

SOUTHERN FRENCH ALPES

HAPPINESS AU NATUREL

JUST OUT WINTER
2022-2023

#AlpesDuSud
#purealpes

SOUTHERN FRENCH
alpes

RÉGION
SUD
PROVENCE
ALPES
CÔTE D'AZUR



COMITÉ
RÉGIONAL
DE TOURISME

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65 ski resorts,
one massif, and a
thousand marvellous
mountains



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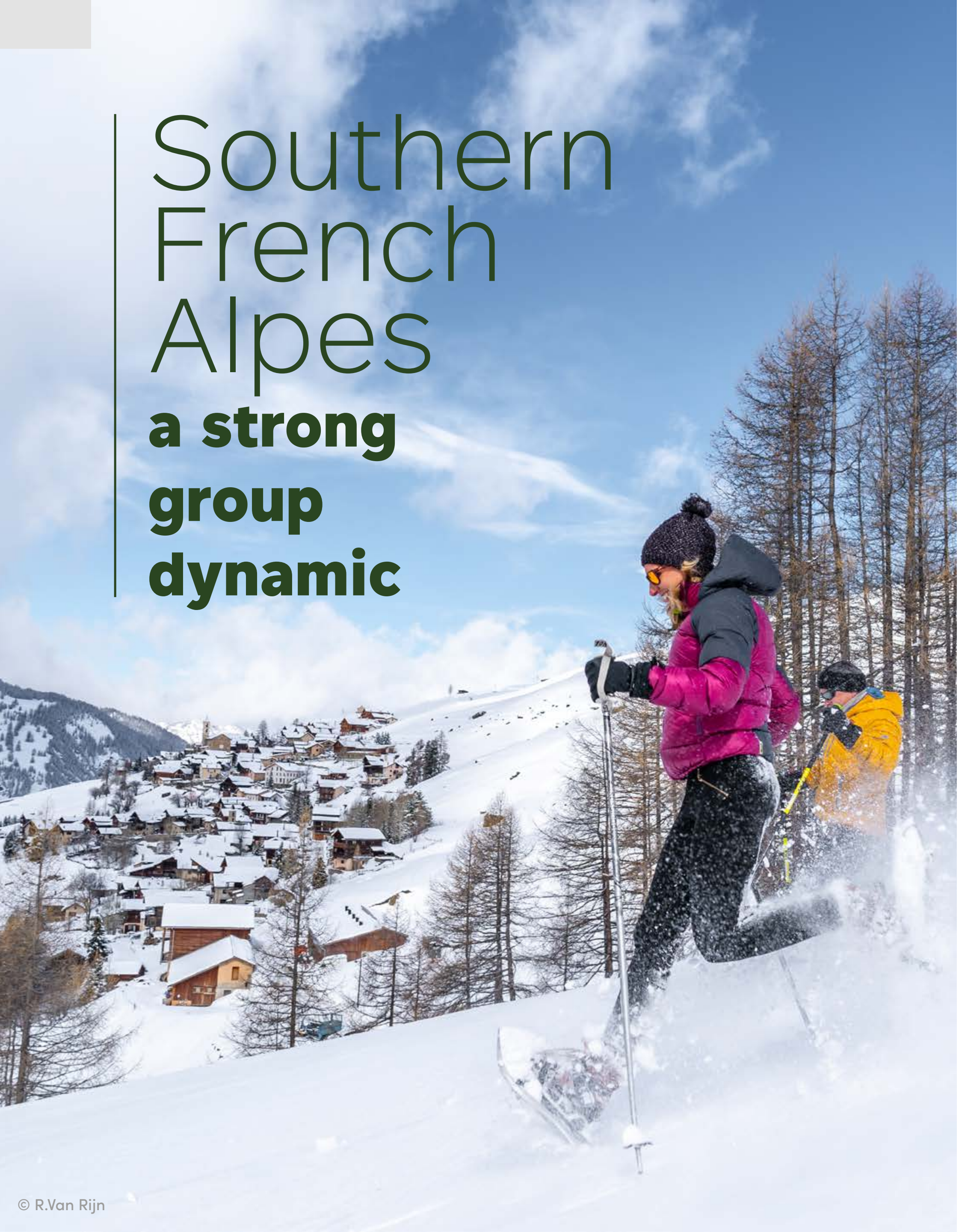
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Openings, Photos, Videos

Southern French Alpes

**a strong
group
dynamic**



A dinner by the sea after a day on the slopes... the Southern Alps' close proximity to our Mediterranean shores never fails to surprise visitors and locals alike. Lying within very easy reach of Provence and the Riviera, the massif is home to 65 astonishingly varied ski resorts, ranging from medieval villages to ultra-modern. The diversity of its scenery, accommodation, architecture and altitudes is truly unique.

Instilled with the traditional values of mountaineering, the Southern Alps is a resolutely sporty destination where you'll find plenty of activities other than skiing even in winter: trail running and rock climbing to name but a few. Our visitors love the Southern Alps – France's second most-popular mountain range – for its extraordinary blend of leisure opportunities, endless mountainscapes and dazzling sunshine.

Five years ago, we launched a new campaign to promote the many assets of the "Southern French Alps" destination brand with its flagship "purealpes" tagline. Why "pure"? Because our mountains, blessed with an agreeable climate and spared from pollution, are setting a gold standard in terms of sustainable development.

The Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region aims to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2037 through an array of initiatives at ski resorts such as Les Orres – flying the flag of the European Smart Altitude programme – and Serre Chevalier, already producing a third of its own energy needs. Working hand in hand with our partner ski resorts, we want to ensure our character-packed mountains continue to honour the environment and offer magnificent travel experiences in decades to come.



François de Canson

President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Tourist Board



© R.Palomba ↑

65 ski resorts, one massif, and a thousand marvellous mountains

What will it be, views over the Med or a sea of summits? Dog sledding in the larch forests or meandering down a blue slope in the sunshine? A friendly old hamlet or MKII resort? Or how about all above the above?! The mountains and valleys of the Southern Alps promises a thousand treats to share. And the cherry on the cake? You'll find all the space you need there...

The figures speak for themselves: the Southern Alps represents 40% of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region's surface area but is home to just 8% of its population, i.e., 450,000 inhabitants. Located barely an hour from the Mediterranean beaches, its majestic peaks, secretive little valleys and immaculate snowy meadows are a paradise for nature lovers.

From La Grave to La Vésubie and the stunning summits of Écrins national park to the Scots pines of La Tinée, most of this

exceptional area remains untouched. The raw, unbridled beauty of Mercantour and Écrins national parks and the regional nature reserves - Queyras, Les Baronnies Provençales and Les Préalpes -, is truly breathtaking. The nights are stunning here too: don't miss a spot of stargazing at the Alpes Azur Mercantour International Dark Sky Reserve.

A source of pride and joy, the Southern Alps' natural treasures have fostered numerous initiatives aimed at striking a balance between eco-friendliness and economic development. Serre Chevalier is well on its way to energy self-sufficiency - a first in France. The Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council supports soft mobility, enabling visitors to reach their destination quickly and easily from the region's train stations and airports without sparking traffic jams or pollution. Welcome to a great white wilderness sparkling under Europe's purest, starriest skies...

Ski and more...

Unique winter experiences



© Luka Leroy ↑

A land of champions

Mathieu Faivre: Giant Slalom Bronze Medal, 2022 Winter Olympics

A word from Mathieu Faivre:

"In the Southern Alps, you can ski in the morning and eat by the sea in the afternoon. There's nowhere else like it in the world!"

Julia Pereira: Snowboard Cross Silver Medal, 2018 Winter Olympics

Maxime Montaggioni: 2017 Para Snowboard Cross Champion - Banked Slalom Gold Medal at the 2022 Winter Olympics

Christophe Ferrier: Ice Driving

Together with: Théo Letitre, Tony Ramoin, Nastasia Noens, Olivier Gittler, Marion Perez, Margot Bailey, Bruce Rulfo, Marion Bertrand, Karen Smadja, Ken Vuagnoux, Norick Polchi, Valentin Emeric, Justine Tonso and more...

A palpitating destination

A land of champions, the Southern Alps boasts 2,500 km of pistes dedicated to downhill skiing, freeriding, surfing and snowscoting, while cross-country aficionados enjoy access to numerous ski areas and mythical mountain passes such as Col de l'Izoard.

Queyras is renowned worldwide as the El Dorado of ski mountaineering and ski touring. But winter sports are just one of the aspects of the Southern Alps' inimitable lifestyle: visitors also enjoy meeting with inhabitants, discovering the local heritage, savouring culinary treats and an extensive wellness offering. The area's geography and climate, coupled with the professionalism and passion of the men and women who live there, open the door to a myriad of experiences.



© Zoom ↑

Ascend

in a cable car to the heights of Briançon, a citadel built by Vauban, now part of UNESCO World Heritage: a one-of-a-kind experience only found at the Grand Domaine de Serre Chevalier.

Roam

the banks of Lac d'Allos, Europe's highest natural lake, kitted out with snowshoes.

© R.Van Rijn ↓





© Adobe Stock ↑

Gaze

at the Mediterranean Sea from the Mercantour peaks after a cross-country ski climb: an official "Esprit Parc National" experience led by a "Valeurs Parc Naturel Régional" qualified nature guide.

Discover

the aptly named Vallée des Merveilles and its Neolithic carvings in true trapper style.

© ERondeau ↓



© Dignes-les-Bains Tourisme ↑

Battle it out

with an escape game in the underground galleries of Fort Vauban in Seyne-les-Alpes.



© R.Van Rijn ↑

Admire

Ousmane Sow's Little Big Horn exhibition at the UNESCO fortified village of Mont-Dauphin.

Perfect

your skating, biathlon, telemark, ice waterfall climbing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ziplining and indoor canyoning skills at the Vesúbia Mountain Park, a mountain sports complex unique in Europe.

© R.Palomba ↓



Adobe Stock ↑

Feed and pet

merino sheep at Chez Flouka, a wool producer based in Dévoluy for three generations.

Glide

across the mythical cross-country trails of Col Izoard, Col Agnel and more, reserved for ski tourers on certain mornings.

Adobe Stock ↓



Adobe Stock ↑

Stargaze

at the "Alpes Azur Mercantour International Dark Sky Reserve" after a short cross-country hike from the resorts of Valberg, Gréolières-les-Neiges or L'Audoubert-Les-Moulières.

Fly

in a hot-air balloon at altitude of over 4,000 metres and get a whole new angle on the magnificent Barre des Ecrins mountain range. Kitted out with oxygen, participants even enjoy a chocolate fondue during the flight! Take-off from Orcières ski resort.

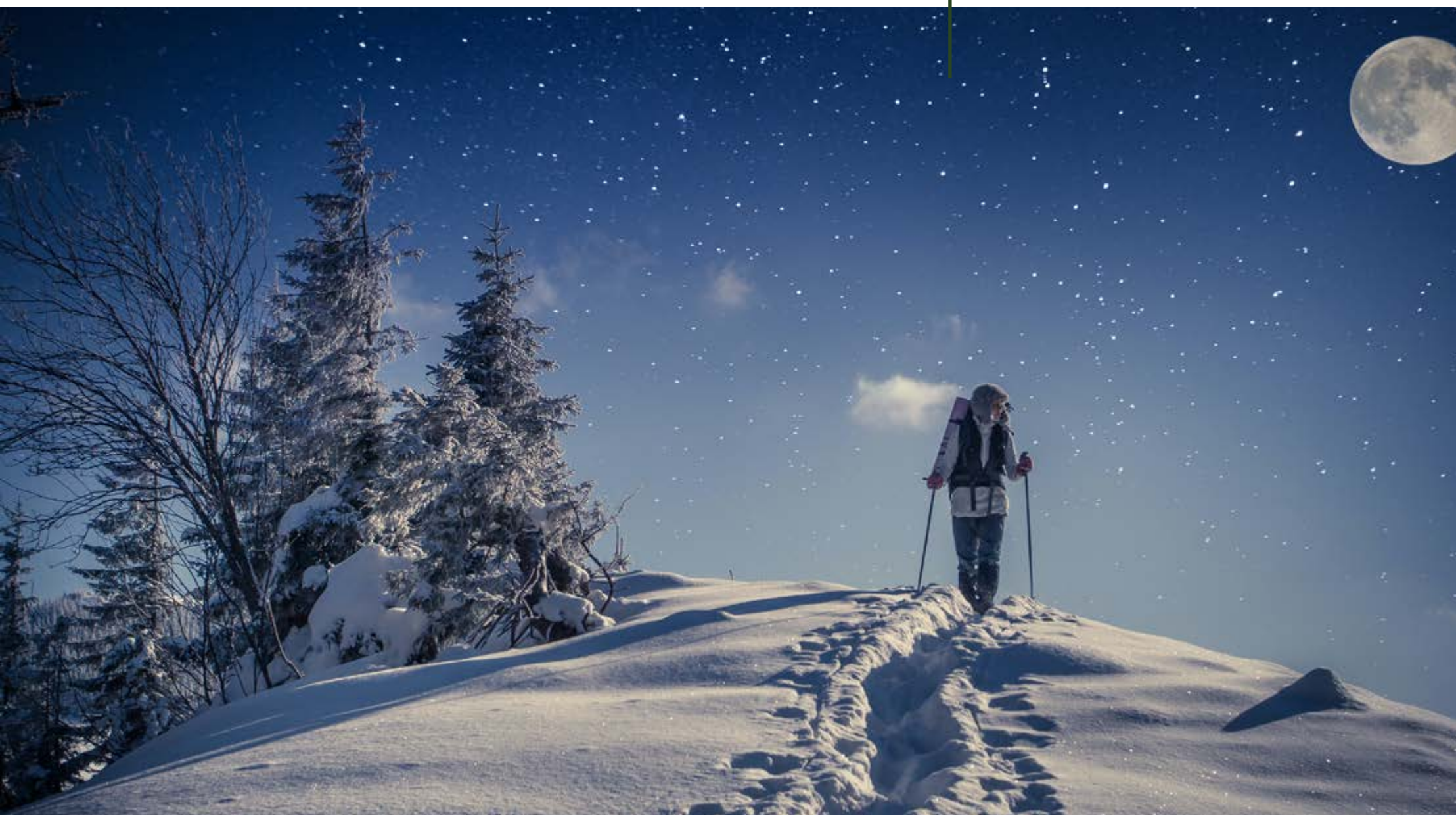
© M.Ruffini ↓



Hike

by the light of the silvery moon on the Fanget Norid ski area in La Blanche Valley, at the gateway to the Massif des Monges.

Adobe Stock ↓



© Pelvoux ↑

Climb

to Puy-Saint-Vincent on the winter via ferrata in the company of qualified instructors. A hybrid activity combining hiking and ice climbing.

Conquer

icy torrents and rivers running through little gorges with a Ruisseling session.



© Luparini C. ↑

Sit down

at Les Tables de Gaspard in the Hautes-Alpes. Run by the chef and his wife, this incredible two-man show is the Southern Alps' only Michelin-starred eatery!

Bathe

in 33°C thermal spring water at the Haute-Provence spa centre in Digne-les-Bains. Paying tribute to the explorer Alexandra David-Neel, the spa menu features a Tibetan Kansu Bowl massage. Don't miss a visit to Alexandra's former home while you're there.

www.spadehauteprovence.com

© Entre2Poles ↓



10 reasons to prefer winter in the Southern Alps



1 | No two ski resorts alike

The Southern Alps 65 ski resorts all have their own unique character. Two examples: Saint-Véran - Europe's highest village - in Queyras, still boasts its original larch log cabins known as *fustes*. Superdévoluy is celebrated for its 20th-century architectural heritage. Medieval hamlets, lively little shopping towns, official 20th Century Heritage resorts and mountain villages perched on the peaks: simply pick your dream mountain break!

2 | More scenery

Lavender and edelweiss rub shoulders here! A few hundred metres separate the mountain pastures from beautiful beech groves and larch forests. The mounts of the Southern Alps are more rugged than their northern cousins - and generally a little lower in altitude. Their peaks stand guard over dizzy gorges, mythical passes, Himalayan-style valleys, citadels and teetering villages. And if you're tired of skiing, Vauban's ancient fortresses and Baroque chapels await you for a different kind of sightseeing experience.

4 | Famille Plus: Fabulous experiences with all your clan

That's the promise of the national "Famille Plus" label, a stringent quality stamp that promises a great choice of activities for all ages, to be enjoyed together or separately. But that's not all: it also rewards professionals offering an-extra special welcome for children, entertainment, adapted prices for every age group and close proximity to shops and services... The Southern Alps resorts are family-friendly by nature. Auron, Valberg, Le Dévoluy, Montgenèvre, Orcières-Merlette and Val d'Allos all benefit from the "Famille Plus" label, with many others in the pipeline.



iStock ↑

3 | More sunshine and pure air

The sun shines 300 days a year in the Southern Alps, clocking up (according to the Météo France weather service) a total of 2,600 hours, just like the Mediterranean coast. Serre-Chevalier has long been nicknamed the Winter Riviera and its slogan - "Always blue skies, fresh snow and Provençal sunshine" - keeps its promises.

And you won't find any major groups or polluting activities here: as confirmed by AtmoSud (a benchmark observatory for monitoring air quality Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region), the Southern Alps boasts fabulously pure air and no pollution peaks. What's more, the massif's resorts are among the most innovative in Europe in terms of renewable (hydraulic) energy production and mindful consumption.

APRIL 1ST TO 2ND
Course La 1000 Pattes | Montgenèvre

Welcoming over 1,000 children aged 5 to 10 years with an exciting line-up of fun competitions against the clock. Children, parents and coaches alike flock to France's largest meeting of promising young skiers!

→ www.1000-pattes.fr

EVENT

5 | A quality welcome

People live all year round in the Southern Alps and as they've chosen to set up home here, they're more than happy to welcome visitors and share some of their secrets. And no bling if you please! Encounters with local producers, introductions to craftwork, or simply meals savoured at a friendly inn... Heartfelt human relationships rule in the Southern Alps.

6 | More for less

Ski packages, accommodation and catering in the Southern Alps are among the best value for money in Europe in terms of environment and service quality. Chabanon, in the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence area, is n°1 of France's Top 10 most affordable domains according to the France Holidu search engine, with accommodation plus a ski pass available for just €43 per person per day! → www.skieur.com/actu-top-10-domaines-francais-les-moins-chers

At Chazelet in the Hautes-Alpes, at the foot of La Meije, day passes cost just €19 per adult. (www.chazelet.com/homepage → www.chazelet.com/homepage)

In the Alpes-Maritimes, you can enjoy 30 km of pistes at Roubion, just 1½ hours from Nice, for €18 per day for adults and €14 for children. → www.roubion.com

7 | More taste

Sea buckthorn, genepi, lavender and chard pie... Here, the fondues here are flavoured with Queyras blue cheese and dishes are perfumed with plants that flourish between the Alps and Provence. Larchwood, or *Larix decidua*, was used to manufacture the Briançon area's very first skis. Today, in addition to providing roof trusses and cladding for the region's chalets, its resinous scent has become a culinary must-have, used in desserts, sweets and liqueurs, or slipped into savoury dishes.

8 | More stars

The Alpes Azur Mercantour area was awarded the "International Dark Sky Reserve" label in 2019 in recognition of the exceptional quality of its night skies and actions undertaken to reduce light pollution. Several resorts, including Valberg and Les Orres, bear the "Starry Towns and Villages" label, awarded to municipalities using 34% less artificial light than average.

9 | More views

Take to the heights to contemplate the stunning summits of the Ecrins, peaks of Mercantour, ridgeline of Italy, sparkling Mediterranean Sea on the horizon, or frozen winter waters of a blue lake... New: the Réallon belvedere is a platform teetering above Serre-Ponçon lake, offering breathtaking vistas. You'll find it at the edge of the Aquarius red slope. The Sentier des Crêtes trail running along the mountain passes is lined with five other belvederes, accessible with snowshoes.



10 | Mountaineering values

Mountaineering was classified as part of UNESCO Intangible Heritage in December 2019. The Ecrins mountain range in the Southern Alps is the largest mountaineering area in France after Mont-Blanc. Backed by "Agence de Développement des Hautes-Alpes" and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council, five villages in Ecrins National Park - including Pelvoux-Vallouise and La Grave - have now been awarded the very-exclusive "Villages d'Alpinisme" (Mountaineering Villages) label. These peaceful localities devoted to soft tourism cherish the mountain environment and boast a diverse and respectful mountain sports offering.

Le Monêtier-les-Bains and the hamlet of Le Casset in Serre Chevalier valley could soon be joining this very-exclusive club. Must-read: Les Villages d'Alpinisme, published by Editions Glénat.

JANUARY 12TH TO 15TH, 2023

ICE CLIMBING ÉCRINS | L'Argentière-la-Bessée

A major landmark on the ice climbing calendar, this international meeting features introductory and advanced workshops, a professional fair, European Cup and alternative Mountain & Adventure film festival.

→ <https://ice-climbing-ecrins.com/?lang=en>

EARLY APRIL

LE GRAND BÉAL #31 | Arvieux, Queyras

This ski mountaineering competition is one of the oldest and most famous on the French circuit. Its high-altitude courses are much appreciated by athletes.

→ montagnes-queyras.com

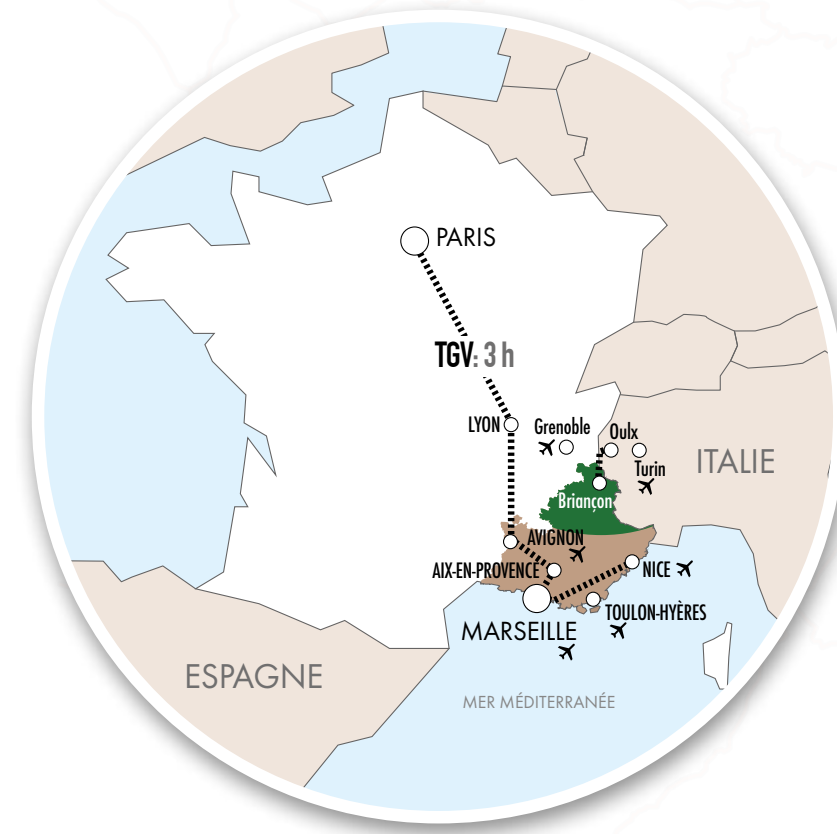
EVENT

Major ski resorts & village resorts

© R.Van Rijn ↓



Major ski resorts & village resorts











HOW TO GET THERE?

BY AIR

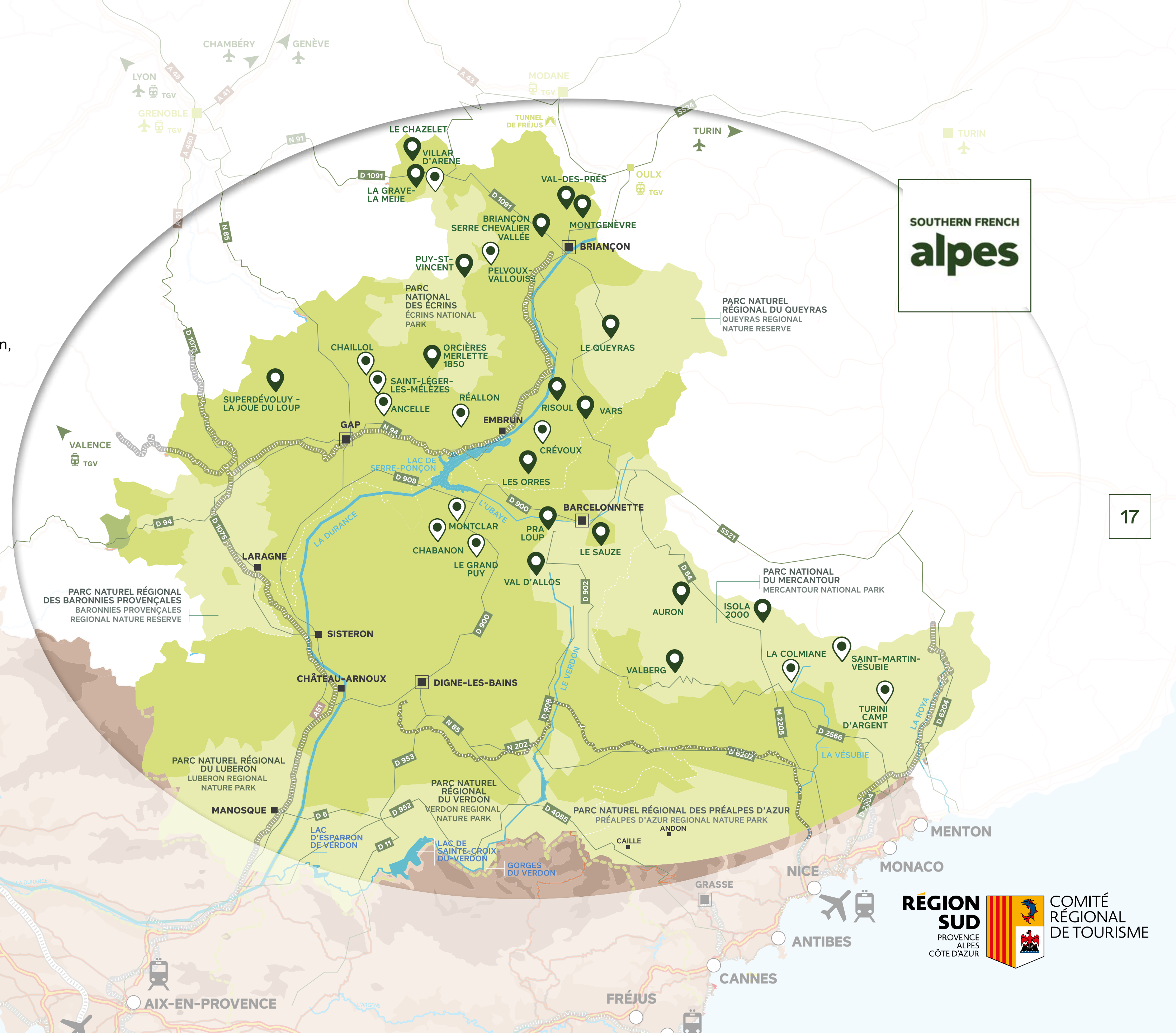
Marseille: www.info-ler.fr
 Nice: www.lignesdazur.com
 Lyon, Grenoble, Turin, Chambéry, Milan,
 Genève: www.linkbus-alps.com

BY RAIL

Aix TGV, Marseille, Lyon TGV, Oulx TGV,
 Modane: www.linkbus-alps.com
www.autocars-resalp.com
www.autocars-imberty.com

-  Train stations
-  Airports
-  Streams
-  Nature Parks
-  Main Towns
-  Valleys
-  Ski Resorts
-  Village Resorts

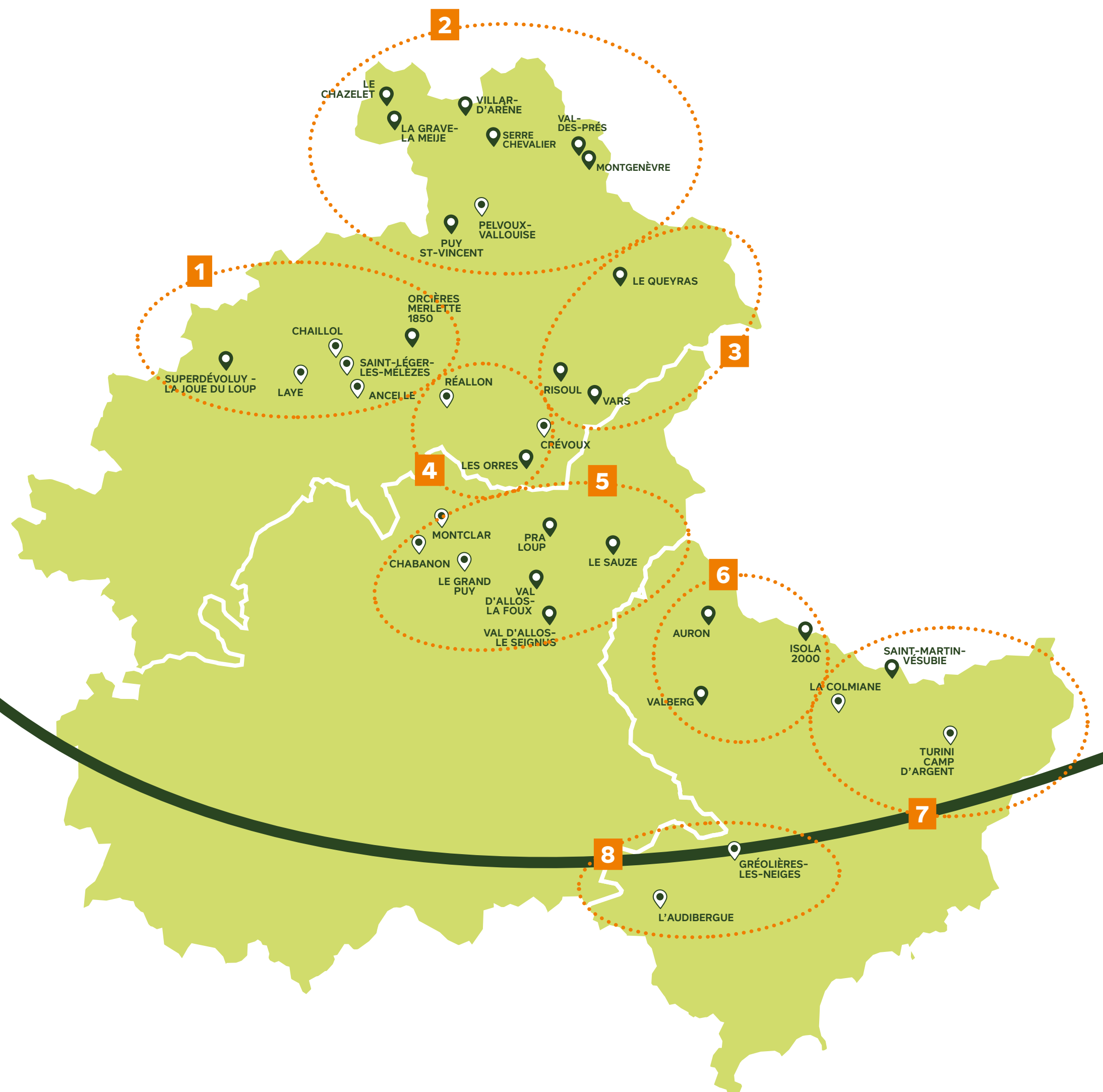
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SOUTHERN FRENCH
alpes

Southern French Alps

8 beautiful areas



1 CHAMPSAUR VALGAUDEMAR DÉVOLUY

- [Ancelle, Champsaur 3 Gliss](#)
- [Chaillol, Lave - Saint Léger-les-Mélèzes](#)
- [Le Dévoluy](#)
- [Orcières Merlette 1850](#)

3 GUILLESTRE AREA QUEYRAS VARS

- [Vars](#)
- [Le Queyras](#)
- [Risoul](#)

6 ISOLA 2000 AURON VALBERG

- [Isola 2000](#)
- [Auron](#)
- [Valberg](#)

2 BRIANÇON AREA ÉCRINS

- [Station village du Chazelet](#)
- [Domaine Nordique de Villar d'Arène](#)
- [La Grave La Meije](#)
- [Montgenèvre](#)
- [Névache - Val-des-Prés](#)
- [Pelvoux-Vallouise](#)
- [Puy-Saint-Vincent](#)
- [Serre Chevalier](#)

4 EMBRUN AREA LES ORRES

- [Les Orres](#)
- [Réallon](#)
- [Crévoux](#)

7 VALDEBLORE VÉSUBIE

- [La Colmiane](#)
- [Saint-Martin-Vésubie](#)
- [Turini Camp d'Argent](#)
- [Castérino](#)

5 UBAYE BLANCHE VAL D'ALLOS

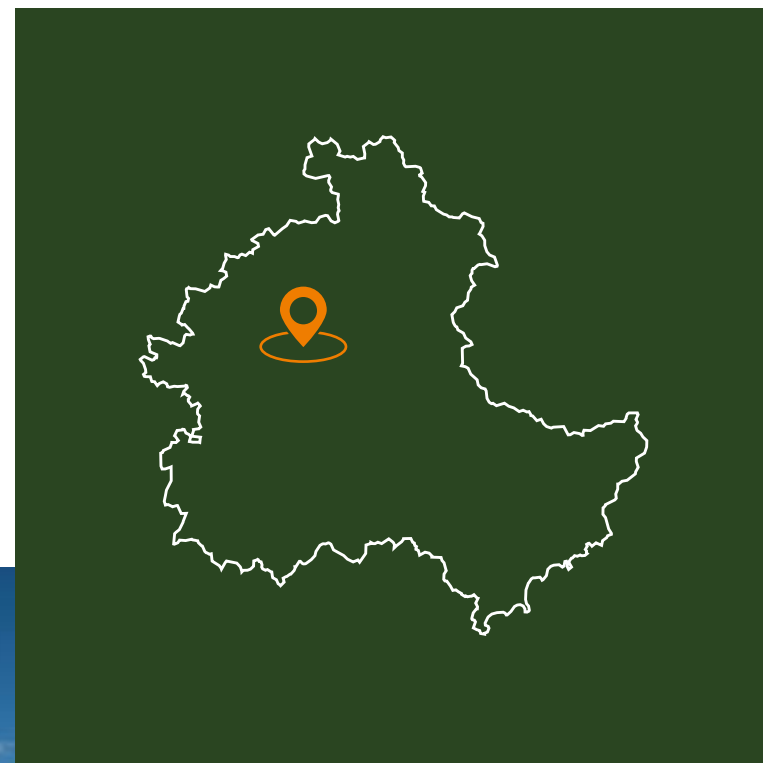
- [Chabanon - Le Grand Puy](#)
- [La Sauze](#)
- [Montclar les 2 Vallées](#)
- [Pra-Loup](#)
- [Val d'Allos](#)

8 GRÉOLIÈRES AUDIBERGUE

- [Gréolières - L'Audibergue](#)

1

CHAMPSAUR VALGAUDEMAR DÉVOLUY



© G.Baron ↑

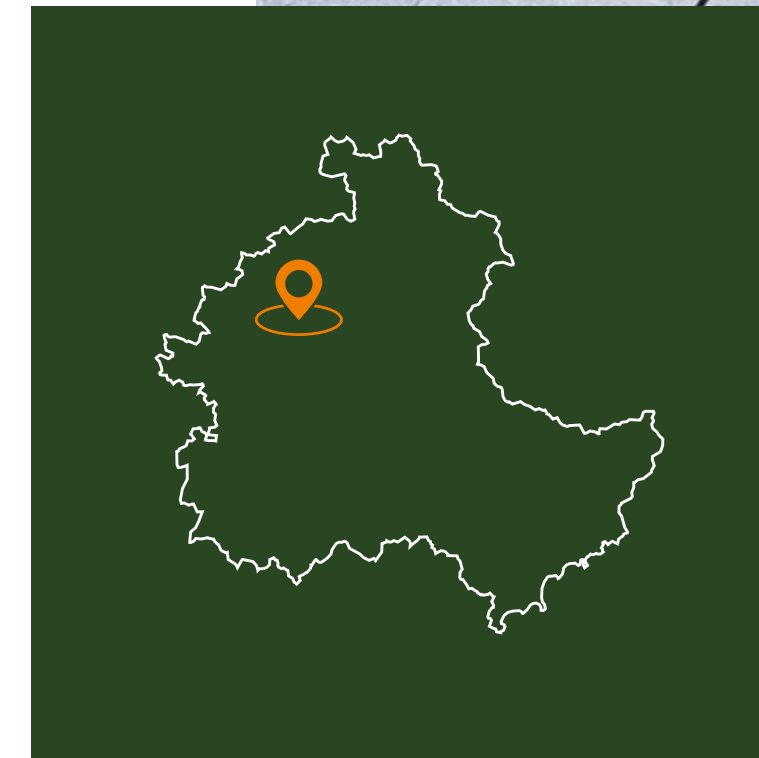
Orcières-Merlette, Champ-saur Valgaudemar Valley

Snugly tucked away under the watchful eye of Vieux Chaillol, Tête de Dormillouse, Pointe des Estaris and the other 3,000-metre peaks adorning Ecrins National Park, Orcières-Merlette is Champteur's foremost ski resort. In 1967, it launched the very first "Jardin des Neiges" ski kindergarten, closely followed by a "snow school" in 1970 (which allows parents to ski outside school holidays at attractive rates) and the first 10,000 m² aquafun centre. The resort even hired the mountains' first Father Christmas! Orcières-Merlette is one of the only ski resorts you can explore from top to bottom whatever your prowess, thanks to 100 km of slopes rising to 2,725 metres. Its Blue Label trails cross green and blue slopes and offer exceptional panoramic vistas. With non-stop fun and frolics including a winter park and igloo evenings on Rocherousse plateau, you'll never get bored there. Among the resort's 22 hamlets, Prapic and Serre-Eyraud are our absolute faves.

→ www.orcieres.com/en/



© Arzur Michaël ↑



Super Dévoluy, Massif du Dévoluy

Set at the foot of the majestic Pic de Bure - the emblem of Dévoluy -, this ski resort is entirely designed around "Bois d'Aurouze" (aptly nicknamed the *Cruise Liner of the Snow*), listed as "Remarkable Contemporary Architecture" by the French Ministry of Culture in 2015. Its contemporary buildings and chalets offer easy access to the slopes and shops. You can reach Dévoluy's second resort, Joue du Loup, with snowshoes, skis or cross-country skis. Stop off at Collet du Tât on the way to admire the view over Grand Ferrand and Obiou, marking the frontier with the Drôme and Isère areas.

→ www.ledevoluy.com/fr

MARCH

WAKATÉPÉ FESTIVAL | Super Dévoluy

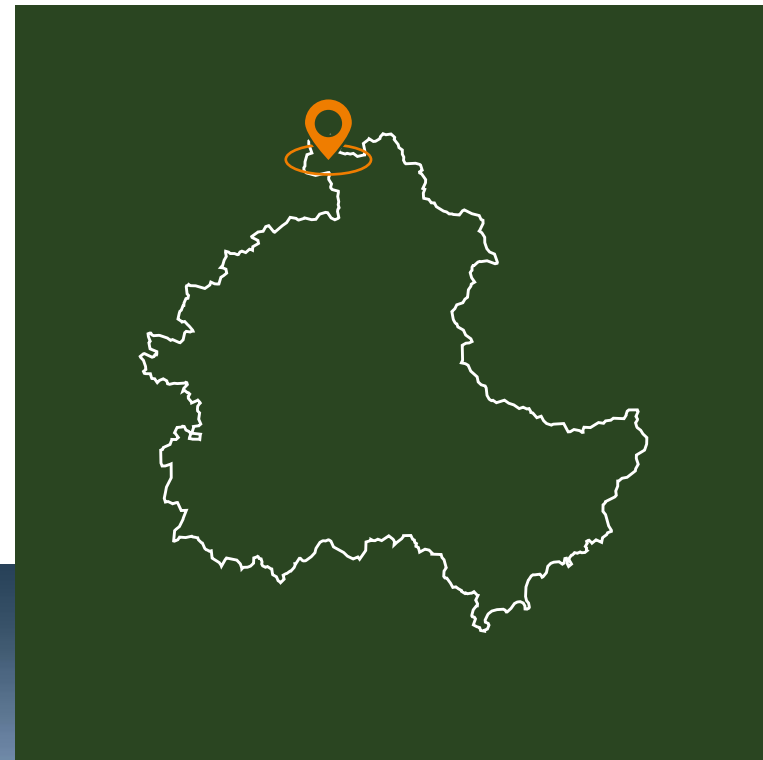
Ski, music and dancing... What else? This vibrant festival features various highlights, including concerts and DJ sets around the ski area, at the top of the slopes and in the centre of the resort, plus after parties at the local bars and nightclubs.

EVENT

→ www.ledevoluy.com/fr

2

BRIANÇON AREA ÉCRINS



© alphotos.com ↑

La Grave-La Meije

People flock from the world over to tackle this high altitude, off-piste and ungroomed ski area, or the blue slopes of the Girose glacier, at an altitude of 3,200 metres. Nestling at the foot of the mythical summit of La Meije, La Grave is the ultimate playground for extreme skiing and freeriding aficionados. What's more, the village resort of Le Chazelet welcomes women sailors every year as a reminder of the similarities between offshore and mountain races. But mountaineering isn't just about pushing back your limits. While you're holidaying at La Grave-La Meije, you can also enjoy breathtaking panoramic vistas from the "Glaciers de la Meije" cable car, or revel in a moment out of time as you savour a fondue at the "Refuge Chancel", the Meije area's oldest refuge. You'll also find plenty of great family offerings at Chazelet ski resort, ideal for beginners and wannabe pros... All at a friendly price!

MARCH 29TH TO 31ST, 2023

DERBY DE LA MEIJE #33 | La Grave

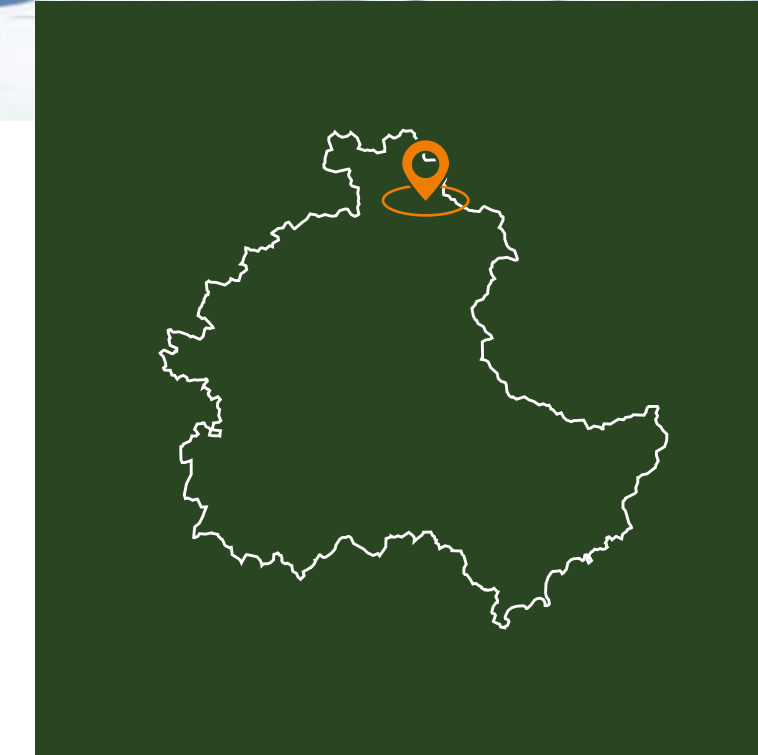
The legendary Derby de la Meije brings together 800 runners from the world over. After two days of reconnaissance and mountain safety workshops, competitors set out to storm the valleys of La Meije armed with their favourite snow gear.

→ www.derbydelameije.com

EVENT



© Emmanuel Sauvageot ↑

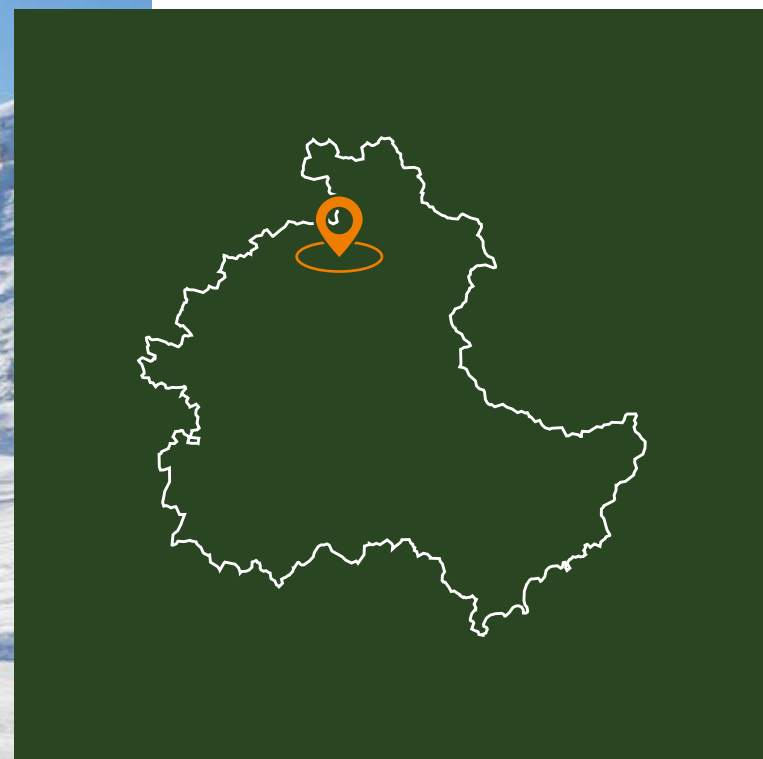


Montgenèvre

Perched on the Italian border, on a mountain pass generously sprinkled with snow from Pô plain, Montgenèvre ski resort is much loved by its Italian neighbours and families alike. It also boasts a geological curiosity known as the "Chenaillet": the relic of an ocean formed 155 million years ago considered by geologists as a massif in its own right. Sit back and enjoy the show from the expansive terrace of "Les Terrasses" restaurant. Home to a spacious beginner's area accessible free of charge, together with well-placed playgrounds and picnic areas, Montgenèvre does things right when it comes to family skiing holidays. It is also an extraordinary playground for cross-country skiers of all levels, with scenery ranging from deep larch forests to wide open spaces, all free of charge. Seasoned skiers will enjoy conquering the red slopes of the "Rocher de l'Aigle" area with a dish of polenta or *al dente* pasta in an Italian refuge as the prize, or exploring the incredible 400 km "Voie Lactée" ski area connecting six Italian ski resorts



© Thibaut Blais ↑



Puy-Saint-Vincent, Écrins National Park

This is one of the two ski resorts situated in Écrins National Park, alongside Pelvoux-Val-louise: 500 km² of pure nature surround its sunny ledges, home to three of the resort's hamlets. Visitors appreciate the panoramic vistas, easy navigation between the Écrins resorts and eight neighbouring villages. You'll find a very diverse offering here too, with equal amounts of downhill and cross-country ski runs. Yooners and snowscoots are allowed on most of the chairlifts. A high-quality destination, topped with affordable prices and a benchmark ecotourism commitment: the tourist office is the first in France to benefit from the prestigious "Esprit Parc" label.

→ www.puysaintvincent.com/en

MARCH 24TH TO 26TH

NORDIC WALKIN #2 Puy-Saint-Vincent

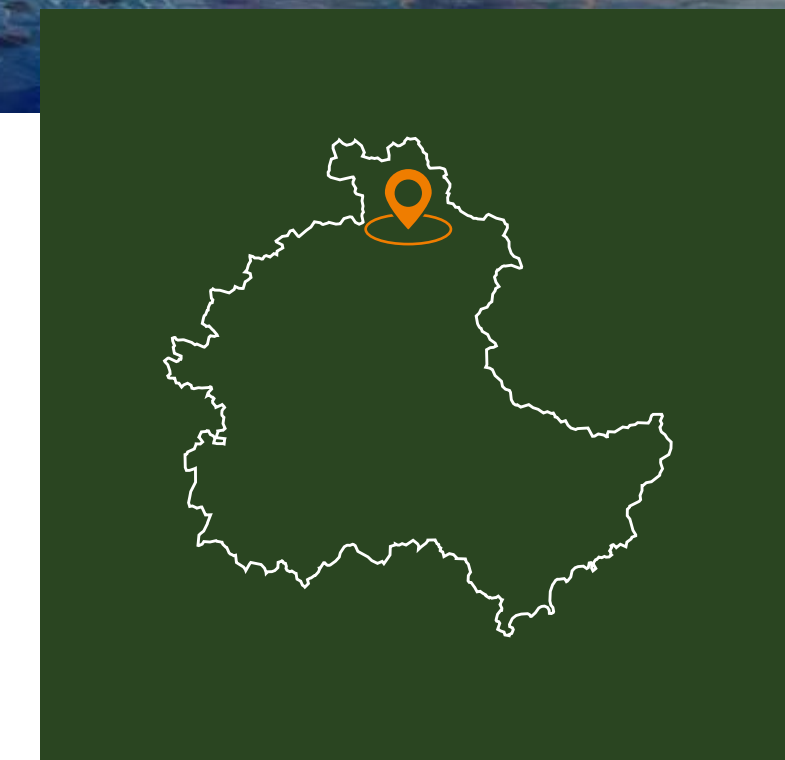
Unique in France, this event is the first Nordic walking challenge on snow. Head out to explore the Puy Saint Vincent ski area, criss-crossed with trails ranging from 4 to 14 km (signposted and complete with refreshments), suitable for all levels!

→ nordicwalkin-puysaintvincent.com

EVENT



© CRT PACA ↑



Serre Chevalier - Briançon, Guisane Valley

The first ski resort to produce its own electricity with a combination of micro wind turbines, hydroelectricity and solar power, Serre Chevalier upholds a strong eco-friendly commitment. The resort inaugurated a giant zipline to celebrate its 80th anniversary in late 2021, marking yet another milestone in a long history of innovation: Serre Chevalier launched Europe's longest cable car in 1941 and invented the first "Accrobranche" treetop adventure course 25 years ago. 80% of the ski area is located at altitudes of over 2,000 metres. Its 250 km of pistes span the heights of Guisane valley, from Col du Galibier to Briançon. The Prorel gondola lift connects Briançon to the top of the slopes and boasts unique views over Vauban's citadel, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Last but not least, Serre-Chevalier is also home to thermal baths - extended again this winter - located in Monêtier-les-Bains.

→ www.serre-chevalier.com

JANUARY 20TH TO 28TH, 2023

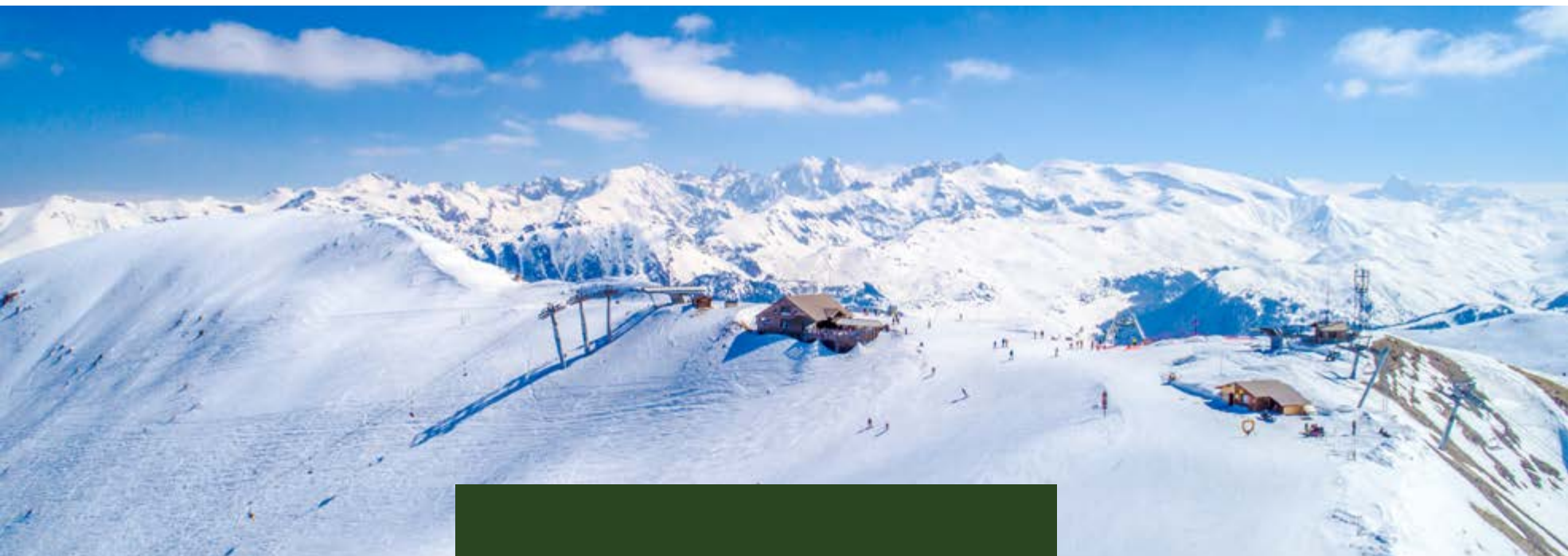
ALTITUDE JAZZ FESTIVAL #16 Briançon

Jazz and improvised music in the mountains of Serre Chevalier Briançon, with the Théâtre du Briançonnais at its epicentre. The concert programme promises exciting new discoveries, plus a committed and open mindset embracing international artists and emerging French talents alike.

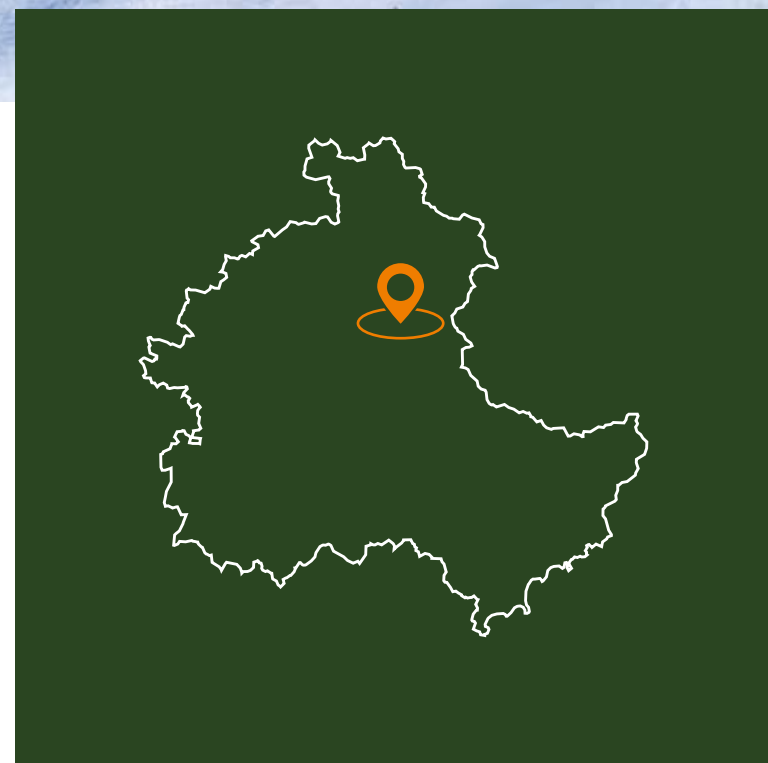
→ www.altitudejazz.com

EVENT

3 **GUILLESTRE AREA**
QUEYRAS
VARIS



© Mjone ↑



Risoul, Écrins National Park

The most intimate of the large ski resorts, set at the foot of the majestic Pic de Bure. Perched at an altitude of 1,850 metres, Risoul benefits from excellent snow cover. You can have fun skiing through larch forests here to your heart's content. What's more, the panoramic views spanning the Écrins mountains, Queyras and Serre-Ponçon lake, are simply stunning. Several spaces are available for various specialities including Gotoski: a handiski sport practised standing up.

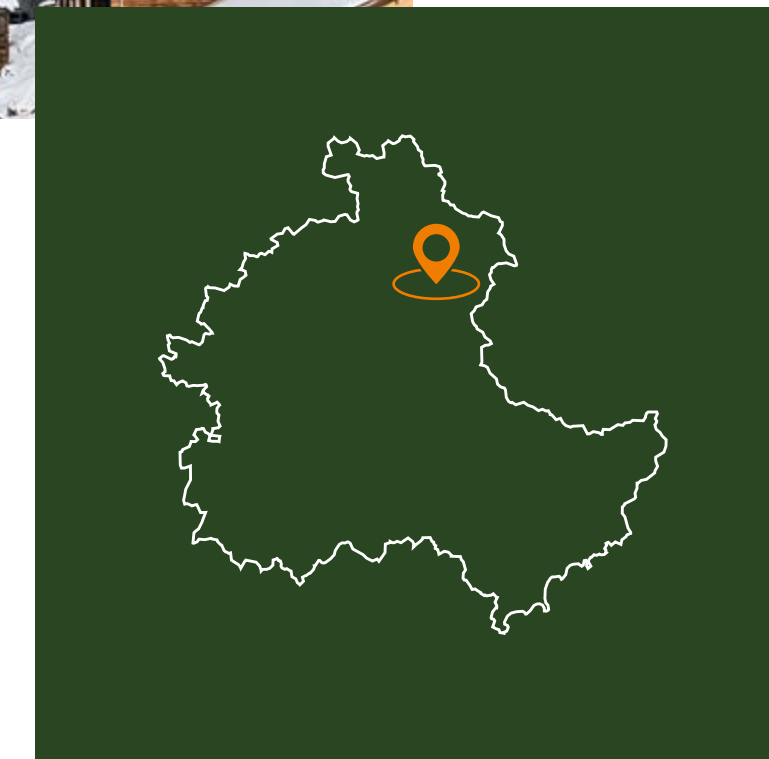
→ <https://en.risoul.com>



© R.Van Rijn ↑

Le Queyras

One of the Southern Alps more secretive areas, the Queyras Regional Nature Reserve isn't home to any major ski resorts, but it does offer magnificent larch forests, cheese dairies and hamlets of traditional old "fuste" houses clad with larch wood. You'll find Saint-Véran there too: under 300 inhabitants live all year round in Europe's highest village, a lively community at an altitude of 2,040 metres. The smell of stables - a few farmers still live in the village - fill the main lane lined with fountains, drinking troughs, bread ovens and façades adorned with sundials. Linked to Mollines, the ski area offers 40 km of slopes spanning almost half of the Queyras alpine area, culminating at Grand Serre at an altitude of 2,829 metres. The area is criss-crossed with 120 km of cross-country skiing, skating or alternative trails, with winter sports opportunities including "ruisseling" (walking on frozen torrents with crampons). Five signposted ski touring routes have now been added to the excellent existing network, meaning you can hike up to the Pic du Château-Renard observatory on skis to get a glimpse of Europe's purest skies through France's highest telescope...



JANUARY 2023

TRAVERSÉE DU QUEYRAS #40
Saint-Véran / Abriès

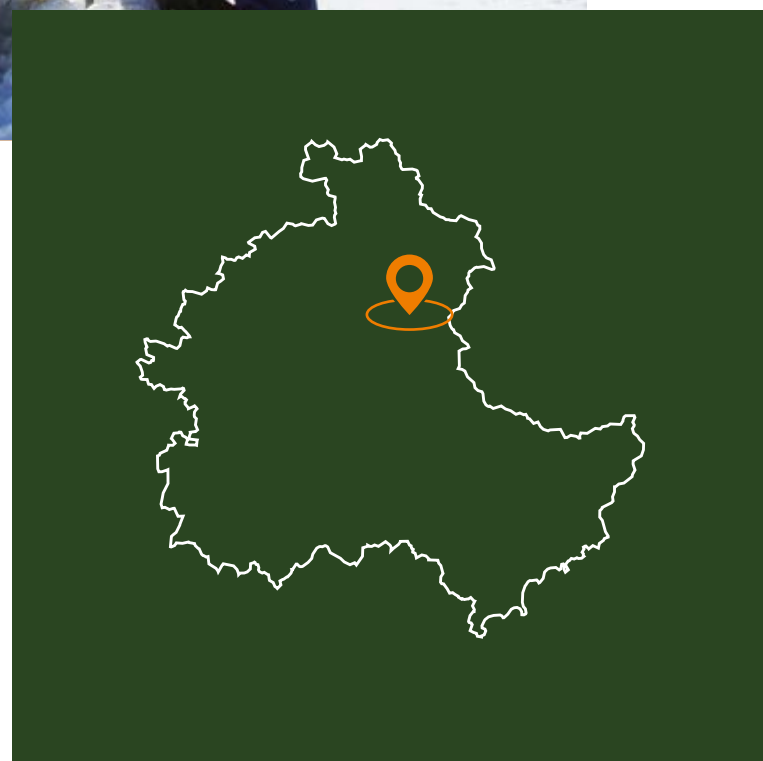
The "Traversée du Queyras" cross-country ski race is part of France's national long-distance competition calendar, with several hundred athletes setting off every year on trails ranging from 2.5 km to 47 km. Boasting a very friendly atmosphere, this is one of the most popular races in the Southern Alps. Exceptionally this year, the organizers have scheduled an entire weekend of competitions and entertainment to celebrate the event's 40th anniversary in style.

→ traversee-du-queyras.fr

EVENT



© Scalpfoto ↑



Vars

A dazzling start to the season! On December 10th, 2022, the legendary rock band Texas will be lighting up the stage in a sublime setting. Vars seduces snow fans of all ages and caters to every winter sports whim, with 50 kilometres of snowshoeing trails already on offer, often at altitudes of over 2,000 metres. The new "Vallon des Prises" trail, accessible on the Bois Noir chairlift, adds a further five kilometres of invigorating air to your hikes. Home to the "Vars Parc" for freeriders and a speed ski slope, Vars is a genuine paradise for adrenalin freaks too. From this winter, the Vars Speed Master, a detachable 6-seater chairlift, will allow skiers and pedestrians alike to reach the top of this iconic piste - also the highest point of the ski area - more easily. Its 2,750-metre highest point offers breathtaking views over Mont Ventoux, Mont Blanc, the Écrins mountains and Serre-Ponçon lake. The "Vars la Forêt Blanche" ski area shares 180 km of slopes with Risoul, with 1,100 metres of inclines. Les Claux forms the heart of the ski resort, spanning the bucolic hamlets of Sainte-Marie, Saint-Marcelin and Sainte-Catherine.

JANUARY 11TH TO 15TH, 2023

OUTDOORMIX FESTIVAL WINTER | Vars

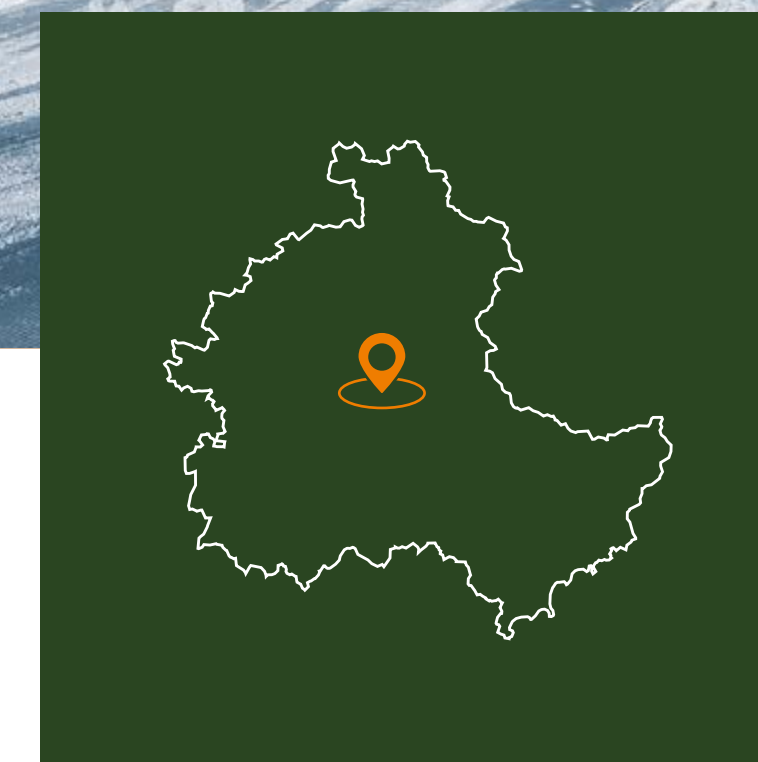
Outdoor sports, international freestyle competitions and free concerts. Skiing, snowboarding, MTB, boarder kayaking on snow and highlining: a not-to-be-missed cocktail of energy, sport and good vibes!

→ www.vars.com

EVENT

4

EMBRUN AREA LES ORRES



Les Orres, Serre-Ponçon Valley

Forming a genuine belvedere over Ecrins National Park, gazing out towards Serre-Ponçon lake, the village of Les Orres is a pilot resort for the "European Smart Altitude" programme and aims to develop a resilient mountain tourism model. A 2-km SpeedLine now links the summit of Pré Bois to the opposite side of the ski area. Built in cedarwood and blending beautifully into the surrounding mountainscapes, Les Orres offers the combined charms of a sun-kissed Mountain Lab and 20th Century Heritage resort. Amenities include a high-altitude concierge, high-speed Internet and wide panel of innovative activities.

→ www.lesorres.com/en

MARCH 2023

FRENCH ALPINE SKIING CHAMPIONSHIPS | Les Orres

Following on from Auron and Isola 2000, Les Orres will be providing the venue for this year's French Alpine Skiing Championships sponsored by the Caisse d'Épargne.

→ www.lesorres.com/en

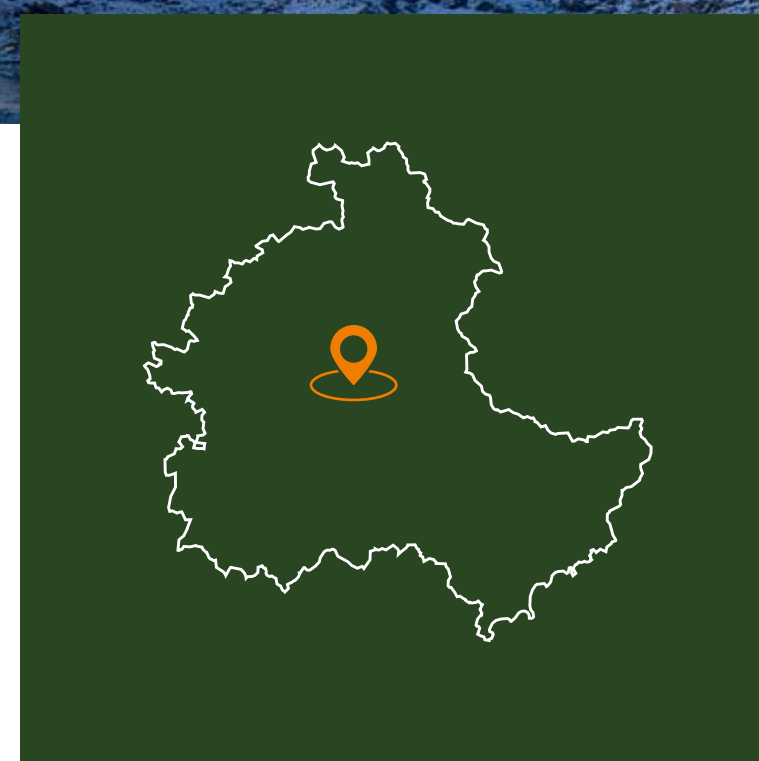
EVENT

5

UBAYE BLANCHE VAL D'ALLOS



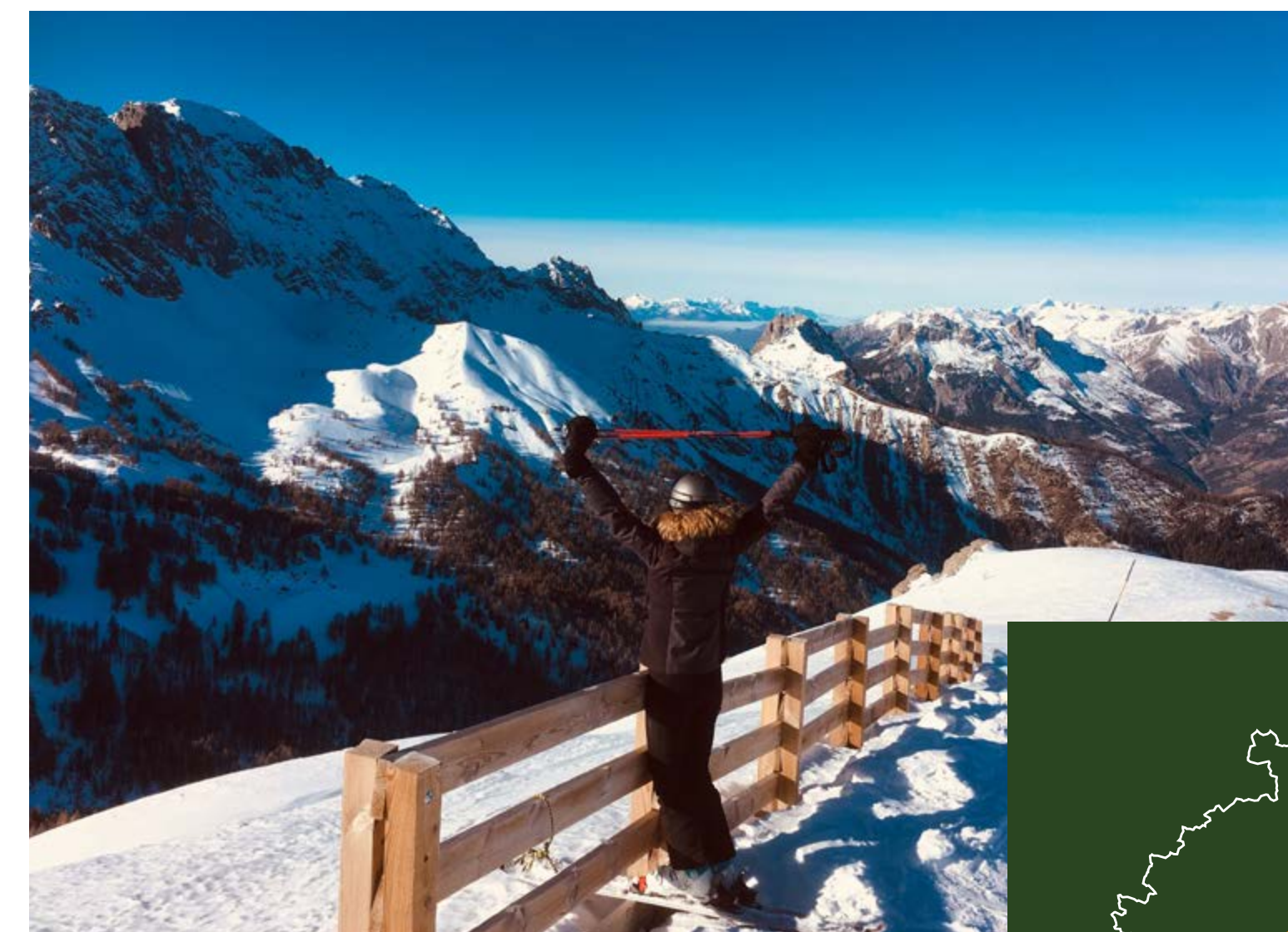
© SDragon ↑



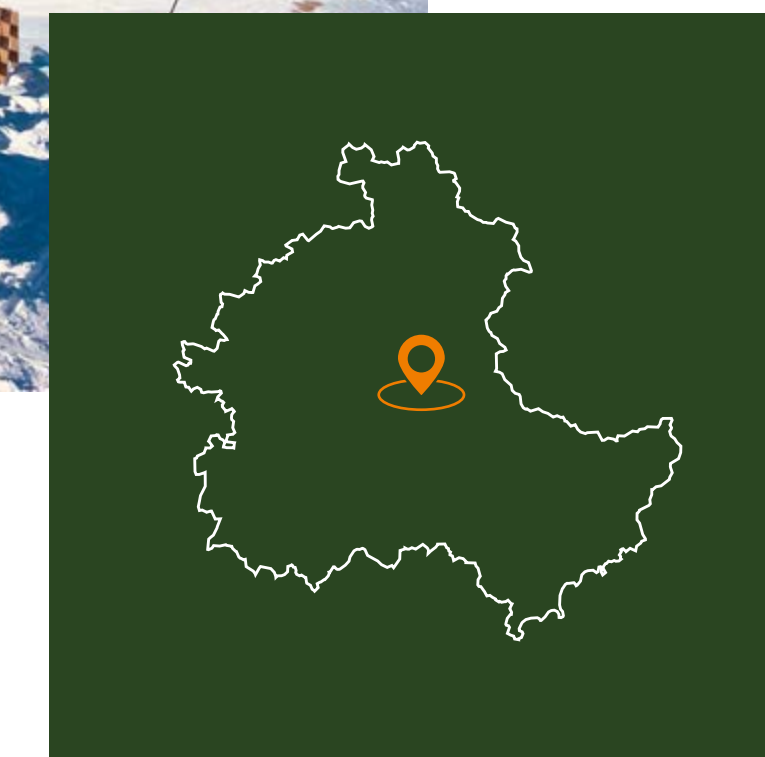
Montclar-les-Deux Vallées, Blanche Valley & Ubaye Valley

A little corner of Switzerland in Provence! What better way to describe the Blanche-Serre-Ponçon area? One of France's first resort towns, Montclar-les-Deux Vallées celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2021. A handful of very unusual little buildings shaped like a mountain form the heart of the pedestrian village. 17 chairlifts whisk skiers up to the 50 kilometres of slopes facing Serre-Ponçon lake or on the heights of Ubaye Valley, but visitors are especially encouraged to meet with local farmers, hike on the groomed trails or tour the forts of Seyne-les-Alpes.

→ www.montclar.com/



© CRT PACA ↑



Pra Loup, Ubaye Valley

Fancy savouring a traditional Provençal *aioli* at an altitude of 1,500 metres? It's only in Pra Loup! A cable car takes you from Les Molanès, in the quieter part of this dual-level resort, to the heart of the ski area at 1,800 metres. From there, a ski-in ski-out link to La Foux d'Allos provides access to 180 km of slopes at the "Espace Lumière". In the evening, you can enjoy dining at "Le Pegueiou" high-altitude restaurant at an impressive 2,365 metres. Located just 7 km from Barcelonnette, the little capital of the Ubaye area, Pra Loup and its Mediterranean atmosphere have been delighting ski enthusiasts since 1961.

→ www.praloup.com

MARCH 11TH TO 12TH, 2023

WEEKEND DE LA FEMME | Pra Loup, Vallée de l'Ubaye

Adventurous, passionate, gourmet, party-loving, sporty, daydreamy or curious... Women's Weekend honours every facet of womankind and is a great opportunity to spend a sporty and festive two days with girlfriends, sisters, colleagues or besties.

→ www.praloup.com

EVENT

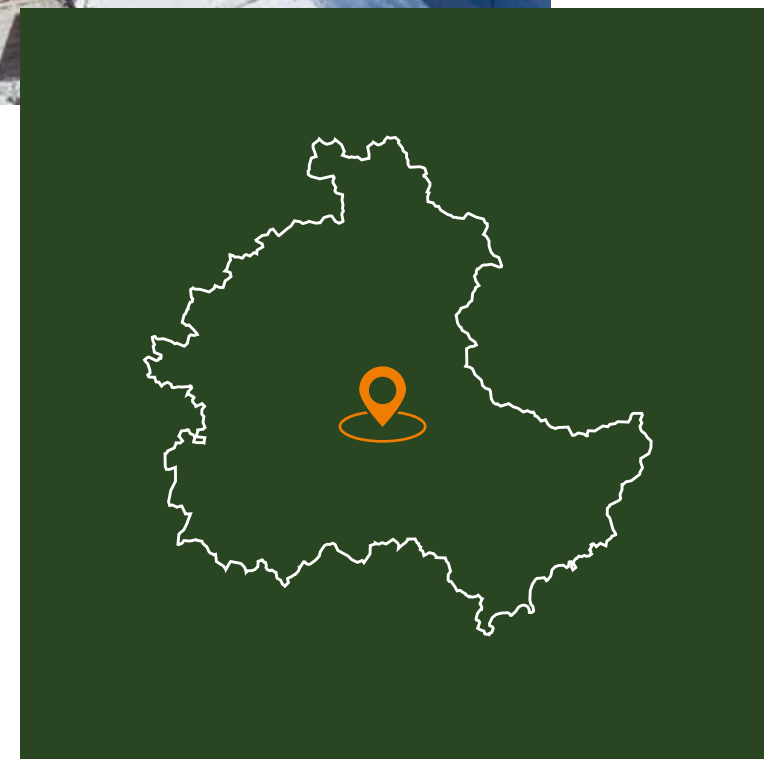


© R.Palomba ↑

Val d'Allos, Mercantour National Park

Every year, Gilles, an ambassador of the "Mercantour Ecotourisme" heritage label, introduces visitors to the jewel of Allos: the 13th-century Notre-Dame-de-Valvert church. The village, which forms part of Mercantour National Park, is renowned for its farms, ancient washtubs, dairy cooperatives and market coveted by the region's producers. You can access the Espace Lumière and its 180 kilometres of slopes from two village resorts, La Foux and Le Seignus, dotted with chalets hidden away among the larch trees. The pistes are spread over five slopes - perfect for soaking up the sun until dusk.

→ <https://en.valdallos.com>



EVENT

FEBRUARY 4TH TO 11TH, 2023

LES HIVERNOTES | Val d'Allos

An entire week dedicated to the arts, showcasing exhibitions, talks, films, concerts and sculpture happenings...

→ <https://en.valdallos.com>

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ISOLA 2000 AURON VALBERG

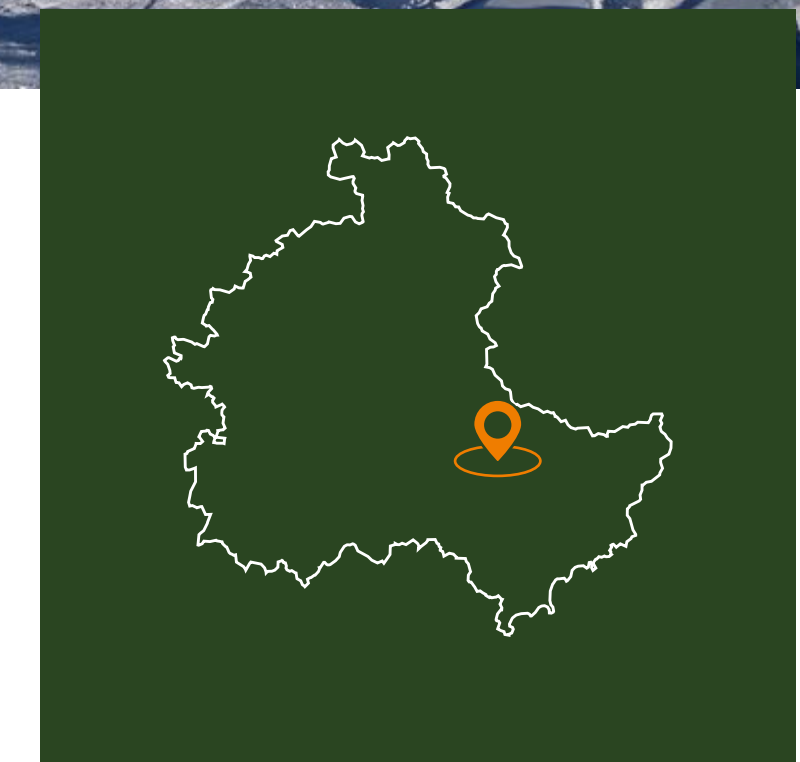


© CRT PACA ↑

Isola 2000, Mercantour National Park

The youngest and highest ski resort in the Alpes-Maritimes celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2021. Set between Mercantour National Park and the Parco Alpi Maritime, Isola 2000 is a "skiing on your doorstep" resort, boasting 120 km of pistes. A top freestyle hub, it features a great choice of amenities for snowboarders including Tony's Snowland snow park, a Biopark and Back-to-Back: a competitive snowboarding club that has already clocked up over a hundred national trophies. The perfect choice for adrenalin freaks!

→ www.isola2000.com



EVENT

JANUARY 6TH TO 7TH, 2023

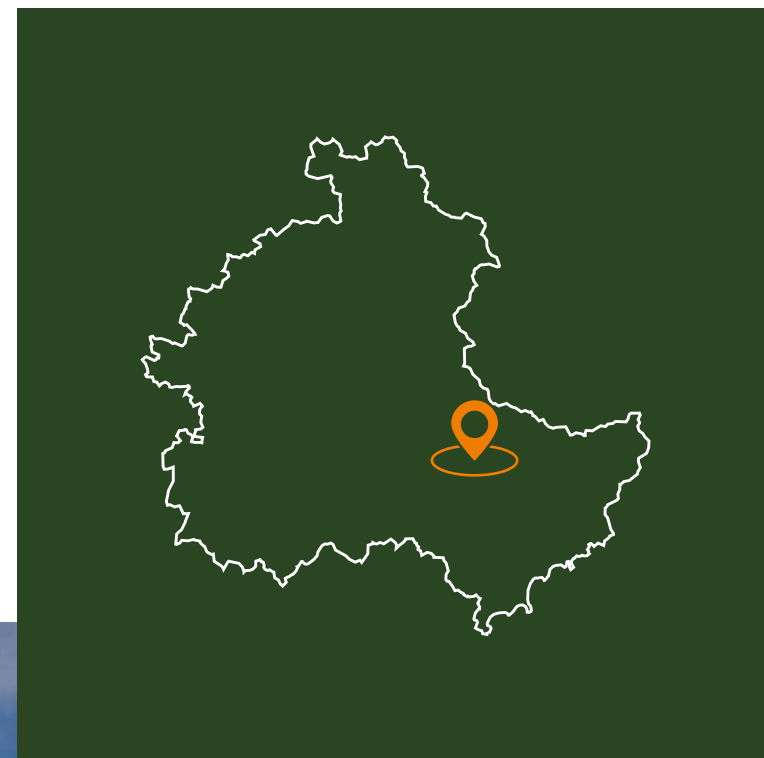
E-TROPHÉE ANDROS | Isola 2000

Welcome to the world's biggest ice driving race! What's more, this year's 34th edition of the Trophée Andros (e-Trophée Andros) will be 100% electric!

→ www.tropheeandros.com



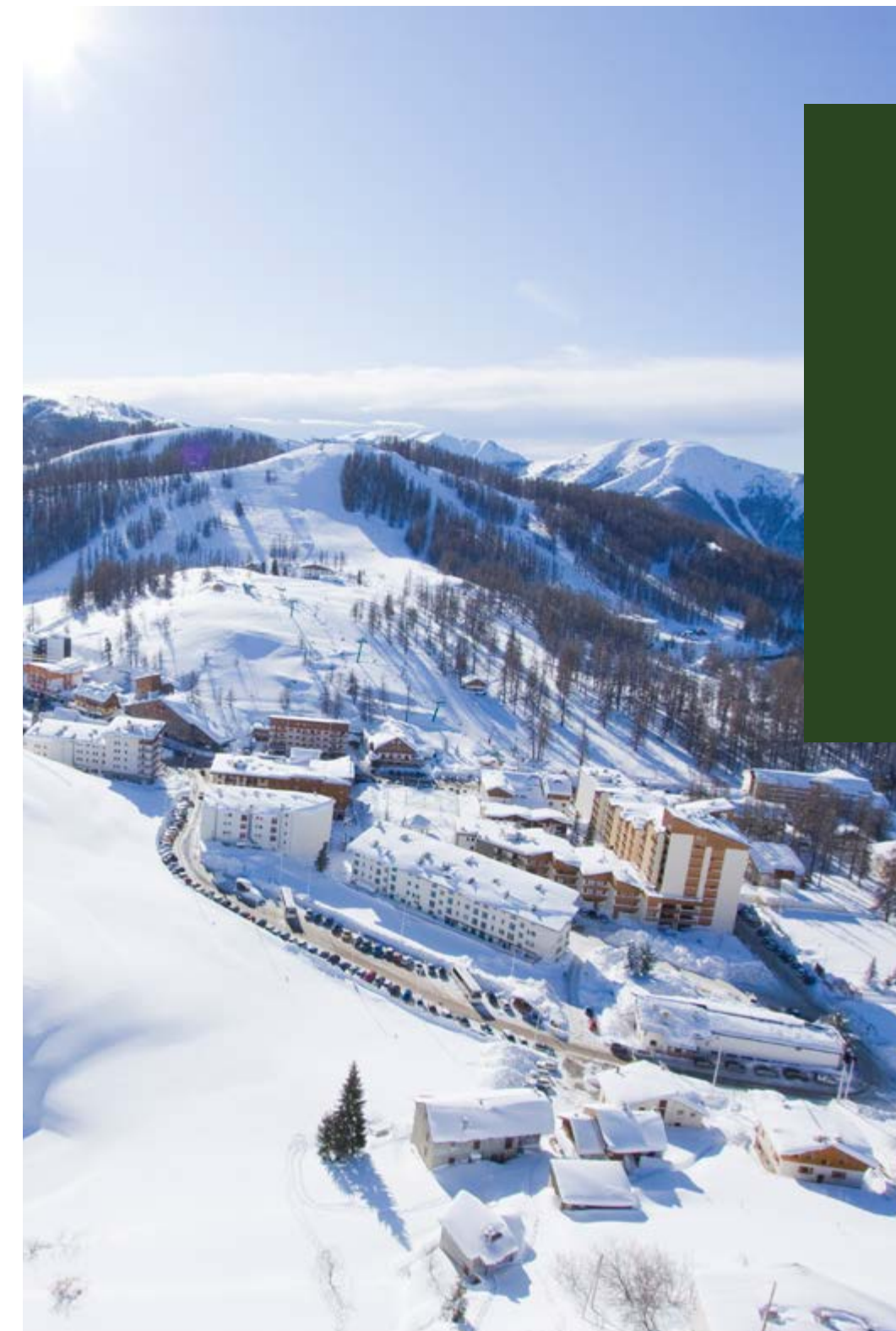
CRT - Georges V éran ↑



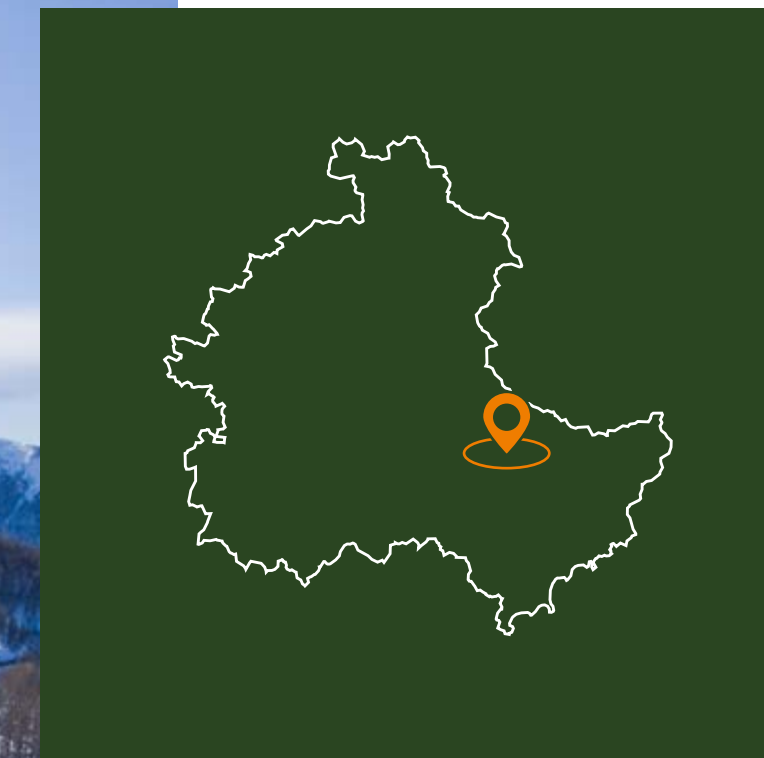
Auron, Mercantour National Park

The Alpes-Maritimes' largest ski area offers breathtaking views over Italy and the peaks of the Mercantour area and is linked to Saint-Etienne-de-Tinée, 7 kilometres away by road, via the Pinatelle gondola lift. Auron is a resort on the up and up, now featuring an indoor swimming pool, together with the lit Colombier slope dedicated to athlete training and "Monde des Neiges" five-star holiday resort – a first in the Southern Alps. Yet it has managed to preserve all of its former mountain village charm, typical of the Nice highlands, with sights including an ancient, listed chapel and friendly village square.

→ www.hiver.auron.com



© CRT - Pierre Béhar ↑



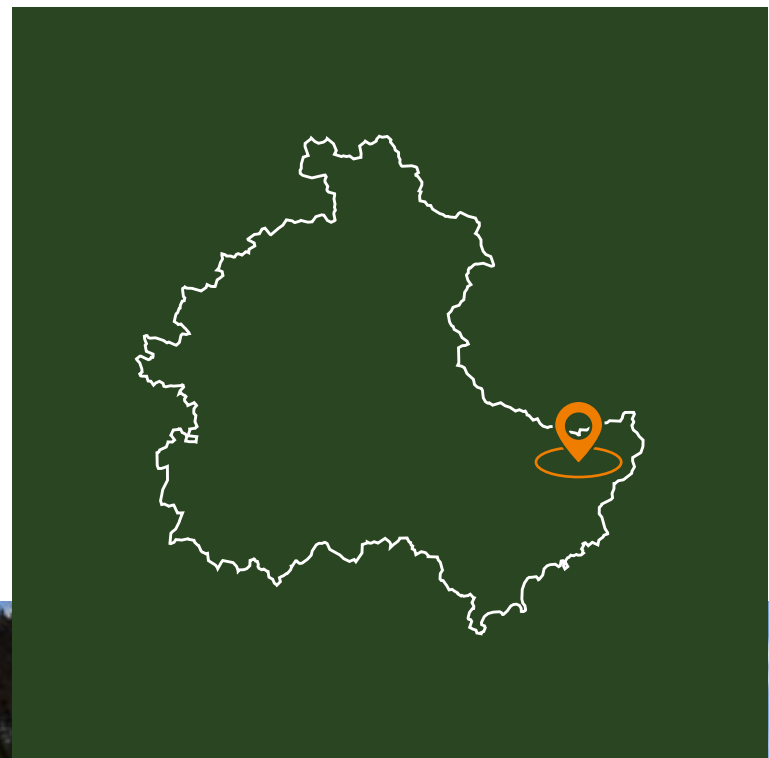
Valberg, Mercantour National Park & Azure Alps

The Alpes-Maritimes' oldest resort lies on a mountain pass between the Saint-Honorat mountain range and Mont Mounier. It boasts the "Flocon Vert", "Familles Plus" and "Village Etoilé" (Dark Sky) labels. Home to 800 inhabitants, the village is almost devoid of light pollution and astronomy is one of the many non-ski activities you'll find at this delightful resort at the gateway to Mercantour National Park, near the Cians and Daluis gorges. With its cocktail of farms, typical old houses, modern accommodation, a pedestrian area and electric carsharing amenities, Valberg is a hub of wellbeing. The latest addition? A special trail dedicated to yoga.

→ www.valberg.com/index.php?&_lang=GB

7

VALDEBLORE VÉSUBIE



© CRT - Georges Vérant ↑

Castérino, Roya Valley

Nestling in Haute-Roya, in the town of Tende, Casterino is a pristine paradise at the foot of Mercantour National Park. Perched at an altitude of 1,550 metres on the French border, the hamlet is surrounded by beautiful peaks: Mount Agnelino, Le Chajol, the Sainte-Marie mountains and mythical Mount Bégo worshipped by pastors from the valleys of Fontanalba and Merveilles in Neolithic times. Just 1½ hours by car from the buzzing city of Nice and served by the "Train des Merveilles", it is the departure point for visiting the Vallée des Merveilles' internationally famed cave paintings in summer. In winter, visitors enjoy cross-country skiing, climbing the Mercantour peaks to catch a bird's eye view of the Mediterranean, or snowshoeing to the "Refuge des Merveilles", surrounded by frozen lakes.

→ www.menton-riviera-merveilles.co.uk

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GRÉOLIÈRES AUDIBERGUE



© E.Juppeaux ↓

Gréolières-Les-Neiges, Grasse Highlands

This small, family-style ski resort is the closest to the Mediterranean coast: just 22 km as the crow flies. Its 25 km of slopes lie on the northern slopes of the Cheiron massif. The panoramic view from the summit of Cheiron embraces the entire Côte d'Azur, from the Estérel mountains to Corsica. Nestling amid Scots pines, between 1,400 and 1,800 metres above sea level, Gréolières is a choice location for Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, biathlon racing, skijoring (skiing pulled by a horse) and astrotourism. The medieval village and its narrow streets adorned with ochre façades also promise to enchant heritage buffs. During the winter season, Gréolières-les-Neiges is served by the "Navette des Neiges" shuttle running from Antibes (1½ hrs approx.) and bus number 512 from Grasse (www.envibus.fr).

→ stations-greolieres-audiberque.com



Southern French Alpes, **Fantastic & organic!**

Home to over 40% certified-organic farmland, the Hautes-Alpes is now France's leading organic area* (alongside the Var, also part of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region). Its 430 farms produce organic wines, cured meats, cheeses, vegetables and fruit, such as Alpes-de-Haute-Durance IGP (Protected Geographical Indication) apples. "Pétillence de Pomme", made with 14 varieties of apple, is a creation signed by Domaine Saint André in La Saulce. And you'll even find organic mushrooms in the Hautes-Alpes! Shiitake and oyster mushrooms flourish in the exceptional setting of the Rochambeau barracks, a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in the fortified village of Mont-Dauphin. Queyras blue cheese and soft cheeses courtesy of the "Fromagerie de Monbardon" cheesemaker and "Coopérative Laitière des Alpes du Sud" dairy cooperative are also matured inside this national monument.

*Source : 2022, Agence Française pour le Développement et la Promotion de l'Agriculture Biologique



© OT Hautes-Vallées ↑

Liqueurs for collectors

Every year, connoisseurs rush to grab one of the 200 bottles of Chartreuse aged at an altitude of 3,211 metres on sale at Col des Ruillans, at the top of the "La Grave-La Meije 3200" cable car. But beware: you'll have to go there in person if you want to strike gold. You'll find the precious liqueur at the high-altitude restaurant when you step off the cable car. Only one bottle each if you please!

→ www.lagrave-lameije.com/en/hiver/accueil

Lachenenche, an artisan distillery

How about a glass of whisky courtesy of Lachenenche, an artisan distillery in Serre-Ponçon-Ubaye. Made with mash from the Serre-Ponçon brewery, it is aged in a disused railway tunnel for 3 years at a temperature of 13°C. The taste? Subtle, with a touch of oak.

→ www.lachanenche.com/en/

Guillaumette Dry Genepi

The talent behind a distinguished genepi liqueur, winner of the excellence prize at the 2021 "Concours Agricole", Maison Guillaumette now produces a dry genepi with half the usual sugar content, applauded by restaurateurs and mixologists alike.

→ www.guillaumette.com

France's highest natural spring

The Alpes-de-Haute-Provence area also boasts another precious elixir: Montclar mineral water, collected at an altitude of 1,650 metres.

JANUARY 14TH TO 19TH, 2023

FESTIVAL DES CHEFS AU SOMMET Auron

A must-do celebration of gastronomy in the exceptional setting of Auron. Meet with the region's finest chefs and pastry chefs and enjoy a variety of novel cooking demonstrations!

→ hiver.auron.com

EVENT



© Genepi Guillaumette ↑

Where to find them?

You'll find all of the Southern Alps artisan products on sale at local producers, markets and farms.

→ www.bienvenue-a-la-ferme.com/paca

HOSPITALITY NATURELLEMENT



© Studio Erick Sallet ↑

📍 **MAJ Chalet**
Puy-Saint-Pierre



This dreamy chalet pays homage to the beauty of larchwood and talent of Briançon's builders - the Bayrou family and their company founded in 1890. Designed as a combined family home and show chalet, it gazes over the valleys of Guisane and Durance and offers beautiful views of Briançon. Five bedrooms bedecked with old larch, a counter-current pool, large living room and wine cellar, plus curtains and fabrics courtesy of the Atelier des Frères... The chalet can welcome up to 13 guests for a deluxe break out of time. It is located in Puy-Saint-Pierre, at an altitude of 1,626 metres, a few minutes' walk from the intermediate Prorel gondola lift linking Vauban's citadel and Briançon's historic quarter to the slopes of Serre Chevalier.

€1,000/night, minimum 4 nights.

→ www.chalet-maj.com



© Terrésens ↑

📍 **Cristal Lodge**
Chantemerle



Located on the site of the Hôtel de la Balme, owned by the family of French ski champion Luc Alphand, this "Terrésens Hotels & Residences" lodge is just 350 metres from the slopes. Divided into two separate chalets, it comprises 26 apartments ranging from studios to 4-room cabins, as well as 20 hotel rooms. You'll find a wellness space there too (massage cabin, steam room, sauna and jacuzzi), plus a children's playroom, tapas bar and large underground car park.

→ terresens-msh.com

SERRE CHEVALIER VALLÉE BRIANÇON



© LHTP ↑

📍 Hôtel le Monétier apartments

Le Monétier-les-Bains



Hotel Le Monétier is enjoying a new lease of life with the addition of a new "Les Chalets" residence located 200 metres from the hotel, featuring 6 superb apartments built in wood, for 4, 6 or 8 people. Guests enjoy terraces, views over the summits, plenty of space, designer furniture, a ski room, high-quality services and optional hotel services including a concierge, "Stabatio" restaurant with panoramic terrace and breakfast delivered to your door... The hotel is part of the "Les Hôtels Très Particuliers" group.

From €450 for 3 nights for the Quartz apartment for 2 to 6 guests.

→ www.lemonetier.com/fr/appartements



© Alliey & Spa ↑

📍 Maison Alliey & Spa Appart-Hotel

Le Monétier-les-Bains



The same brand, but a new concept: the warm and welcoming Maison Alliey, in the centre of Monétier-les-Bains, now offers 15 aparthotels (studios or duplexes) for 2 to 6 people, available all year round. Guests enjoy a gorgeous spa featuring an indoor pool with massage jets, lauze stone steam room, heated outdoor pool, flower garden and deckchairs facing Pic de Rochebrune. Maison Alliey also rents out a 185 m² chalet - Les Clochettes -, with 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms for 6 to 8 people, set in a country house complete with central fireplace. A la carte hotel services and concierge service, reception at 320 Route de Grenoble. From December 2022, breakfast room and wine bar with fireplace. From €129/night for 2 guests.

→ www.alliey.com/en/

PUY-SAINT-VINCENT



© Watogla Camp ↑

📍 Le Watogla Camp



Mountain and nature guide Lucien Chaillot offers a host of activities with or without his sled dogs, including very-popular wildlife photography and science walks. In winter, Lucien sets up a Watogla Camp - Watogla means "wild land" in Lakota, the language of an Amerindian tribe - in the forest, consisting of several spherical geodesic domes resting on wooden platforms, forming private terraces. The domes are lit by a central skylight and their openings allow guests to get up-close-and-personal with the local flora and fauna. These cosy cocoons are equipped with lightweight, comfortable furniture, a wood stove and dry toilets. Dome for 2 people from €120, 4 people from €140/night.

→ watogla-trek.com

HAUTES-VALLÉES



© RestAuberge La Reine Meije ↑



© B.Boone ↑



© F.Guffroy ↑

📍 RestAuberge La Reine Meije

La Grave Village



One of our faves this year, this inn in the hamlet of Les Terrasses, at an altitude of 1,800 metres, features comfy rooms with breathtaking views over La Meije. The new manager, Frédéric Jongen, has added a delightful Belgian touch to both the welcome and choice of beers, while local cuisine has given way to signature sand shrimp fritters. Half board from €28, rooms from €65.

→ www.reinemeije.com

📍 La Cabane

La Grave Village



Nestling in the heart of the village, 200 metres from the cable car to the Meije glaciers, this chalet offers 3 rooms with bathrooms set on 4 floors, a superbly equipped kitchen and balcony overlooking the river. Other amenities include a garage, ski store and very handy boot dryer.

→ <https://locations-meubles.lagrave-lameije.com/en/>

📍 Week-end in Clarée Valley

Nevache

The two-star "Echaillon Hôtel-Spa & Activités" in Névache, in the beautifully preserved Clarée Valley, hosts Nordic ski touring weekends including nights at an alpine chalet in the heart of Haute Clarée. A fully refurbished rustic chalet in the hamlet of Fontcouverte, accessible only with skis or snowshoes in winter, serves as a base camp for exploring the remotest corners of the valley. Supplies are delivered on pulkas (Nordic sleds).

3 days/2 nights at a mountain chalet in Fontcouverte, including guided Nordic ski touring, from €380 per person (groups of 4 to 6 people).

→ sejours-echaillon.com

MONTGENÈVRE



📍 Le Chalet Blanc Hôtel & Spa



Perched at an altitude of 1,860 metres, just five minutes from the Chalvet gondola lift, this gorgeous, fully-refurbished chalet combines stone and alpine wood architecture with contemporary touches. The 34 rooms - including one allergy-free - feature balconies and handmade beds. "Le Chalet Blanc" also offers a patio, solarium, swimming pool and wellness centre complete with a hot tub, steam room and sauna.

With its adapted prices, easy cross-border access to Italy and around 400 km of slopes, Montgenèvre is very popular with families.

→ <https://montgenevre.com/en/>

PAYS DES ÉCRINS



📍 Au fil de l'onde

Vallouise - Pelvoux

This gorgeous chalet in the heart of the Vallouise Nordic area can be summed up in three words: tranquillity, warmth and cocooning. Catherine, your host and mountain guide, welcomes you at her environmentally-friendly wooden eco-chalet, with three private rooms. *Table d'hôtes* meals concocted with fresh produce are available on request, but a kitchen is available too if you want to cook for yourself. The chalet can be rented for 8 to 12 people on a self-managed basis. From €83 for a room for two, breakfast €10.

→ www.aufildelonde.fr

CHAMPSAUR



© B.Bodin ↑

📍 L'Écrin des Hautes-Alpes

Saint-Jean-Saint-Nicolas

A winner of the "Gîtes de France" award, the very-charming "L'Écrin des Hautes-Alpes" has now opened a third holiday cottage - La Grange -, bedecked with old larchwood parquet floors and antique furniture. Nestling in the heart of nature, at the foot of the little ski resort of Serre-Eyraud, each cottage is a genuine little gem measuring 70 to 100 m², able to accommodate 2 to 4 guests. A haven of peace you'll need to book early.

→ www.ecrin-des-hautes-alpes.fr

ORCIÈRES



© G.Barron ↑

📍 Le Counit

This *ecogîte* wooden chalet nestling in the hamlet of Montcheny boasts magnificent views over Champsaur Valley from its South-facing terrace. Set at the gateway to Écrins National Park, it offers three bedrooms, a living area with fitted kitchen and upstairs lounge. It is located 5 minutes from the delicious village of Prapic, 5 minutes from the leisure centre and 10 minutes from the ski resort. Sporting 3 stars and 3 ears of corn, it has also obtained the "Tourisme & Handicap", "Familles Plus" and "Orcières Qualité Confort Hébergement" labels (4 diamonds). From €716 per week.

→ reservation.orcieres.com/chalet-le-counit



© Office de Tourisme Orcières ↑

📍 Le Kitz



Perched at an altitude of 1,950 metres, amid slopes crossing the tiny hamlet of Forest des Estaris, "Le Kitz" was formerly a shelter for shepherds come to make sheep's milk cheese in days gone by. This historic, 120 m² chalet has now been completely restored using local larchwood. Its 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms, overlooking the ski resort and Champsaur valley, can welcome up to 10 guests. Confirmed skiers can slip into their gear at the front door and return on skis. The access road is snow-covered in winter, but you can hitch a lift there and back on the owner's snow groomer. Simply unforgettable!

→ www.orcieres.com/chalet-le-kitz



© Gilles Baron ↑

📍 Les chalets d'Elena

Tucked away in a little hamlet near Saint-Jean-Saint-Nicolas, "Les Chalets d'Eléna" offers overnight stays in a delightful wooden chalet with panoramic vistas over the mountains, plus a glass roof for stargazing! You can also set down your bags in one of the two observatories surrounded by glass panels, for a full immersion in nature. The Finnish bath on the terrace is perfect for admiring the sunset over Champsaur valley. Claire and Yannick promise the warmest of welcomes, including delivery of platters piled high with local produce. In addition to the large Orcières Merlette 1850 ski area, the valley is home to 5 ski resorts (the village resorts of Saint-Léger-Les-Mélèzes, Chaillol, Laye, Ancelle and Serre-Eyraud). Gap is 15 km away, Briançon is 43 km away.

→ www.chaletselena.fr

LES ORRES



© R.Van Rijn ↑



© Kinaphoto ↑

📍 Le gîte 05



Unique! A group of musicians and cabaret enthusiasts, united by 25 years of passion for French songs, now heads up this former summer camp converted into a 13-room self-catering *gîte* set at an altitude of 1,450 metres. You'll find well-being treatments here, plus clean air and great music at the novel cabaret dinners. The rooms all feature 4 beds (a double bed and two bunk beds) and look out over the forest. Guests also enjoy a bar with board games, restaurant kitted out for musical performances, an artists' studio, billiard table, table football, sauna, mini-golf and even yoga lessons. A free shuttle connects the hamlet of Mélézet to Les Orres ski resort.

→ www.legite05.com

📍 Maison Cîmes

Situated in the centre of the old village of Les Orres, in a restored farmhouse also home to a media library, "Maison Cîmes" is an ode to the art of entertaining. As Christine Stein says: "the only screens you'll find here are windows opening onto the mountains". Christine takes care of the five suites measuring 30 to 34 m² - two with terraces - and stands guard over the relaxing atmosphere created by a crackling fire, linen sheets, bowling alley and homemade playlists... Not forgetting the *table d'hôtes* meals available on 3 or 4 evenings a week. A free shuttle whisks guests to the ski resort in winter. From €145 to €175/night for 2 people including breakfast. Table d'hôtes meals €38 excluding drinks.

→ www.maison-cimes.com/en/home.php

📍 Alpins d'Hôme



Part of a small dome village suspended over the valley, this new "bubble spa" promises an unforgettable sensory experience. A cosy nest measuring 200 m² and 8 metres in height, complete with an outdoor solarium, the spa features a steam room, sauna, Nordic bath, herbal tearoom and two treatment cabins signed by Gemology. "Alpins d'Hôme" also added two additional high-end lodgings in summer 2022 and now offers eleven domes, Finnish Kotas and a Kota Grill ideal for fireside evenings among the larch trees. The perfect way to switch off and recharge your batteries. Domes from €399 to €649/night. Restaurant dinner €25 to €35/pers. Finnish Kota €149 to €249/night.

→ www.alpin-dhome.fr

RÉALLON



© L.Lagrange ↑

📍 **Le Balcon des Ecrins
Vacances Léo Lagrange**



Located on the snow front, 100 metres from the ski lifts, this fully-refurbished site is now the three-star Hotel Club "Le Balcon des Écrins Vacances Léo Lagrange". The 37 rooms with 2 to 5 beds overlook the slopes or snow-capped mountains. The hotel is instilled with the Léo Lagrange philosophy, promoting the right to holidays and leisure for all. Priority goes to accessibility, social and intergenerational diversity, environmental friendliness, working hand-in-hand with local inhabitants and fostering a great entente between holidaymakers and staff. Strongly committed to the environment, the Léo Lagrange clubs proudly sport the "Clé Verte", "Marque Valeur Parc" and "Plastic Origin" labels, plus partnerships with the "Surfrider Foundation", "France Nature Environnement" and "Ligue de Protection des Oiseaux" (Bird Protection League). From €80/night.

→ www.lebalcondesecrins.com

RISOUL



© OT Risoul ↑

📍 **Yoonly & Friends**



This aparthotel, opened in spring 2022, is a great choice for 18-35 year-olds keen to get away from it all, have fun and share plenty of forever memories - mainly freeriders who love the resort's (very) festive atmosphere! It is ideally located on the snow front, 500 metres from the Risoul 1850 ski school and 400 metres from the Pelinche ski lift. The 63 apartments for 4, 5, 6 and 9 people are spread over 7 floors, with direct access to a ski-luggage locker, shared kitchen, terrace and relaxation area. Some feature an equipped kitchenette. Holidaymakers, seasonal workers and valley inhabitants enjoy chilling at the chic, industrial "YoYo" bar-restaurant. You can opt for a yoga class on Sundays too, including warm-up exercises and detox tea. Smart locks allow fast and easy check-in. Ski passes can be delivered with your keys thanks to the "Smile & Pass" service. Free wifi. This address is not recommended for families with young children. From €250 per week for 4 people.

→ www.yoonly.eu

LA SAUZE



© Ubaye Tourisme ↑

📍 **Montana Chalet Hôtel**



Set at foot of the slopes in Le Sauze 1400, this large, four-star wooden chalet is a genuine invitation to relax and switch off. Its 500 m2 sensory spa features a quartz pool with hydro-massage jets, a counter-current pool, steam rooms complete with starry skies and a unique snow grotto. Children's spa treatments available from 5 years upwards. From €245/night.

→ www.montana-chalet.com

LE QUEYRAS



© Office de Tourisme du Guillestrois et du Queyras ↑

📍 Maison Emme

Molines-Saint-Véran

Lovingly restored by Justine and Mathieu, this typical country house perched at an altitude of 1,730 metres in the heart of the Queyras Regional Nature Reserve blends beautifully into the surrounding environment. It now offers four uniquely charming lodgings, aimed at reconnecting visitors with life's simple pleasures. The 4 cottages for 2 to 6 guests feature a pellet stove, outdoor areas and a myriad of delightful little details. "La Grande Ourse" is a roomy stone duplex with an attic atmosphere; the self-catering "Bon-Henri" is a small, independent chalet with a garden and river below; "Céleste" is located on the top floor and "Philème", with its large terrace, is set around a spacious living room. The Molines-Saint-Véran ski area is just nearby. From €125.

→ www.maison-emme.com

ISOLA 2000



© Hôtel Les Terrasses ↑

📍 Apparthôtel MMV Les Terrasses d'Isola***



Beautifully kept and decorated in cosy colours, this MMV aparthotel offers 2-room apartments and 4-room cabins welcoming up to 10 guests, promising a delightful holiday with family or friends. Guests enjoy a heated indoor pool, AquaZen and AquaTonic classes, and a 200 m² relaxation area hosting activities led by fitness coach Lucile Woodward. Children from 4 to 10 years old are treated to their very own entertainment programme - and pets are allowed!

→ www.mmv.fr

A sustainable
commitment
**the values
of the Southern
French Alps**



ENERGY TRANSITION

With ski resorts such as Les Orres and Serre Chevalier spearheading energy transition and major investments in soft mobility, the Southern French Alps is resolutely committed to sustainable development. Among the many opportunities for improvement, our initiatives to date include the introduction of ski carpets fitted with solar panels, a reduction in ski lift pylons, the development of non-motorized outdoor activities and refurbishment of recreational real estate to incorporate energy criteria.

Serre Chevalier

Serre Chevalier is the first ski area to produce one-third of its own electricity requirements using a combination of three renewable energies: hydroelectricity, solar power and micro wind turbines. The Serre-Chevalier renewable energy program has now spurred on other ski areas belonging to the "Compagnie des Alpes" group. In addition, the resort is investing in a fleet of low-carbon snow groomers, scheduled for completion in 2030 (95% of GHG emissions from ski areas are related to the use of diesel-powered groomers). In addition, the dismantling of Guisane valley's electricity pylons in 2022 has restored the landscape from Galibier to Lautaret to its original pristine condition.

Puy-Saint-Vincent

The ski resort of Puy-Saint-Vincent in Ecrins National Park is a pilot resort for waste recovery and winner of the 2022 "Cimes Durables" sustainable mountains trophy for its bio-waste recycling and recovery initiatives, sparking a

marked reduction in greenhouse gasses. Puy-Saint-Vincent has also invested in high-quality artificial snow production from the start of the season, using new-generation snow guns.

Les Orres

Les Orres has been heading up the alpine "Smart Altitude" programme since April 2018, fostering good practices implemented throughout the Southern Alps. The ski lifts at Les Orres 1800 have been replaced, reducing energy consumption by 28%, while the Prébois and Pic Vert chairlifts have been adapted to enable the removal of 50 pylons. Equipped with solar panels, the Préclaux and Bois Méan conveyors now produce their own power. Sensors have been installed to monitor the resort's infrastructures in real time and optimize energy consumption. Les Orres is also working on the deployment of smart electrical networks, or "microgrids".

Orcières

This ski resort is restoring its buildings responsibly, taking into account both aesthetics and energy criteria, using thermal insulation topped with larch-clad façades: a local wood that does not require any treatment.

Orcières Merlette 1850 is helping owners refurbish their furnished holiday rentals thanks to the "Qualité Confort Logement" label. Criteria for the label include eco-responsible actions relating to reduced energy consumption, recycling and the use of environmentally-friendly cleaning products.

The "Esprit Parc National" label

This prestigious label is awarded to products and services imagined and created by men and women whose activities align with the values of our national parks: the preservation of natural and cultural heritage, knowledge-sharing and efforts to improve public awareness.

→ www.espritparcnational.com/

The commitment of a champion in Serre Chevalier

Born and bred in the valley, two-times Olympic Snowboard Cross champion Pierre Vaultier contributes to the protection of the valley's larch trees through his association Tree2Forest, dedicated to planting trees in collaboration with local schools to foster environmental awareness.

→ www.tree2forest.org



SOFT MOBILITY

The Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region is resolutely committed to promoting alternatives to car use, which accounts for more than half (57%) of greenhouse gas emissions from mountain tourism. In addition, the fear of traffic jams can deter skiers from enjoying our winter sports offering.

Zou! bus services

All aboard the snow bus!

The Zou! buses offer services from the region's railway stations, airports and major towns to the Southern Alps ski resorts at truly unbeatable prices! Here are a few examples:
 → Nice Ville to Valberg train station: €1.50 / 1 hr 50 mins on bus number 770. Please note that services run from Nice-Côte d'Azur airport and the towns of Grasse and Antibes, as well as Nice Ville train station.

→ Marseille-Provence airport and Aix-en-Provence TGV (high-speed train) station to Orcières and the other Southern Alps ski resorts: adults €35 return, €90 for 4 people. Services to the Southern Alps ski resorts are also provided from the alpine train stations of Gap, Mont-Dauphin, Embrun, Briançon and l'Argentière-les-Ecrins.

→ www.maregionsud.fr/actualites/detail/en-bus-ou-en-train-partez-a-la-neige-a-petits-prix

Le Train des Neiges

Running from Nice and Digne railway station and relayed by Zou! buses, the "Train des Neiges"*** serves, among others, Val d'Allos and the little ski resort of Casterino. A truly stunning journey!

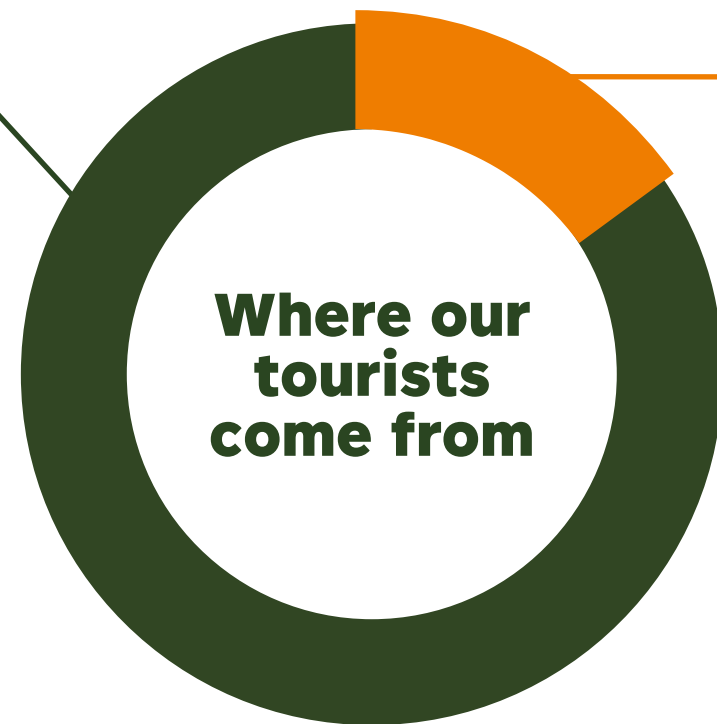
Paris-Briançon Serre Chevalier By night !

Serre Chevalier Vallée is one of the only ski areas benefiting from a direct night train from France's capital (Paris-Briançon service). During the day, this service runs from Paris to the ski resorts of the Briançon area in just 5 hours and is available all year round.

Zero pollution peaks

85%
French tourists

Including:
30% from the
Provence-Alpes-
Côte d'Azur region



15%
**international
tourists**

mainly



- **12,000 km²**, 40% of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region's surface area and 8% of regional population

- **450,000 inhabitants** (8% of the region's population)

- **7 Nature Parks and 2 UNESCO Geoparks** and National Geological Reserves

- **26 lakes** including Europe's largest natural high-altitude lake (**Allos**) and one of France's largest reservoirs (**Serre-Ponçon**)

- Europe's highest village: **Saint-Véran** (2,042 m)

- Europe's highest town: **Briançon** (1,326 m)

- **65 ski resorts and cross-country ski areas**

- **2nd French mountain destination** (15% of regional economic activity)

- **85% French** tourists - **15%** international tourists

Seasonal distribution



WINTER

37%



SUMMER

47%



SPRING - AUTUMN

16%

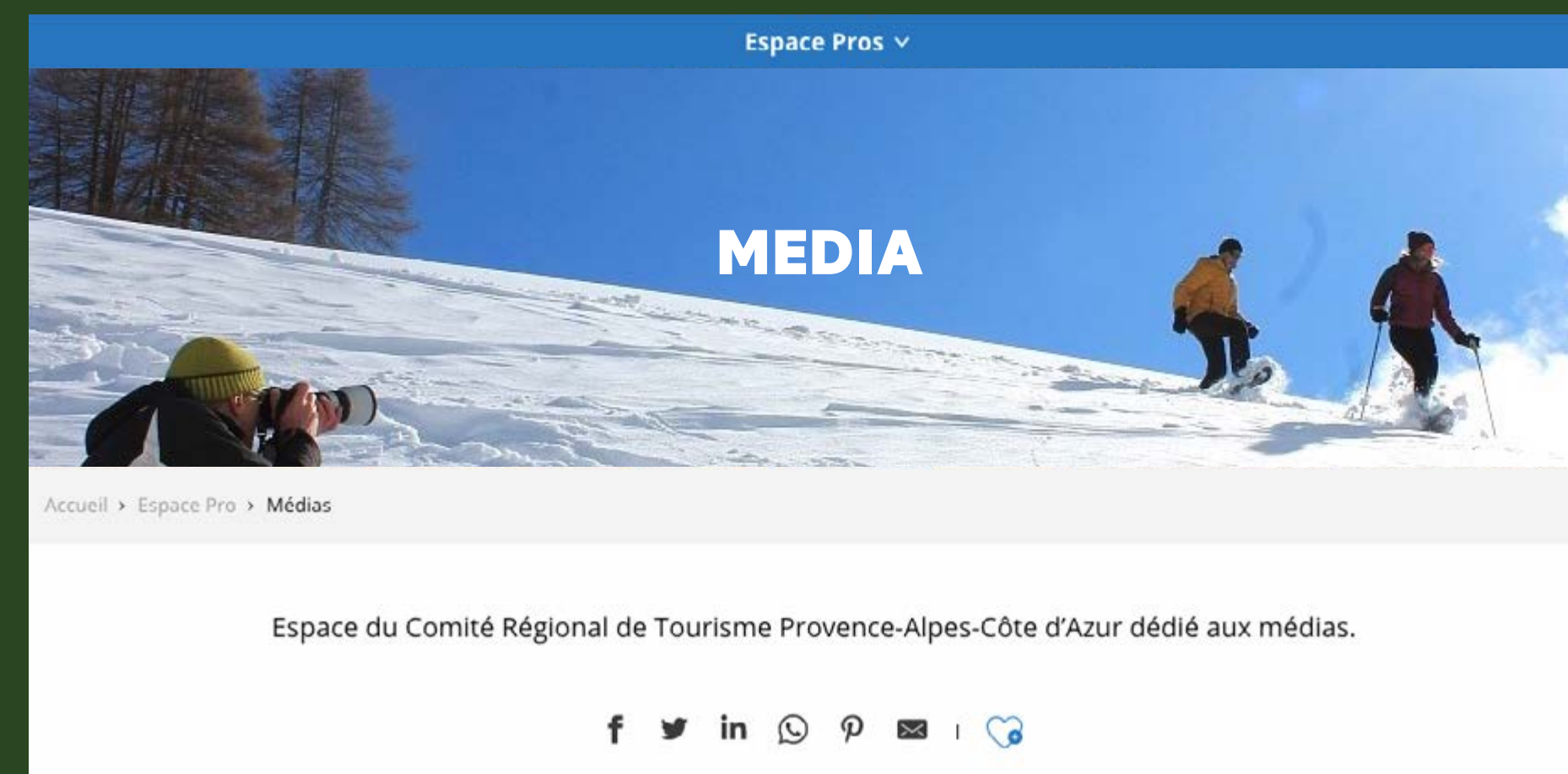
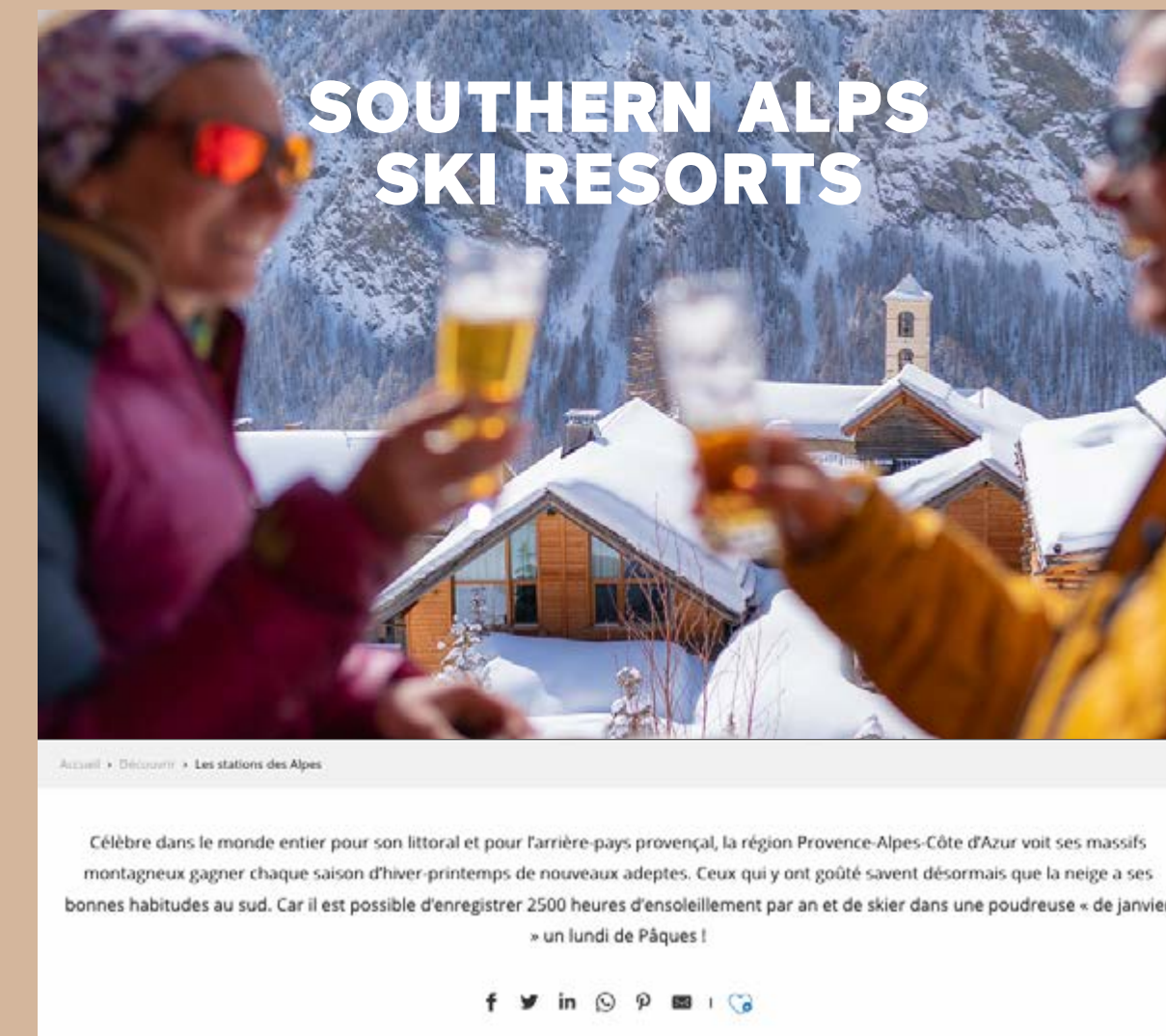


Strength in numbers

The **"Alpes du Sud"** collective was formed in 2018 by the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Tourist Board and Hautes-Alpes Development Agency to boost the attractiveness and economy of the Southern Alps. Its objective: to form a common strategy and budget around the "Southern French Alps" destination brand, in the aim of fostering a stronger and more legible image vis-à-vis markets and customers. Concerted efforts to define the destination brand's values have now led to the creation of a **"Southern French Alpes"** Destination Contract.

The "Southern French Alps" destination brand has been co-steered by the **Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Tourist Board** and Hautes-Alpes Development Agency since its launch in January 2018. They were joined by the **Nice Côte d'Azur Metropolitan Tourist Office** in 2021 and **Ubaye Valley Tourist Office** in 2022, with the **Alpes-de-Haute-Provence Development Agency** scheduled in 2023.

→ **SOUTHERN FRENCH ALPES**
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Events,
Ski resort
openings
dates



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PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR



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