



CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC



PRESS FILE WINTER 2022-2023

SERVOZ - LES HOUCHES - CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC - ARGENTIÈRE - VALLORCINE



Legendary and authentic: the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley is a reflection of the nature that surrounds it.

A captivating environment

A wealth of history

A lively capital in the heart of Europe

Alpine performance, romantic contemplation, personal parenthesis, Chamonix reinvents history every day and invites everyone to live their own adventure. The COVID period has made us all aware of the importance of reconnecting with nature and taking the time to enjoy what it offers us.

We are pleased to present our winter press kit, with a special focus on our exceptional environment and the commitments of the valley in favour of ecological transition.

Discover new events, new lifts, new hotels, culinary innovations and cultural performance. One of the major winter highlights is the Kandahar Ski World Cup which takes place on the legendary "Verte" in les Houches. Discover a focus on Nordic skiing and ski touring, as well as the legendary Pioneers ice hockey team.

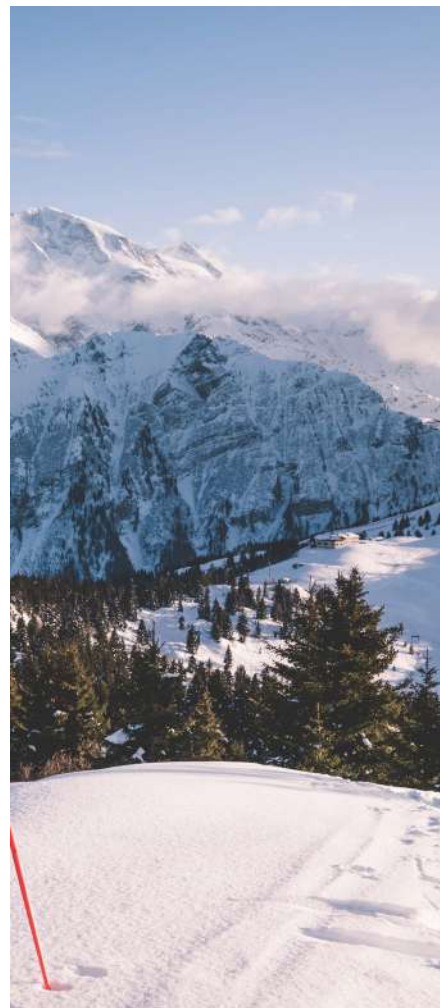
We hope this will inspire you to visit and to share with your readers a unique experience in the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley.

Nicolas DUROCHAT

General Manager

Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley Tourist Office

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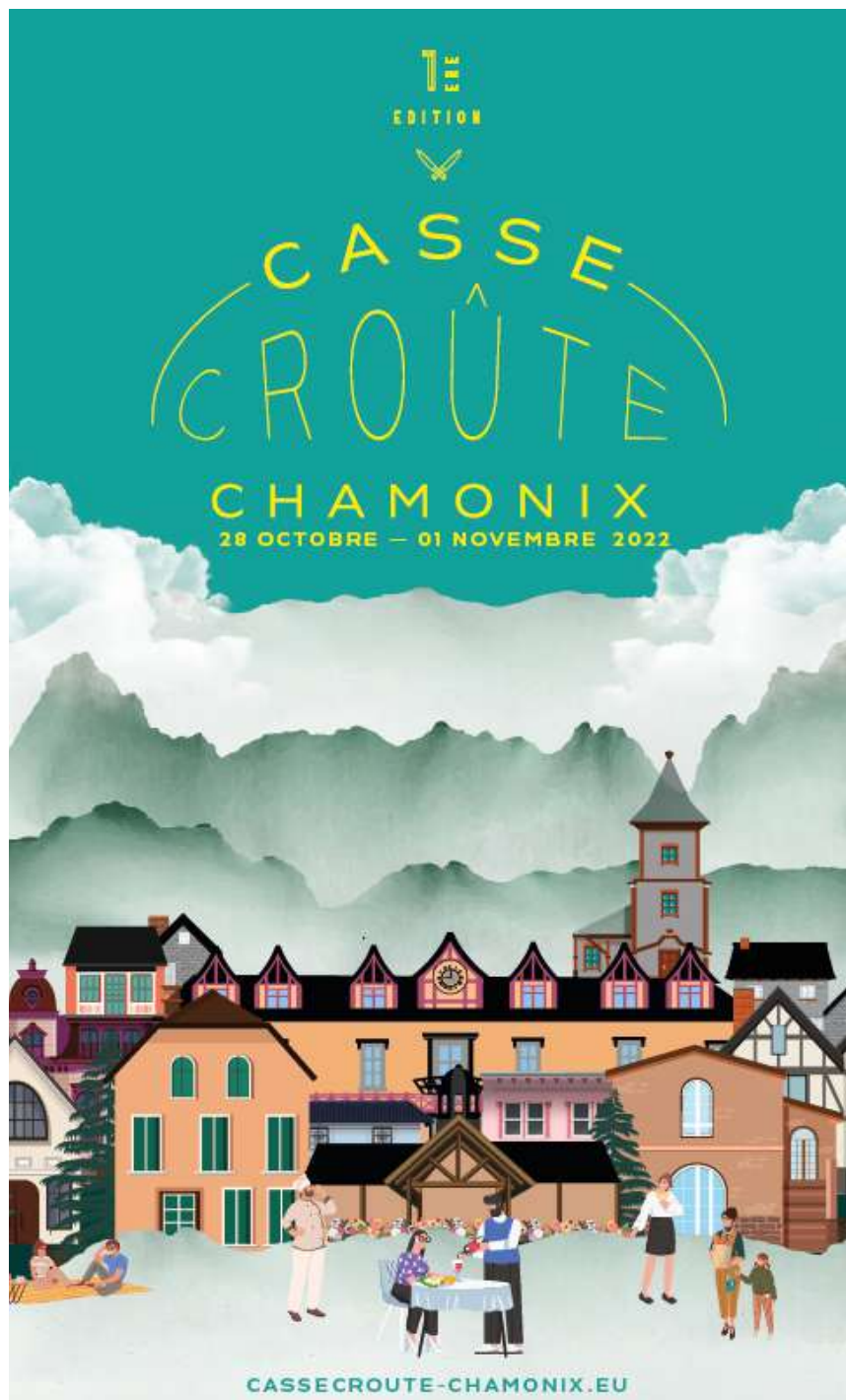
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TWO NEW EVENTS THIS AUTUMN



CASSE-CROÛTE

From 27 October to 1st November 2022

Casse-Croûte is a hybrid festival, a mix of gastronomy, wine, culture, nature and the environment. Hosted by restaurants, bars, clubs, parks, gardens and the streets of Chamonix, Casse-Croûte is an original concept where local and international guests share the stage.

True to the land, the festival favors a participative approach, with the involvement of the town hall and local entrepreneurs. Chefs, artists, producers, winemakers, mountain guides, thought leaders, campaigners, will animate the festival and its events

Full programme here :

<http://arty-farty.eu/telechargements/DP-casse-croutechamonix-2022.pdf>



CELEBRATING SCIENCE IN CHAMONIX

From 7 to 27 October 2022

What are the ties between science and society? Taking the example of the Chamonix Valley and the necessity for a dynamic adaptation to climate change.

During several highlights, the public is invited on a journey through time to discover the history and modeling of the Mont Blanc massif, a debate concerning the dialogue between science and society through the prism of the IPCC, and an animation whereby the general public may assess their carbon footprint.

<https://www.fetedelascience.fr/la-science-en-fete-chamonix>

AGENDA

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<https://www.fetedelascience.fr/la-science-en-fete-chamonix>

CASSE-CROÛTE

From 28 October to 1st November 2022

A new festival in Chamonix, celebrating an art de vivre, food culture and conviviality!

<https://cassecrooute-chamonix.eu/>

THE CHRISTMAS VILLAGE IS BACK IN THE CHAMONIX VALLEY

From 14 December 2022 to 3 January 2023

Over the Christmas holiday period 25 crafts people and producers will set up their Christmas stalls in the heart of Chamonix. Fairytale decorations and magical street performances will enchant the public.

VITALINI KANDAHAR JUNIOR

Early January 2023

International Downhill Ski competition – U14 organised by Les Houches.

<https://www.kandaharjunior.com/en>

KANDAHAR – SKI WORLD CUP

4 February 2023

The « Kandahar » is an alpine ski race that takes place on « la Verte » in Les Houches. The best skiers in the world will compete in the slalom events.

<https://www.chamonixworldcup.com/en>



A FESTIVAL OF EVENTS

February school holidays 2023

Every day, from Servoz to Vallorcine, the Valley comes alive with shows and musical performances for all ages!

LA TRACE DES GRANDS

4 and 5 March 2023

Launched in 2021, La Trace des Grands is a ski mountaineering race in the Chamonix Mont-Blanc valley. It takes place on the Grands-Montets site. A choice of three races allows the expression of all forms of ski touring.

<https://www.latracedesgrands.com/>

CHAMONIX UNLIMITED FESTIVAL

From 5 to 9 April 2023

Now an important date in the winter agenda, the Unlimited Festival brings together skiing and music on mountain tops! The DNA of the event: a lineup of artists from the electro scene in small-scale open-air venues, on the most beautiful sites of the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley! Dates and programme to follow on <https://www.unlimited-festival.com/en/>

FREERIDE DAY

Early May (date subject to snow cover) End the season in style at the Grands Montets with the traditional freeride party !

<https://www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/>



RETURN OF THE KANDAHAR



4 FEBRUARY 2023

The finest ski tips of the world circuit are back on the famous Verte des Houches, for a spectacular slalom event. The last edition of the Kandahar at the foot of Mont Blanc took place in January 2021.

<https://www.chamonixworldcup.com/en>

The first ever Arlberg Kandahar took place in 1928 in Austria. AK races are hosted by St-Anton (Austria), Garmisch-Partenkirchen (Germany) and Chamonix Mont-Blanc.

This world-famous race was created by the English man Arnold Lunn. A generation before that, his father Henry Lunn organised races for members of the Ski Club of Great Britain on the slopes in Chamonix. At the time SCGB members arrived in Chamonix in horse drawn stage coaches!



In 1948 Chamonix hosted its first AK race. The race took place on the piste des Glaciers, beneath the north face of the Aiguille du Midi. The local lad James Couttet, from the village of Les Bossons, won both the downhill and combined races that year. The piste was later deemed too dangerous and was abandoned in favour of Les Houches in 1952.

Since that date, winners of the Kandahar on the Verte des Houches, include many great names : Karl Schranz, Emile Allais, Ingemar Stenmark, Hermann Maier, Kjetil-André Aamodt, Alberto Tomba, Stefan Eberharter, Bode Miller, Ivica Kostelic, Didier Cuche, Romed Baumann, Jan Hudec and Klaus Kröll, Dominik Paris, Alexis Pinturault, Clément Noël ..

In 2024, the dates of the Kandahar correspond with the centenary of the first Winter Olympic Games in Chamonix, held between January and February 1924!

Save the date for 2024, when we will commemorate this historic event in the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley!



FABIEN SAGUEZ, NEW PRESIDENT OF THE FFS AND A RESIDENT OF LES HOUCHES

What a journey since your arrival in the Chamonix valley in the 80's, already a ski prodigy! As a professional athlete, you enjoyed many podiums before becoming a ski instructor at the ESF of Chamonix, coach to the French Men's and Women's teams (1996-2004), director of Chamonix Sports Club (2004-2006), National Technical Director of the French ski teams for 16 years (2006-2022), in charge of 7 Olympic disciplines (alpine skiing, biathlon, ski jumping, combined, cross-country skiing, freestyle skiing and snowboarding), and since June 2022, President of the French Skiing Federation!



Fabien Saguez with his daughter Coline, former professional skier

You live in Les Houches and you are still a member of the Chamonix Sports Club. What is your special bond with the Chamonix valley?

«I appreciate the quality of life in this beautiful valley. I have a real emotional bond with the mountains and I can recharge my batteries by enjoying many different activities. Because it is so accessible, the valley is also the ideal base camp for me.»

The return of the Kandahar on the famous Verte des Houches must be particularly dear to your heart?

«Of course! The Kandahar is a classic World Cup event. It's the ultimate event in terms of popularity, which draws all the ski populations.»

Since 1924, Chamonix has sent athletes to every edition of the Winter Games. Do you already have a prediction for the future Chamonix athletes selected?

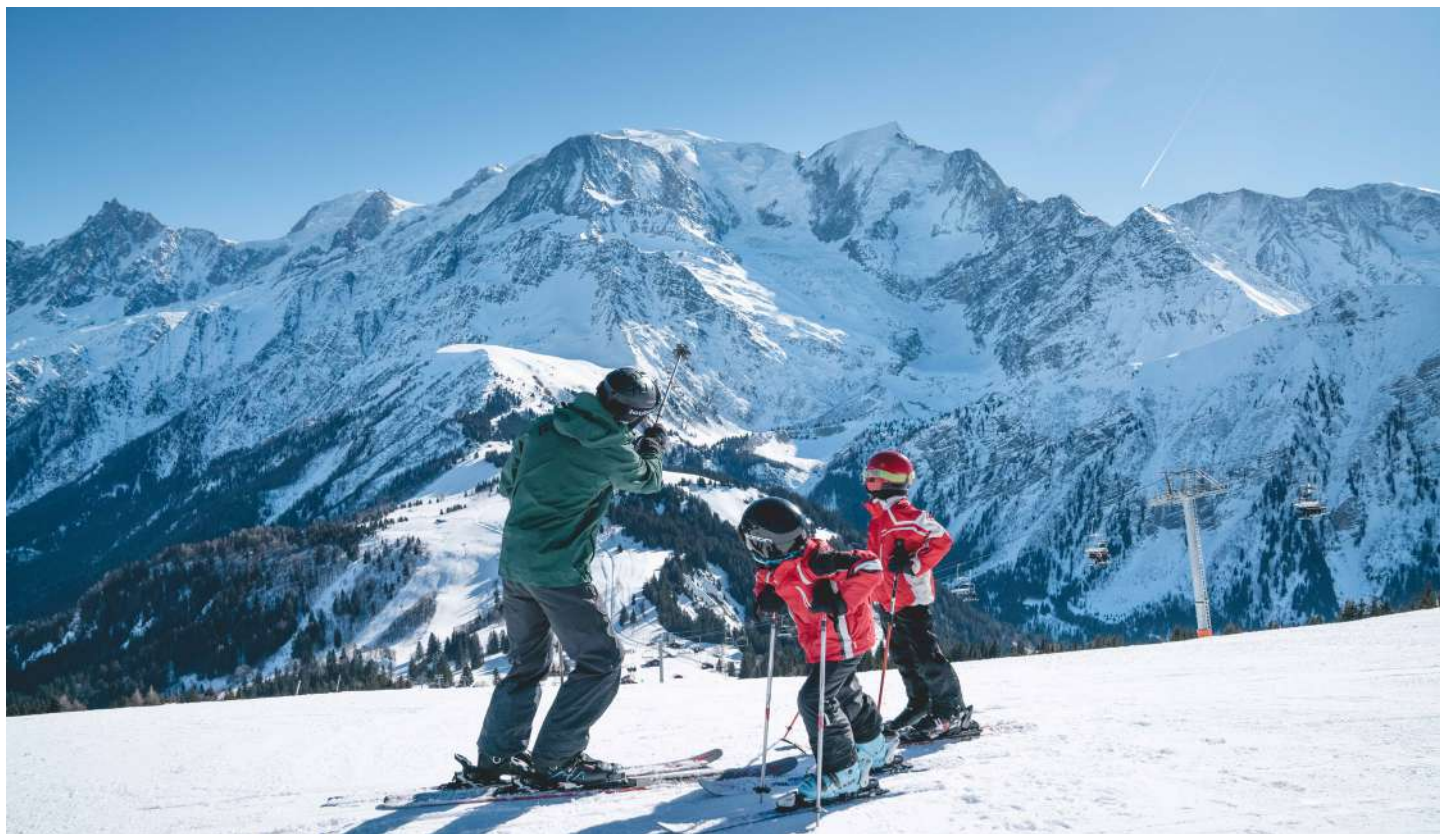
«We expect the snowboarder Merlin Surget to be selected. He has already participated in two Olympic Games and was also French Champion and double gold medalist at the EYOF (European Youth Olympic Festival) in January 2015. In 2022, he accumulated 4 podiums in the World Cup.

Coralie Bentz has good chances in cross-country skiing. She was selected for the Beijing Olympics and her results are very promising.

Both are part of the Chamonix Team!»



LES HOUCHES – THE FAMILY PLUS RESORT OF THE CHAMONIX VALLEY



A family reference for the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley, the resort-village of Les Houches is labeled «Famille Plus». Everything is done to welcome families: adapted activities, multiple entertainments, nurseries, promotional family rates and a dedicated professional service.

NATURAL SKIING FOR ALL LEVELS

With its beautiful forest trails and panoramic view of the Mont-Blanc range, Les Houches ski area attracts ski enthusiasts of all levels and for all activities: skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing and ski touring itineraries, sledding and snowtubing, snow park, timed film slalom (starting from the top of the Kandahar World Cup run) and access to the Mont-Blanc tramway.



LES HOUCHES – THE FAMILY PLUS RESORT OF THE CHAMONIX VALLEY

NEW ENGINES FOR THE TRAMWAY DU MONT BLANC

The Tramway du Mont Blanc (TMB) is the highest cog railway in France. Departing from Saint Gervais Le Fayet, it transports skiers and sightseers to Les Houches ski area. First opened in 1913, the steam locomotives were replaced by electric engines in 1956. They were christened Anne, Jeanne and Marie, after the then proprietor's daughters.

Four new engines have been commissioned for December 2022 and Marguerite, the fourth daughter of the late proprietor, will be the name given to the additional engine.

<https://www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/tramway-montblanc>

LES HOUCHES SKI DEAL PURCHASE ANTICIPATED = PURCHASE DISCOUNTED

New for this winter, Les Houches-Saint-Gervais ski area proposes dynamic pricing for day lift passes. For online purchases, customers can pre-buy their ski pass, for the day of their choice at a discounted rate.

Les Houches lift pass gives access to Bellevue cable car, Prarion gondola and the Tramway du Mont Blanc.

SKICAMP : KIDS HAVE FUN IN LES HOUCHES !

Located on Les Houches ski area, in the Prarion / Mélèzes sector, the Skicamp has become a must for children. A whole range of fun and varied activities are proposed for all ages ... snowtubing tracks, toboggan runs, zipline, camper village, many activities throughout the winter.

<http://leshouches.compagniedumontblanc.fr>



SNOWSHOEING WITH A VIEW AT PRARION

The Prarion plateau (1800m), at the top of Les Houches ski area, is the ideal place to discover snowshoeing with the family in a safe environment. Several marked trails offer a gentle introduction to the activity, with the added bonus of a 360 ° panoramic view of the Mont-Blanc range.



PROJECT



MONTENVERS SITE - MER DE GLACE: HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Explored for the first time by William Windham and Richard Pococke in 1741, La Mer de Glace, the largest French glacier, is a living witness to the climate changes of our time. In order to preserve and enhance the memory of this emblematic site, the Municipal Council of Chamonix has approved an investment programme of over 53 million euros. 25 million of the budget will be allocated to the construction of a new cable car which will facilitate access on and off the glacier for visitors, alpinists and skiers arriving from the Vallée Blanche. More than 20 million of the budget will be allocated to the construction of a Glacier and Climate Interpretation Center, the objective of which is to inform and educate visitors about climate change. For the implementation of this project, a 33-year public service concession contract was signed in June 2021 with Compagnie de la Mer de Glace. This newly formed company is held by the Compagnie du Mont Blanc (60%), the Caisse des Dépôts et des Consignations (30%) and the Crédit Agricole des Savoie bank (10%).

An ambitious programme for an exceptional site which will aim to:

- Preserve and enhance the memory of a pioneering site in the history of glacier discovery and access to high mountains.
- Protect both the heritage and the landscape.
- Inform and educate visitors about climate change and its impact on the Mer de Glace glacier.
- Improve the quality of visitor's experience in terms of site discovery and access to the glacier.
- Ensure the strictest respect for the natural site of Montanvers (architecture and technical integration).

THE MAJOR STAGES OF THE PROJECT:

- December 2023, opening of the new Mer de Glace cable car
- December 2024, opening of the «Glaciorium» Climate and Glacier Interpretation Center
<https://www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/projet-montanvers>

Works on the Montanvers site began in spring 2022 with the removal of the panoramic terrace and restaurant, and will continue through until 2025.

This winter the site remains open to visitors: the cog railway, the gondola and the ice grotto will all be accessible.

NEW GONDOLA ON THE LE TOUR-BALME SKI AREA



Located in the village of Le Tour, at the northern end of the Chamonix Valley, a new gondola lift will open in December 2022, providing a much-improved access to the Balme-Vallorcine ski area. The new-generation Doppelmayr 10-seater panoramic lift will over double current capacity. The 39 cabins will be able to transport 2,200 passengers/hour. They will cover the 376m elevation in 5.26 minutes at a speed of 6m/second.

Balme ski area offers wide open gentle slopes, tree-lined forest trails and an exceptional panorama of the Mont-Blanc Massif.

<https://www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/>

LE TOUR VILLAGE

Nestled at an altitude of 1462m, this small mountain village is home to 60 residents (les Torzerains). Its harmonious architecture includes many old farmhouses and two chapels. Due to its geographical location at the upper end of the Chamonix Valley, Le Tour is described as the snowiest village in France: records testify to an accumulation of 24 metres snowfall in one month!

60 INHABITANTS, AN OLYMPIC POTION!

In 2010, 5 athletes from the village of Le Tour were selected to partake in the Vancouver Winter Olympics. They were all members of the French curling team. Given the number of inhabitants in this small village, the ratio was remarkable.

LE TOUR, SHOOTING LOCATION!

Dominated by the glacier of Le tour, this charming hamlet has often provided a cinema decor.

In the film « Murder of Father Christmas, by Christian-Jaque (first screened in 1941), a large part of the film was shot in the village of Le Tour, under a thick mantle of snow. In 1955, the American producer Edward Dmytryk filmed a number of scenes of « The Mountain » (with Spencer Tracy and Robert Wagner) in the village.



BIRTHPLACE OF MICHEL CROZ

The famous mountain guide Michel Croz, who made the first ascent of the Matterhorn with Edward Whymper on 14th July 1865, was born and lived in Le Tour. Visitors to the village can admire his charming house, notable for its red shutters, abundant geraniums (in summer) and a plaque in his memory

THE OLYMPIC SPIRIT SINCE 1924

Chamonix-Mont-Blanc: birthplace of the first Winter Olympic Games, in 1924, labelled "Land of Games 2024"

This label, awarded by Paris 2024, is a recognition of our destination's constant commitment to promoting sports and culture to a broad public.

Alongside Paris 2024, Chamonix looks forward to sharing this celebration of Olympic sport and the 100th anniversary of the first Winter Olympiad. Nearly one century ago, Chamonix had the honour of organising the first Winter Games and that same year, Paris hosted its second Summer Games.

This event was a catalyst to tourism in the Chamonix Mont-Blanc Valley and its heritage continues. Since 1924, Chamonix athletes have represented their country at every Winter Olympiad.

Today our resort looks resolutely towards 2024, with the desire to share and to remember a centenary of emotions, commitments and prowess, the DNA of these Games.



ANECDOTE

One hundred years ago, in 1923, a young journalist, by the name of Roger Frison-Roche, arrived in Chamonix to take up the position of secretary and interpreter at the Tourist Office in view of the first Winter Games. He went on to be one of the leading figures of the 1900s in Chamonix.

TEAM CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC



Team Chamonix-Mont-Blanc is represented by 12 athletes of different sports' disciplines, who are sponsored by the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley. They are all professional sports men and women, who partake in the major national and international competitions.



CORALIE BENTZ

(Cross-country skiing)

- 27 world cup competitions, 5 in the top 30. 23rd best result.
- Bronze medal in the relay of the university championships
- Winner of the General French Cup
- 3 victories in the European Cup
- 8 French championship titles
- Selected for the Pekin Olympics, 38th best result.

"My ambition?"

To keep progressing and enjoying myself. To give a good performance at the world championships at Planica this winter. And hopefully to continue my career until the next Olympics in Italy in 2026!

My favourite spots in the valley: the cross-country trails such as the Norvège and the Moraine in Argentière for my intensive training sessions.

Living in Chamonix is a privilege. I love enjoying the many good restaurants and all that one finds in a dynamic town in the mountains.»

MARGOT RAVINEL

(Ski alpinism)

Margot has been practising ski alpinism since the age of 4! Her most noteworthy result? No less than three Olympic medals at the youth games in January 2020 in Lausanne. Over the past two years Margaux has won several World Cup medals and several French championships.

The 2022-2023 season marks her entrance into the Senior category.

"I would like to adjust my studies in order to ski as much as possible, to progress and to remain in the French team..."

Chamonix is the ideal town for training and Team Chamonix enables us to benefit from all the sporting structures such as the lifts, the cross-country trails, the pool, fitness and climbing facilities. We are very fortunate and I hope that I will be able to take advantage of all this even more next year. I also love the off-piste skiing at the Grands Montets."



NEW ACCOMMODATION

LA VERTICALE

Located in the historic heart of Chamonix, a stone's throw from the tourist office, the former Hôtel du Louvre is now La Verticale. Bought by SARL Core Hotels – who also manage the hotel Les Lanchers** in Praz de Chamonix – the establishment reopened after a complete interior renovation in autumn 2022. The building has 24 rooms and conference facilities that can be converted into a coworking space.

Renovations were carried out by the architectural firm Haag & Baquet, in Sallanches. The interior design is resolutely modern and atmospheric with wood cladding and a gold-coloured vertical line is a recurrent decorative theme throughout the hotel.

<https://hotelverticale.com/>



WANDERLUST MOTELS CHAMONIX (PRIORLY THE HOTEL MERCURE IN LES BOSSONS)

Located at the foot of the Bossons glacier, 5 minutes from Chamonix, this California-style motel will open in December 2022, after a complete renovation. Inspired by the vibe of the 70s, Pitaya Group has imagined a lifestyle and comfortable design for its first establishment in the Chamonix valley.

Wanderlust Motels Chamonix will have 89 brightly decorated rooms, a Kids Club, a yoga room, a coffee shop, a restaurant and a swimming pool.

Wanderlust is a brand committed to the environment: 80% of the design uses recycled materials.

<https://www.wdlhotels.com/en/>

HOTEL MÉLEZES BECOMES IBIS-STYLES CHAMONIX-LES HOUCHES

Located 150m from the Bellevue cable car in Les Houches, the former Les Mélézes hotel gets a makeover for this winter. Taken over by Anthony Pallier (founder of the "Côte Rôtie" Hotel Company) and Laurent Sauvebois (former Director of the Mercure Centre in Chamonix), as well as by investors from Lyon, the establishment will reopen in December 2022, after a complete renovation, under the Ibis Styles brand.

The hotel will have 48 rooms and an Italian restaurant with 80 covers. The project management was entrusted to the Parisian architecture firm Didier Knoll & Elodie Goddard. The atmosphere and decoration will be warm and cosy, an invitation to relax and disconnect.



NEW ACCOMMODATION

BEST MONT-BLANC HOTELS OFFER A NEW GUEST EXPERIENCE: A NIGHT IN THE HEART OF CHAMONIX, A SKI DESCENT OF THE VALLÉE BLANCHE WITH A GUIDE, FOLLOWED BY A NIGHT AT THE REFUGE DU MONTENVERS



The experience begins with a night in the heart of Chamonix, in one of the Best Mont Blanc Group hotels: the Alpina Eclectic Hotel & Spa, the Mercure Chamonix centre, the Chalet Hotel le Prieuré or the Croix Blanche Hotel. The following day ski the famous Vallée Blanche (mythical 20km off-piste glacier itinerary with 2000 m of vertical descent), accompanied by a high mountain guide from the Compagnie de Chamonix. The following night is spent at the splendid Hotel Refuge du Montenvers, located at 1,900 metres at the foot of the Mer de Glace. Built in 1880, this historic high-altitude establishment has hosted the greatest mountaineers, adventurers, artists and writers. This adventure includes dinner and breakfast for the 2 nights, the services of a high mountain guide for the descent of the Vallée Blanche and individual glacier and avalanche safety equipment (harness and DVA), a 2-day Mont-Blanc Unlimited pass (access to the Aiguille du Midi and return to Chamonix via the Montenvers train).

For more information <https://www.bestmontblanc.com/?lang=en> Package from €1000 for 2 people.

120TH ANNIVERSARY ALBERT 1ER*****

Built in 1903, this emblematic Chamonix establishment will celebrate its 120th anniversary in 2023!

Originally a railway inn, constructed when the train arrived in Chamonix, the hotel evolved alongside the development of the Chamonix valley. For example, central heating was installed in 1924 to accommodate guests for the 1st Winter Olympics...

Today, the small family pension has been transformed into a hamlet: the Hameau Albert 1er, in the heart of Chamonix, a 5* hotel with 37 rooms, suites and chalets, a gastronomic table, a country table, a spa with indoor and outdoor pool facing Mont Blanc.

This anniversary will be honoured throughout the year at the Hameau Albert 1er

<https://www.hameaualbert.fr/en>



L'ALBERT 1ER VERS 1903

PROJECT GRAND HÔTEL COUTTET

An emblematic establishment of the late 1800s, where many illustrious visitors stayed: Alphonse Daudet began writing his novel «Tartarin in the Alps» at the hotel, and the famous British mountaineer Edward Whymper, resided there annually (it was to be his last resting place in 1911).

Located adjacent to the Parc Couttet, the Grand Hotel Couttet will be restored to its former glory in 2024 and will re-open as a 5-star hotel. Building works began in autumn 2022 for this major renovation project, piloted by the Maison Albar hotel group and supervised by local entrepreneur and hotel director Martin Devictor.

<https://www.maison-albar-hotels.com/en/>

GOURMET NEWS

FROMETON, A DEDICATED CHEESY ADDRESS AT THE HOTEL HÉLIOPIC

In addition to the gastronomic table of the Akashon restaurant (awarded a Bib Gourmand for the cuisine of its chef Julien Binet), the Héliopic hotel proposes a new gourmet address this winter. Open only for dinner, and à la carte, the FROMETON restaurant will exclusively offer cheese-based recipes. The talented stylist Leslie Gautier was entrusted with the original concept design of this new restaurant which will open on December 19th 2022 with 48 covers.

<https://www.heliopic-hotel-spa.com/en/>



THE TENNIS TERRACE IN CHAMONIX

The tennis courts' restaurant has always been a popular dining place, not least because of its superb terrace. However, following considerable fire damage, the restaurant has been completely rebuilt and, for the first time, it will also open in winter. What better name than "La Terrasse des Tennis" for this gourmet address, now under new management.

The culinary successes of Francine and Sebastien Vandenkoornhuysen are no secret in the valley. Whilst they continue to play an important role in this new project, the next generation are also joining the team. This winter, the restaurant will be open 3 or 4 evenings a week, by reservation, and theme evenings will be offered. A cuisine based on fresh, quality products, showcasing local producers: crème brûlée with Alpine Beaufort, peasant bacon powder / Arborio risotto with Magland snails in parsley / Confit pig, Arborio risotto, Chorizodoux juice...), also with "Savoyardises".

Seats 60 and a terrace with a beautiful view of the Mont-Blanc range.

06 98 58 60 86



THE TERRACE BAR/RESTAURANT RENAMED THE ROSE OF THE BRIDGE

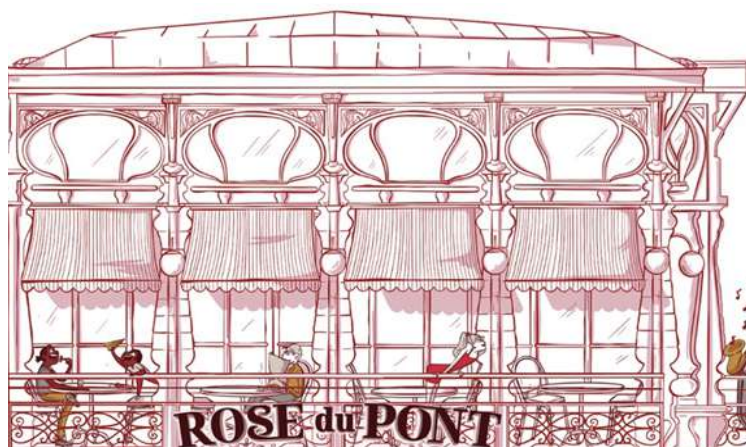
Passionate about beautiful places and historic properties, Lydie and Laurent Mougenot (originally from Haute-Saône), began their adventure by buying a small bistro in Montbéliard which they refurbished from head to foot. A few years later, they moved to Beaune where they totally renovated a brasserie. Attracted by the cosmopolitan and authentic atmosphere of Chamonix, they settled in the valley in 2016. Their first project was the Carlina brasserie, which, after a superb refurbishment, became "Chez Joséphine".

Recently they embarked on an ambitious project to restore the emblematic Chamonix establishment "La Terrasse", located Place Balmat, which they have renamed "La Rose du Pont".

With its art nouveau rotunda dating from the late 1800s, its floral facade and art deco interior, this theatrical style building is an integral part of Chamonix's heritage. The restoration has been carried out with great care in order to conserve the original architecture

Open every day of the week, this vintage and trendy café/restaurant will be able to accommodate 200 people. Opening scheduled for winter 2022-2023.

Reservation on the website: www.rose-du-pont.com



BUT ALSO...

CHEZ MELANIE, the popular bar where mountain guides like to meet for a morning coffee, has been taken over by the boutique hotel group MONT BLANC COLLECTION <https://www.montblanc-collection.com/en/>

WELL-BEING

A NEW WELLNESS AREA AT THE AUBERGE DU BOIS PRIN LUXURY HOTEL

Enjoying a spectacular location on the sunny side of Chamonix, the Auberge du Bois Prin has developed a brand-new outdoor wellness area to include a Nordic bath and sauna. Massages, body and facial treatments are also offered for guests' relaxation. A SPECIAL OFFER FOR EXTERNAL CUSTOMERS: gourmet lunch, access to the spa and a 30-minute massage. From €110 (excluding drinks).

<https://boisprin.com/en/>



THE SPA AT THE ALPINA ECLECTIC HOTEL **** CHOOSES THE BRAND « CLÉ DES CHAMPS »

Clé des champs is a range of organic and natural products, made in France, whose «Essentials» seasonal products are available in specific elixirs and masks, enriched with essential oils.

The signature treatment «The Seasonal Stroll» is an invitation to an olfactory and sensory journey and the ritual changes according to the season. In autumn, this treatment is designed to help oxygenate and protect the body, to better prepare it for the first frosts. For winter, this ritual becomes more cocooning for a real moment of sweetness

<https://www.alpinachamonix.com/en/spa.html>



BUT ALSO ...

For après-ski or at the start of the day, QC Terme wellness centre is a must for a relaxing break in the Chamonix valley.

<https://www.qc Terme.com/en/destination/qc-termemontebianco>

SKI TOURING: ON THE UP!



Over the past few years in the Chamonix Valley, ski touring has become more and more popular.

In order to facilitate training and practice, there are now four marked routes of different lengths and difficulty. After the effort, the reward is a gentle ski down the slopes!

Four marked itineraries (not patrolled) for different levels of ski tourers. Descent via the ski slopes.

- LES HOUCHES / Prarion: elevation 841 metres
- ARGENTIÈRE / Lognan via La Trapette (not recommended for beginners): elevation 730 metres
- ARGENTIÈRE / Refuge de Lognan: elevation 800 metres
- LE TOUR / Charamillon: elevation 358 metres



SMART - TRAINING SESSIONS WITH THE CHAMONJARDE

The Chamoniarde is a mountain rescue and prevention association which organizes courses for adults to raise mountain safety awareness. Weekend ski touring courses enable customers to acquire better knowledge of the mountains in order to gain autonomy and better knowledge of potential risks.

<https://www.chamoniarde.com/en/training-courses/winter-courses>



FOLLOW THE GUIDE

Due to increased interest for this activity, the Mountain Guides' company offers group or private outings for beginners and confirmed ski tourers. From 155€ pp for a group outing

<https://www.chamonix-guides.com/en/activities/details/ski-touring-full-day>

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

ON TRACKS ...

The first ever Winter Olympic Games took place in Chamonix from 25 January to 5 February 1924. At the time, downhill skiing had not gained momentum or recognition. Only six sports were on the Olympic programme: ice-hockey, ice-skating, speed skating, curling, bobsleigh and skiing of course, but not downhill! The Olympic ski disciplines were cross-country (50km and 18km), ski jumping, combined (jumping and cross-country) and a 30km military four per team race where they shot with real bullets.



TRAILS THROUGHOUT THE VALLEY

Today, the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley has a Nordic ski area of about fifty kilometres – both classic and skating pistes – in the resorts of Les Houches, Chamonix, Argentière and Vallorcine. A detailed map of cross-country skiing trails is available at tourist offices or cross-country ski centres throughout the valley.

After being shunned a little and considered «too tiring», cross-country skiing has become fashionable, especially since the advent of the «skating» technique, and it now attracts skiers of all ages. Boosted by the closure of the ski lifts during the Covid pandemic, the number of cross-country skiers has tripled since 2020!

FREE NOCTURNAL SESSIONS ON THURSDAYS

Beginning in December, the green track of the Bois du Bouchet, Chamonix, is free for evening sessions from 18:30 to 20:30.

ACTIVITIES

NEW AT LES HOUCHES CLIMBING CENTRE

Located in Les Houches, the Mont-Blanc Escalade structure welcomes more guides and renowned mountaineers than any other climbing centre of its kind!

In June 2022, Claire Jurine, ski instructor, former high-level snowboarder and climbing enthusiast, took over the management of this emblematic centre and has given it a facelift.

In addition to the 100 routes on the wall, there are climbing modules for bouldering as well as a coworking space and a bar area. During school holidays, introductory courses are offered for both children and adults.

Open Monday to Friday from 12 noon to 10 p.m. and from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends.

<https://www.montblancescalade.com/>



SNOWSHOEING FONDUE AT THE CERRO HUT

Built in 1850 on the right bank of the Glacier des Bossons, the Chalet du Cerro was originally a wooden hut that served as a refreshment bar for travellers heading to or from glacier excursions.

Anne and Marine took over this emblematic address in June 2022.

In addition to lunches and dinners, the new managers are offering a "snowshoe fondue" outing this winter.

Allow 20 minutes for the upward hike (headtorches, snowshoes and ski poles provided) and the reward will be a delicious fondue in an authentic setting.

Departure from the Cerro car park. All equipment provided. Accessible from 8 years old.

Open from December 17, 2022 until the Easter holidays. The «Fondue de Raquettes» evening is a menu at 29€/person including an aperitif starter, fondue, salad and a choice of dessert.

Every day during the holidays and in the evening by reservation .

Contact : 06 70 29 90 29

<https://www.buvetteducerro.com/>

HOCKEY – PIONEERS FOREVER



in January 2023, the Chamonix Hockey Club, known as “Les Pionniers”, will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its first French Championship title.

“The excellent team from Chamonix, which this year claims the title of French champion after a hard fight” The Sports Mirror, March 8, 1923.



On Friday January 13, 2023 at the Chamonix ice rink, the Pioneers will face the Dragons of Rouen as part of the French Synergglace Ligue Magnus 2022-2023 championship. A special evening for the Chamonix team, 100 years after their first title of Champion of France!

On Sunday January 14, 1923, the Chamonix Club broke the Parisian hegemony by winning 2-0 against the capital's Winter Sports Club. After having won every title since the initial victory of Lyon (1907), the Parisian club bowed for the first time before the up and coming club, Chamonix. Led by the young Albert Hassler and Léon Quaglia, the CHC won its very first crown, cheered on by a large crowd. The beginning of a new era for French hockey which heralded epic performances until the end of the 1970s and 30 championship titles.



Always present in the national elite, Chamonix has regained its colours after some disappointing years at the end of the 90s and the beginning of 2000. The teammates of current captain Clément Masson are aiming for a place in the highly disputed Top 8 for the 4th consecutive year of the championship, synonymous with qualifying for the playoffs.

More than a sporting event, the home matches of the Pioneers are part of the festive highlights of the Chamonix Mont-Blanc Valley.

#GoPionniers

Info and tickets at www.pionniers-chamonix.com

CULTURE

DISCOVER AN EXCEPTIONAL LOPPE OIL PAINTING AT THE CRYSTAL MUSEUM

This autumn, visitors to the Crystal Museum will have the privilege of discovering a painting by the famous mountain artist Gabriel Loppé (1825-1913). The large canvas (2m x 3m), which depicts the Mer de Glace, will be on exhibition from September to December 2022 in the entrance hall of the Espace Tairraz. Purchased by the municipality of Chamonix in 2022, the canvas will be given a place of honour at the Alpine Museum, when it reopens in 2024 after a vast renovation project. Art enthusiasts will have all autumn to admire this oil painting, before it goes on loan to Italy in December 2022.



EXHIBITION AT LA MAISON DE LA MÉMOIRE ET DU PATRIMOINE

From December 17, 2022 to May 13, 2023

The Municipal Archives of Chamonix-Mont-Blanc possess an exceptional photographic collection: over 3000 photos by the photographer, mountaineer and guide André Contamine (1919-1985). These photographs, mainly taken in the Mont-Blanc massif, provide first-hand documentation of mountaineering in the 1950s-1960s-1970s. From December 2022 to May 2023, the Maison de la Mémoire et du Patrimoine will present an exhibition devoted to the photographic collection of this figure of French mountaineering. The exhibition is curated with the assistance of Gilles Modica, journalist and writer specializing in the history of mountaineering.

LA MAISON DES ARTISTES

The historic villa, nestled in the heart of Parc Couttet, has now become a dedicated multicultural venue and a convivial meeting place. The eclectic programme includes artists in residence, concerts, events, professional training and various cultural projects. The Maison des Artists will work closely with the EMC2 theatre on the artistic programme.

maisondesartistes-chamonix.com

OPENING OF THE CULTURAL SEASON

Inaugurated in December 2021, the Espace Michel Croz – EMC2, located in one of the domes of the 1970s complex, designed by the architect Roger Taillibert, reveals its new cultural season, influenced and inspired by travel. Discover the ambitious programme on:

[saison culturelle chamonix 2022 2023.pdf](#)



CULTURE

NEW WILD BOOKSTORE IN CHAMONIX

Louise and Louis met on the benches of the University. Louis then embarked on a career as a history teacher for a few years, while Louise worked in economics, geography and then agriculture. Passionate about literature and in love with the Chamonix Valley, both dreamt of having a bookstore... at the foot of Mont Blanc!

In July 2022, the young couple made their audacious project a reality and opened "La Librairie Sauvage". Céline, a dedicated bookseller, also joined the team.

The 120 m² shop space is located close to the train station, in an historic building that was once the Hôtel du Nord. A charming fresco adorns the walls of the main room, depicting chamois and a young shepherd with his goat herd. The author of this mural painting is unknown, but it was recently restored by the artist Lionel Wibaut and is a delightful feature of the bookstore.



Customers may discover 10,000 works of all formats and themes: French and foreign literature, mountains, adventure, youth, human sciences, poetry, art, thrillers, comics, mangas, cooking, well-being... and even an English book section.

The three young booksellers are teeming with ideas and will regularly organize meetings with authors, cartoonists and artists. The basement will be given over to an art gallery as from this autumn 2022, with various exhibitions: painting, sculpture, ceramics, stained glass, sketching.

<https://www.lalibrairiesauvage.com/>

CAT KARTAL: A NEW WORKSHOP IN LES HOUCHES AND AN EXHIBITION AT ALTITUDE

Chamoniarde at heart, the artist Catherine Kartal will open a workshop-exhibition space in Les Houches this winter, just a stone's throw from the Bellevue cable car.

Art graduate from the Ecole du Louvre, Kat Kartal is a well-known figure in the Chamonix Valley, both for her artistic talents and her teaching skills. In this 50m² space, she will both work and exhibit her new collection of ski and mountain paintings. The workshop will be open by appointment or for specific events.

From December 15, 2022 for the entire winter, her "Skiing at the top" exhibition of around 25 paintings will be on view at the restaurant-refuge Altitude 2000, located on the Brévent ski area.

Access by gondola from Chamonix, then by funicular or on skis.

<https://en.catkartal.com/>

ENVIRONMENT



THE CHAMONIX VALLEY: A LABORATORY FOR ENERGY AND ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

Aware that it is essential to preserve this environment, as exceptional as it is fragile, the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley has been resolutely engaged for several years in multiple challenges to organize an ecological transition in many domains: mobility, habitat infrastructures, energy, waste disposal and circular economy...

Consult the press file :

https://www.cc-valleedechamonixmontblanc.fr/documents/environnement/energie_climat/pdf/dossier_presse_environnement_mai_2021

GREEN SNOWFLAKE LABEL

The Chamonix Mont-Blanc Valley is one of the first destinations to have been awarded the Flocon Vert label in 2013, rewarding the work and actions undertaken on all the themes of sustainable development and driven by concerted and pioneering policies. Also obtained in 2015 and 2018, the renewal of the label is in progress for the end of 2022.



200
— ANS —

LES GUIDES DE MONTAGNE
ET LE CHANGEMENT CLIMATIQUE

UNE HISTOIRE D'ADAPTATION



200
— ANS —



SYNDICAT NATIONAL
GUIDES DE
MONTAGNE

SOFT MOBILITY AND FREE TRANSPORT

Electric shuttles, hybrid and gas buses, renovation of the railway line, cycle route, pedestrian paths: the Chamonix valley is developing and structuring its eco-mobility.

Rolled out year-round from 2005, the free access to travel by train and bus now makes it possible to transport 3.2 million passengers a year in a very busy valley. In June 2022, the local authorities set up a bonus for the acquisition of low-emission vehicles for professionals and associations: the Air Vehicles Fund. An additional step to improving the air quality of the territory.

VALLEY PLAYERS ARE MOBILIZING WITH CONCRETE MEASURES

THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPS RENEWABLE ENERGY POTENTIAL

After the commissioning of the Taconnaz hydroelectric power station at the end of 2019 (12.5 GWh/year), the new Bourgeat power station has been producing 3 GWh/year since the end of 2022, and other power stations are being developed.

The community has also initiated a citizen cooperative project for the production of photovoltaic energy. A collective of citizens named "Toits des Cimes", supported by local authorities, is working on equipping 11 strategically located rooves, both public and private, with solar panels: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeuULtnbx3o>

Find out more about hydraulic energy in Chamonix:

[THE POWER OF OUR GLACIERS](#)

LA COMPAGNIE DES GUIDES CREATES AN ENDOWMENT FUND. FOEHN: OBSERVE – PRESERVE – RAISING AWARENESS

In 2021, the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix created the Fund for the Environment and High Nature FOEHN. This fund aims, thanks to donations from individuals and companies, to develop and support activities and actions in favour of the environment, in particular, the safeguarding and protection of the natural mountain environment.

<https://www.chamonix-guides.com/sites/default/files/brochures/2021/Fonds-FOEHN2.pdf>

ACTIONS IN FAVOUR OF BIODIVERSITY

Since 2014, the Compagnie du Mont Blanc (company that manages the ski lifts) oversees a Biodiversity and Landscape Observatory. For example, diagnostics have identified a major wintering area for black grouse at Le Prarion, in the Houches Saint-Gervais ski area. Thus, a large area is cordoned off to prohibit off-piste activities in the area. Recent research has confirmed the presence of about twenty black grouse, a number which is increasing, thanks to the establishment of this zone of tranquillity.



ACCOMMODATION PROMO FOR ECO-MOBILE CUSTOMERS

In Les Houches, the owner of the SANS SOUCIS apartment offers a 10% reduction to guests arriving by train or a car-sharing organisation in order to reduce their carbon impact.

https://booking.chamonix.com/product-80-appartement-ce-cile-sans-soucis-les-houches?lang=en_US

RECYCLE TO SUPPORT THE RELIEF FUND

By partnering with Campsider, a community dedicated to second-hand outdoor equipment, the Cie des Guides de Chamonix wanted to give a second life to the guides' equipment and financially support the Caisse de Secours (relief fund).

The equipment selected by the platform's experts is resold directly online on Campsider. Damaged equipment is repaired by specialized partners such as GreenWolf. Equipment in poor condition is redirected to specialists in recycling or upcycling such as Redeem Equipment.



WINTER 2022 FIGURES

Total number of beds in the Chamonix Valley: 82,469 including 15,970 professional beds, 16,514 holiday rentals, 43,328 private accommodation options.

Number of overnight stays: 7.8 million overnight stays per year (year before covid) including 51% in summer and 49% in winter. The number of summer overnight stays has increased in recent years.

Origin of customers: 37% of tourist overnight stays are foreign and mainly European. The number of French customers has increased since Covid.

WINTER PODIUM 2022

TOP 1 : UK



TOP 2 : Switzerland



TOP 3 : Sweden



ELEVEN DESTINATIONS, ONE OBJECTIVE: BEST OF THE ALPS STRENGTHENS ITS ACTION IN FAVOUR OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Some resorts are already well advanced while others are still in their infancy. In order to trigger a new dynamic and define a common direction, Best of the Alps is strengthening its action in favour of sustainable development.

This association, made up of eleven emblematic Alpine destinations, is a hub of expertise: sharing of knowledge, centralization of resources and experience. Its essential missions are carried out by Best of The Alps management, headed by Sammy Salm. In August, the first working groups met to discuss specific themes related to the diverse territories of neighbouring countries, i.e. Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy and France. The aim being to play an active role in the sustainable development sector and to pave the way towards more respectful tourism, to which Chamonix-Mont-Blanc, St. Anton am Arlberg, Crans-Montana, Kitzbühel, Megève, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Lech Zürs am Arlberg, Cortina d'Ampezzo, Courmayeur, Seefeld and Davos owe their reputation

<https://www.bestofthealps.com/en/#down>





Mountain history was born, and continues to be written, in the Chamonix Mont-Blanc Valley.

Our brand partners share in our philosophy and we give them our support. We provide them with an opportunity to showcase their products, but also to communicate their values to our respective communities.

In discovering the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley we also invite our partners to live and share a unique experience.

We are pleased to announce our new partnership with the men's clothing brand «Celio».

A range of clothing co-branded «Chamonix-Mont Blanc» will be launched for the winter season.



Official Partnership

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#chamlive
#chamonix
#montblanc

#leshouches
#argentiere
#vallorcine
#servoz



CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC

SERVOZ - LES HOUCHES - CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC - ARGENTIÈRE - VALLORCINE



Yucca Films, Office de tourisme de la vallée de Chamonix Mont-Blanc, Alexandre Juillet, Morgane Raylat, Cécile Gruffat, Club des sports de Chamonix, Gaëtan Haugeard, Fabien Saguez, La Chamoniarde, Fabian Bodet, Salomé Abrial, Collection Musée Alpin de Chamonix, Agence Zoom, Pierre Raphoz, Fonds Roger Frison-Roche/Archive Communales de Chamonix, Alpina, le Bois prin, Frometon, Claire Jurine, Cat Kartal, Librairie Sauvage, Cie du Mont-Blanc, Cie des Guides.



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