

# PRESS KIT

## WINTER 2017 - 2018



**NOVEMBER 25, 2017 TO  
MAY 1, 2018**





## JOIN US, WHENEVER YOU LIKE, ANY DAY THIS WINTER, AND WE'LL GUARANTEE GOOD SNOW CONDITIONS

Val d'Isère is one of the world's best-known ski destinations. In these uncertain winters of climate change, it offers guaranteed snow conditions from the last week of November right up until when the lifts close on the first day of May. Enjoy the ambience of an ancient and authentic village in a truly spectacular mountain setting in the Savoie-Mont-Blanc region. Le Snow Factory is the largest snowmaking facility in Europe and it's just got bigger.

# SUMMARY



Follow the lights for more ideas!



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**Snow cover IS GUARANTEED**



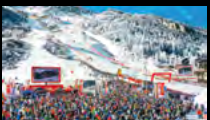
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# VAL D'ISÈRE BY NUMBERS



The history of the village goes back to the **11<sup>th</sup> century**



Val d'Isère became a proper ski resort way back in 1936, when the **Rogoney surface lift** opened on the front de neige.



For 2017-18, the joint Val d'Isère - Tignes ski area has **300km** of groomed pistes, served by **78 lifts**. Some **60% of the 153 pistes and 10 000 hectares** of ski terrain are located above **2200m**. The skiing stretches from a top altitude of **3450m down to 1550m**. There are two glaciers - from the highest lift on the Pissailas above the hamlet of Le Fornet you can ski an incredible **1900 vertical meters**.



Le Snow Factory is the largest snowmaking facility in Europe and it's just got bigger. A total of **900 cannons** now cover a mighty **40% of the entire ski area**.



Thanks to its challenging slopes and guaranteed snow conditions Val d'Isère is one of the homes of ski racing. Last December the resort had the best snow cover in the world. The FIS moved the World Cup competitions from Colorado and racers spent three weeks here, competing in superb conditions. This December it's the setting for the **62nd Critérium de la Première Neige**, organised by the Club des Sports.



It's All About Enjoying yourself **Five 'play areas'** on the slopes of Val d'Isère are open to all: the snowpark, tubing on the Savonette piste, the Sunny Ride beginner slope on Solaise, and two ski/boardercross courses.

\* See page 9



The ski schools hand out **20 000 stars** each winter to their pupils.



Gastronomic Le Fornet is home to chef Benoît Vidal and his restaurant l'Atelier d'Edmond which sports **two Michelin stars**.



Each winter, Val d'Isère's restaurants serve an estimated **300 000 fondues** - that's **60 tons of cheese!**



**1 000 000:** that's the number of ski boots throughout the winter that dance away each afternoon in the village's après-ski joints.







# SNOW COVER IS GUARANTEED

THANKS TO THE GEOGRAPHICAL LAYOUT OF THE PISTES AND THE HIGH ALTITUDE, SNOW COVER IS ALWAYS RELIABLE, AND IT'S BACKED UP BY  
La Snow Factory, THE LARGEST ARTIFICIAL SNOWMAKING FACILITY IN EUROPE.



Pierre Mattis, is the Mr Snowmaker of Val d'Isère Téléphériques, the resort's lift company. He has a deep knowledge of the intricate network of underground pipes that serve the 900 cannons covering some 40% of the ski area. If you'd like to interview Pierre, get in touch with us. Snow cover in Val d'Isère is guaranteed throughout the winter. We offer the most reliable natural snow of any resort in the Alps, backed up by manmade, supplied by the Snow Factory, the largest snowmaking facility in Europe.



## Interview

Cédric Bonnevie is in charge of preparing the pistes and he's rightfully proud of his grooming operation. It continues around the clock from the end of November until the beginning of May.

**"Different unique factors all come together to give us excellent conditions. When you think of which resort has guaranteed snow, you think of Val d'Isère.** For a number of reasons, it's a reputation that is wholly justified:

**Altitude**, certainly, plays the leading role. The higher you go, the more likely it is that any precipitation will fall as snow rather than rain – and there'll be more of it. With Val d'Isère's ski area situated between 1800m and over 3000m, we can expect to experience the necessary low temperatures needed for high quality snowfalls.

**The geographical diversity of our pistes** - they're notably north-facing - allows us not only to best retain the snow, but also to ensure this high quality.

Finally - and importantly - we don't just get our snowfall from the Atlantic. Our proximity to the Italian frontier allows us to benefit from some exceptionally heavy and highly localised snowfalls. **This phenomenon, known as the retour d'est** occurs whenever precipitation comes up into Italy from the Mediterranean. It dumps copious quantities of snow on the French side of Alpine chain. Invariably, Val d'Isère is the only French resort that benefits from this effect."



## SNOW FACTORY

This giant snowmaking operation, based beside the Olympique gondola, can churn out a mighty 2500 m3 of environmentally friendly artificial in one hour, enough to cover a football pitch in a metre of snow in less than 30 minutes. Come and talk to the snowmakers at La Factory.



## SNOW COVER IS STILL GREAT IN THE SPRING

Throughout April, spring skiing here is at its very best. Right up until May Day, you can spend the morning on the mountain in superb conditions before enjoying a relaxed lunch on a sunny terrace and then indulging in a bit of serious après-ski.

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## NEW CANNONS ON SANTONS

From this winter the snowmaking network has been extended to cover the base of the Santons piste and the long schuss back to the front de neige in the village is now lined with cannons. This means that Santons, a superb natural half-pipe, can remain open right until the last day of the season.







# WHAT ELSE IS NEW IN THE SKI AREA THIS WINTER



## GREAT VALUE LIFT LOCAL PASS

Whether you're a relaxed skier who's looking for a feast of comfortable cruising, or you're someone whose idea of the perfect day on the mountain is split between piste and sun terrace, the Solaise lift pass could be ideal for you. It covers seven lifts, including the 10-person gondola from the village up to Solaise. This gives you access to Le Lounge day lodge as well as dedicated beginner slopes and a substantial intermediate area, along with challenging runs back to the valley. Sunny Ride, a fun run for novices from the top of the gondola, has been an immense success since it opened last winter. It's a chance to run a gentle, fun, slalom course where you clang the bell with your poles on the gates. Lift pass price: **36€ per day**.

Lift access for non-skiers: **For just 13€** pedestrians can go up (and down) the Bellevarde or La Daille gondolas.

**Free access to the swimming pool:** All 2 to 15 day Val d'Isère-Tignes lift passes include a free entry to the pool in the Centre Aquasportif.

**Free lifts:** Three lifts on the front de neige (Savonette and Lanches drag lifts, as well as Le Village chair are free for beginners). Skiing is completely free of charge for children under 5 years and for seniors from 75 years.

**Lift pass prices for adults (14 to 64 years): 1 day 57€. 6 days 285€**



## DATCHA CHAIRLIFT UPGRADED

The Datcha chair on Solaise has been upgraded this winter to a detachable quad.

## NEW WEBCAM

There's a new webcam this year up on top of the Borsat chair, close to the border with Tignes – that's nine cameras in all, giving you a detailed picture of the weather and snow conditions in Val d'Isère.



## MORE NEWS

- The Val d'Isère lift company has been awarded the international **Green Globe certificate** for its environmentally aware development of the ski area.

- For this winter **Dynastar** has developed a **limited edition Val d'Isère ski** that is available for testing.

- Win **illustrations from the artist Magali F** on the Val d'Isère app.

- Send your postcards from a fairytale location with a special stamp: the **postbox** inside Le Lounge, the new day lodge on Solaise.

- Finding it hard work on the legs? Try out **Ski Mojo** and enjoy painless skiing.



## SUNNY RIDE: EASILY ACCESSIBLE SKI AND PLAY AREA FOR CHILDREN

Situated at the top of the Solaise gondola and Poup, one of the three covered magic carpet lifts, the Sunny Ride piste is a fun beginner slope. It features all kinds of cartoon-based obstacles - hit the gate with your pole to ring a bell and bend your knees to squeeze under the arch. Whether you're a grown-up or a child it's all designed to make the learning process a fun experience. At the foot of the slope, there's a children's play area with swings and a wooden piste-basher.



This new kids' ski area reinforces our position as a proud bearer of the Family Plus label, an opportunity to introduce children to skiing in a safe, informative, and amusing way. If you would like to know more, do please **contact us**.



Take a look at what goes on behind the scenes in a ski resort: talks to the professionals who run the rescue services, avalanche control, and learn about how they run the lift system.

## SKI TOURING

Val d'Isère is big on **ski touring** in March and April. It's a chance to explore the phenomenal off-piste opportunities here. There's a ski touring village with a huge amount of expertise and advice available in April on the front de neige.







# WHAT'S NEW IN THE VILLAGE

**Val d'Isère is an authentic Savoyard village with an imposing baroque church. Its original ancient chalets were built in traditional style, using stone, slate, and wood. All new buildings, whether they are homes or businesses, are constructed in the same mountain style.**



**T**he village is renowned for its gastronomy and is recognised by both the prestigious Michelin Guide and the Société Nationale des Meilleurs Ouvriers de France.

**Benoît Vidal, chef at L'Atelier d'Edmond** in the outlying hamlet of Le Fornet is a member since 2015 of that exclusive club of two Michelin stars - only 80 restaurants have this distinction. His cuisine is both inventive and traditional, taking inspiration and flavours from the natural surroundings.

**Patrick Chevallot and his bakery, La Maison Chevallot**, have been a resort institution since 1965 and continues with the family business. He is a master baker, pâtisserie and chocolate maker recognised by the Société Nationale des Meilleurs Ouvriers de France.



## NEW LOOK FOR THE CONGRESS CENTRE

This internationally renowned complex at the bottom of the Face de Belvedere is the setting each season for numerous events. These range from the Adventure and Discovery Film Festival and concerts to World Cup race briefings and medical conferences. The auditorium now has a new look, with 440 seats and improved acoustics.

## L'AVANCHER

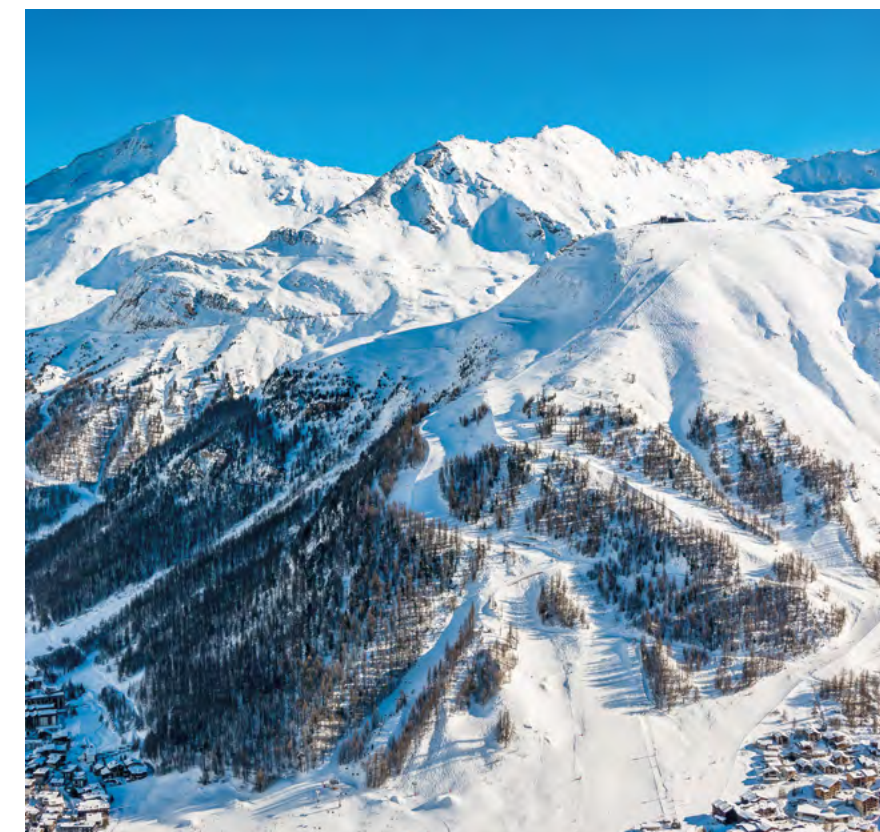
Hotel L'Avancher, which opened originally in 1958, has been entirely rebuilt during the summer months. Frédéric Monneret and his team have managed to combine the intimate ambience of an ancient chalet with all the modern comforts of a 21st century hotel.

It now has 37 rooms of 24 to 61 m², a gourmet restaurant, wine bar, and a lounge with an open fireplace. From the spa you get a magnificent view of the Face de Belvedere. It features two hot tubs, two saunas, a hammam, and a treatment room. There's also a games room and covered parking with a Tesla charger in the basement. The hotel can organise your transfers and lift passes.



## NEW MOUNTAIN RESTAURANT AT THE BOTTOM OF SOLAISE

L'Étincelle (it means 'spark') is a brand new piste-side restaurant. It can be reached easily on skis or on foot, serving authentic mountain cuisine. Decoration is modern alpine and there's a great view across the village.



## HOTEL MAKEOVER

Four-star Hotel Ormelune has had a major makeover and reopens in December 2017 with the addition of an extra floor with ten rooms and suites. The ground floor has been redesigned, along with a larger gym and meeting room and two new treatment rooms in the spa.



**AVANT-PREMIÈRE 18-19**

## NEW MOUNTAIN HOTEL ON SOLAISE FOR 2018/19

The arrival point of the now defunct Solaise cable car and the adjoining Tête de Solaise restaurant is being transformed into a high-altitude boutique hotel. What was the oldest lift station in France - built in 1942 - is set to become France's highest hotel. It will have 40 rooms, a spa, and a restaurant seating 380, plus a giant sundeck with 360° views. You can reach it in winter by the new Solaise gondola that opened in 2016, or by piste machine. In summer it will be accessible by a mountain road. The hotel is scheduled to open in December 2018.





## WHAT'S NEW IN THE VILLAGE



**V**illage heritage: Take a look at the new Val d'Isère Museum at the Maison de Val. It houses some remarkable displays depicting the rich history of the resort, including skis through the ages.



**A**rchitecture: During the development of the resort every effort is made to **retain the atmosphere of an authentic mountain village**. New buildings must be constructed using traditional material of stone, wood, and slate. Town planner Jean Jovet is a mine of information and stories about the history of the village and its chalets. If you'd like to have chat with him, please **contact us**.



**T**here's also the opportunity to take an expert guided tour of Val, by day or night, to explore the baroque church, the Maison Moris and the other historic buildings.

### REDEVELOPMENT OF THE VILLAGE CENTRE

**Le Coin de Val** is the name given to the **£170 million redevelopment of the heart of the resort**. This is a huge triangular chunk of the village centre bordered by Dick's Tea Bar and a 250m section of the main road, the Avenue Olympique. It includes the, Le Petit Danois, and the buildings to the right of the bus station roundabout.

The first of the old buildings was demolished this autumn and at the same time, local government has asked for

a feasibility and impact study, prior to building permits being issued in Spring 2018. This study is an essential prerequisite before building work can begin.

It's going to take five years to complete the project that includes an extension of the piste towards the main road and an underground moving walkway all the way back up to the main mountain access lifts.

There will be 900 new beds in two hotels, apartment blocks, and in 100 private chalets. This is the largest construction project in the French Alps in the past 20 years, eclipsing even that of Arc 1950 in Les Arcs by Canadian developer Intrawest, not least because it transforms the centre of a world-class international resort.







# DIARY DATES FOR THIS WINTER

## NOVEMBER 25 TO 26, 2017

### FIRST TRACKS THE OPENING WEEKEND

The season gets underway when Val d'Isère fires up its lift system on November 25. As usual, the Ski Force Winter Tour will set up stands on the front de neige with free tests available of all the new skis and snowboards for 2018.



### First Tracks Special Offer November 24 to 26

2 nights accommodation in an apartment or hotel + 2 day Val d'Isère lift pass + Ski and snowboard tests and numerous extras

Cost: from **135€** pp in an apartment.  
From **195€** pp in a two-star hotel.

## DECEMBER 8 TO 10, 2017

### MEN'S WORLD CUP SKIING: 62<sup>ND</sup> CRITÉRIUM DE LA PREMIÈRE NEIGE

Since 1955 the world's top ski racers have gathered each December in Val d'Isère, and these days they compete against each other on the wickedly demanding Face de Belvédère. On December 8, there's special concert with a top artist sponsored by French radio station RTL2 at the Centre Aquasportif.

For the complete programme, check out [www.valdisere.com/agenda/criterium-de-la-premiere-neige](http://www.valdisere.com/agenda/criterium-de-la-premiere-neige)

Accreditation:  
[www.worldcup-valdisere.com/fr](http://www.worldcup-valdisere.com/fr)



## DECEMBER 15 TO 17, 2017

### WOMEN'S WORLD CUP SKIING: 62<sup>ND</sup> CRITÉRIUM DE LA PREMIÈRE NEIGE

This weekend it's the turn of the top women racers, who compete on the OK (Oreiller-Killy) course that snakes down to La Daille from the top of Belvédère. Watch the opening ceremony and the draw for start numbers in the afternoon in the village.

Check out the complete programme at [www.valdisere.com/agenda/criterium-de-la-premiere-neige](http://www.valdisere.com/agenda/criterium-de-la-premiere-neige).



### Critérium Weekend Special Offer

3 nights accommodation in an apartment  
2 day Val d'Isère-Tignes lift pass

Cost: from **168€** pp  
[www.valdisere.com/hebergements/offres-speciales](http://www.valdisere.com/hebergements/offres-speciales)

## DECEMBER 23 TO 30, 2017

### THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS IN VAL D'ISÈRE

It's all about the children: giant snow sculptures, magnificent nativity crib, shows, concerts, and the arrival of Father Christmas on December 24.



## JANUARY 23 TO 26, 2018

### EUROPA CUP SKI RACES

The top European skiers take part in Giant Slalom competition on La Joseray. Follow the race live at [www.valsport.org/fr/evenements/coupe-d-europe-de-ski-alpin/presentation.html](http://www.valsport.org/fr/evenements/coupe-d-europe-de-ski-alpin/presentation.html)



## JANUARY 29 TO FEBRUARY 1, 2018 OPUS 1, MARCH 12-15 OPUS 2

### 25<sup>TH</sup> CLASSICAVAL FESTIVAL

The annual international rendezvous of classical music-lovers takes place in the magnificent baroque church under the artistic direction in January of David Lefèvre (violin) and in March of Élena Rozanova (piano). There's also entertainment in the ski area and in the village.

More information: [www.festival-classicaval.com/](http://www.festival-classicaval.com/)

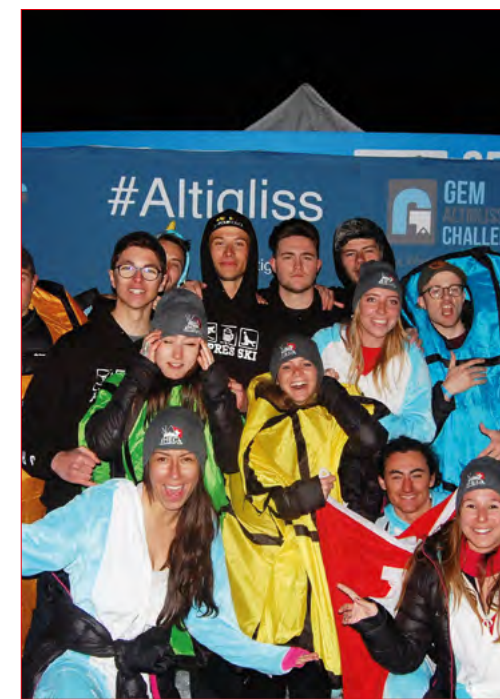


## MARCH 17 TO 24, 2018

### ALTIGLISS, 9<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MEET

This is the largest student competition in Europe for mountain sports. Pro skiers and snowboarders also join the party. Entertainments, concerts, exhibitions on the front de neige along with the Ride Her First freestyle competition on the Face de Belvédère, which is also open to the general public.

[www.altigloss.com](http://www.altigloss.com)







# LE CALENDRIER DES ÉVÈNEMENTS

**MARCH 22 TO MARCH 25, 2018**

## 6<sup>TH</sup> Winter GOLF

Some 40 Pro-Am teams compete on a nine-hole course in the panoramic surroundings of the Manchet Valley. The course is open to all and there's golf on snow in the village streets.



**APRIL 3 TO APRIL 6, 2018**

## LA SCARA

La Scara is a glimpse of the future Alpine Skiing World Cup. The best racers aged Under 14 and Under 16 gather in Val d'Isère for their own competition. It's a great festive occasion, a chance to applaud and encourage the champions of tomorrow at the slalom stadium.



**APRIL 7 TO APRIL 9, 2018**

## SKI TOURING WEEKEND

During these three days in April all the new equipment for 2018/2019 from the major manufacturers is available for testing. It's a chance to broaden your horizons and find out about backcountry skiing.



**APRIL 23 TO APRIL 24, 2018**

## SKI DÉBRIEF

This is the annual gathering of winter tourism and mountain professionals, where they discuss all that has happened over the past season and a look forward to the next one.



# SPRING SKIING

From April 9 to May 1, 2018 the weather may be starting to warm up, but conditions underfoot remain superb. Spend the morning exploring the whole ski area on spring snow, before relaxing over lunch on the sun terrace of a mountain restaurant and then indulging in a little – or a lot – of après-ski.

**April 27 to April 30 (dates to be confirmed):** climb aboard the Val d'Isère Snow Express charter train from Paris for an all inclusive weekend including transport, accommodation, and lift pass at a bargain price.



**APRIL 16 TO APRIL 19, 2018**

## 22<sup>ND</sup> ADVENTURE AND DISCOVERY FILM FESTIVAL

The focus is on feats of human endurance, sporting exploits and the technical skills of making movies in conditions that are sometimes extreme. Each evening the Adventure and Discovery Film Festival reaches out to all corners of the world with 11 films competing against each other and watched each year by 9,000 spectators. Master of Ceremonies, Sylvain Tesson, brings together the personalities who have made the show so successful through the years. Also there is live entertainment, displays, workshops and the chance to meet the filmmakers themselves. [www.festival-aventure-et-decouverte.com](http://www.festival-aventure-et-decouverte.com)



**APRIL 27 TO APRIL 29, 2018**

## 6<sup>TH</sup> YOGA FESTIVAL

Join top yogis at the Congress Centre, with numerous workshops for all levels over three days of getting back to nature. There's a market, massage, and a chance to experience everything to do with wellbeing.



**V**al d'Isère is proud to be a partner of the 2018 Ryder Cup, which was founded in 1927. Since 1979 it's been a competition between European and American teams.





## GETTING THERE

### BY AIR

#### Aéroport de Chambéry-Savoie

Tél. +33 (0)4 79 54 45 54 - [www.chambery-airport.com](http://www.chambery-airport.com)

#### Aéroport de Grenoble-Isère

Tél. +33 (0)4 79 65 48 48 - [www.grenoble-airport.com](http://www.grenoble-airport.com)

#### Aéroport de Lyon Saint-Exupéry

Tél. +33 (0)826 800 826 - [www.lyon.aeroport.fr](http://www.lyon.aeroport.fr)

#### Aéroport International de Genève

Tél. +41 22 717 71 11 - [www.gva.ch](http://www.gva.ch)

### BY ROAD

A430 Chambéry-Albertville, dual carriageway as far as Moûtiers,  
N90 to Bourg-St.-Maurice, D902 to Val d'Isère



### DRIVING INFORMATION

Centre Osiris

Tél. +33 (0)4 79 37 72 40 - [www.savoie-route.fr](http://www.savoie-route.fr)

### BY TRAIN

Réservation : 3635 - [www.voyage-sncf.com](http://www.voyage-sncf.com)

TGV direct depuis Paris (4h30) - [www.tgv.com](http://www.tgv.com)

Eurostar direct

[www.eurostar.com](http://www.eurostar.com)

Thalys direct

[www.thalys.com](http://www.thalys.com)

### BY BUS

Services from the station at Bourg-St-Maurice and from Geneva, Lyon,  
and Chambéry airports.

[www.valdisere.com](http://www.valdisere.com) - +33 (0)4 79 06 06 60

Conciergerie (D6) - +33 (0)8 11 38 39 83 - [www.valdisere-conciergerie.com](http://www.valdisere-conciergerie.com)

### CAR RENTAL

Europcar France(D6)

+33 (0)4 79 04 04 20 - [BourgSaintMaurice@europcar.com](mailto:BourgSaintMaurice@europcar.com)

### TAXIS

Taxi Centre

+33 (0)820 073 150 - [www.valdisere.com](http://www.valdisere.com)

### HELICOPTER TRANSFERS

SAF Hélicoptères

Tél. +33 (0)6 08 93 25 58

[ops@saf-helico.com](mailto:ops@saf-helico.com)

[www.saf-helico.com](http://www.saf-helico.com)



### Useful Tip

Much of the rental accommodation is available with Sunday arrivals and departures. Avoid the Saturday traffic jams and get more time on snow.

If you're driving, make sure you have a set of chains in the boot.





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**WINTER PROMO VIDEO:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40chiB2UB1w>



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