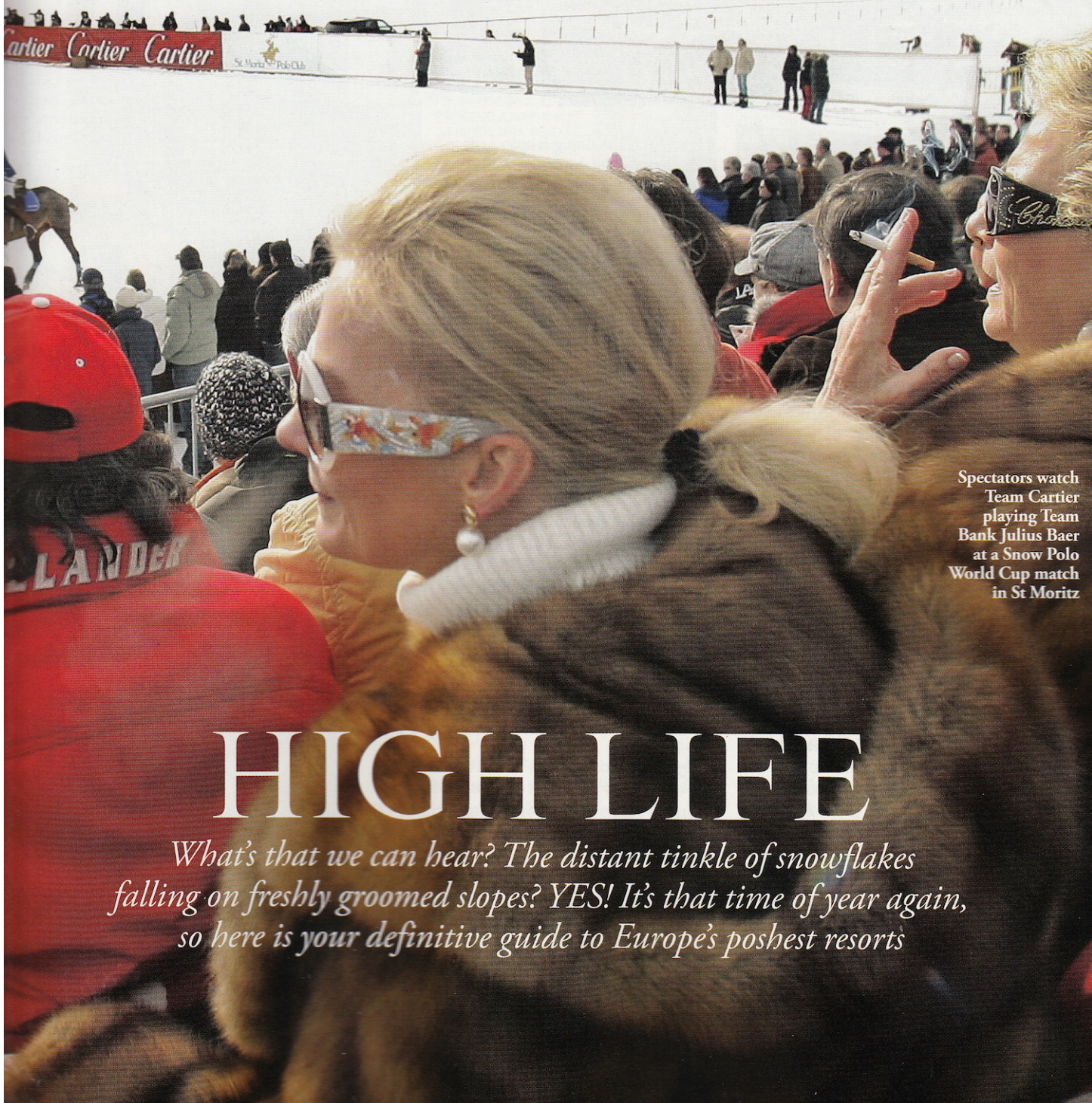


THE TRAVELER

Edited by FRANCISCA KELLETT



Spectators watch
Team Cartier
playing Team
Bank Julius Baer
at a Snow Polo
World Cup match
in St Moritz

HIGH LIFE

What's that we can hear? The distant tinkle of snowflakes falling on freshly groomed slopes? YES! It's that time of year again, so here is your definitive guide to Europe's poshest resorts



The ski resort of Lech

VERBIER

Why we love it Great skiing over a vast area. And in spite of the influx of HNWI, the village has managed to stay un-glitzy – it's still more about heli-skiing than Hermès.

Why now? For the staggering new chalets like Haute Montagne's Alpine Estate, which sleeps 20, and Ski Verbier Exclusive's 9,700-square-foot Chalet Chouqui, decked out by the British interior designer Gytha Nuttall.

Who goes? Lots of Sloanes, plus Geneva weekend commuters.

Hate skiing? Take a helicopter ride for killer views and a picnic up a mountain.

Best mountain lunch Le Mouton Noir is the place to dance in the daytime.

Best après For a first drink, Fer à Cheval, straight off the slopes; after dark, it can only be the notorious Farm Club, a 45-year-old institution that is still liable to shock.

BOOK IT Haute Montagne (hautemontagne.com) offers seven nights at the Alpine Estate from £93,000 for up to 20 guests (including staff but excluding food and drink).