

# SOUTHERN FRENCH ALPS

HAPPINESS AU NATUREL

WHAT'S NEW  
WINTER 2024-25

#AlpesDuSud  
#purealpes

SOUTHERN FRENCH  
**alpes**

RÉGION  
SUD  
PROVENCE  
ALPES  
CÔTE D'AZUR



TOURISM  
BOARD



## Southern French Alps, an exceptional territory between sea & mountain

**G**lide over fresh snow in the morning and savour dinner by the Mediterranean in the evening: the Southern Alps embodies a unique alliance of majestic mountains and sparkling waters.

With summits rising to over 4,000 metres and preserved valleys galore, we invite our visitors to explore the diversity and authentic charm of the region's 62 major ski resorts and village resorts.

From medieval hamlets to resorts proudly sporting the "20th Century Heritage" label, every foray promises an exciting new winter experience under dazzling azure skies.

**The Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region is home to France's second-largest ski area,** meaning our inhabitants and visitors enjoy 2,500 km of alpine ski slopes and 1,200 km of cross-country trails. And that's not all: the

Southern Alps is an invitation to roam through the beating heart of endless natural landscapes offering a multitude of activities, such as hiking, rock climbing and trail running.

Handily located a short drive from both Provence and the Côte d'Azur, the Southern Alps is a cultural treasure trove too, where you'll find heritage galore plus ancient traditions and an enviable lifestyle. Wellbeing is an everyday habit here: simply gaze out at the breathtaking scenery and breathe in the pure, invigorating air. Passionate about their destination, the welcoming locals are proud ambassadors of this unique territory, always delighted to introduce newcomers to the age-old secrets of the mountains.

Well aware of the importance of preserving this natural gem, we championed Europe's first "100%" green vote, expressing our commitment to fighting the climate emergency.

The "puralpes" hashtag asserts the Southern Alps' determination to preserve Europe's purest air for future generations.

And the Southern Alps is far more than a winter refuge: it is a genuine lifestyle hub, offering an alluring blend of nature, sport, culture and tranquillity. A year-round invitation to get away from it all.

### Getting ready for the 2030 Winter Olympics!

Our region is thrilled to be welcoming this prestigious international event, hall-marked by a sober-yet-innovative "snow & chalets" identity that respects the mountains and their identity as bearers of alpine heritage. Honouring a balance between economy and ecology is part of our DNA. If you liked Paris 2024, you'll love the French Alps 2030!



### Renaud MUSELIER

President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council  
Deputy President of Régions de France



### François de CANSON

Vice President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council  
President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte Tourist Board  
Deputy President of ADN Tourisme

# Southern French Alps



## HOW TO GET THERE?

### FROM AIRPORTS

Marseille: [zou.maregionsud.fr](http://zou.maregionsud.fr)

Nice: [www.lignesdazur.com](http://www.lignesdazur.com)

Lyon, Turin: [www.linkbus-alps.com](http://www.linkbus-alps.com)

### FROM HIGH-SPEED TRAIN STATIONS / CITIES

Aix, Marseille, Lyon, Oulx, Paris, Modane:

[www.linkbus-alps.com](http://www.linkbus-alps.com)

[www.autocars-resalp.com](http://www.autocars-resalp.com)

[www.autocars-imberty.com](http://www.autocars-imberty.com)

TGV High-speed train stations

Airports

RIVERS

7 NATURE RESERVES

Main towns

VAL Valleys

VILLAGE RESORTS

NORDIC SKI AREAS

UNESCO World Heritage

## MAJOR SKI RESORTS

VAL D'ALLOS  
PRA-LOUP } Espace Lumière

LE SAUZE

SUPERDEVOLUY  
LA JOUE DU LOUP } Le Dévoluy

ORCIÈRES-MERLETTE 1850

LES ORRES

RISOUL } La Forêt  
VARS } Blanche

PUY-SAINT-VINCENT

BRIANÇON / SERRE CHEVALIER

VALLÉE

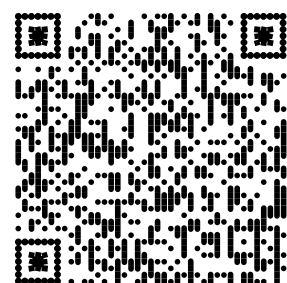
MONTGENÈVRE

LA GRAVE

AURON

ISOLA 2000

VALBERG



HOW TO GET THERE?



MER MÉDITERRANÉE  
MEDITERRANEAN SEA

50 KM



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# 62 magical destinations, a thousand marvellous mountains



© OT Serre Chevalier ↑

**What do our visitors love most about their stay in the Southern Alps? The omnipresent sunshine, heartwarming villages, diverse mountainscapes and vast, untamed wilderness laden with larch trees and pristine snow...**

From the summits of the Ecrins mountains to the valleys of Mercantour, the Southern Alps offers far more than a pretty picture. Firmly anchored in the heart of its inhabitants, it is a destination that inspires sincere ties between visitors and the people behind the mountain ecosystem – ties that ensure the mountains thrive in every season and are able to tackle climate and societal challenges with a united front. The Southern Alps is a resolutely human-focused mountain range.

Half of the 62 ski resorts dotted between Nice Côte d'Azur and Briançon, in and around national parks and regional nature reserves, are actually village resorts (they even have their own "station-village" charter), boasting gorgeous old architecture, less than 2,000 inhabitants and a vigorous commitment to protecting the environment.

Resorts such as Serre Chevalier Briançon, Le Sauze and Orcières- Merlette have also grown up around a historic heart. Others, such as Superdévoluy or Les Orres, have earned a place on the prestigious "20th Century Heritage" list, in recognition of their innovative architecture and creative spirit. Last but not least, the Southern Alps offers a remarkable combination of sea and mountain: on clear days, you can glimpse the Mediterranean Sea from the ski resorts of Isola 2000, Roubion-les-Buisses and Turini Camp d'Argent.



## The 2030 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games **Here in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur!**

"The entire region is set to benefit from the dynamics of the French Alps 2030 Winter Olympics. Regional planning, sport, transport... The Olympic Winter Games promise to propel us into another dimension. If you liked Paris 2024, you'll love the French Alps 2030!"

**Renaud MUSELIER**

President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council  
Deputy President of Régions de France

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# The 2030 Winter Olympics: a never-before-seen focus on sobriety

The Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region is committed to building a coherent sporting project that satisfies the needs of its mountainous areas and the people who live there, while striving to meet the heritage and environmental conservation objectives laid down in the "French Alps 2030" Olympic bid.

**3,500 athletes** will be competing in **118 events** at the 2030 Winter Olympics, taking place in the world's largest ski area.

## BRIANÇON CLUSTER

- **Serre Chevalier:** Halfpipe, Freestyle, Mogul
- **Montgenèvre:** Parallel Giant Slalom, Slopestyle, Big Air, Ski & Snowboard Cross, Banked Para Slalom, Para Snowboard Cross
- **Olympic and Paralympic village at Fort des Têtes**

## NICE CÔTE D'AZUR CLUSTER

- **Palais Nikaia:** Curling and Wheelchair Curling
- **Stade Allianz Riviera:** Men's and Women's Ice Hockey

- **Future Nice Ice Rink:** Figure Skating, Short Track Speed Skating, Para Hockey
- **Future Exhibition Centre:** International Broadcast Centre / Main Press Centre
- **Olympic and Paralympic Village of Nice**
- **Closing Ceremony** on the Promenade des Anglais in Nice

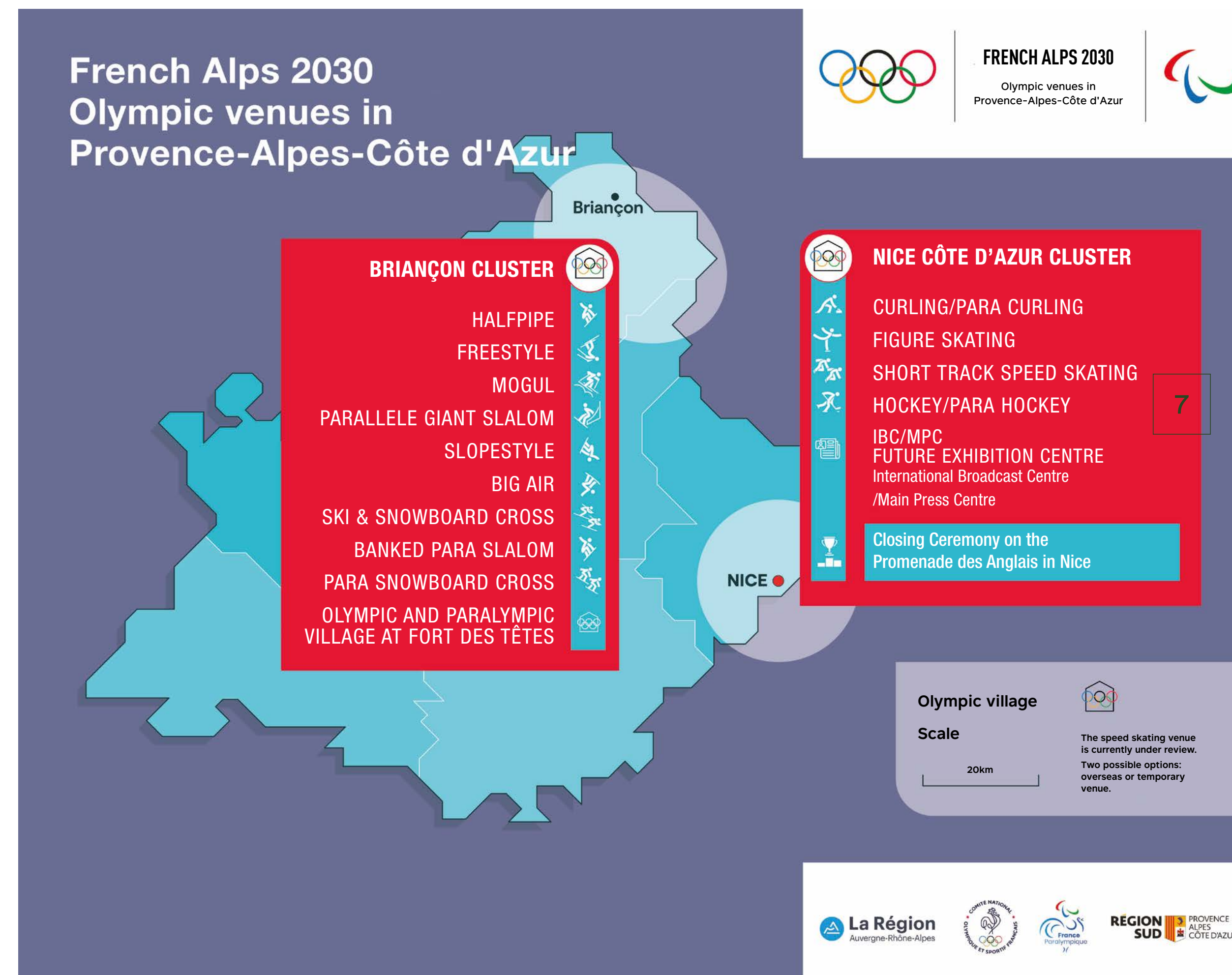
## Exceptional investments for a sustainable legacy

As part of our 2030 Winter Olympics pledge, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region is also committed to improving the daily life of its inhabitants:

- **Modernization of regional transport:** refurbishment of the Veynes railway node, Marseille-Briançon service in 3½ hours, acceleration of building work on the new Provence Côte d'Azur railway line, Alpine traffic solutions (Gap ring road, RN85 between Digne and Malijai), Provence Côte d'Azur railway line.
- **The 2025-2030 Regional Mountain Sport Development Plan,** in particular the creation of a "Preparation Centre for major international ski competitions" in Ubaye Valley.

- **Modernization of ski resort infrastructures,** including the construction of a detachable 6-seater chairlift in Orcières Merlette 1850 and refurbishment of the Joue du Loup sport & recreation complex.

- **Zero Plan** to eliminate medical deserts in alpine and rural areas.



# Inspiring champions

## Simon BILLY

The son of speed skier Philippe Billy lives in Vars, the ideal location for dedicating time to his passion. A faultless training schedule and tireless determination earned him the title of Speed Ski World Champion in March 2023, when he achieved his dream by reaching speeds of up to 255.5 km/hr.

### WHERE CAN YOU MEET HIM?

Vars

→ [www.vars.com](http://www.vars.com)



**MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup>-30<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

## SPEED MASTERS & WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP | Vars

The lucky few speed skiers launching off the top of the slope will be aiming to top the dizzy record of 255.5 km/hr! Thanks to a stadium open to skiers aged 6 years upwards, speed skiing isn't just for champions these days. Of course, you'll want to leave the dizziest descents to the pros, but the bottom of the slope offers an ideal playground for testing your limits at speeds of up to 120 km/hour.

→ [www.vars.com](http://www.vars.com)

EVENT

## Arthur BAUCHET

Triple gold medal winner at the 2022 Paralympic Games in Beijing, Arthur also has a slope named after him in his home resort of Serre Chevalier. After bearing the Olympic torch last June, he was picked as a consultant for France TV during the Paris Olympics and aspires to be on the starting line of the 2030 Winter Olympics taking place "at home" in the French Alps! In between times, he'll be heading to the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan-Cortina. Always up for a challenge, the young skier also trains in Para Cycling!

### WHERE CAN YOU MEET HIM?

Serre Chevalier Briançon

→ [www.Serre-Chevalier.com](http://www.Serre-Chevalier.com)



## Aurélie RICHARD

A triple world Handiski medal winner, going for gold at the 2026 Paralympic Games, Aurélie's ski mastery is second to none. Born with an atrophied left forearm, she embodies both a passion for skiing and determination to break down barriers. She left her mark on 2023 as runner-up at the world downhill and slalom championships at just 17 years of age.

### WHERE CAN YOU MEET HER?

In Ceillac, on her favourite Girardin slope

→ [ceillac.fr](http://ceillac.fr)



**Cyprien SARRAZIN**

Born and bred in Gap and originally a giant slalom specialist, Cyprien has now turned his talent to Super-G and downhill, signing off a breathtaking 2023-2024 season with a double medal at the Streif in Austria.

**WHERE CAN YOU MEET HIM?**

On the slopes of Superdévoluy and La Joue du Loup, where his father is a ski instructor

→ [www.ledevoluy.com](http://www.ledevoluy.com)

→ [lajoueduloup.com](http://lajoueduloup.com)



OT Le Dévoluy



DR

**Benjamin VEDRINES**

This mountaineer climbed the K2 (8,611 metres) without oxygen on July 28th, 2024 in 10 hours 59 minutes and 59 seconds, and paraglided back down! A first – and a record.

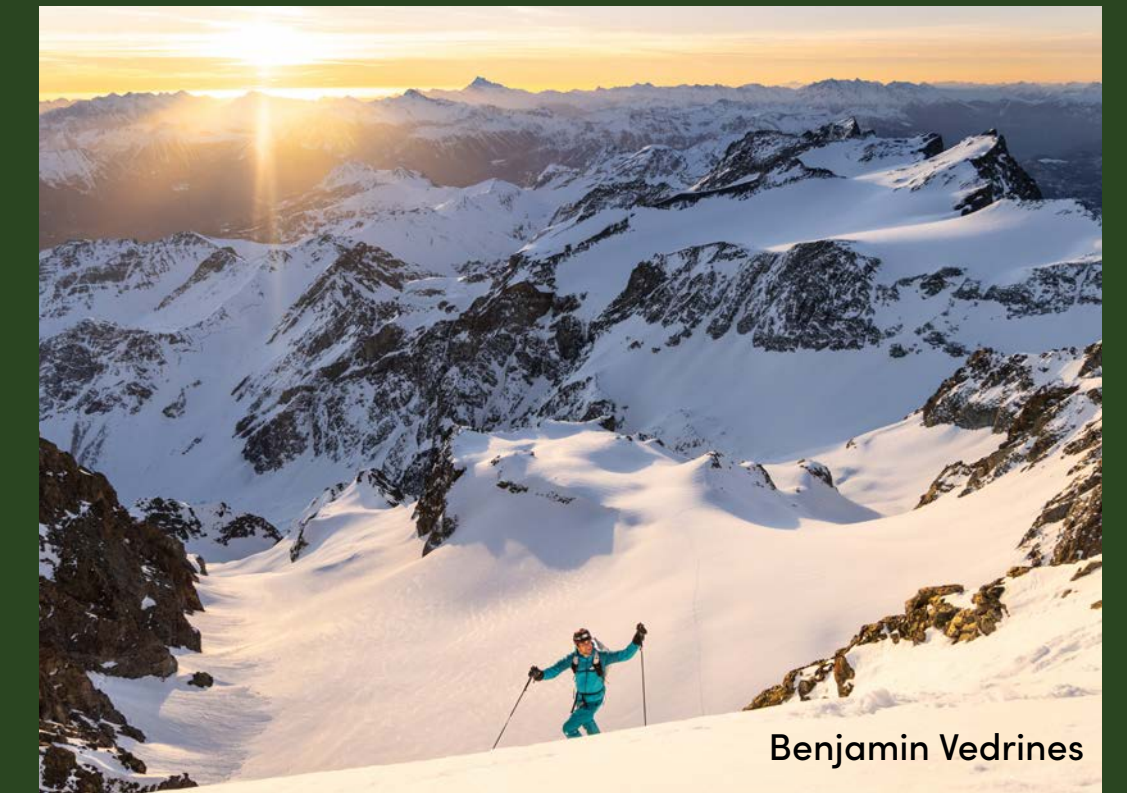
**WHERE CAN YOU MEET HIM?**

Serre Chevalier Briançon

→ [www.Serre Chevalier.com](http://www.Serre Chevalier.com)



© DR



Benjamin Vedrines

**Julien MERMET GUYENET**

Julien Mermet Guyenet became French snowboarding champion at the age of 10. After pausing his career for nearly 20 years, he won the final of the 2022-2023 French Cup in Pra Loup and came second in 2023-24. In 2024, he organized the 1<sup>st</sup> French Snowboard Cup in Chabanon. His goal? To be crowned French champion in 2024-2025, be among the top 20 at the World Cup and represent France at the 2026 Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics.

**WHERE CAN YOU MEET HIM?**

Vallée de l'Ubaye

→ [www.ubaye.com](http://www.ubaye.com)

**Nils ALLÈGRE**

A member of the French Alpine Ski team, he carried off his first World Championship victory at the Super-G in Garmisch-Partenkirshen, in January 2024.

**WHERE CAN YOU MEET HIM?**

Serre Chevalier Briançon

→ [www.Serre Chevalier.com](http://www.Serre Chevalier.com)



## Southern French Alps **Unique sensations & experiences**

Slip, slide, laugh if off and try and try again... A face-to-face with nature that is both humbling and a source of absolute wonder in the most magnificent playground of them all: the Southern Alps!



© OT Serre Chevalier ↑

## E-Fatbike

You'll find electric versions of the bike with big wheels too, perfect for never-ending forays with all the clan.

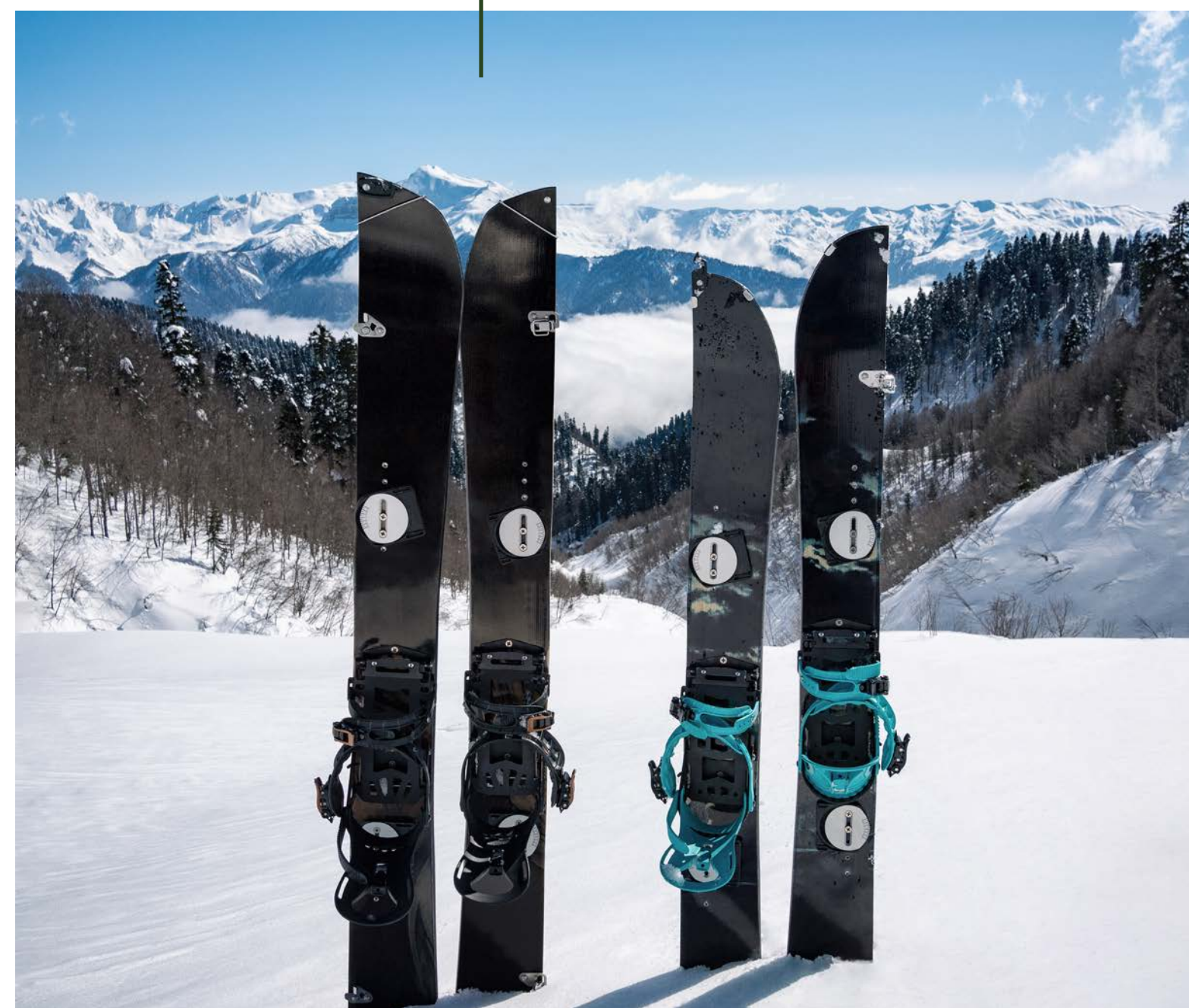
→ [www.Serre Chevalier.com](http://www.Serre Chevalier.com)

## Splitboard

The snowboarding equivalent of traditional touring skis, the splitboard is a snowboard divided into two sections, which transforms into a pair of skis complete with fixtures and skins for uphill climbing.

→ [isola2000.com](http://isola2000.com)

© Lilkin ↓



© Scalpfoto ↑

## Sled Dogs Snowskate

Resembling shoes fitted with little skis, snowskates allow you to whoosh down the slopes and try your hand at various freestyle tricks or perfect your skating style.

→ [www.vars.com/hiver](http://www.vars.com/hiver)



© M. Lachaud ↑

## Snooc

The Snooc is a kind of sled that transforms into a cross-country ski in the twinkling of an eye.

The resort of Pelvoux-Vallouise even offers a "help yourself" Snooc distributor located right on the slopes.

→ [www.paysdesecrins.com](http://www.paysdesecrins.com)

## Snowscoot

Two ski resorts in France, including Pra-Loup, specialize in snowscoot - a cross between a bike and a snowboard.

→ [www.praloup.com/snowscoot.html](http://www.praloup.com/snowscoot.html)

© P. Allaire ↓



© Vision'R ↑

## Biathlon

This dual shooting and Nordic skiing discipline demands endurance, concentration and mental strength. And it's increasingly in vogue every year!

**Southern Alps biathlon hotspots**

→ [provence-alpes-cotedazur.com](http://provence-alpes-cotedazur.com)

**NEW**

### CEILLAC BIATHLON STADIUM (Queyras)

Featuring 15 x 50-metre shooting targets and a penalty loop connecting to 50 kilometres of cross-country trails winding through larch trees, this is the Southern Alps' first four-seasons biathlon stadium!

→ [lequeyras.com](http://lequeyras.com)



© T. Blais ↑

## Ice waterfalls

Located in Ecrins National Park, the Freissinières ice tower is the perfect place for an introduction to ice waterfall climbing – even at night. In Aiguilles, in the Queyras area, you can practise in the village centre too!

Other reputed spots further South include the Gialorgues valley waterfalls and 15-metre Tour du Boréon, near Saint-Martin-Vésubie.

→ [www.paysdesecrins.com](http://www.paysdesecrins.com)

## Snow groomers

Hop on board a snow groomer for a 25-30° climb up the slopes, as the setting sun sets the surrounding summits ablaze. This is one of the most palpitating winter mountain experiences on offer and you'll find it at several Southern Alps resorts. In Val d'Allos, you can enjoy a 1-hour foray in a groomer seating up to 14 people.

→ [www.valdallos.com](http://www.valdallos.com)

© Office de tourisme du Val d'Allos ↓



© OT Serre Chevalier ↑

## Rock climbing

**NEW**

Appreciated for its design and accessibility in all seasons, the Briançon outdoor climbing wall features 80 routes of varying difficulty, plus a speed wall.

→ [www.Serre Chevalier.com](http://www.Serre Chevalier.com)



© OT Le Dévoluy ↓

## Ski paragliding

The two-man flights on offer from Réallon allow you to fly over areas inaccessible on skis, with stunning views over the Aiguilles de Chabrières and Serre-Ponçon lake...

→ [www.reallon-ski.com](http://www.reallon-ski.com)

## Cross-country skiing

Whether you want to improve your fitness level or simply enjoy a foray into nature, you'll find plenty of safe itineraries in the Southern Alps, plus a great choice of experienced instructors for novices.

**10 cross-country ski hotspots in the Southern Alps**

→ [provence-alpes-cotedazur.com](http://provence-alpes-cotedazur.com)

**NEW**

**VAL D'ALLOS LE SEIGNUS TRAIL**

→ [www.valdallos.com/hiver](http://www.valdallos.com/hiver)

© R. Palomba ↓



© Tyrolienne Géante Speedline ↑

## Ziplining

This winter, Réallon is sporting a new, 2-kilometre zipline divided into two sections.

Colmiane-Valdeblore still holds the French record for the longest single-section zipline at 1,879 metres.

→ [www.reallon-ski.com](http://www.reallon-ski.com)

Close-Up

# Tobogganing

Whether directly on the snow or on rails, tobogganing remains everyone's favourite activity!

The Ripaa (the name is slang for slide) slope in Réallon whisks you down four kilometres from the top of the resort at an altitude of 2,150 metres, with an incline of 590 metres.

→ [www.reallon-ski.com](http://www.reallon-ski.com)

© La Ripaa ↓



© Ubye ↑

# Praloops

Designed and managed by a champion: **Praloops** is a new, four-seasons toboggan run in Ubye valley designed and managed by Christel Pascal, with her breathtaking track record of 133 World Championship races! The 1-kilometre descent winds up in the heart of the resort of Pra Loup, with night runs available on Thursdays and during school holidays. You can go for a full-on descent or take your time and enjoy the show: the two-seaters toboggans are fitted with a brake.

→ [www.praloup.com](http://www.praloup.com)

# My Adventure

Available online and at tourist offices, this XXL exploration game designed in collaboration with the Nice-based startup "My Explore Bag" features 21 four-seasons adventures, some based in La Bollène-Vésubie, Isola 2000, Saint-Etienne-de-Tinée, Saint-Martin-Vésubie and Valdeblore.

→ [www.explorenicecotedazur.com](http://www.explorenicecotedazur.com)

© R. Van-Rijn ↓



# Long live the Great North... Down South!

Enjoy beautiful mountain scenery with a taste of the exotic in the Southern Alps. You could easily think you were thousands of miles from home - but without the carbon footprint...



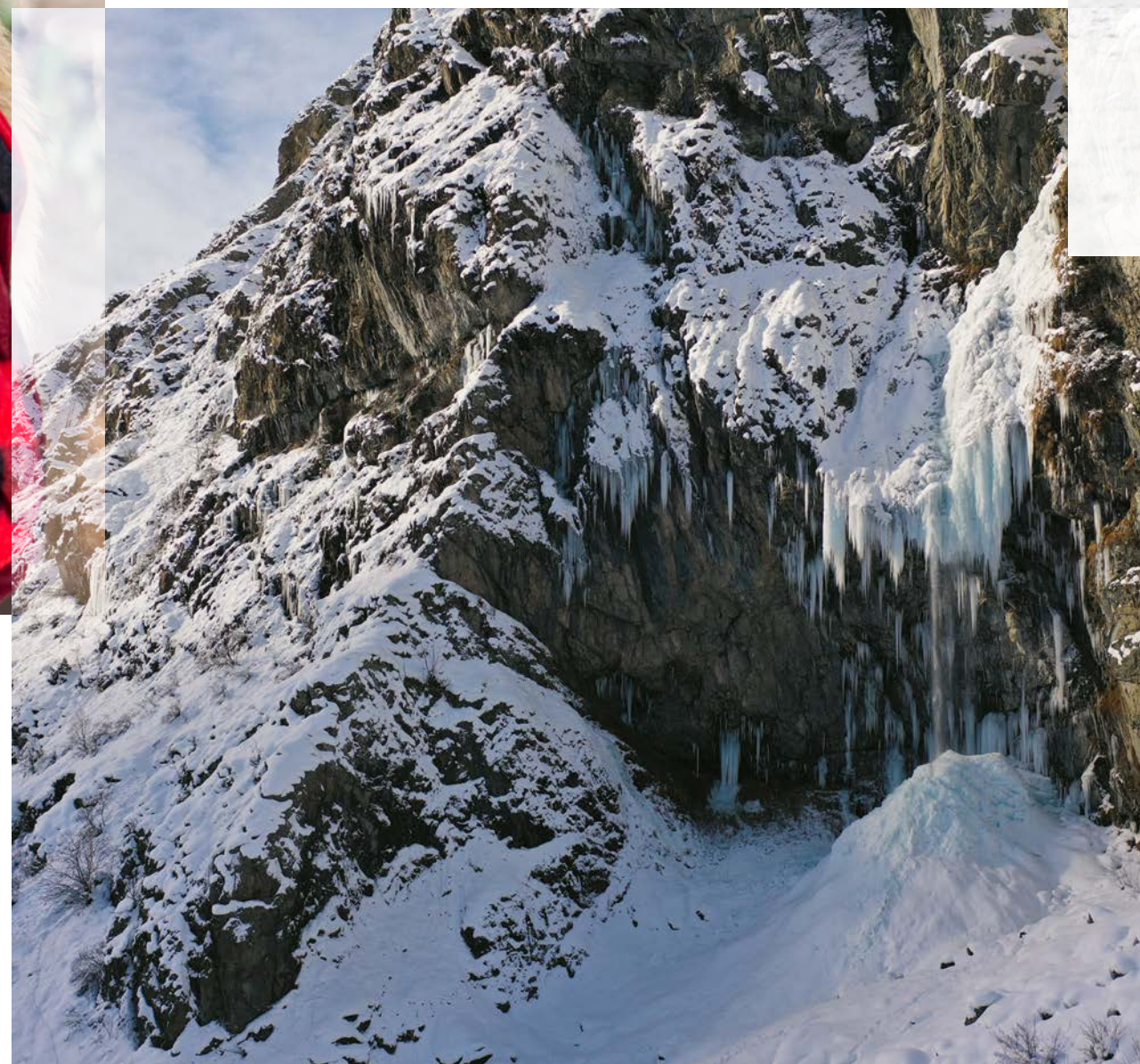
Canadian-style **sugar shacks** on the slopes of Serre Chevalier.

→ [www.Serre-Chevalier.com](http://www.Serre-Chevalier.com)

Icelandic-style **waterfalls** such as Cascade du Casset in Valgaudemar valley, in the heart of Écrins National Park.

→ [www.champsaur-valgaudemar.com](http://www.champsaur-valgaudemar.com)

© J. Cochard ↓

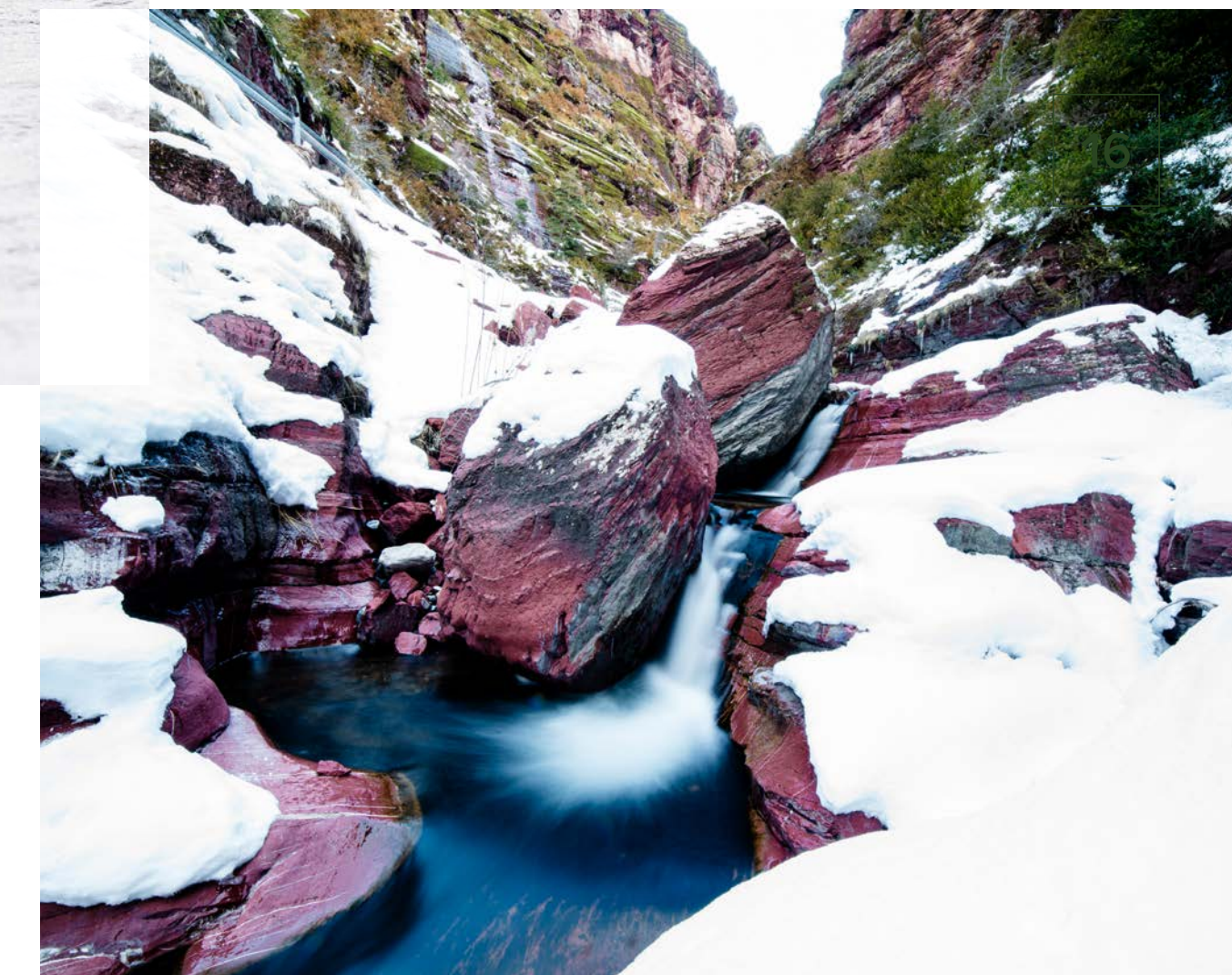


Lapland-style **sledding** in the vast, virgin expanses of Queyras, complete with an instructor, dog care and bivouacking.

→ [lequeyras.com](http://lequeyras.com)

Flaming red rock **canyons** like the ones you'll find in Arizona, with frozen rivers to boot, in Cians Gorge near Valberg.

→ [www.valberg.com](http://www.valberg.com)



© Gorges du Cians OT ↑





# Southern French Alps **A sustainable & eco-desirable mountain range**

In Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur – an ecological planning pilot region –, the green transition is happening on all fronts. Our local inhabitants are playing a vital role too and have become genuine ambassadors for today's new ways of experiencing the mountains. Here are just some of the focuses:

- **Sustainable mobility**, with a network of bus services and snow trains at friendly prices.
- **Preservation of landscapes**, with the reduction – and recycling – of numerous pylons and installation of ski lifts that use less energy.
- **Leisure real estate upgrades**, with better thermal insulation and aesthetics; energy saving through the use of solar panels.
- Low-carbon **snow groomers**.
- **Think tanks** on the use of artificial snow.
- **Development of 4-seasons** tourism and non-motorized nature activities.
- **Commitment to the "Valeurs Parc Naturel Régional"** regional nature reserve label ("A new life begins here") and "**Esprit Parc National**" national park label, in conjunction with Écrins and Mercantour national parks.



Refuge du Pavé - © Itinera Magica - PNE ↑

## Nature Reserves **ZERO SMOKE REFUGES**

Part of the 2021-2027 Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Mountain Plan, the Zero Smoke Refuges initiative supports the implementation of "clean" energy production systems (solar thermal and photovoltaic) in isolated establishments that are not connected to the power grid, such as mountain refuges. Replacing polluting generators with renewable solutions will help preserve our landscapes and air quality. The region is home to over thirty high mountain refuges.

→ [cr-paca.ffcam.fr](http://cr-paca.ffcam.fr)



© R. Van Rijn ↑

## "A NEW LIFE BEGINS HERE" **The Valeurs Parc label**

The "Valeurs Parc Naturel Régional" label is awarded to service providers located in France's regional nature reserves. It is based on strict criteria including, of course, a strong commitment to the environment, together with excellent knowledge of local traditions and roots. In the Queyras area, around fifty accommodation providers, producers, artisans and activity providers are proud holders of the label.

### **NEW**

The label was recently awarded to the Gîte Edelweiss in Abriès, a gîte-hotel with 12 rooms located in the Haut-Guil alpine and Nordic ski area.

→ [Marque Valeurs Parc](#)



© Serre-Ponçon ↑

### **NEW**

## Réallon **BIRD PEOPLE**

We're not the only inhabitants of the mountains! Réallon has just inaugurated "Le Peuple des Oiseaux": a discovery trail dotted with information panels to help familiarize visitors with mountain birds. You can also opt for a "tracking and clues" snowshoeing adventure in the company of a wildlife expert, to learn more about protecting winter fauna.

→ [www.reallon-ski.com](http://www.reallon-ski.com)



## Southern French Alps **A gourmet mountain range**

Short distribution circuits reign supreme here. A myriad of small producers, often using organic or "reasonable farming" (agriculture raisonnée) methods, supply delicious fare to local inhabitants and visitors alike.

38% of regional farms favour short circuits versus the national average of 21%. What's more, with 40% certified farmland, the Hautes-Alpes is France's leading organic area. Champsaur supplies the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region with milk from cows bred on Europe's highest bocage.

Year-round markets, auberges and restaurants exalt the Southern Alps' heartfelt local produce in every season, with stars of the show including cheeses, cured meats, mushrooms, wild berries and genepi...

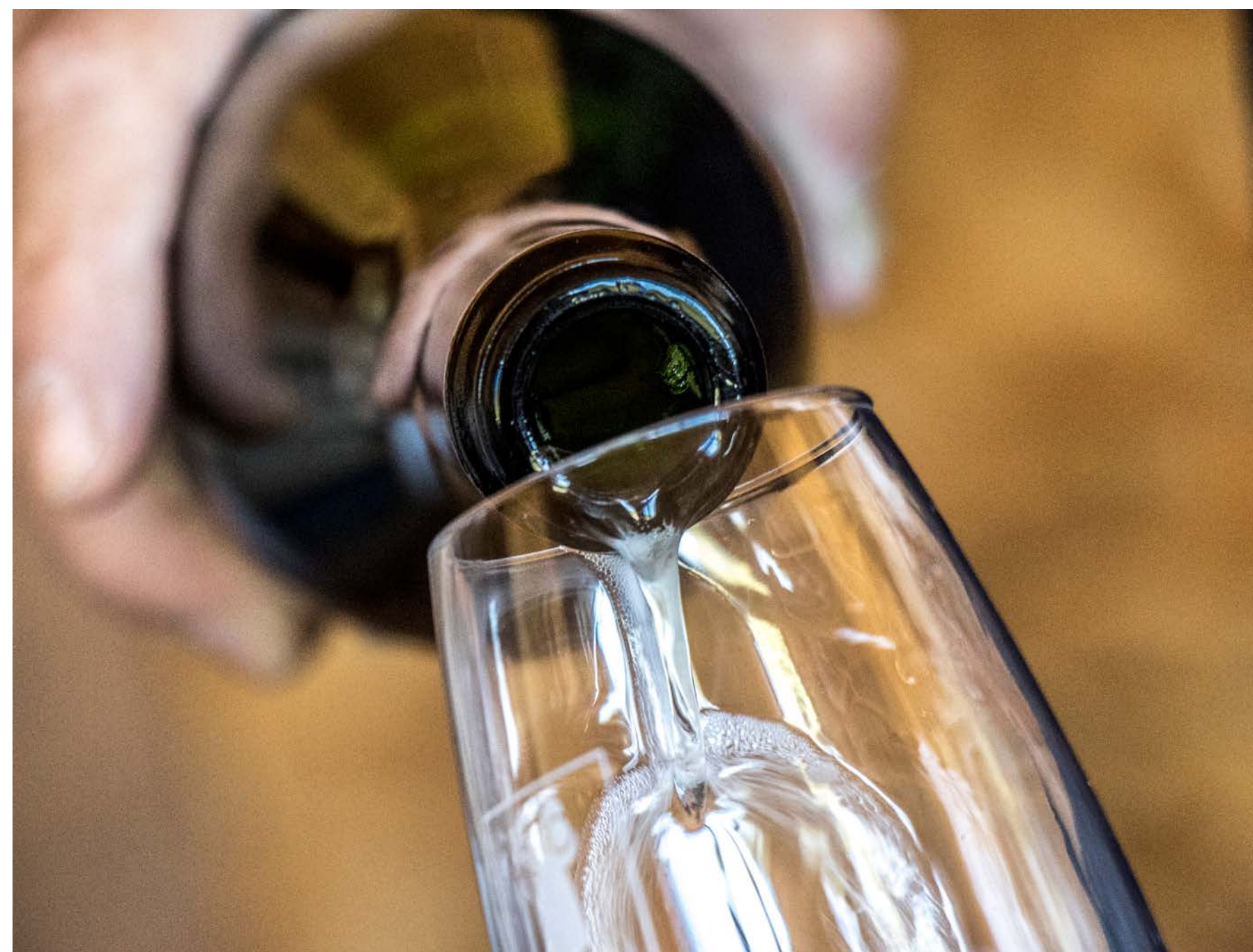
## A unique endemic fruit tree: the "marmottier"

The marmottier, or Briançon apricot tree, is Europe's highest-altitude fruit tree, endemic to the southwestern Alps. In spring, its white flowers form fluffy bouquets among the scree. Resembling little plums with a greenish flesh, its fruit, known as the "afatoule", is very bitter. Le Plantivore, an artisan from Château Ville-Vieille, in the Queyras area, magicks it into a delicious jam, sweetened with plenty of honey and sugar.

→ [plantivore.fr](http://plantivore.fr)



© P. Domeyne ↑



© P. Domeyne ↑



© P. Domeyne ↑

## Bienvenue à la ferme

"Bienvenue à la Ferme" (Welcome to the Farm) shops give pride of place to short distribution circuits and offer a great range of fruit, vegetables, wines, beers, honeys, jams and yoghurts. The latest member of the club, Bienvenue à la Ferme-Embrun, offers fare from around thirty high-alpine producers.

→ [provence-alpes-cotedazur.com](http://provence-alpes-cotedazur.com)



© Refuge de la Blanche ↑

© A. Grossan ↑

## A chef's refuge in Queyras!

After a stint alongside three-star chef Glenn Viel, Victor Castelli set up home at the Grand Rochebrune refuge, perched at an altitude of 1,840 metres in the hamlet of Souliers in Château Ville-Vieille, in the heart of the Queyras Regional Nature Reserve. This charming wooden gîte, topped with a large-south-facing terrace, enjoys splendid views over La Font Sancte and l'Aiguille de Chambeyron. Victor and his partner Alix concoct simple yet flavourful and surprising fare such as a Queyras Blue Cheese Espuma with notes of toasted walnuts and a traditional blueberry tart with a twist...

→ [www.gitedesouliers.fr](http://www.gitedesouliers.fr)

→ [lequeyras.com](http://lequeyras.com)

**JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup> - 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

### **CHEFS AU SOMMET #15** **Auron**

The crème de la crème of Riviera chefs head to the heights of Auron for this week-long gastro-panoramic festival.

→ [auron.com](http://auron.com)

**EVENT**

## "Consom'acteurs" workshops in Queyras

Learn all about milking goats, cheesemaking and wines made with plants... A heartwarming family experience spearheaded by the Queyras area, to help visitors understand and uphold local traditions and know-how.

→ [lequeyras.com](http://lequeyras.com)

© C. Rounds ↓





## Southern French Alps **Nordic skiing**

The Southern Alps is a genuine treasure trove for Nordic skiing fans. The "Nordic Pass Alpes" allows you to ski and enjoy a range of Nordic activities in the Southern Alps' 32 dedicated ski areas throughout 2024/2025.

Prices: Youth €85, Adults €200, Seniors €140.

→ [www.nordicalpesdusud.com](http://www.nordicalpesdusud.com)

### **NEW**

The "Hors Ski" pass allows non-skiers – snowshoers, fatbikers, dog sledders and runners - to make the most of the local ski areas. Price: €5 per day, €15 per week and €45 per season.



© Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur ↑

## Saint-Dalmas-le-Selvage

Two-thirds of this village – the highest in the Alpes-Maritimes area – are located on the protected land of Mercantour National Park. Cross-country skiers will enjoy the 3-km loop, while ski tourers can venture out to explore Braïssa pass and the Sestrières plateau. The 50 km of snowshoeing trails also lead to Bousieyas, the Alpes-Maritimes' highest hamlet at 1,960 metres. In Provencal dialect its name, "bousihar", means "blowing a storm".

→ [saintdalmasleselvage.fr](https://saintdalmasleselvage.fr)



© T. Blais ↑

## Izoard

A character-filled area, where alpine traditions are still very much part of everyday life and nature is an integral part of every sporting challenge. Visitors can enjoy visiting educational farms in the towns of Cervières, Villard-St-Pancrace, Puy-St-André and Puy-St-Pierre near Briançon, between Col d'Izoard and Serre Chevalier valley, to learn more. Alternatively, enjoy a big breath of fresh air among vast expanses of snow and larch trees in the Nordic ski areas of Cervières and Villard-St-Pancrace.

### UNIQUE

The "Maison des bêtes à laine" in Cervières offers tours of the sheepfold and introduction to old-fashioned wool spinning. A truly astonishing experience!

### NEW

Friday is dog sledding day! Dogs are not usually authorized on the slopes, but in the Nordic ski area of Villard-St-Pancrace, fans enjoy a window from 5-7 pm every Friday during the winter season. Don't miss it!

→ [www.hautesvallees.com](https://www.hautesvallees.com)

## La Draye

You won't find ski passes here, but rather a tree trunk at the start of the slopes where you can leave however much you want. The money collected is used to pay for the snow groomer's petrol and maintenance. Thanks to the combined efforts of the managers of Gîte de la Draye, a musher and local lads and gals, this delightful ski area, lying at an altitude of 1,500 metres on the heights of Boscodon forest, is back on track. The site gazes over Massif de Morgon.

→ [www.nordicalpesdusud.com](http://www.nordicalpesdusud.com)



© Domaine de La Draye ↑



© T. Blais ↑

## Clarée Valley

You'll find beautiful, virgin landscapes here, devoid of electricity pylons and large infrastructures. Little mountain villages and hamlets, boasting remarkable and unexpected traditional architecture, are dotted along the banks of the river Clarée.

Névache and Val-des-Prés are real gems for ramblers and lovers of simple mountain pleasures. This confidential valley is steeped in the joys of winter and offers a great choice

of small hotels, B&Bs and heartfelt eateries, plus two alpine ski slopes and a biathlon shooting range. It leads into the even more secretive Streta valley, a Franco-Italian administrative curiosity harbouring a handful of chalets and two refuges, I Re Magi and Terzo Alpini, offering a delightful Italian ambience and menu. The valley is only accessible with snowshoes and an instructor in winter.

→ [www.hautesvallees.com](http://www.hautesvallees.com)

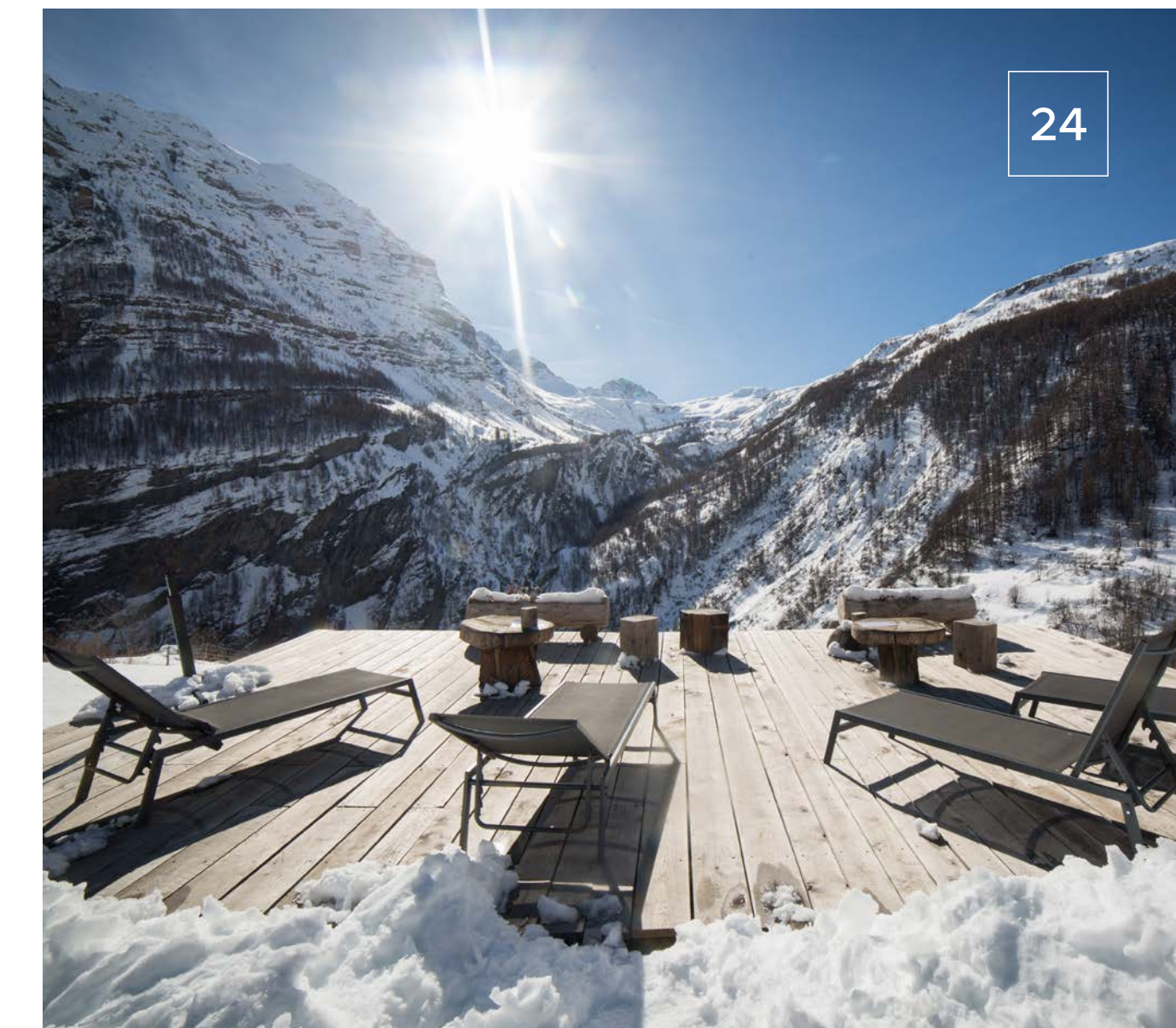
## Freissinières Valley

### UNIQUE

#### Le Refuge de l'Oncle Émile in Dormillouse

This hamlet, perched above Freissinières valley, can only be accessed on foot, or with snowshoes in winter. But it's worth the effort. The Refuge de l'Oncle Emile awaits you with cosy mountain fare and fluffy duvets if you don't fancy the descent!

→ [www.paysdesecrins.com](http://www.paysdesecrins.com)



© M. Lachaud ↑





## Southern French Alps **Major ski resorts & village resorts**

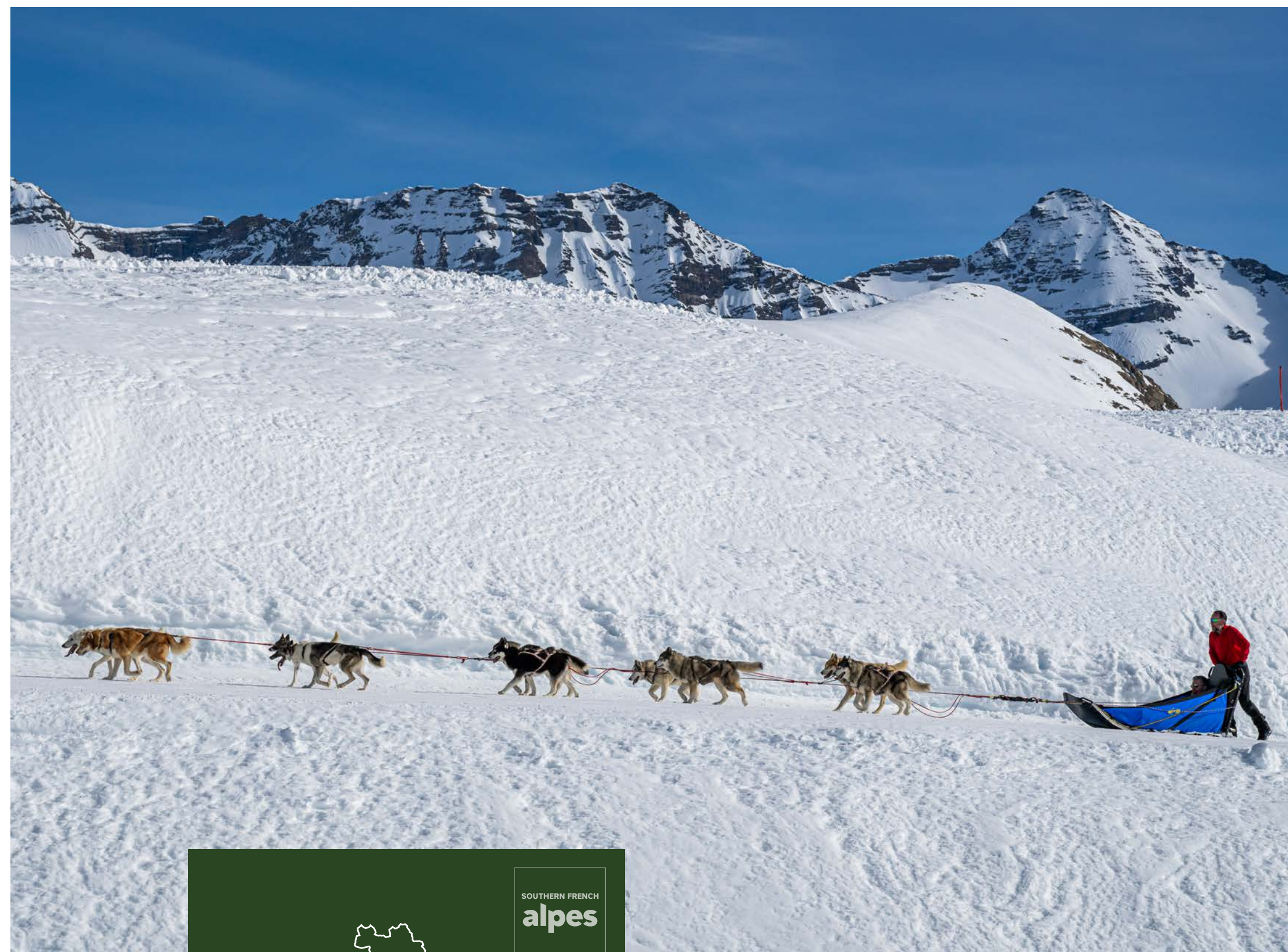
The Southern Alps' 62 ski resorts each boast their own seasoned character, combining heritage and cutting-edge performance. Here, village resorts and major ski resorts live side-by-side in perfect harmony; moreover, our ancient hamlets have captured the hearts of many champions. The proof of the pudding? The slopes of Serre Chevalier Briançon, Val d'Allos, Auron, Vars and Le Dévoluy, to name but a few, pan out around villages dating back to the Middle Ages.

## CHAMPSAUR VALGAUDEMAR LE DÉVOLUY

### Pioneering Orcières-Merlette, Champsaur- Valgaudemar valley

Perched at an altitude of 1,850 metres, the resort of Champsaur, with its cedarwood-clad buildings, never ceases to innovate. The hundred kilometres of pistes rising to 2,725 metres and panoramic Blue slopes offer stunning vistas over the Vieux-Chaillo, Pointe des Estaris and other 3,000-metre soaring summits of Écrins National Park. New cross-country trails crisscross Roche-rousse plateau, while dog sleds, an igloo village and Finnish kotas whisk visitors away to the Great North. Free ski lifts carry giant snow tubes to the top of the slopes, for the promise of heart-stopping descents. The hamlets of Prapic and Serre-Eyraud are true gems of wood and stone, perfect for a winter stroll and traditional bite to eat.

→ [www.champsaur-valgaudemar.com](http://www.champsaur-valgaudemar.com)



Trail étoilé © G. Baron ↑

**JANUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

### TRAIL ÉTOILÉ D'ORCIÈRES Orcières Merlette 1850

A race on snow under the stars, lit only by headlamps... Insane! Taking place on January 11<sup>th</sup>, with 300 runners competing in the magnificent landscapes of Ecrins National Park, the Trail Etoilé challenge promises a show to remember.

→ [www.orcieres.com](http://www.orcieres.com)

EVENT

**APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

### "HELLDEBERT ENFANTILLAGES 666" CONCERT! | Orcières Merlette 1850

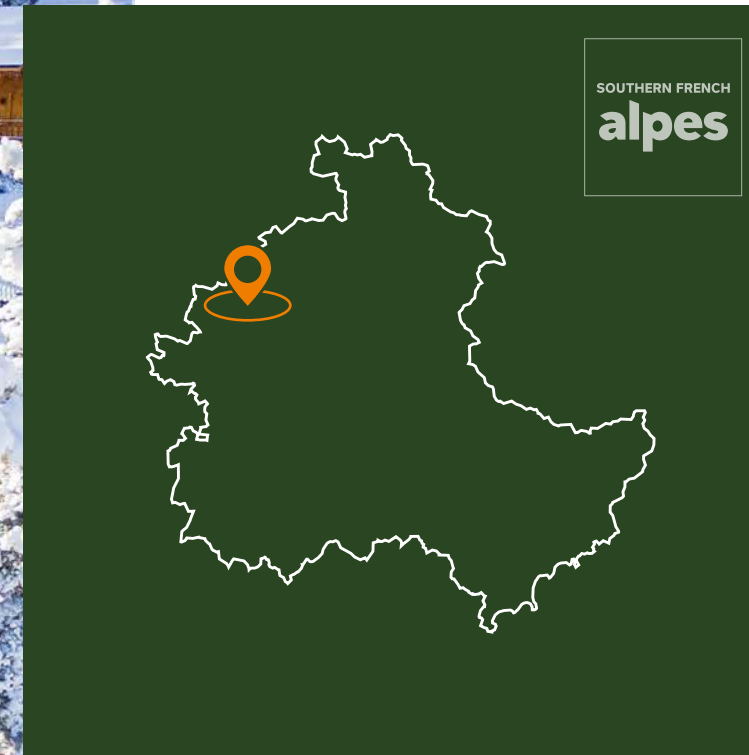
Every French family's favourite singer is putting on a special show! After conquering the heart of young and old alike with a new album full of meaning and humour, Aldebert is unveiling a new universe with a resolutely rock and metal feel – and what better stage than this dynamic and audacious family-style resort? Celebrating spring in the mountains and the "Orcières invite les enfants" (Orcières invites children") initiative, the concert is set to crown a season rich in highlights and festivities.

→ [www.orcieres.com](http://www.orcieres.com)

EVENT



© OT Le Dévoluy ↑



## Charming Superdévoluy and La Joue du Loup, Massif du Dévoluy

A U-shaped massif rising up to l'Obiou, Dévoluy is home to two ski resorts with resolutely different styles but the same southern alpine charm. Le Bois d'Aurouze, nicknamed the "Cruise Liner of the Snow" - a proud holder of the Remarkable Contemporary Architecture label -, is the landmark of Superdévoluy. Joue du Loup, with its pretty wooden chalets, is very different but equally charming. Both share 100 kilometres of alpine slopes, a fun and challenging snowpark and Nordic ski area spanning around 40 kilometres. You'll find Inès and Laureen's dog sleds ready to roll at Les Fontettes or treat yourself to a whirlpool bath gazing out over a magical panorama and the massif's emblem, Pic de Bure, at the Espace Odycéa.

→ [www.ledevoluy.com](http://www.ledevoluy.com)

**NEW**

### EXPO PHOTO XXL | Dévoluy

Discover this captivating winter season exhibition, featuring 12 XXL nature photos originally shown at the Festival de l'Image taking place every year in July.

EVENT



© R. Malgat ↑

**DECEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> – 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2024**

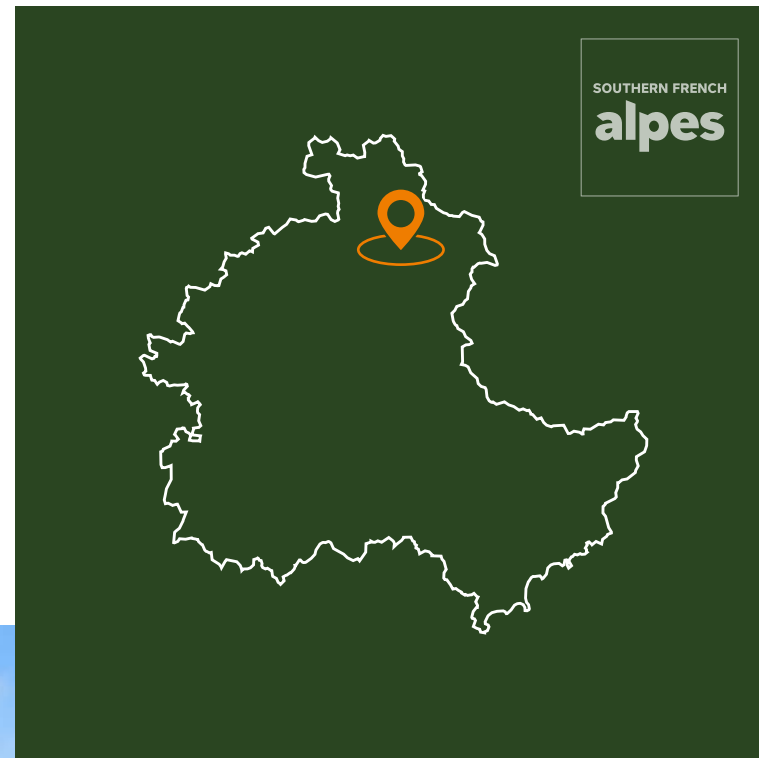
### OPEN DE SNOW VOLLEY #4 | Dévoluy

One of France's latest sports trends, snow volleyball may even be featured at the next Winter Olympics! This 3 x 3 tournament is organized by Le Devoluy and Gap Volley Ball. The Friday matches are for amateurs, with pros on the courts on Saturday and Sunday.

→ [www.ledevoluy.com](http://www.ledevoluy.com)

EVENT

# BRIANÇONNAIS ÉCRINS



© OT Serre Chevalier ↑

## Exhilarating Serre Chevalier-Briançon

Serre Chevalier's 250 kilometres of slopes make it one of France's largest ski areas and eminently qualified to host the 2030 Winter Olympics mogul and freestyle events! Most of the slopes pan out from altitudes of over 2,000 metres on the heights of Guisane Valley, between Briançon and Col du Lautaret. Serre Chevalier also boasts plenty of different departure points: you can set off from Briançon on the Prorel gondola, with sweeping views over Briançon's UNESCO World Heritage fortifications, or one of the villages in the valley. The Pontillas gondola on the snow front of Salle-les-Alpes, home to a vast, elegant and recently-refurbished Club Med resort, leads to the new beginners' area on Méa plateau. Fun and elegant, Serre Chevalier is also a pioneer in sustainable development, constantly seeking new ways to reduce its environmental impact. It is the first ski resort to produce a third of its own energy requirements using a combination of micro wind turbines, hydroelectricity and solar power.

### NEW

Online ski passes powered by Bluetooth Low Energy technology available this winter.

→ [www.Serre Chevalier.com](http://www.Serre Chevalier.com)



© OT Serre Chevalier ↑



© A. Ghilini ↑

EVENTS

**JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup> – FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2025**

### WORLD MONOSKI CHAMPIONSHIP Serre Chevalier

The world's largest monoski meeting! Free test runs, introductions and freeride sessions complete the line-up for this palpitating weekend of competitions.

→ [www.Serre Chevalier.com](http://www.Serre Chevalier.com)



© OT Serre Chevalier ↑

**NEW**

### CLUB MED RESORT SERRE CHEVALIER | La Salle-les-Alpes

Resembling a mountain hamlet, the Club Med Resort in Serre Chevalier has been completely refurbished by interior designer Laurent Maugoust, with pride of place given to wood and sundials. The emblems of Briançon valley inspire every space, right down to the custom-made headboards.

With this €50 million investment, Club Med is reasserting its commitment to the Southern Alps. The environmentally-friendly project is set to breathe new life into this iconic location at the foot of the slopes, with upgraded amenities and customer service coupled with improved energy performance. Reopening on December 15th, 2024.

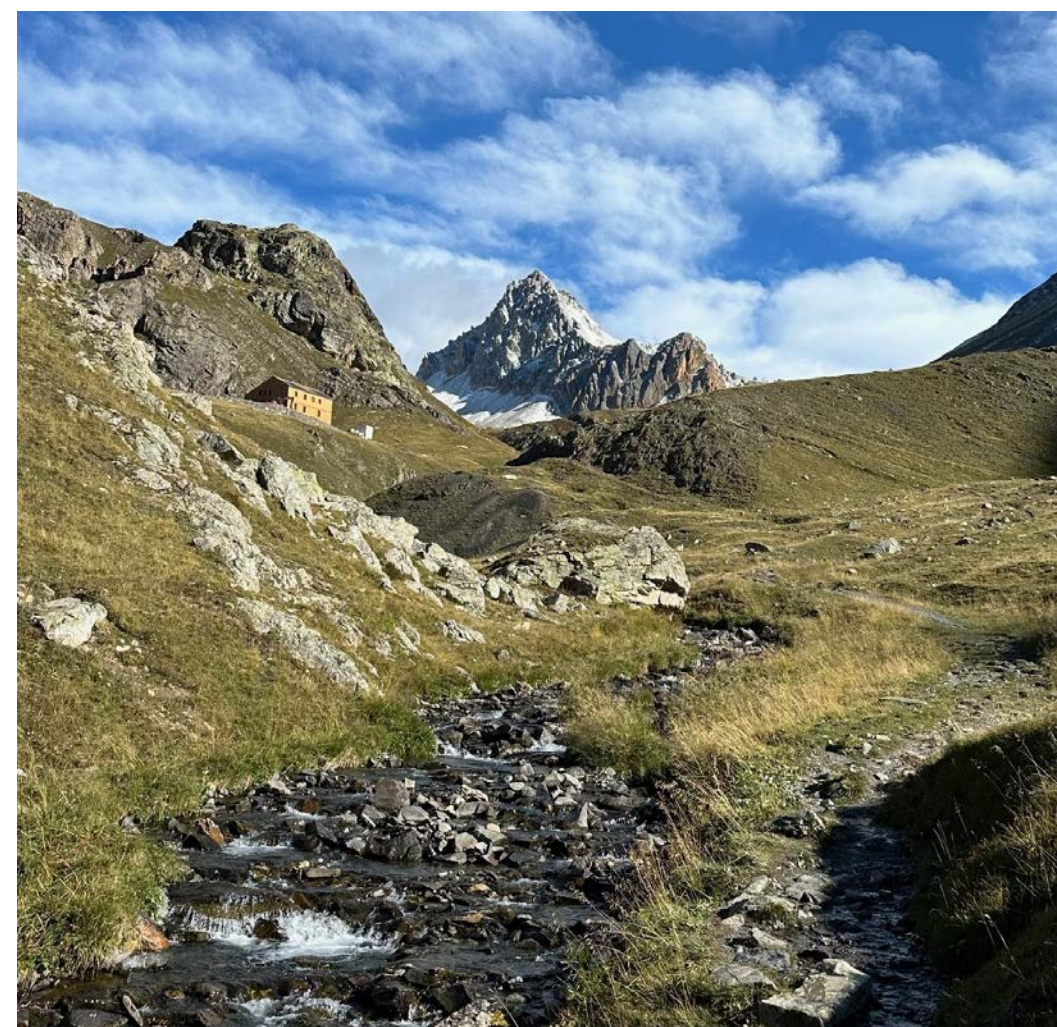
→ [www.Serre Chevalier.com](http://www.Serre Chevalier.com)

**NEW**

### REFUGE DU CLÔT DES VACHES Monêtier-les-Bains

Perched at an altitude of 2,250 metres in the sumptuous Cerces massif, Le Clôt des Vaches is Serre Chevalier valley's very first mountain refuge. A proud holder of the "Mediterranean Sustainable Building" label, open 10 months out of 12, it can accommodate up to 30 people in small dormitories each sleeping 5 to 7. You can access the refuge in winter on skis from the Pont de l'Alpe car park (shuttle service available). The views over the Écrins massif are breathtaking: aficionados can enjoy a foretaste thanks to the upcoming webcam.

→ [www.Serre Chevalier.com](http://www.Serre Chevalier.com)



© OT Serre Chevalier ↑



© N. Dagan ↑

**JANUARY 21<sup>ST</sup> – 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

### ALTITUDE JAZZ FESTIVAL #18 Serre Chevalier Briançon

A whole week dedicated to jazz, improvised music, international artists and the emerging French scene, with the Théâtre du Briançonnais at its epicentre.

→ [www.Serre Chevalier.com](http://www.Serre Chevalier.com)



## Intense La Grave-La Meije

Two villages nestle at the foot of La Meije, one of Écrins National Park's most iconic peaks between Emparis plateau and the Lautaret mountain pass. The high mountain territories of Villar-d'Arène and La Grave are surrounded by glaciers and little, traditional villages. Freeriders flock to this legendary destination from the world over.

The only two groomed slopes are located on the Girose glacier, at an altitude of 3,200 metres. Seasoned athletes thrive at these high altitudes, on the off-piste slopes of La Meije. But you don't need to be an adrenalin freak to appreciate the authentic, rustic and powerful mountainscapes of La Grave-La Meije. Novices can enjoy learning to ski in the cosy resort of Chazelet, at very affordable prices, while all the family will relish the comforting cuisine on offer at the local auberges, admiring the view over the glaciers of La Meije from the cable car, or heading out to explore the authentic local villages, rich in history and traditions.

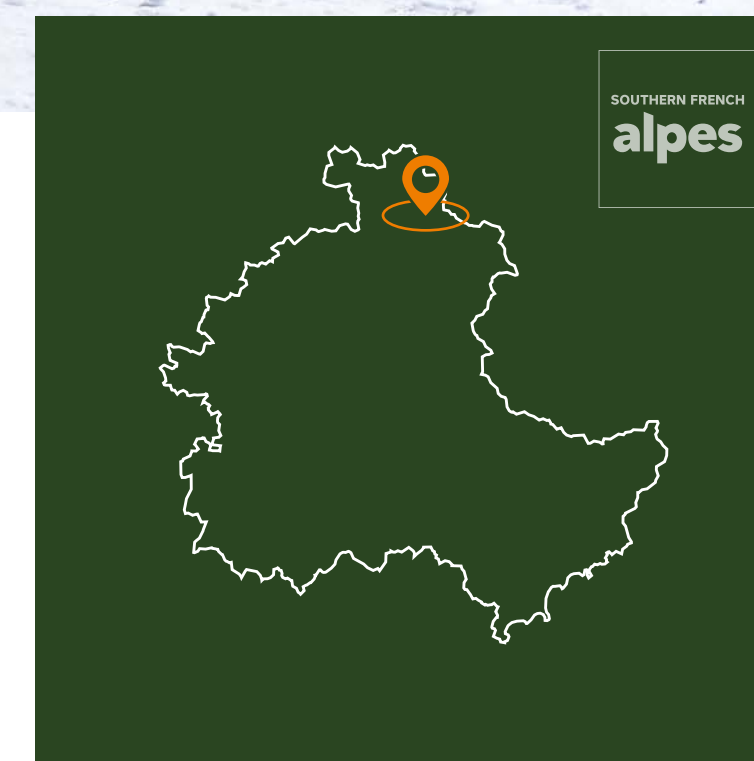
→ [www.hautesvallees.com](http://www.hautesvallees.com)



© Alpes Photographies ↑



© OT Montgenèvre ↑



## Dolce vita Montgenèvre

Our Italian neighbours love this resort straddling the Franco-Italian border, on a mountain pass generously sprinkled with snow from Pô plain. You'll definitely want to whoosh over to Italy to savour sausage and polenta on the Colette green trail and explore the geological treasures and forts of Le Chenaillet, on a par with the Dolomites. Make the most of two free days on the 400 km of pistes of the Voie Lactée ski area when you book a 6-day package. France's oldest ski resort, this elegant international hub features 110 km of pistes on two pleasantly-varied slopes, a 50,000 m<sup>2</sup> beginner's area (free of charge), new generation gondola lift and panoramic toboggan – not to mention a Durancia balneotherapy centre.

→ [montgenevre.com](http://montgenevre.com)

**APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup> - 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

### LA COURSE DE LA MILLE PATTES #37 Montgenèvre

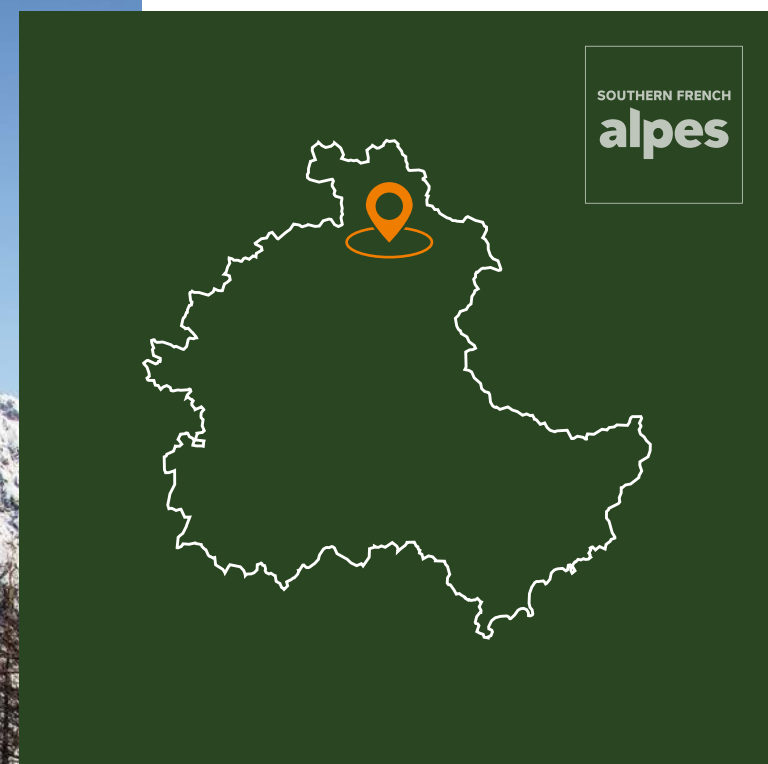
A colourful sporting event and France's largest meeting of young hopeful skiers, welcoming over 1,000 children aged 5 to 10 years with an exciting line-up of fun competitions against the clock. Children, parents and coaches alike will be cheering on the competitors at France's largest meeting of young skiers!

→ [montgenevre.com](http://montgenevre.com)

EVENTS



© T. Blais ↑



### Authentic Pelvoux-Vallouise, Pays des Écrins

Perched at the gateway to Écrins National Park, this resort comprises two villages: Vallouise at the confluence of the Gyr and Onde rivers, and Pelvoux and its hamlet Ailefroide, an international mountaineering hub. The Préron chairlift whisks you up to the new panoramic barbecue and boasts spectacular views over the Barre des Écrins at 4,102 metres and Rouya at 2,730 metres, very popular with ski tourers. The igloos and skating rink at the pop-up Igloo Pelvoo village immerse holidaymakers in the atmosphere of the Great North. On the slopes, under the arcades of Vallouise and in the lanes of Puy Aillaud, you'll find plenty of gourmet addresses coveted by foodies.

→ [www.paysdesecrins.com](http://www.paysdesecrins.com)

**DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2024 –**

**MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2025**

#### IGLOO PELVOUX SAISON #12 Vallouise-Pelvoux

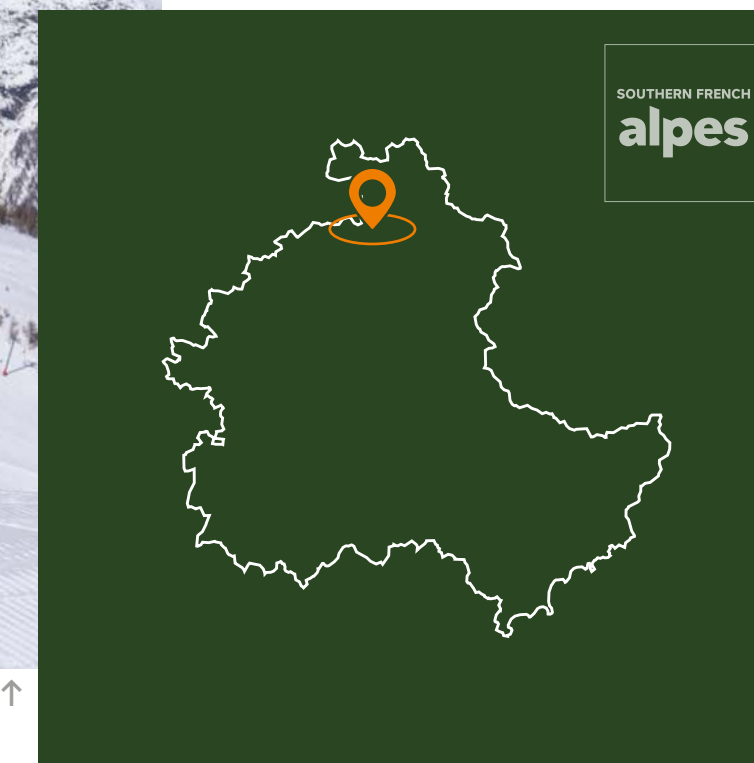
This year's theme, "Story Trolls", is inspired by the myths and legends of the mountains. Giant sculpted igloo, exhibitions, screenings, entertainment, skating rink and more.

→ [www.paysdesecrins.com](http://www.paysdesecrins.com)

EVENT



© R. Van Rijn ↑



### Sheltered Puy-Saint-Vincent

**NEW**

A brand new Panoramic sports complex, complete with a skating rink, bowling alley, climbing wall, games room and concert hall, has just opened in Puy-Saint-Vincent 1600. Sheltered from winds by the Barre des Écrins, the resort lies at altitudes of 1,400 metres to 1,800 metres. More than half of the ski area basks above 2,000 metres and its highest point, La Pendine, is an impressive 2,700 metres above sea level. A slope measuring over 9 kilometres winds its way down from the summit, across larch forests. Surrounded by glaciers and majestic mountainscapes, Puy-Saint-Vincent remains easy to navigate, with an average distance of 20 metres between accommodation and the ski area. If you're seeking a unique adventure, the geodesic domes of Watogla Camp are perfect for bivouacking and other outdoor activities.

→ [www.puysaintvincent.com](http://www.puysaintvincent.com)

**NEW**

### LA PARENTHÈSE EN ÉCRINS Les Vigneaux

Situated in the village of Les Vigneaux in Écrins National Park, at the gateway to Vallouise Valley, this pretty house offers three guest rooms or can be rented out in its entirety. The ski resort of Puy-Saint-Vincent is just 10 minutes away, with Briançon-Serre Chevalier at 20 minutes and Clarée Valley at 30 minutes. Prices: 1 person €85 - 2 people €110.

→ [la-parenthese-en-ecrins.com](http://la-parenthese-en-ecrins.com)

**JANUARY 16<sup>TH</sup> – 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

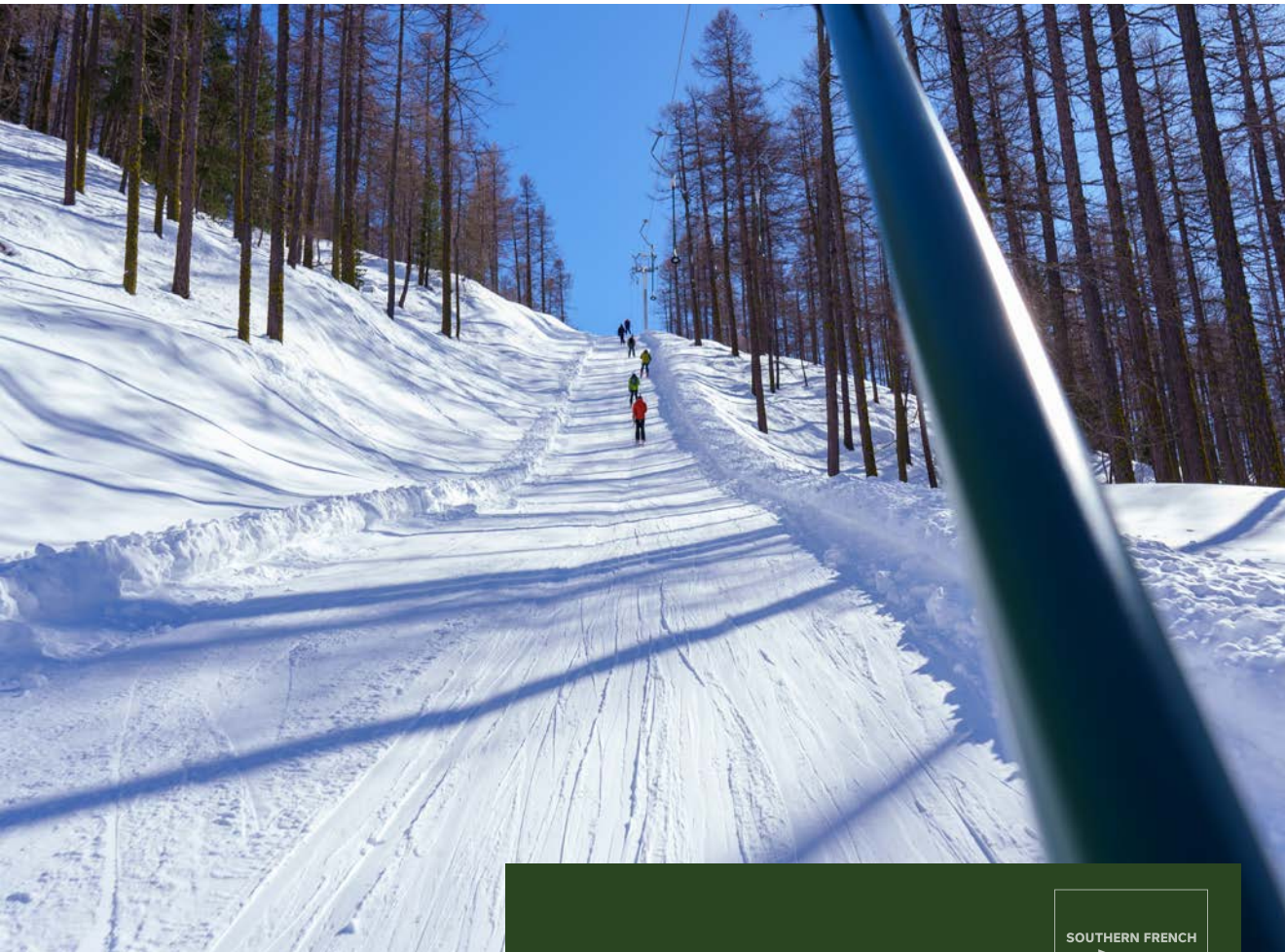
#### ICE CLIMBING ÉCRINS #35 L'Argentière-la-Bessée

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

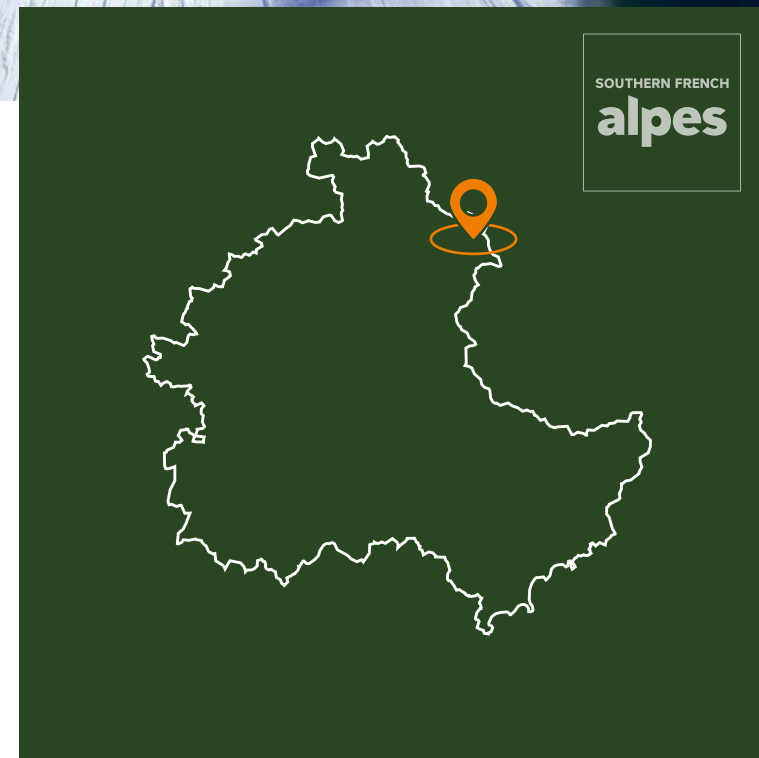
→ [www.paysdesecrins.com](http://www.paysdesecrins.com)

EVENT

# GUILLESTROIS QUEYRAS FORÊT BLANCHE



© A. Benard ↑



## Tranquil Abriès

Resembling a little island on the border with Italy, nestling in the protective embrace of the Queyras Regional Nature Reserve, Abriès is an international benchmark in ski touring, ski mountaineering and ruisseling (hiking with crampons along the banks of frozen rivers).

Perched at an altitude of 1,550 metres, this village resort promises families both comfort and a taste of the Great North. The new La Brune ski lift at the mouth of the Bouchet river uses roller technology to allow visitors to return to the resort on skis. The La Brune black slope has been redesigned, as has the panoramic ski-in/ski-out connection between Ruibon and Valpréveyre, winding its way through underwoods.

The slopes range from 1,550 to 2,450 metres in altitude, with a total of 21 km of pistes and 900-metre incline from the summit of Gilly, soaring to 2,450 metres.

→ [lequeyras.com](https://lequeyras.com)



© R. Antoine - OTGQ ↑



© Refuge de la Blanche ↑

**NEW**

## BOARD GAMES BAR Saint-Véran

"La Gratinée" is a new board games bar set to open on December 21st in the beating heart of Europe's highest village. The €3 entry fee gives you access to over 75 board games between 5 and 10.30 pm, every day except Tuesdays.

**DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

### TAKE REFUGE AT THE REFUGE THIS CHRISTMAS! | Saint-Véran

What could be better than Christmas in a mountain village complete with a Christmas market, elf hunt, torchlight descent and fireworks?! Queyras invites snow aficionados to take to the heights for a resolutely different Christmas Eve. Slip your snowshoes on and head to the La Blanche refuge, nestled at an altitude of 2,500 metres in the middle of a wild mountain cirque. A guide leads the way on the climb from Saint-Véran to this cosy cocoon, where you will revel in a refined and glittering Christmas Eve to the sound of music, before enjoying a good night's sleep in your peaceful room.

**EVENT**

→ [lequeyras.com](https://lequeyras.com)





© MJ One Diffusion Risoul Station ↑



© OT Risoul ↑

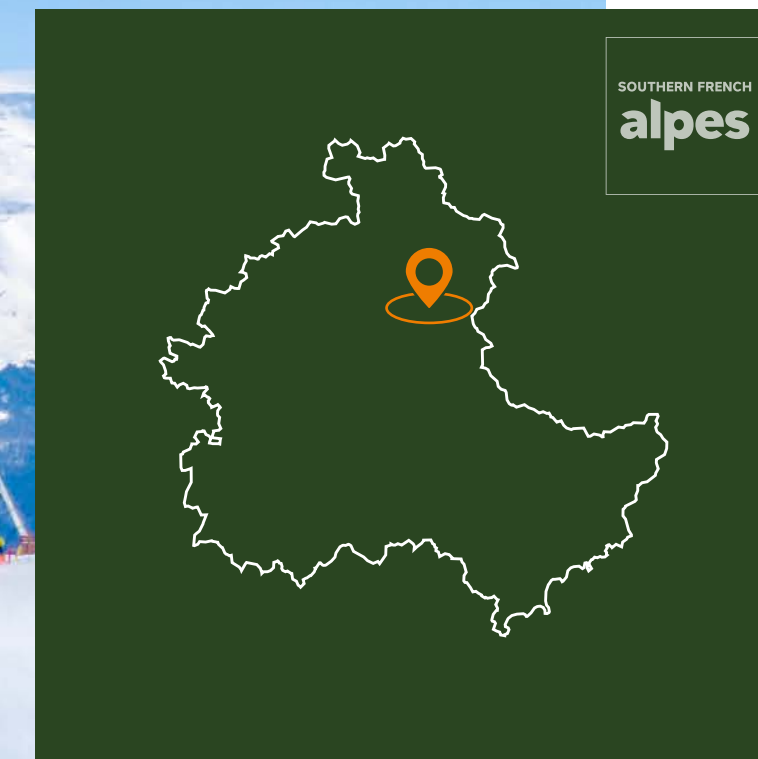
## Fun Risoul

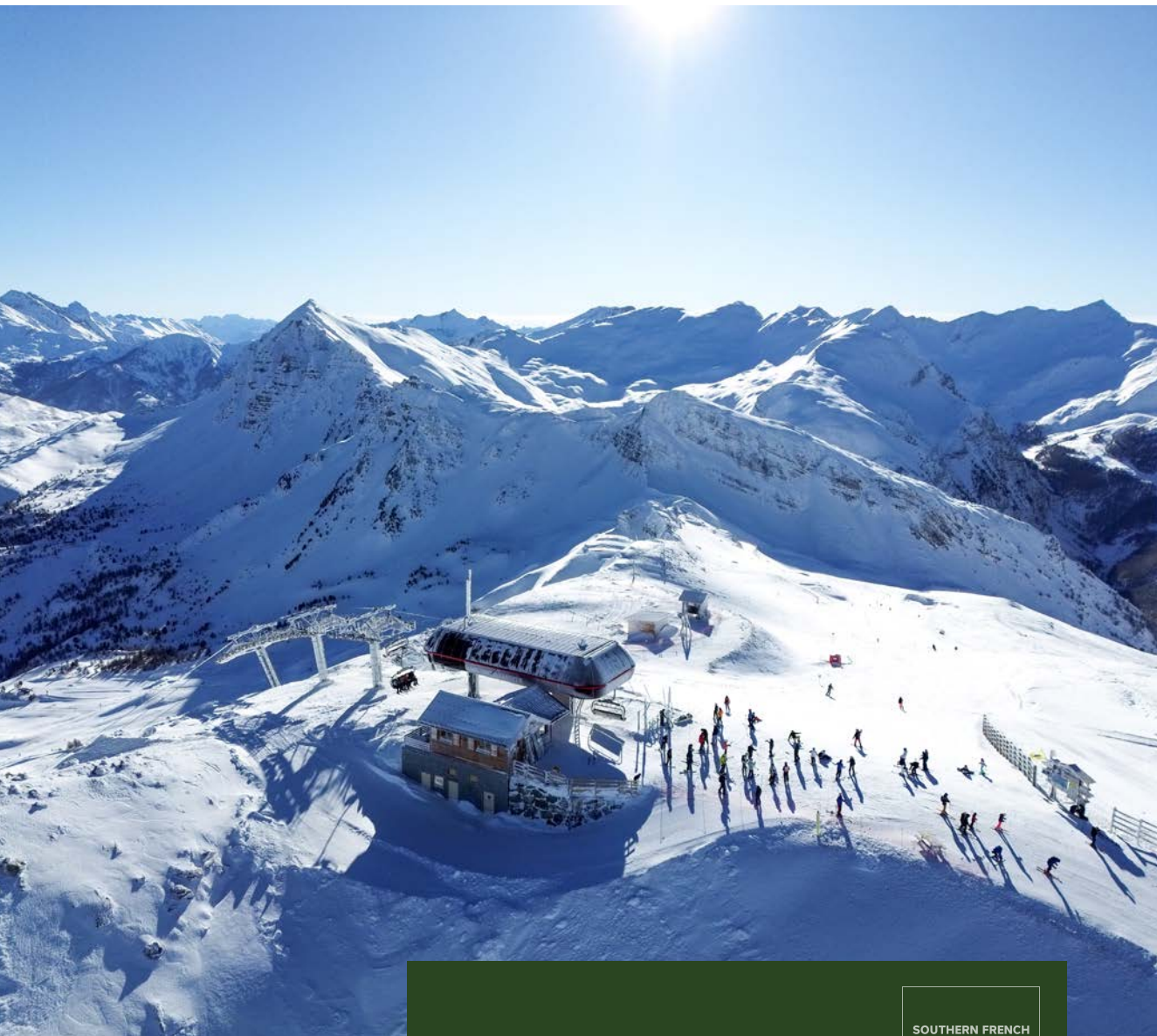
Poised at an altitude of 1,850 metres on a rocky balcony gazing over Écrins National Park, just next to the Queyras Regional Nature Reserve, Risoul shares the 185 km of pistes of the Forêt Blanche ski area with neighbouring Vars. This is a great resort for beginners, with a free area for novices, pulsed movement gondola lift, gentle slopes up to mid-height and pistes panning out from the summit. The resort also offers child-friendly amenities in line with the "Labellemontagne" label, including the Risoul snowpark plus blue and green slopes leading to breathtaking viewpoints. A fun and youthful resort, with the wooden shingle-clad buildings of Risoul 1850 at the heart of the action.

### NEW

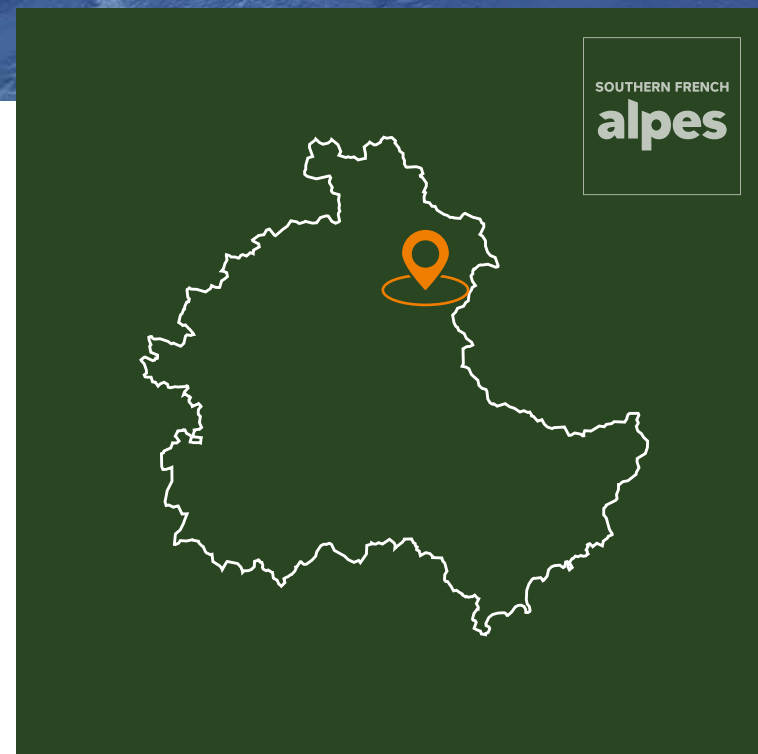
The "Homme de Pierre" (Stone Age Man) chairlift offers stunning panoramic vistas over Serre-Ponçon lake. The village of Risoul is located just 7 km from Mont-Dauphin, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, showcasing Ousmane Sow's magnificent exhibition titled "Little Big Horn".

→ [www.risoul.com/hiver](http://www.risoul.com/hiver)





© L. Scappini ↑



## Majestic Vars

Poised at an altitude of over 1,850 m, Vars and its four villages are niched inside a natural cirque that allows skiers to follow the sun's trajectory throughout the day. With an incline of 1,100 metres and 185 km of slopes, the Forêt Blanche ski area, between Vars and Risoul, is a favourite among skiing enthusiasts.

### NEW

The Vars Speed Master chairlift drops skiers and pedestrians off at an altitude of 2,750 metres. The summit unveils breathtaking views over Mont Ventoux, Mont Blanc and the Écrins mountain range, as well as Serre-Ponçon lake down below. The return piste leads to an ice cave adorned with sculptures. Experienced skiers will love tackling the Chabrières Olympic speed ski slope, whisking you back down from the summit of Peyrol in the twinkling of an eye. Take time to stop off on the Route des Grandes Alpes: Vars boasts heritage treasures to spare around Les Claux, forming the beating heart of the resort, or the rural hamlets of Sainte-Marie, Saint-Marcellin and Sainte-Catherine.

→ [www.vars.com/hiver](http://www.vars.com/hiver)



© L. Scappini ↑

**JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> – 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

### OUTDOORMIX WINTER FESTIVAL #6 | Vars

Jumplining, snow kayaking, snow mountain biking, ski touring, fat biking, ice pétanque, snow volleyball and more...

This sporting cocktail for beginners, interspersed with free concerts under a marquee, ends with a ski derby setting off from the summit of La Mayt.

→ [www.vars.com](http://www.vars.com)

EVENT



Vars en Scène - © R. Morel ↑

**DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

### VARS EN SCÈNE

→ [www.vars.com](http://www.vars.com)

**APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

### GLISS MIX FESTIVAL | Vars

This year's ski season is opening with a concert by a renowned artist. A DJ set will be transforming the snow front into a genuine dancefloor on the closing weekend.

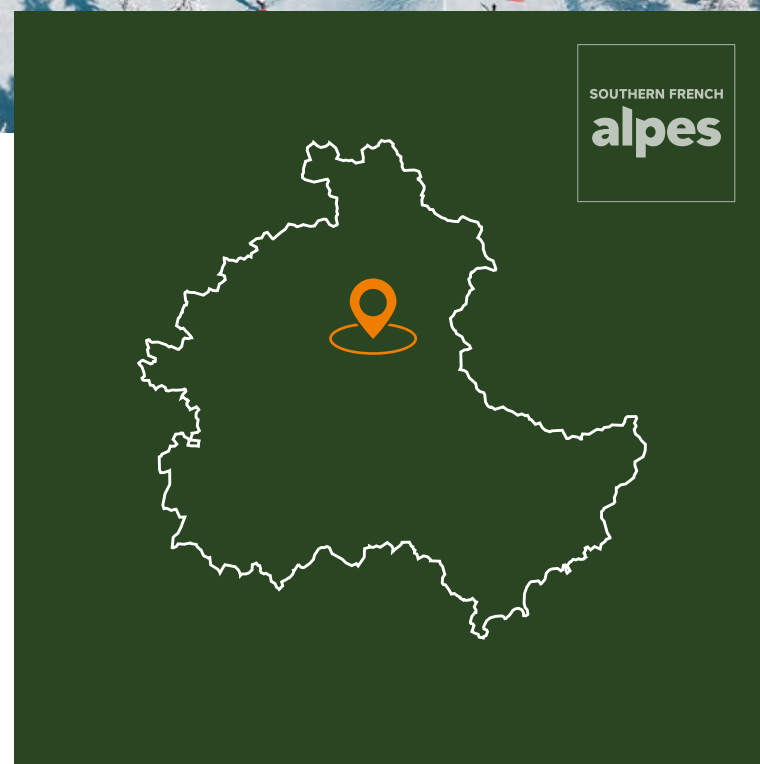
→ [www.vars.com](http://www.vars.com)

EVENT

# EMBRUNNAIS LES ORRES



© W. Camus ↑



© A. Bellet ↑

## Dazzling Les Orres Serre-Ponçon Valley

A belvedere suspended over Serre-Ponçon lake, Les Orres' unique cedarwood architecture has earned it the "20th Century Heritage" label. The honeycomb façade of the new Sports & Innovation Hub, boasting 800 m<sup>2</sup> of equipment, blends perfectly into the snow front. And that's no coincidence: the resort is a team player and hive of innovation, home to Patrolair - a mountain drone training centre -, 3D scanners to help you pick the best ski boots, a zipline measuring nearly 2 km and high-altitude concierge service... With its northwesterly exposure favouring excellent snow cover, and altitudes ranging from 1,650 to 2,720 metres, Les Orres is a genuine goldmine.

→ [www.lesorres.com](http://www.lesorres.com)

APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup>-7<sup>TH</sup>, 2025

### PURE FLOW | Les Orres

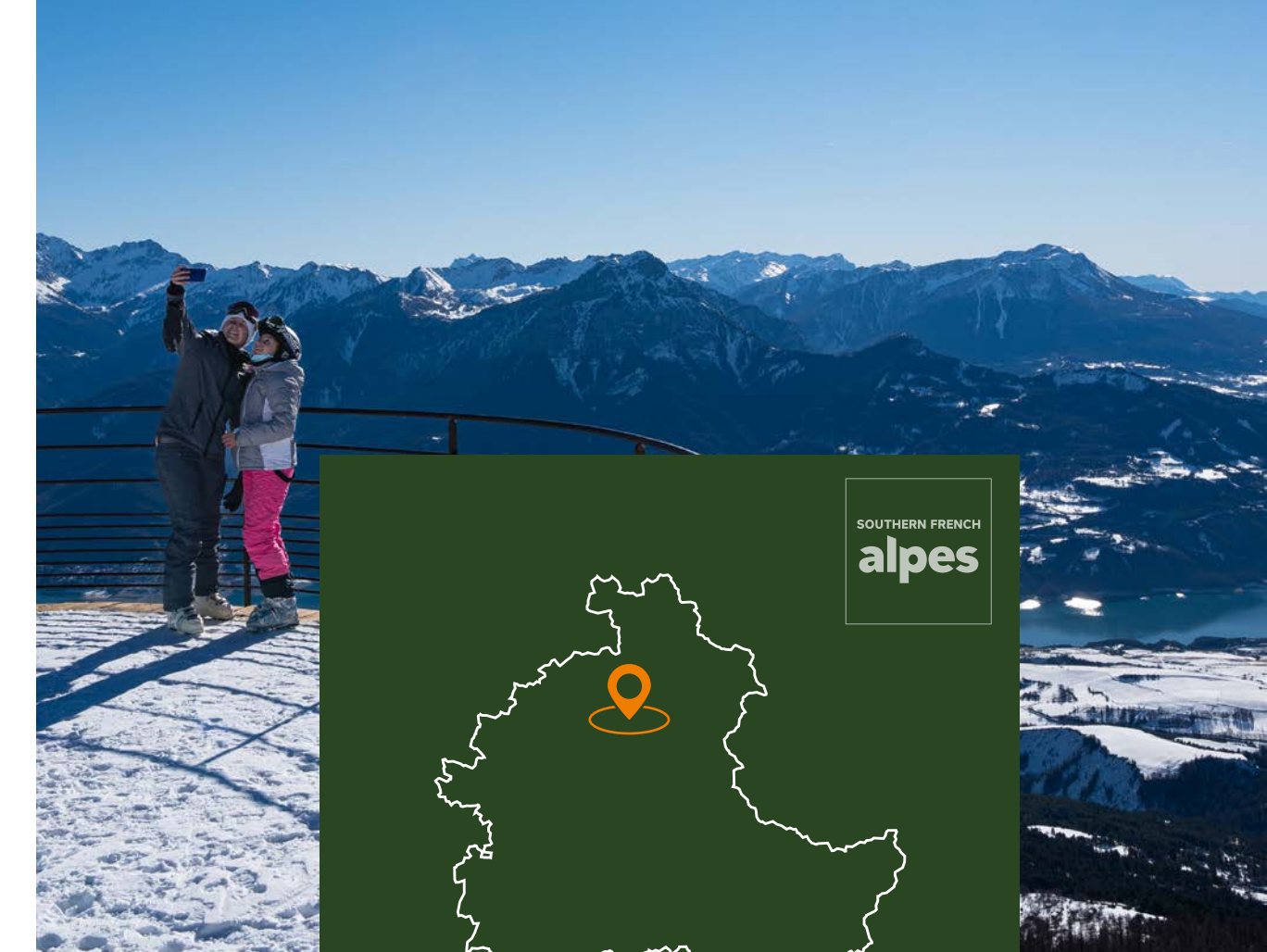
This Sport & Wellness Festival has a new name but its DNA remains the same, with around fifteen indoor and outdoor workshops on offer every day. Ideal for perfecting your Yoga or Pilates techniques, plus a great opportunity to discover pound flow, meditation and ayurveda, while stocking up on local soaps, oils, herbal teas and cosmetics.

→ [www.lesorres.com](http://www.lesorres.com)

EVENT



© W. Camus ↑



© Serre-Ponçon ↑



## Views over the lake Réallon

A free conveyor belt for toddlers, a 4 km toboggan run and five viewpoints overlooking Serre-Ponçon lake... And if that's not enough, the innovative resort of Réallon has just created a mountain bird discovery trail, "Le Peuple des Oiseaux", plus orienteering courses open all year round. Two chairlifts take skiers and ramblers to the top of the ski area at an altitude of 2,150 metres, with panoramic vistas all the way from the Alps to Mont Ventoux. Poised at the gateway to Ecrins National Park, sunny Réallon is a delight for families. Freeriders can hop on a shuttle to the Crévoux ski area, a nature skiing and freeriding benchmark.

→ [www.reallon-ski.com](http://www.reallon-ski.com)

## UBAYE BLANCHE VAL D'ALLOS

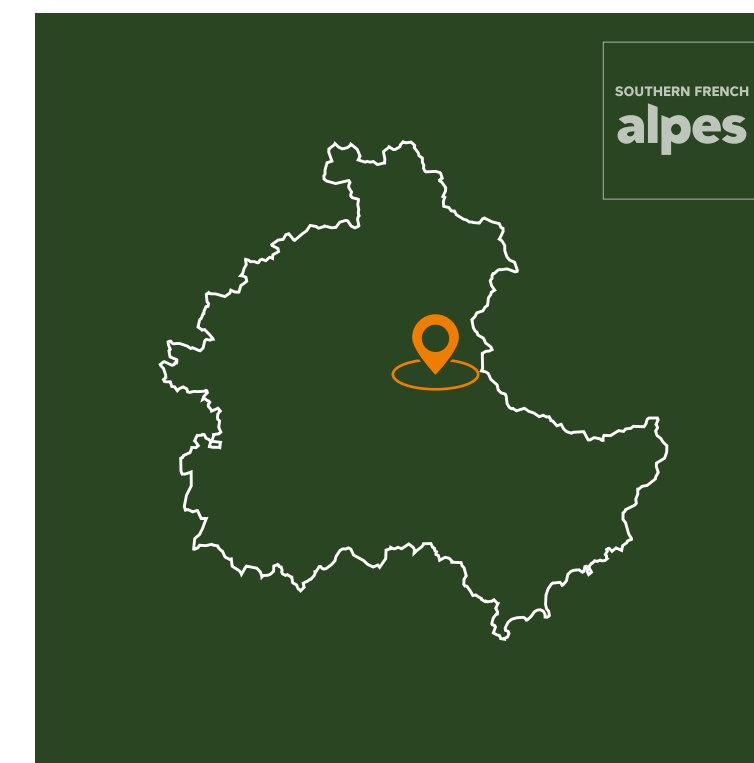


© OT Blanche Serre-Ponçon ↑

### Peaceful Montclar-les-Deux Vallées, La Blanche & Ubaye Valley

The Blanche-Serre-Ponçon area is often likened to a little Switzerland in Provence! Opened just 50 years ago, Montclar-les-Deux Vallées was one of France's first resort towns. Small, triangular buildings, with silhouettes reminiscent of mountain peaks, form the heart of the pedestrian village. 17 chairlifts lead to 50 km of slopes careering downwards opposite Serre-Ponçon lake or on the heights of Ubaye valley. The resort focuses primarily on farm tours, hikes on groomed trails and visits to major heritage sites, including Seyne-les-Alpes fort, now the venue for an exciting escape game.

→ [www.montclar.com](http://www.montclar.com)



### Thrilling Le Sauze, Ubaye valley

**NEW**

The giant zipline opening in December 2024 promises to take thrill seekers to new heights. The flight - 3 minutes 20 seconds of sheer adrenalin - from the top of the Sauze chairlift to the snow front of Sauze 1700, spans 2,000 metres in 2 sections. This spectacular activity comes in addition to the resort's MoonBike offering (a small electric motorcycle designed in the Alps), giving Le Sauze - one of France's oldest resorts set in a magical location - a new lease of life. Sunny and family focused, with 65 km of slopes at altitudes of 1,400 to 2,400 metres, the resort is particularly kid-friendly, with amenities including dedicated slopes, treasure hunts, a baby snowpark and playground.

→ [www.sauze.com](http://www.sauze.com)



© OBM - Y ↑

**NEW**

### OBSERVATORY: Reaching for the stars

Ubaye valley is part of the Alpes Azur Mercantour International Dark Sky Reserve, a distinction awarded in recognition of the exceptional quality of its night skies. You can now enjoy this rare natural heritage to the full thanks to the new Barcelonnette Observatory. This scientific hub features two domes equipped with observation instruments, plus an educational planetarium offering daytime activities. In addition to the project funded by Mercantour National Park and the town of Barcelonnette, a trail crossing the neighbouring forest allows visitors to discover the area's nocturnal biodiversity. You'll find Europe's largest amateur telescope here too, delightfully baptized the Father Josset telescope. This 230 mm telescope was built in 1929 for a British billionaire, then purchased by Father René Josset, a missionary and astronomy lover working in China, who subsequently installed it in Puimichel.

→ [www.ubaye.com](http://www.ubaye.com)



**JANUARY 21<sup>ST</sup> - 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2025**

**SKY MOUNTAIN FLY | Pra Loup**

A spectacular precision landing competition unique in Europe, combined with a good-natured skiing event. The parachutists take off from the Saint-Pons airfield, perform a heart-stopping freefall then land on the snow front, on a target the size of a 2 euro coin!

**EVENT**

→ [www.praloup.com](http://www.praloup.com)

© OTPL ↓



© OTPL ↓

© OTPL ↑

**Sun-soaked Pra Loup, Ubaye valley**

**NEW**

In 2024, Pra Loup was ranked first out of 27 ski resorts in the Contours listing, with participants praising the resort's hospitality, value for money and easy-to-navigate slopes. Forming a balcony over Ubaye valley, Pra Loup offers access to a vast ski area partly situated in Mercantour National Park and culminating at La Grande Séolane, at an altitude of 2,909 metres. The resort is built around an arc-shaped mall, offering plenty

of shops, restaurants and deckchairs perfect for lapping up the sunshine. The ski area is varied and easy to each: even beginners can access two summits, with an easy descent on two blue and green slopes. Big ski fans will love the link to Foux d'Allos, opening the doors to the Espace Lumière and 180 kilometres of pristine slopes. Last but not least, Pra Loup is located barely 7 kilometres from the museums, shops and new observatory of Barcelonnette, the little capital of Ubaye. Just hop on the free shuttle!

→ [www.praloup.com](http://www.praloup.com)



## At the source of the Verdon Val d'Allos, Parc du Mercantour

Just before you reach Val d'Allos, the two-hour bus service from Aix-en-Provence or Marseille passes through the fortified town of Colmars-les-Alpes, where you'll find one of the Mercantour area and region's largest markets every Friday. Enjoy strolling the stalls before stopping off at the charming village of Allos, home to the 13th-century Notre-Dame-de-Valvert church, farms and two satellite resorts, La Foux and Le Seignus. The discreet buildings bordering the beginnings of the river Verdon in La Foux, and chalets on the edge of the forest in Le Seignus, offers access to a variety of pistes scattered over five slopes under the watchful eye of the Chapeau de Gendarme and Grande Séolane. You'll find plenty of novel discovery activities on offer here: for example, enjoy a pre-season tour with the local ski patrollers and dog handlers, or a post-season adventure on a snow groomer.

### NEW

Don't miss the new ski touring trails starting out from Le Seignus. Seasoned skiers can reach Pra Loup via the Espace Lumière, opening the doors to 180 kilometres of ski slopes.

→ [www.valdallos.com](http://www.valdallos.com)



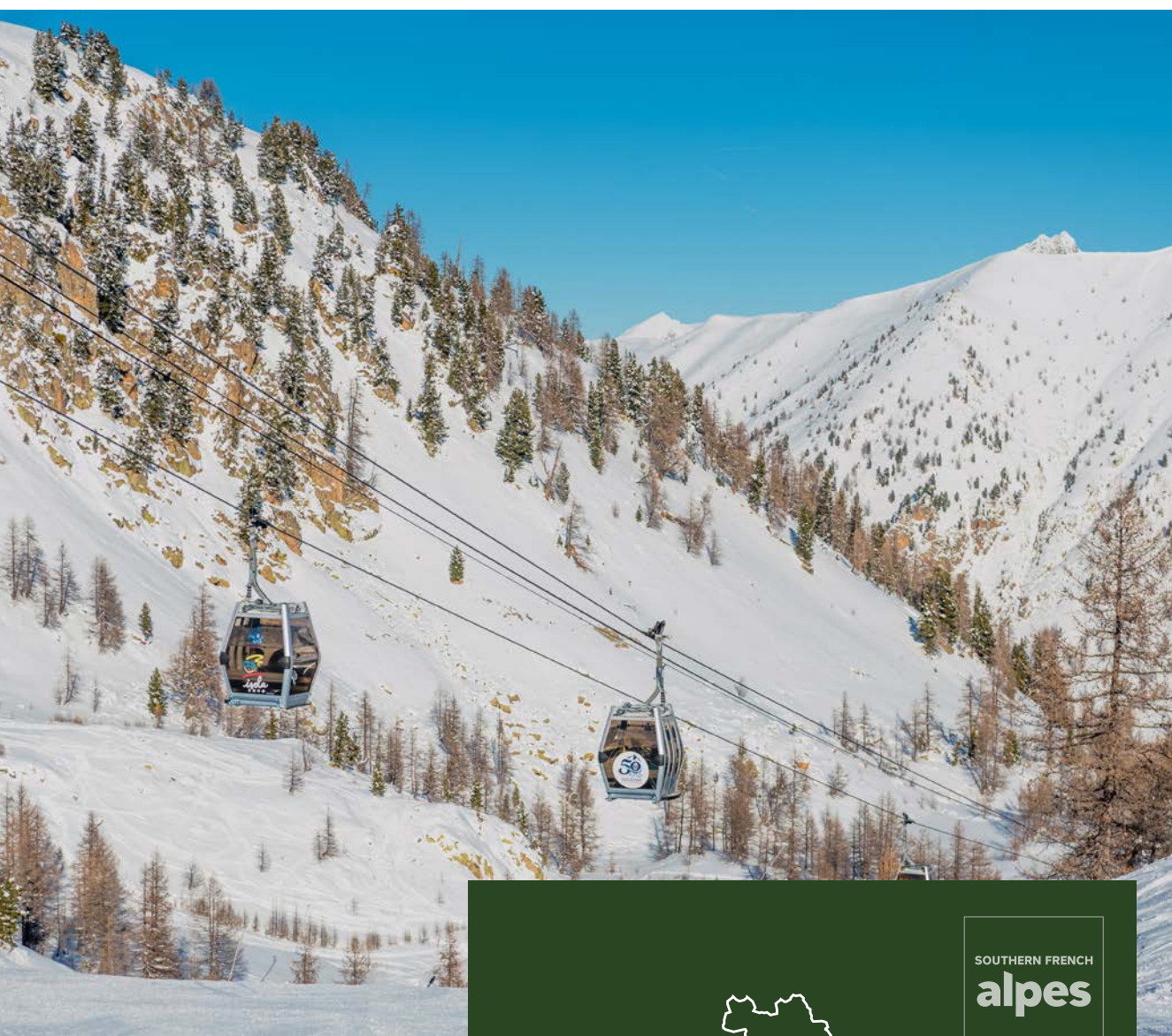
© R. Palomba ↑

# ISOLA 2000 AURON VALBERG

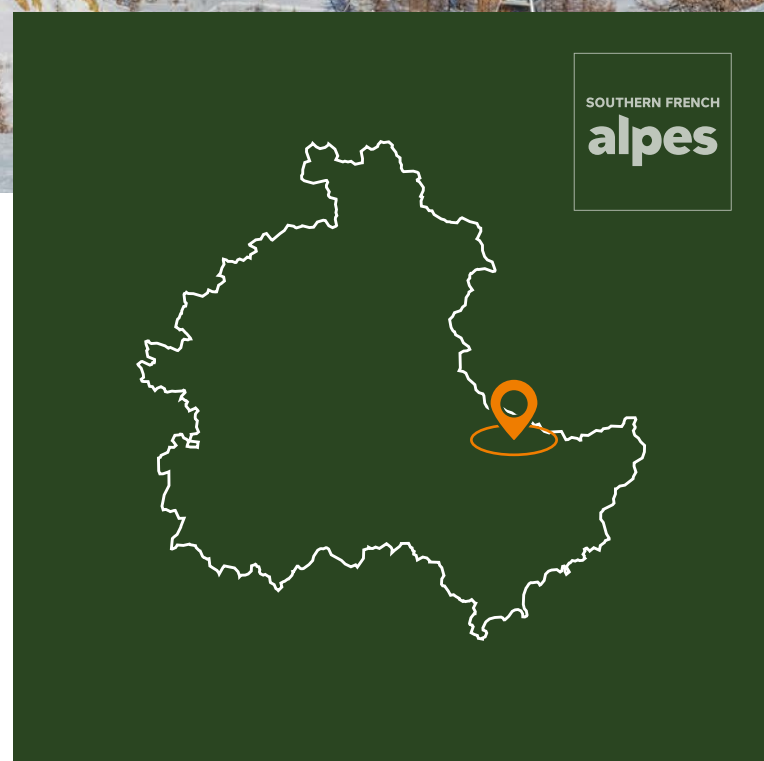
## Multifaceted Isola 2000 Mercantour National Park

From the heights of the resort, the dreamy panorama embraces the Écrins massif all the way to the Mediterranean Sea, via Le Viso and the Argentera mountain range. The youngest and highest resort in the Alpes-Maritimes area celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2021. Set between Mercantour National Park and the Parco Alpi Maritime, Isola 2000 is a ski-in/ski-out resort sporting 120 km of slopes. A freestyle paradise par excellence, its flurry of snowboarding amenities include Tony's Snowland snowpark, the Biopark and Back to Back: a competitive snowboard club with over a hundred national titles. Isola 2000 is also home to a renowned ice driving circuit. In short, the perfect pick for thrill-seekers!

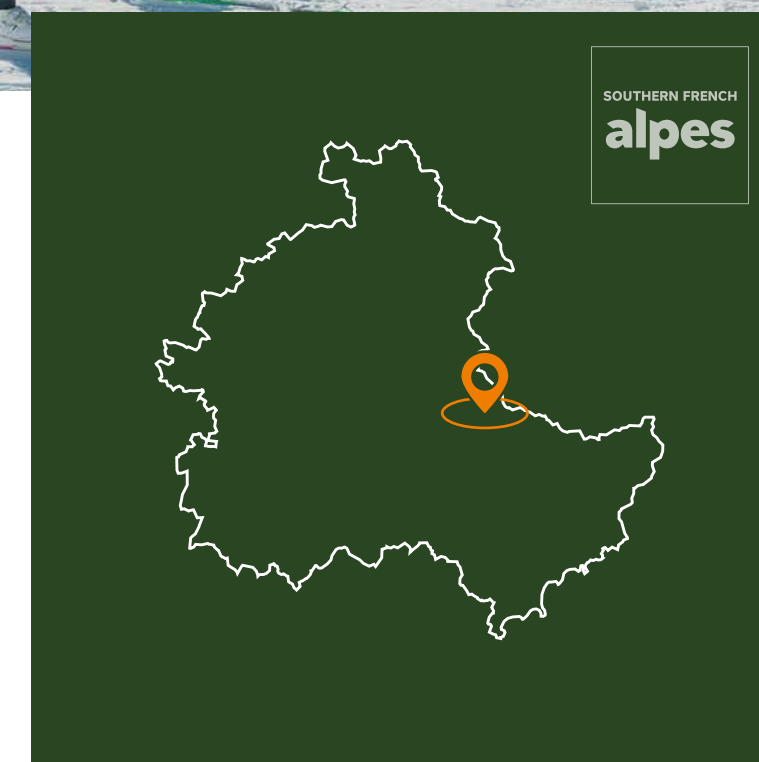
→ [isola2000.com](https://isola2000.com)



OTMNCA ↑



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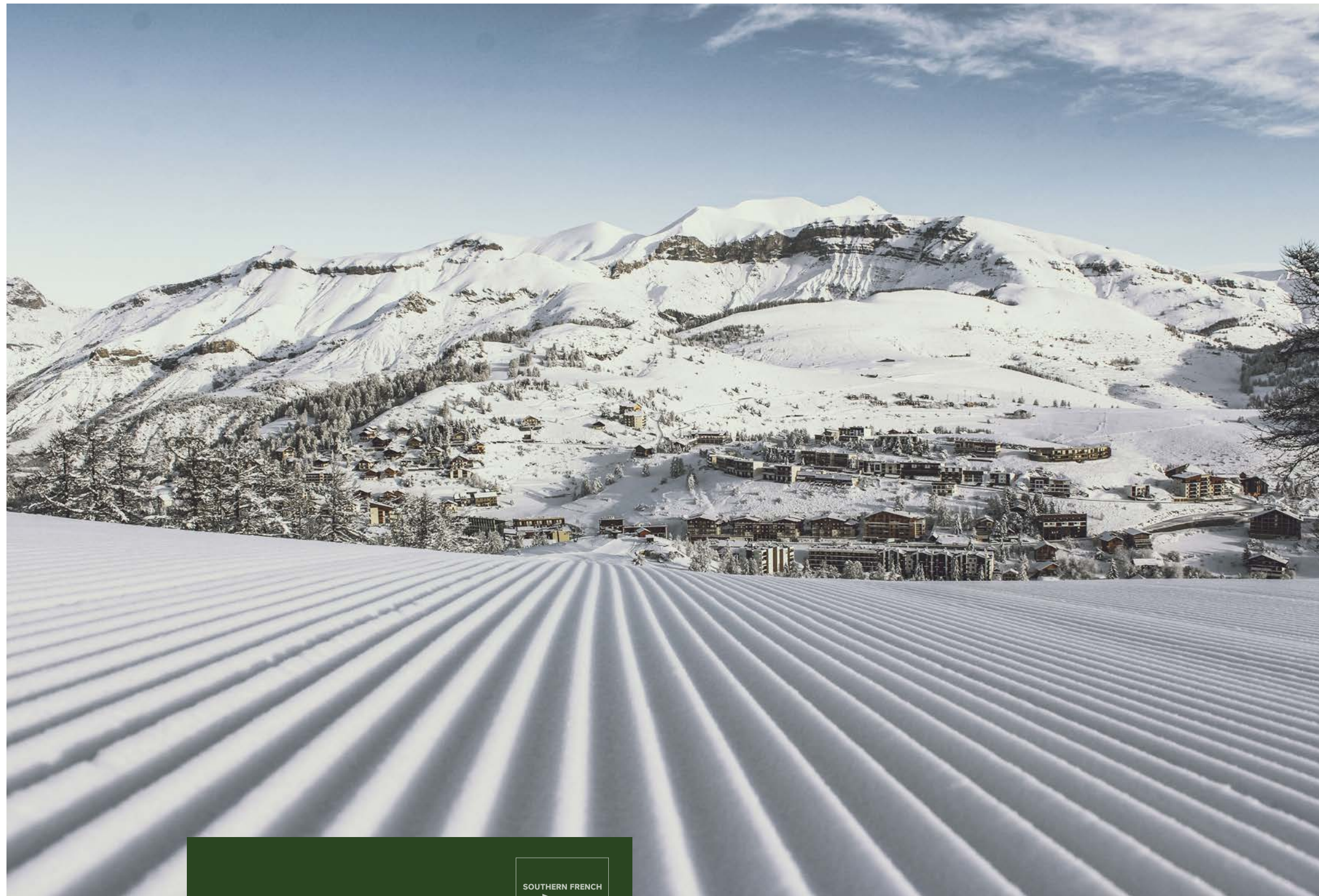


## Chic Auron, Mercantour National Park

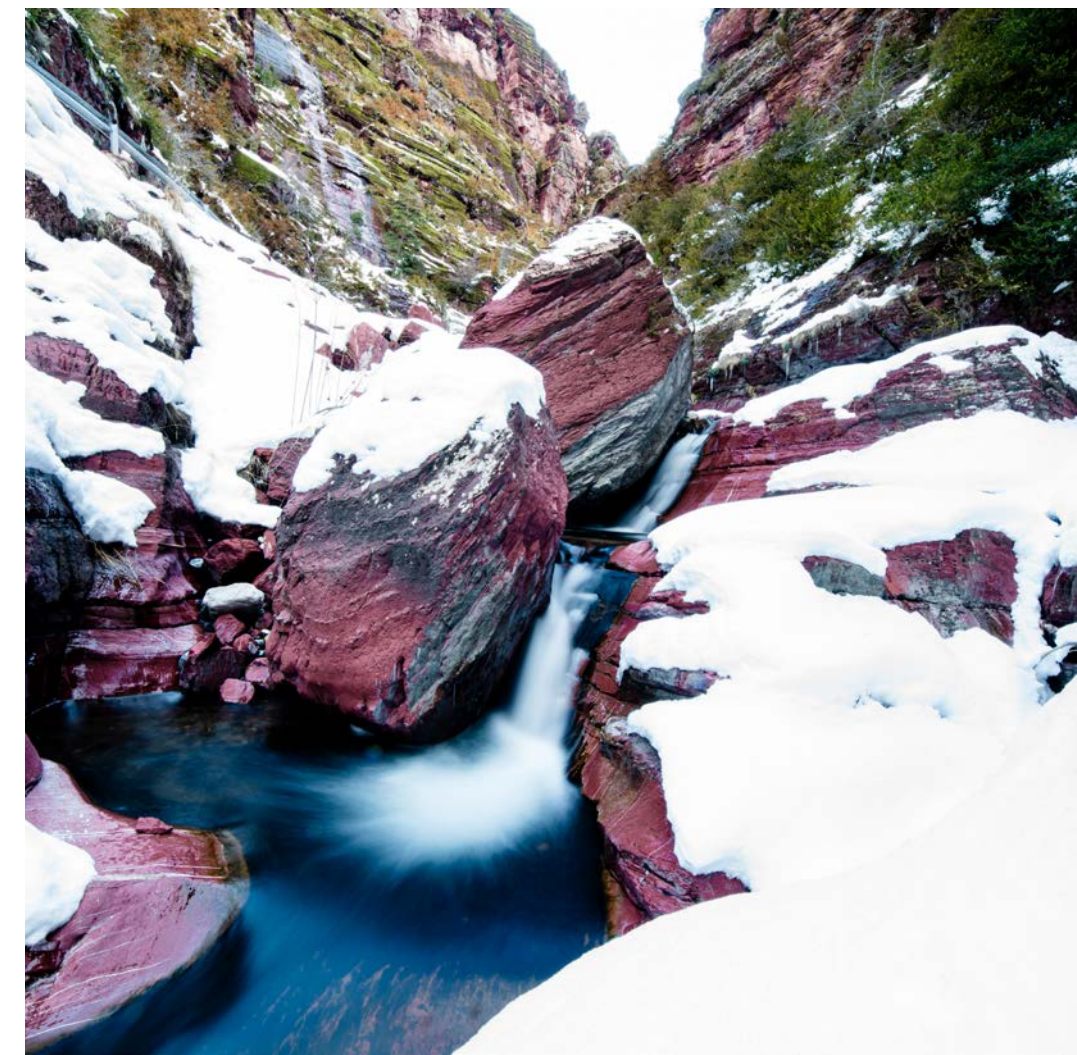
With a new swimming pool and two 5-star hotels, Auron, perched in the highlands of Nice, is continuing to move upmarket while maintaining all its original alpine village charm. The ski passes remain reasonably priced and offer access to 135 km of slopes - the largest ski area in the Alpes-Maritimes -

at the gateway to Mercantour National Park. Among the free activities on offer, virtual reality headsets allow you to explore the off-piste areas of Saint-Dalmas-le-Selvage, 14 km away on the shuttle bus, or admire the frescoes adorning the chapel - a listed monument - before you visit. The recently-created Auron Hockey Club is affiliated with the French Ice Hockey Federation. The resort is a holder of the Famille Plus, Station Verte and (soon) Flocon Vert labels.

→ [auron.com](https://auron.com)



© OT Valberg ↑



Gorges du Cians ↑



© R. Bienvenu ↑

## Starry-eyed Valberg Mercantour National Park & Alpes Azurées

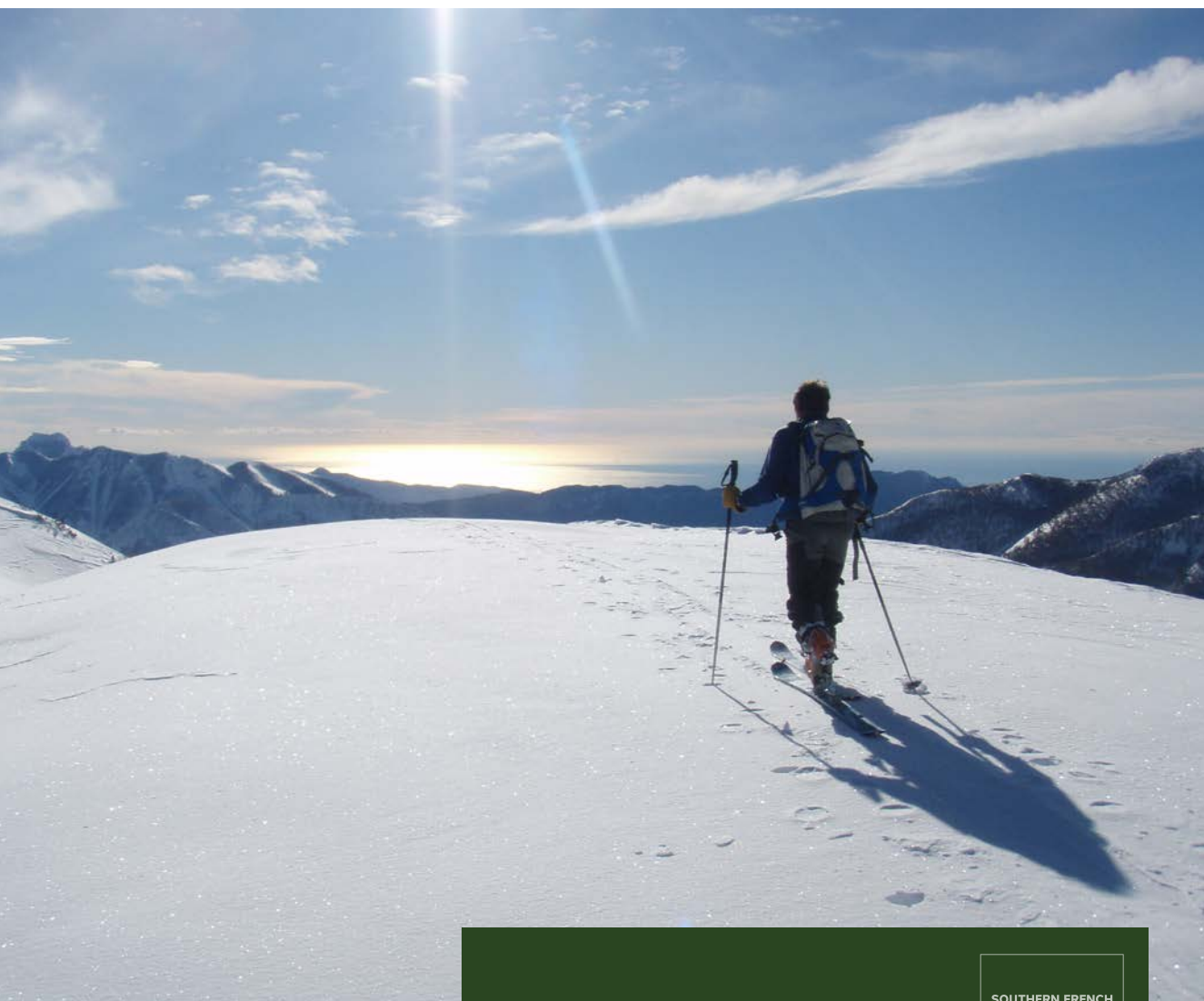
The Alpes-Maritimes' oldest ski resort lies on a mountain pass between the Saint-Honorat mountain range and Mont Mounier, at the gateway to Mercantour National Park, near Cians gorge and Daluis. It is a holder of the Flocon Vert, Familles Plus and Village Etoilé labels. Little light disturbs the night skies of this village home to 800 inhabitants and astronomy is among the many non-ski activities on offer here.

With its cocktail of pedestrian streets, fully-redesigned car-free village, electric shuttle buses and plenty of gentle, non-ski activities on offer, Valberg is a genuine wellness resort.

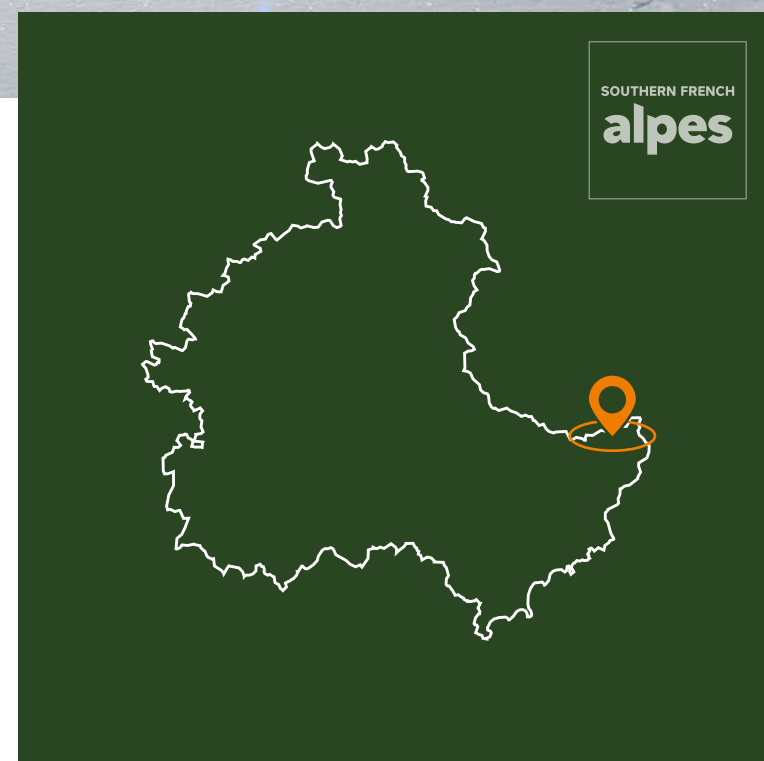
→ [www.valberg.com](http://www.valberg.com)



# VALLÉE DE LA ROYA



© Bureau des guides de Tende ↑



## Valley of Wonders Castérino Roya Valley

Situated in Haute-Roya, in the town of Tende, Casterino is a beautifully-preserved paradise at the foot of Mercantour National Park. Tucked at an altitude of 1,550 metres on the French border, the hamlet is surrounded by stunning peaks including the mythical Mont Bégo, revered by Neolithic shepherds... This haven of peace is just 1½ hours from the hustle and bustle of Nice by car. In summer, Castérino is the departure point for the aptly-named Vallée des Merveilles (Valley of Marvels) and its prehistoric cave paintings, while popular winter activities include ski touring, ascending the peaks of Mercantour National Park to enjoy uninterrupted views of the Med, or snowshoeing up to the Refuge des Merveilles anchored in a cirque of frozen lakes.

→ [menton-riviera-merveilles.fr](https://menton-riviera-merveilles.fr)



© Bureau des guides de Tende ↑



© G. Veran ↑

**DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2024 –**

**JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

### CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES | Lucéram

**UNIQUE:** Circuit des crèches de Lucéram #27  
For the last 27 years, the little medieval village of Lucéram has been inviting visitors to enjoy a Christmas tour featuring over 450 crib scenes on show at the local church, Musée de la Crèche and ancient oil mill. Lucéram is located just one hour from the valleys of La Tinée and La Roya, in the Nice hinterland.

**EVENT**

→ [www.maisondepaysdeluceram.fr](https://www.maisondepaysdeluceram.fr)

**READ MORE** on Christmas traditions and festivities in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

→ [provence-alpes-cotedazur.com](https://provence-alpes-cotedazur.com)

## PAYS DE GRASSE



### Sea-facing Gréolières

This little, family-style ski resort is the closest to the Mediterranean coast: just 22 km as the crow flies. Its 30 km of slopes lie on the northern slopes of the Cheiron massif. From the summit of Cheiron, the majestic panorama unveils Provence, the Alps and Côte d'Azur in all their glory, with breathtaking sea views all the way to Corsica on clear days. Located at altitudes ranging from 1,400 to 1,800 metres, amid Scots pines, it is the perfect pick for Nordic skiing and snowshoeing, plus a plethora of novel, non-ski activities. In winter, you can reach Gréolières-les-Neiges on the Navette des Neiges shuttle service from Antibes (1½ hrs) or bus number 512 from Grasse. [www.envibus.fr](http://www.envibus.fr)

→ [stations-greolieres-audiberque.com](http://stations-greolieres-audiberque.com)

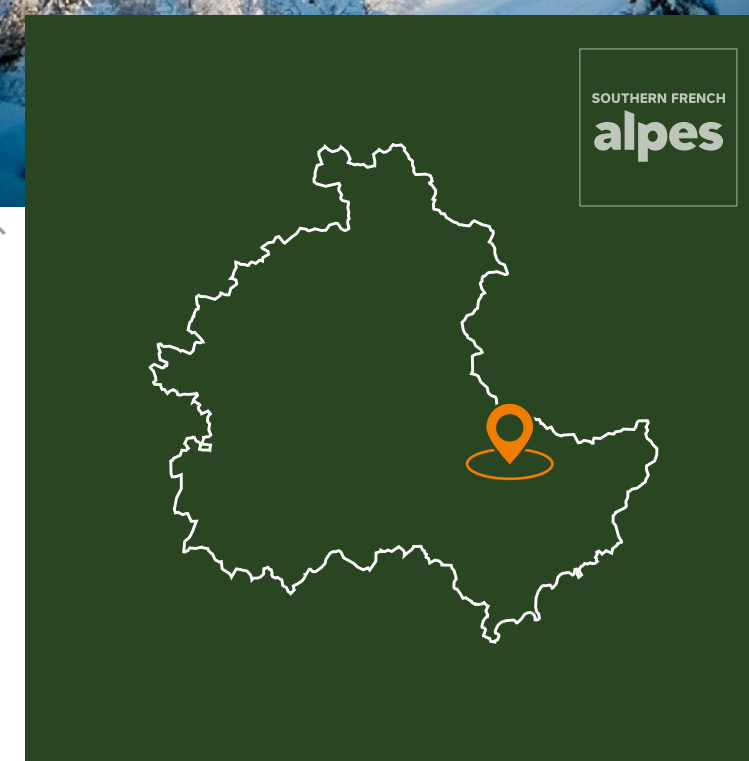


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## VALLÉE DE LA TINÉE



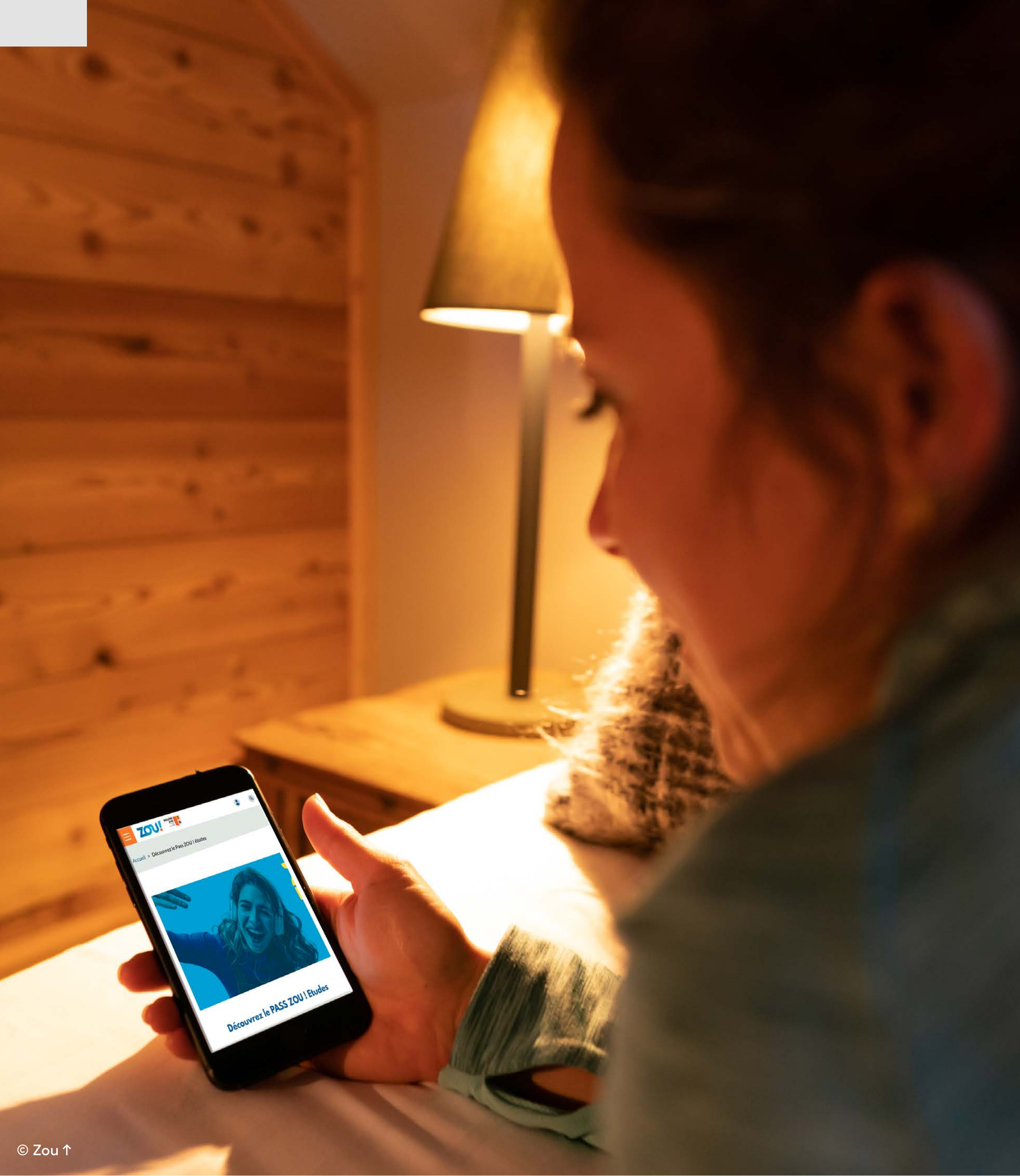
© Roubion ↑



### Contemplative Roubion-les-Buisses

Set at altitudes ranging from 1,410 to 1,920 metres, Roubion-les-Buisses is located 70 km or just one hour from the city of Nice. This "nature" village resort offers all the charm of hilltop villages crisscrossed with ski slopes snaking through larch trees. From Mont Pommier, at an altitude of 1,920 metres, the view encompasses the Mercantour mountain range and sometimes stretches all the way to Corsica. Roubion cultivates a different kind of mindset, encouraging peaceful and even contemplative skiing in a human-scale ski area designed for families. The 30 kilometres of slopes, Petite Ferme complete with goats and donkeys, picturesque village with colourful painted doors and 300 beds available at the local gites, apartments and chalets benefiting from the "Esprit Parc National" quality label, are conducive to an enchanting winter weekend, far from the hustle and bustle of the big resorts. If your children are budding adventurers, Roubion is home to the first "Adventure Hike" mountain school, welcoming kids and teens aged 8-18. Last but not least, it is easy to reach on the number 91 "Nice-Auron" bus. Simply get off at Saint-Sauveur-sur-Tinée and hop on the shuttle to Roubion-les-Buisses.

→ [www.roubion.com](http://www.roubion.com)



## Southern French Alps **Sustainable mobility, in all simplicity**

Enjoy easy resort access thanks to the new TGV high-speed train services, ZOU! buses and Navettes Blanches snow shuttles operated by the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council.



© R. Van Rijn ↑

## Paris - Briançon - Serre Chevalier Night Train

You can reach Serre Chevalier Vallée from Paris on the Paris-Briançon night train. The train stops off at Gap, Embrun, Veynes Dévoluy, Montdauphin Guillestre and L'Argentière les Écrins. From there, you can hop on a ZOU! bus to your resort.

**The BlaBlaCar Bus** also provides services to Gap and Montdauphin - Guillestre from Paris.

## The ZOU! bus network

This dense network connects Nice-Côte d'Azur airport and train station to the ski resorts of Valberg, Gréolières-Bains and Auron. The ZOU! buses also provide services from numerous other regional and TGV train stations, as well stations along the Paris-Briançon line.

- From Gap and Embrun to Les Orres, Réallon and Crévoux
- From Veynes Dévoluy to Superdévoluy and La Joue du Loup
- From Montdauphin Guillestre to Risoul, Vars and Ceillac
- From L'Argentière Les Écrins to Puy-Saint-Vincent and Pelvoux-Vallouise.

The ZOU! services are now available at a flat fare of just €2.10! Timetables and bookings at

→ [zou.maregionsud.fr](https://zou.maregionsud.fr)

## Navette Blanche


Every Saturday and on certain days during the Christmas and Winter holidays, the Navette Blanche shuttles offer direct services from Marseille-Provence airport and Aix-en-Provence TGV train station to your resort. Return fare: €35. Special family rate: €90.

## SOUTHERN FRENCH **alpes**

 France's **2<sup>nd</sup>** largest ski area

 **27** million overnight stays, including **82%** French (53% regional clientele) **18%** International visitors

 € **1.8** billion economic spinoffs

The Southern Alps represents  **65%** of the regional territory and **15%** of its population.

 **4.55** million stays / visitors

 Average length of stay **6** days

 Average budget: € **996**

- **62 ski resorts:** 15 major resorts, 27 village resorts, 20 Nordic ski areas
- **7 National Parks and nature reserves 2 UNESCO Geoparks and national geological reserves**
- **26 lakes** including Europe's largest high-altitude lake (Lac d'Allos) and one of France's largest lakes (Serre-Ponçon)
- **Europe's highest village:** Saint-Véran (2,042 m)
- **Europe's highest town:** Briançon (1,326 m)
- **France's highest administrative area:** Hautes-Alpes (05) Barre des Ecrins 4,102 metres
- **One of Europe's leading renewable energy sources:** River Durance & Serre-Ponçon dam
- **Vauban fortifications listed by UNESCO:** Briançon and fortified village of Mont-Dauphin
- **Sightseeing routes:** Route des Grandes Alpes®, Route Napoléon
- **Major mountain passes:** Izoard, Galibier, Granon, Agnel, Noyer, La Bonnette
- **8 "Famille Plus Montagne" family-friendly resorts:** Auron, Isola 2000, Le Dévoluy, Les Orres, Montgenèvre, Orcières Merlette, Val d'Allos, Valberg

## Distribution of nights spent

	WINTER _____	<b>43%</b>
	SPRING _____	<b>16%</b>
	HEART OF SUMMER _____	<b>23%</b>
	INDIAN SUMMER - AUTUMN _____	<b>18%</b>



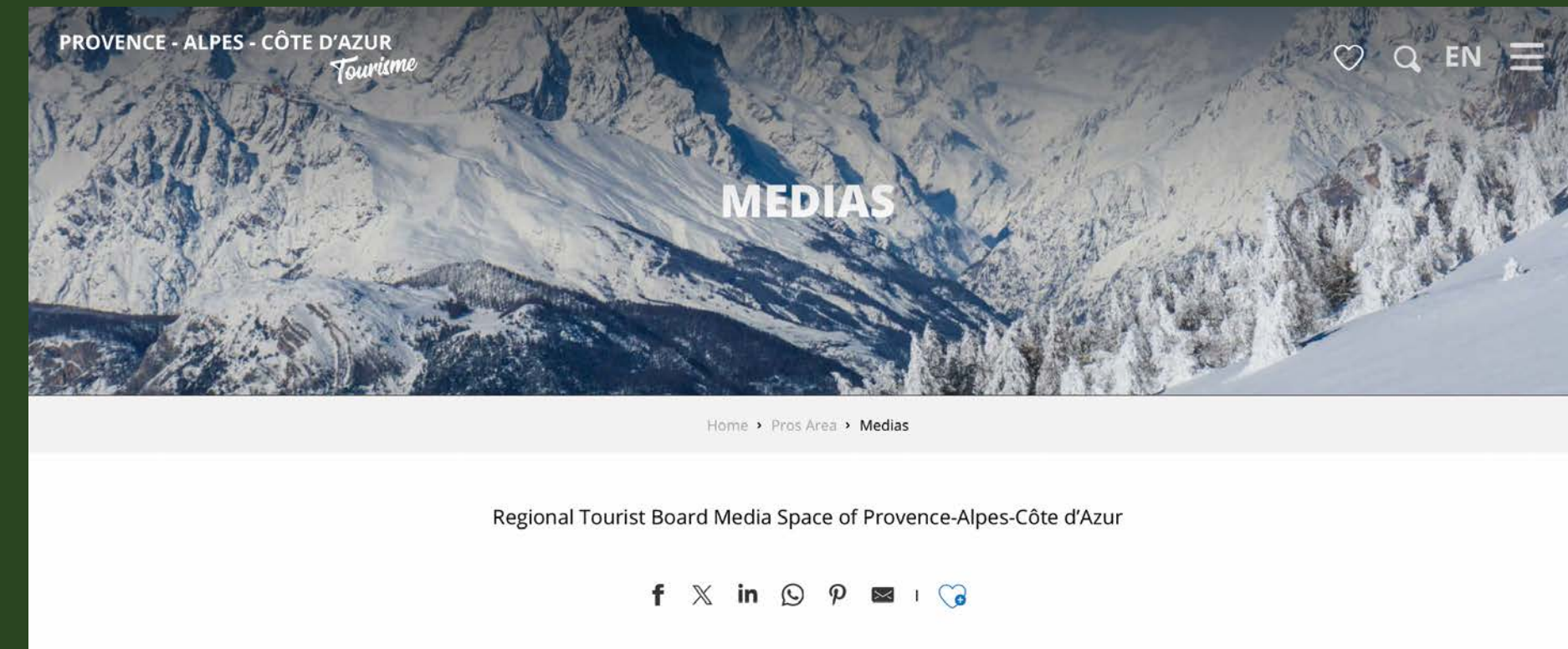
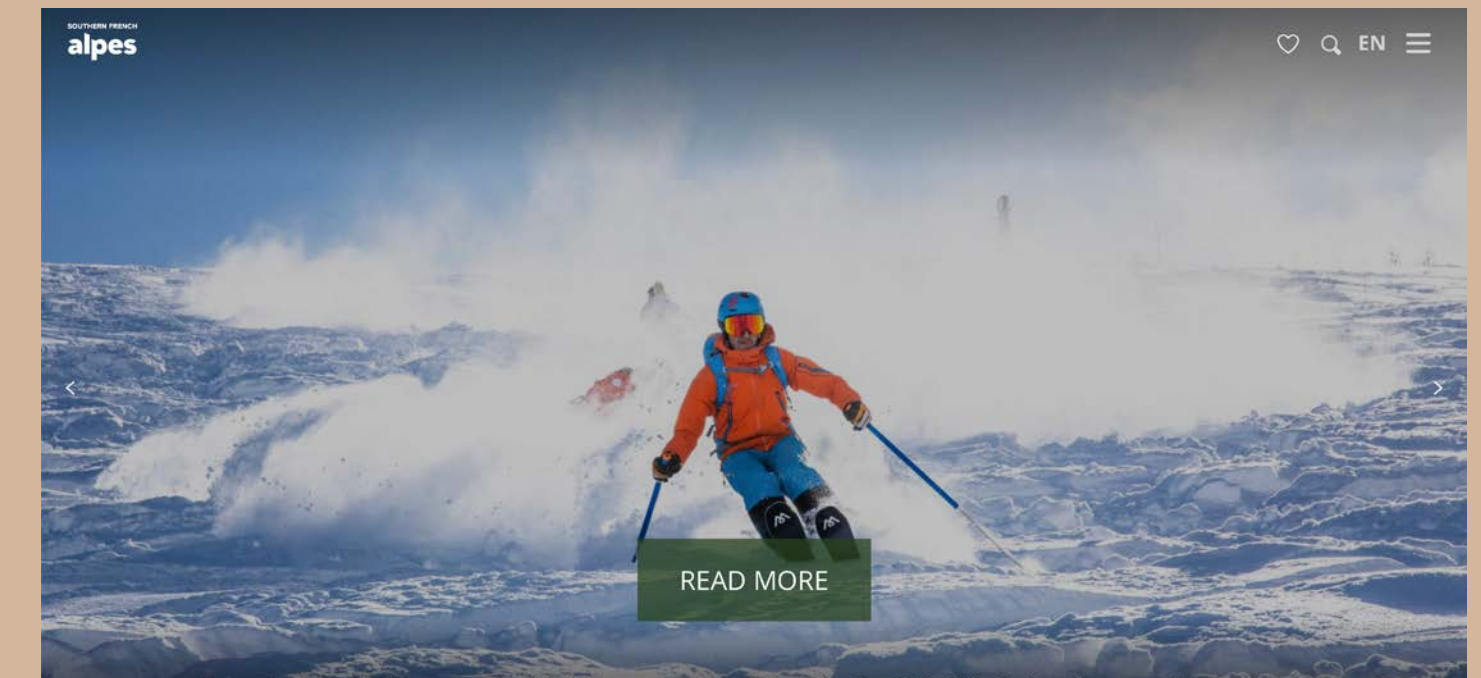
## Strength in numbers

Fostered by the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Tourist Board and Hautes-Alpes Development Agency, the **"Alpes du Sud" collective** was set up in 2018 in the aim of promoting tourism in the Southern French Alps.

The objective? To develop a shared strategy and budget for the **"Alpes du Sud" ("Southern French Alps") destination brand** and strengthen the brand's name and visibility vis-à-vis markets and visitors alike. Since its launch in January 2018, the "Alpes du Sud" brand has been co-managed by the **Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Tourist Board and Hautes-Alpes Development Agency**. Today, the **Nice Côte d'Azur Metropolitan Tourist Office** and **Alpes-de-Haute-Provence Development Agency** have also joined forces with this ground-breaking initiative.



→ SOUTHERN ALPS  
Stay connected



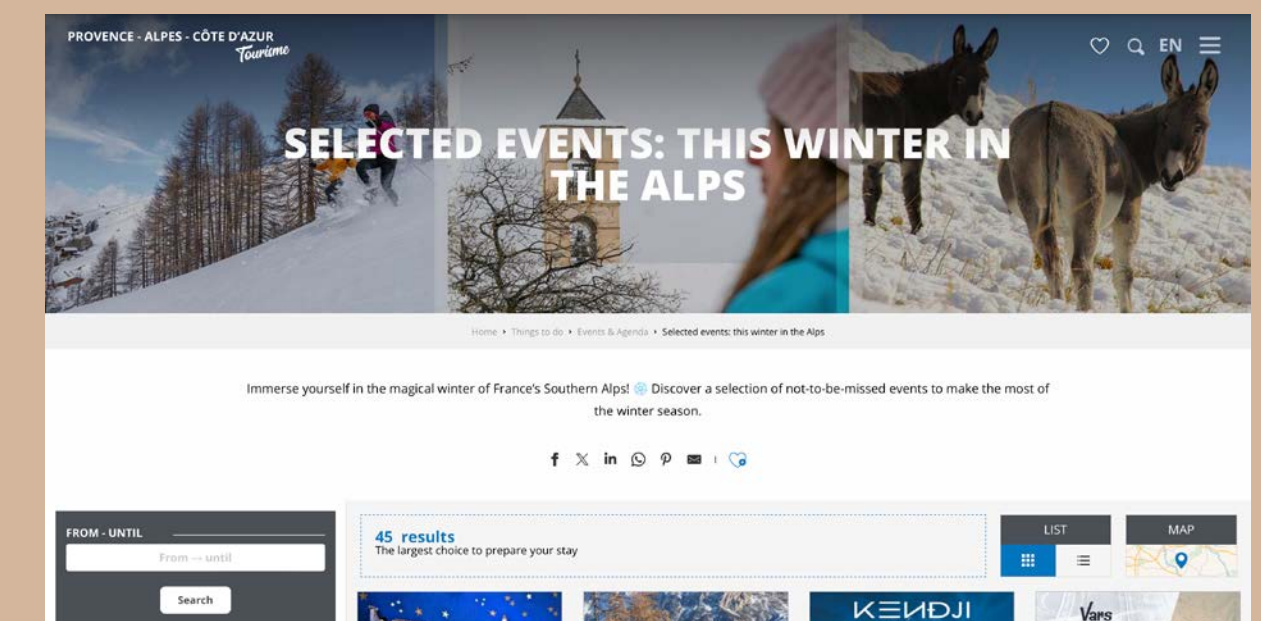
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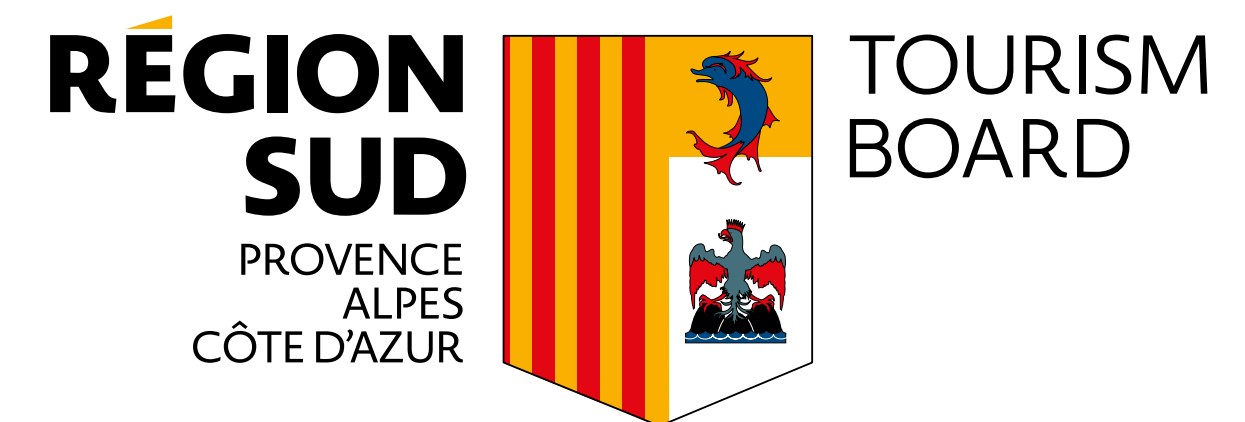
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