms at the **Ameron Swiss Mountain Hotel** ([ameronhotels.com](http://ameronhotels.com)) in Davos is decorated in pale wood with fur rugs that, when joined with the state-of-the-art-spa and expansive pillow and mattress menu, add up to ski heaven. Natural bliss is what to expect at **The San Luis** ([sanluis-hotel.com](http://sanluis-hotel.com), below),

a private lakeside retreat at Avelengo in Italy's South Tyrol. Its chalets and tree-houses are done-up in minimalist style, and the cuisine uses the purest raw materials. Over the border in Austria, the gorgeous medieval town of Kitzbühel plays host to **Bentley Lodge** ([bentleymotorslodge.com](http://bentleymotorslodge.com)): a four-room property, managed by the Kitzbühel

Country Club that offers prime views of the legendary Hahnenkamm downhill racecourse. With nine bedrooms, **Chouqui** ([skiverbier.com/chalet-chouqui](http://skiverbier.com/chalet-chouqui)) lodge in the buzzing resort of Verbier has a spa and one of the biggest (15m) indoor swimming pools you'll come across in a chalet, while **White 1921** ([white1921.com](http://white1921.com)), of St-Tropez fame,

opens this winter in the chic Croisette area of Courchevel 1850, the latest project by the LVMH group, and designed by noted architect Jean-Michel Wilmotte. Also in France is the new baby of the Sibuet stable, **Le Totem** ([experience-sibuet.com](http://experience-sibuet.com)), which opens with 100 rooms next to the iconic Picasso Totem sculpture in Flaine this winter.



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### Get the Look

Keeping out the cold in style, the latest collection from **Mountain Force** ([mountainforce.com](http://mountainforce.com)) will help you cut a dash on the slopes this season.

Combining classic tailoring with the latest in materials and technologies, the Swiss firm's 2015/2016 range includes for the first time the barrier jacket (top), which has a ceramic membrane to keep in heat and repel cold, and the sleek-fitting intro pants (bottom).



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