

Top 10 European Ski Destinations Selected by HomeExchange Members

Fancy staying on a home exchange this winter and stretching your skiing budget? Here are the top 10 European ski destinations chosen by HomeExchange Members. Stay near or in a resort, borrow ski accessories for kids and save on accommodation costs. There's really something for everyone, from jacuzzis to sledges and beautiful views to hundreds of mountain chalets and apartments.

Val d'Isere, France

There's a reason why **Val d'Isere**, at 1,850 meters, continues to be the top choice of Europeen skiers each winter. It offers the perfect blend of challenging ski terrain for advanced skiers and learner-friendly beginners zones for those new to the snow. The resort center is lined with highend shops, lively après-ski bars and fantastic restaurants, all housed within beautiful, stone-clad buildings.



Chamonix Les Houches, France

The diversity on offer in Chamonix these days makes it impossible to review the whole resort as one destination. At 950 meters, **Les Houches** is one of the closest resorts to Geneva Airport and offers kilometer after kilometer of tree-lined skiing, making it the perfect destination for families and beginners. The resort center has a village feel and is an outstanding spot from which to take in the incredible views.



Cosy chalet near Mont Blanc, Les Houches – 10 minutes from Chamonix

Klosters, Switzerland

While the ski area between Klosters (at 1,179 meters) and Davos offers lots to explore, **Klosters** is without doubt the more attractive base for your ski holiday. The village center is charming and affluent, but with a relaxed vibe, while the trails are popular with advanced skiers enjoying an abundance of easily accessible off-piste in the area.



Cosy chalet just 10 minutes from the ski lifts at Klosters

Les Gets, France

A resort that's been quietly minding its own business for years, **Les Gets**, at 1,200 meters, is now developing into a chic, family-orientated resort that offers quick and easy access to the 650-kilometer Portes du Soleil ski area. Several piste-side restaurants offer views of Mont Blanc so it's easy to find a sunny spot on which to enjoy an après tipple or two.



<u>Luxury mountain ski chalet – Exceptional view</u>

Crans-Montana, Switzerland

There's one thing that makes these two interconnected resorts stand out, and it may not be for everyone. **Crans**, at 1,500 meters, and its neighbour Montana are not villages; although right on the edge of a great ski area, they're most definitely towns with a very urban feel. This is a very sunny spot in which to base yourself and there's varied terrain to suit all ability levels.



Farm with beautiful views 10 minutes from Crans Montana

La Rosière, France

We love **La Rosière**, at 1,850 meters, not just because of its high elevation and snow certainty. The ski area offers two great experiences for the price of one when you cross over the Petit St Bernard pass into Italy. Wide pistes descend for kilometers into La Thuile over the border and getting back is no hassle at all. The main village is quiet but well stocked, and the views are exceptional.



Madonna di Campiglio, Italy

Italian ski resorts are always authentic, traditional and charming, and **Campiglio**, at 1,550 meters, is no different. The car-free resort huddles on the valley floor and the center is stylish with several chic shops. The ski area spreads over 150 kilometers, and there have been several lift upgrades over recent years, making it quick and easy for you to cover a considerable distance on skis each day.



Luxurious apartment 5 minutes from ski lifts with fantastic view over the Dolomites

Courchevel Moriond 1650, France

Rebranded back in 2011 to recognise the differences between its more blingy neighbour higher up the valley, **Courchevel 1650** is now an attractive, unpretentious resort with a stack of new facilities, including Aquamotion, a huge center for water sports that opened in December 2015. And let's not forget: On your doorstep you'll find the largest linked ski area in the world. The 600 kilometers of the 3 Valleys network never disappoint.



Selva, Val Gardena, Italy

Seasoned skiers, this one's for you. At 1,563 meters, **Selva** serves up challenging ski terrain on both sides of a valley, accessed by both gondolas and quick chair lifts. The village center is packed with charm and character and there's also a collection of well-maintained beginner slopes and progressive tree-lined runs enjoyed by families.



Geilo, Norway

No list of top 10 ski resorts is complete without mentioning Norway and the town of Geilo, at 800 meters. It is one of the country's most popular resorts. It's a small, well-equipped town that's currently investing heavily in new runs, new lifts and new facilities. Between January and April you can also ski until 8pm on flood-lit slopes.



Photo Credit: Geilo, Norway

On the Blog: Top Ten European Ski Destinations

About HomeExchange

Founded by Ed Kushins, a pioneer of the "collaborative consumption" movement, HomeExchange has facilitated over one million home swaps since 1992. It was featured in 2006 in the cult movie "The Holiday" starring Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet and Jude Law. In 2015, 65,000 HomeExchange members made 130,000 home swaps across 150 countries. The revolutionary Passport™ program now makes home swapping even easier. Members earn a 'balloon' by hosting another Member and redeem their 'balloon' for a one-way stay anywhere in the world. HomeExchange makes it easy to plan and enjoy a home exchange vacation and offers a memorable, authentic experience while giving travel real meaning. It was voted "Best Site for Booking Your Stay 2016" by readers of USA TODAY and 10Best.

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