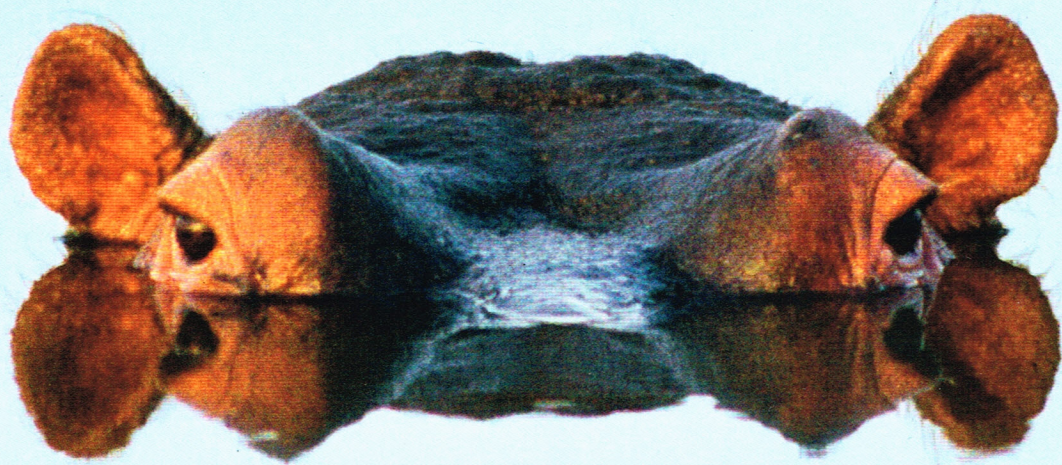


COUNTRY LIFE[®]

TRAVEL



Wallow in luxury

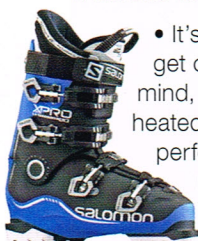
WINTER 2016/17

FIVE OF THE BEST GADGETS AND EQUIPMENT

- An innovative approach to avalanche safety equipment comes in the form of the Black Diamond Halo 28 Jetforce airbag, which uses a battery-powered fan instead of the gas cylinder of similar bags, £699 (00 43 1253 7459333; www.blackdiamondequipment.com)



- Dragon Alliance X1s and X1 goggles have lenses that automatically transform their tint in response to changing weather, blocking 100% of harmful rays. £225, (0800 035 6483; www.ellis-brigham.com)



- It's not just beginners who get cold feet. Bearing that in mind, Salomon has produced heated X Pro boots for high-performance skiers. £430 men, £400 women (www.salomon.com)

- Finisterre waterproof rucksack is a 20-litre ski backpack that's built to last. It's fully waterproof thanks to the welded construction from a durable coated ballistic nylon. £135 (01872 554481; www.finisterre.com)



- Helly Hansen's Elevation shell jacket takes comfort and durability to new heights. It has a relaxed fit designed to work with a rucksack; flex inserts allow extra movement when you're using one of the increasingly popular back protectors. £500 (0800 142 2210; www.helly-hansen.com)



FIVE DELIGHTFUL CHALETs

Holiday prices are per person per week half-board in low season, including flights and transfers, unless stated otherwise

- Sumptuous Calistoga Lodge in Val d'Isère sleeps 10 and has a fabulous spa and pool. The living area's latticed ceiling and gallery is a modern take on medieval style. From £17,500 for the whole chalet, excluding travel (www.consensiochalets.co.uk; 020-3393 0833)
- Hotel Theodul is a chalet-hotel with 29 bedrooms, close to Lech's buzzing main street. Relish the magnificent moun-

tain views from many of the property's terraces and balconies. From £939 (020-8875 1957; www.vip-chalets.com)

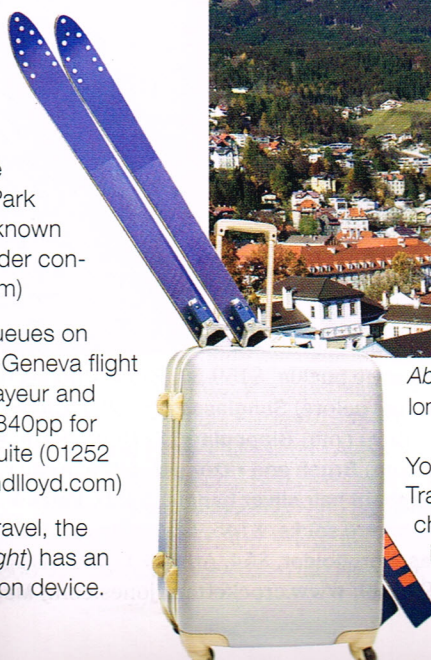
- Not far away is Hannes Schneider Lodge, opening in Stüben this winter. Original 1950s features fuse with sumptuous fabrics and striking art. The master suites have drawing rooms and there's a swimming pool inside a former cowshed. From £2,100, fully-catered (020-3432 5845; www.scottdunn.com)
- Chalet Chouqui is comprised of two interconnecting

buildings in Verbier sleeping 18 to 20, with interiors by Gytha Nuttall. The 15m indoor pool, alfresco dining for 20, sunken outdoor hot tub and vast fire pit complete the picture. From £2,340 excluding travel (01608 674011; www.skiverbierexclusive.com)

- La Terrasse is new to Courchevel Moriond. *Bijou* chalets can be somewhat hard to find and this one has two en-suite bedrooms and a lovely light sitting room. From £629 (01484 954401; www.leski.com)

FIVE TRAVEL BRAINWAVES

- British Airways now flies to Innsbruck from Heathrow and Birmingham—a must for people going to Tirolean resorts such as Alpbach and Kitzbühel (www.britishairways.com)
- Also new this season are direct Delta Air Lines flights from Heathrow to Salt Lake City—perfect for the Park City Resorts that are known for their fabulous powder conditions (www.delta.com)
- Skip high-season queues on a return Farnborough-Geneva flight for holidays in Courmayeur and Val Thorens, from £2,840pp for a four-person family suite (01252 411749; www.butlerandlloyd.com)
- For the smoothest travel, the Track&Go suitcase (*right*) has an inbuilt Bluetooth beacon device.



Above: The resorts near Innsbruck offer long, open trails and appeal to families

You simply register it on Samsonite's Travlr app and then it's a breeze to check your bag's location. Available in the UK by the end of 2016 (www.samsonite.co.uk)