



**CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC**



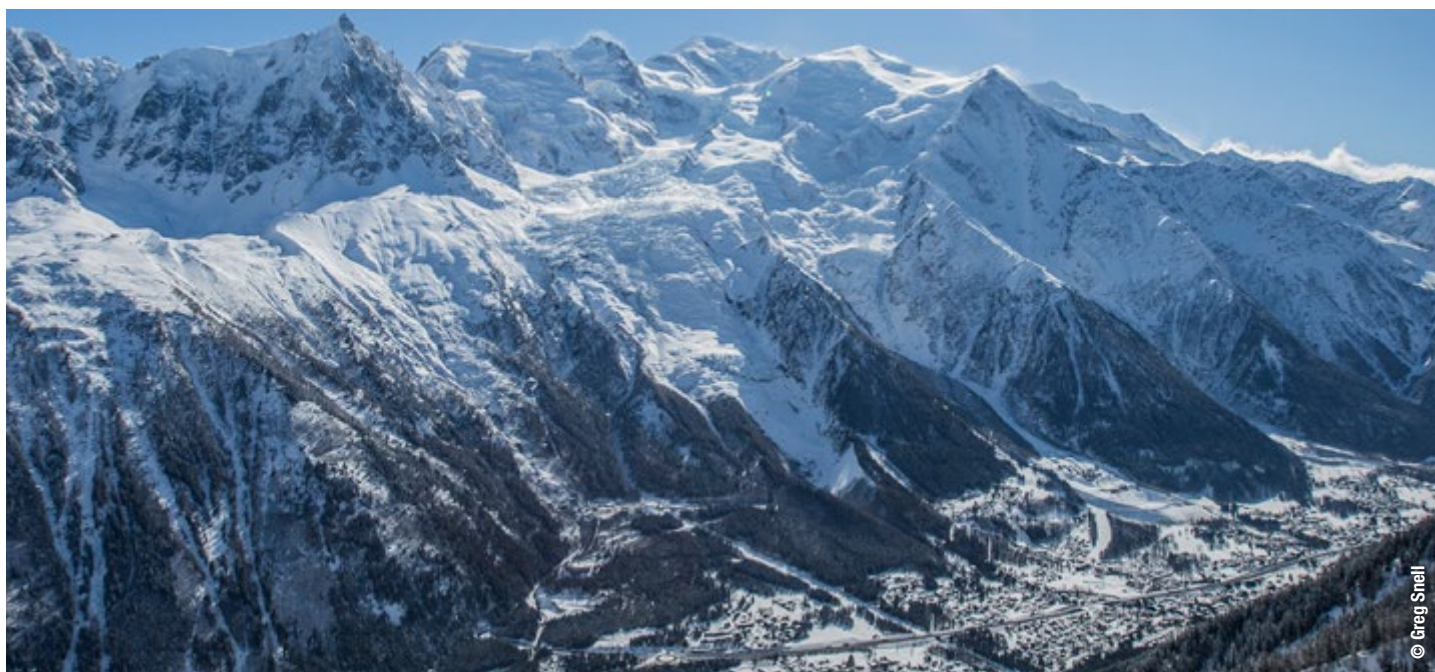
© Yucca Films

# **PRESS KIT WINTER 2025-2026**

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

# A LIVELY CAPITAL

The Chamonix valley is located at the foot of the exceptional Mont-Blanc massif. On the borders of Switzerland and Italy, it extends over 28km from west to east and englobes :



**SERVOZ**, the authentic village with its pastoral architecture, opens the doors to the valley.

**LES HOUCHES**, is a family village resort, with an unrivalled panorama of the Chamonix “Aiguilles” and its famous black slope «la Verte des Houches», which regularly hosted men's downhill World Cup events (Kandahar).

**CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC**, the world capital of mountaineering, birthplace of the first Winter Olympic Games in 1924, a charming small town with preserved architectural heritage, and a testament to a long and rich tourism history that dates back to 1741.

**ARGENTIÈRE**, with the famous Grands Montets ski area, is a favorite spot for freeriders and ski lovers from all over the world.

**VALLORCINE**, the most “natural” of the villages in the valley, located on the border with Switzerland, is perfect for those seeking a winter retreat that allies sport and contemplation.



## ENERGY, PIONEERING SPIRIT, COMMITMENT...

Here are the strong values that qualify this exceptional territory. The Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley leads the way and invites the visitor to discover its **EXTRAORDINARY STORY**, explore its **CAPTIVATING NATURE** and live unique experiences in this **LIVELY CAPITAL**, theme of the 2025-2026 winter campaign.

More than just a nature and sports destination, Chamonix-Mont-Blanc is asserting its role as a vibrant and cosmopolitan alpine capital, where creativity, excellence, and expertise meet. The goal of this winter communication campaign is to position the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley as a lively, cultural destination with a true art de vivre at the heart of the mountains.

While the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley remains a ski destination, it also positions itself as a place for mountain activities where people come to live an experience. A multi-channel communication plan will highlight the richness of its art of living—lifestyle, fashion, culture, architecture, etc.—to reflect the energy of a vibrant, world-open, and resolutely contemporary valley.



# ARCHITECTURE

In a little over two centuries, the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley has undergone immense transformations, most particularly in terms of architectural developments. Prior to the advent of tourism the inhabitants of this glacier valley led an agro-pastoral life dominated by long and rigorous winters. They built with local natural resources such as larch wood or stones gathered from torrent beds.



Getting off to a gentle start as early as the mid-18th century, tourism began to truly thrive during the 19th century, reaching its peak by the mid-20th century. Each stage in the growth of tourism in the region has brought with it a new approach to the mountains. During the Age of Enlightenment the conquest of the summits was motivated by the spirit of science whereas the paintings and literature of the Romantic Era viewed the mountains from yet another angle.

During the « Belle Époque », with the development of moneyed tourism, palaces and leisure villas flourished and it is only with the arrival of the railway and the development of ski lifts that the democratisation of tourism began. Today our cultural references extend largely beyond the local context. New lifestyles and technological progress have given rise to a multitude of unprecedented possibilities in terms of landscaping. The most recent development to date is the emergence of a new form of architecture privileging passive energy and the use of ecologically friendly methods and materials.

The town of Chamonix has developed under the influence of tourism and has grown in line with various architectural periods and movements. In each period, architectural creation has been shaped by the dominant thinking and spirit of the time. This unique quality has provided the town with a rich and diverse heritage, blending tradition and modernity. As you stroll through the town, you'll discover a church or Protestant chapel dating back several centuries, «Belle Époque» hotels and palaces, «Art Deco» facades, traditional farms, urban-style villas, chalets, and modern buildings. Examples include the high school buildings designed by Taillibert in the 1970s, the Aiguille du Midi cable car station created by the famous architect Wilmotte, and the innovative future Grands Montets cable car station, designed by Renzo Piano.



# THE MONT-BLANC MUSEUM

## A new showcase for Alpine history ! Opening Scheduled for Spring 2026



Closed to the public since September 2021, the Alpine Museum is set to complete its transformation into the Mont-Blanc Museum. More than just a renovation, this is an entirely new concept — a modern cultural space dedicated to exploring the relationship between people and the mountains of the Mont-Blanc region, and on track to become one of France's largest museums focused on the mountain world. The project's roots go back to 1898, when Joseph Cusin-Berlincourt began assembling a collection of 72 objects and artworks relating to the history of the Chamonix Valley. In 1920, this collection was donated to the Municipality of Chamonix, leading to the opening of the first municipal Alpine Museum in 1926. Over the decades, its collections continued to grow. Housed Since 1969 in the magnificent former Chamonix Palace building, the new Mont-Blanc Museum will feature 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition space. This is a major challenge for Guillaume Girod, the architect in charge of the project, working under the close supervision of the French National Heritage Architects.



Visitors will be able to explore three permanent exhibition areas, each with a distinct theme:

### ADAPTATIONS

Exploring how a rural mountain community evolved into a world-renowned international resort.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

Celebrating mountaineering and the conquest of the high peaks.

### LANDSCAPES

Showcasing the museum's art collection, from paintings and vintage posters to contemporary works, revealing the ways artists have interpreted the mountains.

In addition, there will be a temporary exhibition hall and a large events space for school groups and conferences.



This ambitious €8.6 million renovation is being led by the Communauté de Communes de la Vallée de Chamonix-Mont-Blanc, with support from public and private partners. With the active involvement of the Amis du Vieux Chamonix, the Haute-Savoie Department, and contributions from renowned mountaineers and local residents, 17,000 items are now in the collection. This has made it possible to present a modernized and immersive exhibition that traces four centuries of the valley's history.

Under the landscape theme, it is worth noting the large-format paintings by Gabriel Loppé, a 19th-century painter who excelled at depicting glaciers and snow on canvases of various sizes, including monumental ones.

## TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE RESTAURATION OF THE ALPINE MUSEUM

Fundraising campaign has been launched through the French Heritage Foundation to help finance the renovation

[www.fondation-patrimoine.org](http://www.fondation-patrimoine.org)

# LODGING WITH A MOUNTAINEERING LEGACY

## Hameau Albert 1er



A jewel of Chamonix hospitality for five generations, this elegant establishment has been welcoming guests since 1903, just steps from Chamonix railway station. Originally called “La Pension du Chemin de Fer”, it was renamed in 1935 the “Hôtel Albert 1er et de Milan” in honor of King Albert I of Belgium— a keen mountaineer and regular visitor to the valley. Higher up in the valley, a high mountain refuge perched above the Glacier du Tour also bears his name. King Albert I was a passionate climber who often chose the renowned guide Ravelle le Rouge, a member of the iconic Chamonix Guide Company. Reflecting the strong bond between the king and Chamonix, Benoît Couttet, President of the Chamonix Guide Company, was honoured to represent the valley at the King’s funeral in 1934. The sovereign never had the chance to stay at the Hameau Albert 1er, but the hotel’s guestbook discreetly records visits from members of the Belgian royal family in recent years, who chose to come in complete privacy.

[www.hameaualbert.fr/en](http://www.hameaualbert.fr/en)

## Hôtel Pointe Isabelle

Built in the 1960s by the descendants of British mountaineer Isabella Straton, this hotel is ideally located in the heart of Chamonix. It was acquired and transformed in 2014, with further extensions added in recent years. Captivated by the remarkable story of this extraordinary woman, the new Scandinavian owners decided to retain the hotel’s name and entrusted the interior design to Swedish designer Styli Trampoli, who drew significant inspiration from the famous climber—especially evident in the unique patterns of the wallpaper and carpets. Period photographs and a permanent exhibition inside the hotel tell the story of Isabella Straton, who completed the first winter ascent of Mont Blanc in 1876 alongside her guide and future husband, the Chamonix native Jean Charlet. Among her many high-altitude achievements, Isabella also made the first ascent of the “Pointe Isabelle” summit in 1876.

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



## Chalet Whympier



This chalet-hotel has been part of the Hameau du Faucigny since 2017, under the Mont-Blanc Collection group. The establishment bears the name of the famous British mountaineer and illustrator Edward Whympier, who achieved numerous first ascents in the Mont Blanc massif during the Golden Age of mountaineering. Whympier famously made history with the first ascent of the Matterhorn in July 1865, alongside his close friend and Chamonix guide Michel Croz. A keen local history enthusiast, Martin Devictor, manager of Mont-Blanc Collection, chose to pay tribute to Whympier through the chalet’s interior design, led by architect Emmanuelle Delaage. The result is an immersive experience that honours this unique figure—both mountaineer and artist—who was truly multi-talented. Whympier took his final breath in a room at the Hôtel Couttet and is laid to rest in Chamonix cemetery.

[www.hameaufaucigny-chamonix.com/en/le-chalet-whympier/](http://www.hameaufaucigny-chamonix.com/en/le-chalet-whympier/)



# WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

## SCIENCE IN CHAMONIX

From 3 to 13 October 2025

Theme « Intelligence(s) »

[www.fetedelascience.fr](http://www.fetedelascience.fr)

## CHAMONIX PHOTO FESTIVAL

From 31 October to 2 November 2025

3rd edition of this festival, which brings together tourists, photography enthusiasts, and professionals from near and far over three days. Theme: «A Look at Glaciers»

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

## CHRISTMAS MAGIC

From 18 December 2025, to 3 January 2026

During the Christmas holidays, enchanting decorations and magical parades will bring the streets of Chamonix town centre to life. The Christmas village in Chamonix is setting up shop on the Place du Triangle de l'Amitié.

## KANDAHAR JUNIOR

9, 10, 11 January 2026

International Downhill Ski competition – U14 organized by Les Houches .

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

## EUROPEAN WOMEN'S ALPINE SKI CUP

23 & 24 January 2026

Two slaloms on the Planards stadium, night competitions.

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

## LA TRACE DES GRANDS - CANCELLED

8 & 9 March 2026

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 five races allows the expression of all forms of ski touring.

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

## CHAMONIX UNLIMITED FESTIVAL

From 26 to 30 March 2026

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!

[www.chamonix-unlimited.com](http://www.chamonix-unlimited.com)

## FREERIDE DAY

3 May 2026

End the season in style at the Grands Montets with the traditional freeride party.



© Pierre Raphoz



© Morgane Raylat



© Salomé Abrial

ALL MAJOR EVENTS ON  
[en.chamonix.com](http://en.chamonix.com)

2026 EDITION CANCELLED

# LA TRACE DES GRANDS



## AN INTERNATIONAL SKI MOUNTAINEERING EVENT

One of the France's must-attend ski touring event, La Trace des Grands (TDG) is back on 7 and 8 March 2026. More than a sporting competition, the TDG is an opportunity to live the mountains differently, safely, intensely, and in an exceptional alpine setting. Since its first edition in 2022, the event has grown rapidly: from 350 participants to nearly 1,200 in 2025 including many first-time entrants to ski mountaineering. With the support of leading names such as Compagnie du Mont-Blanc, Millet, Blizzard, Simond, and ATK, TDG is on track to become a flagship winter event in Chamonix. To preserve its spirit and values, participation remains limited on each course.

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

## ORIGINS AND PURPOSE

Created by Pascal Croz, a native of the valley and former Grands Montets ski patrol director, and Damien Sablon, a Chamonix local by heart, TDG was born from a simple idea: bring back a major winter ski mountaineering event to the valley. Their goal? To share their passion and make ski mountaineering accessible to everyone - from first-timers to seasoned competitors. Each of the five secured, temporary courses is designed for different levels of experience and takes participants deep into the high mountains, with routes climbing up to 3,300 meters. Whether a discovery journey or a competitive challenge, TDG is about finding your own track.



# WORLD CUISINE

## Le Mumma, a gastronomic journey for the taste buds



After training as a chef at the Stockholm Hotel School, David Lilieroth honed his skills in Sweden before his manager offered him the chance to work in Chamonix. Without hesitation, he packed his bags for this iconic destination he had long dreamed of discovering, and soon found himself behind the stoves at Munchie, a renowned restaurant tucked away in Rue des Moulins. To avoid growing weary of mountain life, David also answered the call of the sea, showcasing his culinary talents for two summer seasons as a yacht chef in the Nice region. He also travelled extensively throughout Asia, experiences that further broadened his culinary horizons. The young Scandinavian chef eventually opened his own restaurant in Chamonix: MUMMA (which could almost be translated as “yum”). Here, he serves fusion cuisine inspired by Asia and South America. It's a truly “borderless” cuisine—sparkling with creativity and bursting with flavour—reflecting the cosmopolitan spirit of the destination he now calls home. The menu promises a genuine gastronomic journey for the palate: crab rice balls, braised duck gyozas with Chinese water chestnuts, pan-seared sole in panko with cashew nuts...

[www.mumma.fr](http://www.mumma.fr)

## Yumidori, a Japanese-inspired cuisine crafted by a sushi world champion



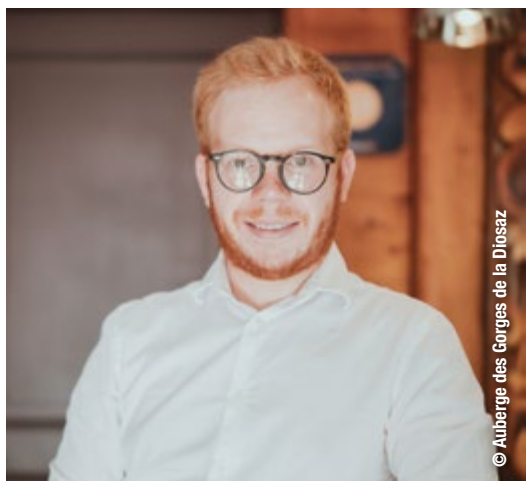
Originally from Vallorcine, at the upper end of the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley, Jérémie Séguda has long been passionate about Japanese art and cuisine. For over ten years, he has invested himself in Japanese gastronomy, perfecting the art of sushi until reaching the very top. Triple Vice-Champion of France and World Vice-Champion of Sushi in 2024 in Tokyo, he is a proud member of the French Sushi Team and has distinguished himself through a style that is understated, refined and precise. At YUMIDORI, the talented young chef has created a Japanese-inspired fast-casual dining concept, offering sushi and dishes that are high-quality, healthy, colourful, and made predominantly with organic and gluten-free ingredients. Every lunchtime and throughout the day, from 11:30am to 9:30pm, this centrally located Chamonix address serves sushi, hot and cold bowls, starters and desserts, available to enjoy on site or to take away.

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



# WORLD CUISINE

## Arudha, a singular culinary experience



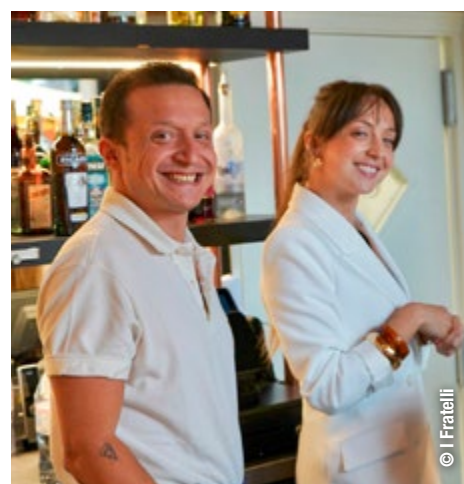
Nestled within the Auberge des Gorges de la Diosaz in Servoz, this exclusive dining destination—conceived as a journey rather than a meal—welcomes only ten guests each evening for a singular experience: intimate, sensorial, ritualistic. Imagined by chef Hugo Lemerrier, the concept was born from a deep dialogue between Alpine high altitudes and the sacred cultures of India, between the fermentations of silence and bursts of spice, between ancestral gestures and contemporary impulses. There is no menu. Dinner is offered as an inner ascent (in Sanskrit, Arudha means “the one who rises”). A “Seven Gates” menu unfolds across 16 sequences and 34 creations, weaving together central dishes, satellite bites, poured infusions, dense sauces, and invisible condiments. Opening December 2025 — from Friday to Monday — single service at 8pm — experience available exclusively by reservation.

[contact@arudha.fr](mailto:contact@arudha.fr)

## I Fratelli, a new taste of Italy in Chamonix



**I Fratelli**



At the Comazzetto family in Chamonix, pizza is a family affair! Back in 1983, Valerio, the father, opened his Italian restaurant “La Casa Valerio” on Rue du Lyret. His talent even earned him the title of “World Vice-Champion” of pizza! La Casa Valerio also became the first restaurant in France and the third worldwide to be awarded ISO certification for Neapolitan pizza. In recent years, Marco—who also holds the title of pizza world vice-champion—alongside his siblings David and Mara, has been honing his craft within the family business. This summer, the trio took things a step further, launching their own restaurant, aptly named “I Fratelli” (“The Brothers”). Located just a stone’s throw from the Aiguille du Midi cable car, the two brothers and their sister, joined by Nadim (Mara’s partner), serve Italian-style breakfasts and brunches. Alongside the must-try pizzas and homemade pasta, food lovers can enjoy a selection of delicious Italian treats, such as pistachio cream croissants. Phone +33 (0)4 50 93 48 36

# TASTE THE SUMMIT

## Plan Joran, a new alpine food court - Grands Montets ski area



This winter, the Plan Joran restaurant, located on the Grands Montets ski area, is reinventing itself as a stylish Alpine food court. The new concept offers a varied and modern culinary experience, with multiple food stations: wood-fired Neapolitan pizza, pasta bar, bistro classics, sandwiches, salad bar, soup station, and coffee shop. With over 500 seats (indoor and terrace), digital ordering via kiosks and QR codes, and group-friendly vouchers, Plan Joran is set to become a key destination for slope-side dining in Chamonix. Accessible only on skis, it promises a delicious and scenic break in a fully redesigned setting.

[www.maisondesdrus.com/en/establishment/la-table-de-plan-joran-winter/](http://www.maisondesdrus.com/en/establishment/la-table-de-plan-joran-winter/)

## 3842, an exclusive alpine escape



This winter, thrill-seekers and food lovers alike can discover a truly one-off adventure at the very top of the Aiguille du Midi. La Maison des Drus is launching a new format at Restaurant Le 3842 with immersive game experts to transform the high-altitude restaurant into the stage for an unforgettable experience: a murder mystery or treasure hunt played out high above the Alps. After the game, step out onto the panoramic terrace for an aperitif with Mont Blanc as your backdrop, before sitting down to a refined three-course lunch (drinks not included) in the restaurant's newly renovated, cosy interior. Available from €120 per person (excluding lift pass), this is an extraordinary escape for corporate events or groups of friends looking to combine gourmet dining, playful intrigue and some of the most spectacular views in the world.

[www.maisondesdrus.com/en/establishment/le-3842-winter/](http://www.maisondesdrus.com/en/establishment/le-3842-winter/)



# GOURMETS NEWS

## CAFÉ TARTINE

Opened in December 2024 in the very heart of Chamonix, Café Tartine has quickly become a charming spot inviting visitors to indulge at any time of day. The atmosphere is modern yet cosy, with décor that subtly celebrates the art of the tartine in all its forms. Guests can enjoy a homemade pastry for breakfast, a generous brunch, a flavoursome lunch, or a comforting afternoon treat. On the menu: sweet or savoury tartines, served hot or cold, always crafted with fresh, local, and seasonal produce. Born and raised in the valley, and trained at the prestigious Ritz School in Montreux, Chloé Roche had long dreamt of opening her own café – a place that would welcome not only tourists but also the local community. Supported by her partner Baptiste, she now leads a team of 10 during the high season. To create her tartines, Chloé carefully sources her ingredients from the region's finest producers, including Tomme cheese from Vallorcine Farm, sheep's cheese from Les Croests Mastins in Les Houches, and veal from Ferme Garcin, also in Les Houches.

[www.cafe-tartine.com](http://www.cafe-tartine.com)



## THE WAFFLES OF CHAMONIX A SWEET TRADITION SINCE 1965

For those with a sweet tooth, this charming wooden kiosk in the centre of Chamonix has been serving extraordinary handmade waffles to take away for the past 60 years – and the success shows no sign of slowing down. It's first and foremost a family story, which began in the summer of 1965 when local couple Pierre and Raymonde Favret set up their very first waffle stand in Chamonix. With the help of their three sons, they quickly won over the town with their crispy, golden waffles. By the 1980s, the business grew into a small wooden cabin. In 1993, Pierre and Raymonde retired, leaving the reins to their son Philippe and his wife Edith, who carried on the family tradition with the same passion.

In 2011, the baton was passed to Rémy and Fabienne Galan, close family friends, who continue the legacy today. Remarkably, the waffles are still made using the exact same secret recipe and baked on the original irons, now beautifully seasoned by decades of use. The flavours have stood the test of time, with each generation adding a personal touch. Edith, originally from Brittany, passed down her signature salted butter caramel and lemon cream recipes to Fabienne, which have since become house favourites. Part of the charm lies in the anticipation – queues are common, but the reward is worth it. One bite of these waffles instantly takes you back to childhood memories, a true madeleine moment in Chamonix.

Open daily, from 2:30pm to 7:00pm - 65 rue Whympfer, Chamonix.

[www.facebook.com/people/Gaufres-Chamonix/](https://www.facebook.com/people/Gaufres-Chamonix/)

## FRANC CAFÉ, TABLE DU LIEUTENANT IN SERVOZ VILLAGE

Since spring 2025, Jennifer Weiss and Louise Mesnil have taken over the keys to this unique venue, tucked away in the historic Maison du Lieutenant on the heights of Servoz, just above the Chamonix valley. Before returning to settle in the Alps, Jen ran her own restaurant in London, while Louise owned a dried-flower boutique in Liverpool, specialising in floral decorations for cakes. Today, at the Franc Café within La Table du Lieutenant, the two friends – a warm Franco-Scottish duo – make their guests feel at home. Louise is out front, while Jen brings her creative flair to the kitchen preparing delicious dishes crafted with local produce. Everything is homemade on site: from hearty soups and flavourful tartines, to artisan coffee served in handmade mugs, alongside indulgent carrot cake, generous cinnamon rolls and melt-in-the-mouth cookies.

[bonjour@je-suis-franc.com](mailto:bonjour@je-suis-franc.com) Phone +33 (0)6 80 23 00 06





# GOURMETS NEWS

## Le Rosebud in Le Lavancher

A discreet and elegant address located in the peaceful hamlet of Lavancher, in between Chamonix and Argentière village. Nestled within this preserved landscape, Le Rosebud offers elegant, inspired cuisine that captivates lovers of fine dining and genuine getaways. Its name is borrowed from Orson Welles' cult film, "Citizen Kane," which evokes childhood memories and the quest for true emotions.



At the stoves, the new head chef, Teo Hadzhiyski, is beginning his first winter season at the Rosebud. Originally from Bulgaria and passionate about the mountains, his journey naturally led him to the Chamonix valley. After five years heading the kitchens at Chalets de Philippe, and later working as a private chef in luxury chalets in neighboring Switzerland, he has chosen to return to Le Lavancher. Here, he now shares an inventive cuisine, shaped by his career path and deeply anchored in the Alpine terroir. Passionate about herbs and spices, he reinterprets the great classics of Alpine gastronomy, elevates local products, and composes elegant, fragrant, and balanced plates. On the plate, one discovers a personal and delicate reading of the terroir : lake fish, forgotten vegetables, slow-cooked meats, contrasting textures, and fine sauces.



In a gentle homage to the history of mountaineering, the wooden napkin rings bear the names of famous guides from the Chamonix Valley. The restaurant is part of a harmonious ecosystem, the Jeu de Paume\*\*\*\*, a charming chalet hotel committed to an ecological approach and awarded the Green Key label. Special attention is given to managing energy, water, and waste, as well as promoting short supply chains, without compromising comfort. With its wood-paneled rooms, featuring a chic mountain spirit, and the independent chalet "Emmanuel" dating from 1960, the establishment cultivates an intimate, warm atmosphere that respects its environment. Reflecting its surroundings, the Deep Nature spa area is a haven of relaxation with an indoor pool bordered by large windows, a steam room, indoor and outdoor jacuzzis. Tailored treatments and massages are offered to complete this rejuvenating break, and the Spa + Lunch package (€70) allows guests to enjoy a gourmet lunch at the restaurant and benefit from the healing properties of water.

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



# LOCAL PRODUCE

## GAEC Les Croets Mastins - Les Houches



Originally from the Chamonix valley, Géraldine and Eddy Battendier joined forces a few years ago to create their GAEC (Groupement Agricole d'Exploitation en Commun – Agricultural Grouping for Joint Farming).

Eddy has been raising livestock since 1986 and, during the winter, worked as a ski patroller on Les Houches ski area. Géraldine was a secretary at the Chamonix Valley Sports Centre, and the 2021 lockdown encouraged them to embark on a new career path, allowing them to fully dedicate themselves to their passion for mountain pastoralism.

The couple raises 200 Lacaune dairy sheep and 200 meat ones, which spend the summer grazing on the alpine pastures of Chailloux and Charousse in the commune of Les Houches. The milk from their Lacaune sheep is processed and sold on-site at their cheese dairy, Les Croet Mastins (meaning “The Little Mastiffs”), located in Les Houches.



At their shop, situated not far from Lac des Chavants, they offer a variety of excellent farm products: plain or Provençal herb tommettes, fresh cheeses, matured or spiced, fig cheeses, faisselles, yogurts in different flavours, farm-made skyr, and a new addition: raclette cheese!

Special mention goes to the delicious Tahitian vanilla flan pâtissier, created by Emily, one of the couple's three daughters. The cheese dairy is open all year round from Tuesday to Saturday.

Opening times on:

[GAEC Les Croets Mastins Les Houches](#)

# SKI AREAS



**MONT-BLANC**  
NATURAL RESORT

## 4 SKI AREAS ON 4 MOUNTAIN SIDES

The Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley offers a little over 110 km of marked downhill trails, 90% of which are located at an altitude of 2000 m and above. There are also 50 km of marked trails for cross-country skiing. Chamonix attracts some of the world's best skiers and snowboarders, and the reputation of the Grands Montets and the Vallée Blanche is far reaching. But the valley also offers several areas for intermediate and beginner skiers. This winter, the season begins on 15 November 2025 (subject to snow conditions) and ends on 3 May 2026. Spring skiing conditions in the valley are optimal.

### LES HOUCHES 1900m

Located at the entrance to the Chamonix valley, this is an ideal area for family skiing. There are many picturesque, gentle, tree-lined slopes and the views over the Mont-Blanc Massif and the Aravis mountain range are superb. The area also has some technical descents, including the famous «Verte des Houches,» which regularly hosts the world's best skiers for the Kandahar race.

[www.leshouches.montblancnaturalresort.com](http://www.leshouches.montblancnaturalresort.com)



© Compagnie du Mont Blanc



© Compagnie du Mont Blanc

### BRÉVENT-FLÉGÈRE 2525m

Facing the Mont Blanc range, with a sunny exposition, the Brévent - Flégère ski area offers incredible panoramic views and a variety of slopes suitable for all types of skier and levels of expertise.

[www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/area/brevent](http://www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/area/brevent)

[www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/area/flegere](http://www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/area/flegere)



© Compagnie du Mont Blanc

### BALME-LE TOUR-VALLORCINE 2270m

The snow-covered mountain pastures of Balme can be reached both from the village of Le Tour and from Vallorcine. Wide and gentle sunny slopes offer exceptional views of the Mont-Blanc Massif and on the Vallorcine side, tree-lined descents with many variants appeal to all levels of skier. Since December 2022, the new Charamillon Gondola (departing from Le Tour) is able to transport 2,200 people per hour, compared to 1,004 with the old equipment.

[www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/area/balme](http://www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/area/balme)



© Yucca Films

### GRANDS MONTETS 2765m

Partially located on a glacier, this ski area covers three mountainsides (the Argentière glacier, Lognan and the Pendant) and offers a vast range of on and off-piste skiing with tremendous vertical drop. It is a popular departure point for ski touring. Since the 2018 fire that destroyed the mid-station, the summit of Les Grands Montets has only been accessible by ski touring, with no mechanical lifts. However, the long-awaited opening of the new infrastructure on the top is scheduled for the season 2027-2028.

[www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/area/grands-montets](http://www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/area/grands-montets)

[Projet des Grands Montets](#)



# SKI AREAS

## EASY SKI

From Les Houches to Vallorcine, several low-valley areas offer slopes suitable for beginners in skiing.

### LES HOUCHES

- **LE TOURCHET 1007m** : In the Centre of the village: 2 drag lifts, free nocturnal skiing every Thursday evening. Also accessible with the Les Houches pass and the MONT BLANC Unlimited pass.  
[www.leshouches.com](http://www.leshouches.com)

### CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC

- **LES PLANARDS 1062m\*** : The biggest ski area for beginners and children, right by the town centre. 2 green runs, 1 blue, 1 red, children's snow garden. Bar and restaurant, parking. [www.planards.fr](http://www.planards.fr)
- **LE SAVOY 1049m\*** : In the very heart of Chamonix, at the foot of the Brévent. A favourite by beginners, ideal for children, equipped with two draglifts and a moving carpet. 3 green runs, children's snow garden.  
[www.montblancnaturalresort.com](http://www.montblancnaturalresort.com)

### ARGENTIÈRE

- **LES CHOSALETs 1230m\*** : Large area for beginners, ideal for children. 3 green runs. \*Subject to the opening of the ski area.  
[www.chamonix.com](http://www.chamonix.com)
- **LA VORMAINE 1480m\*** : For beginner and intermediate skiers. Ideal for children, toddlers and beginners. 3 green runs, 1 blue, leisure area with free access, boardercross.  
[www.lavormaine.com](http://www.lavormaine.com)

### VALLORCINE

- **LA POYA 1350m** : Small family-friendly ski area located across from the Buet train station. Ideal for children and beginners. It features 2 drag lifts, a magic carpet, and a rope tow..  
[Domaine skiable de la Poya Vallorcine](http://Domaine skiable de la Poya Vallorcine)

\* Also accessible with the CHAMONIX Le Pass and MONT BLANC Unlimited

## LIFT PASS DEALS



**CHAMONIX  
Le Pass**

**A pass 100 % ski to enjoy  
the three major areas of Chamonix  
(without Grands Montets summit)**

110 km of ski runs  
17 greens, 30 blues, 27 reds, 14 blacks

#### GOOD DEAL : DAY PASS -20% :

During «First snows» promotional dates:  
From 15 November to 19 December 2025\*

During «Spring ski» promotional dates:  
From 28 March to 3 May 2026\*

\*Given as a guideline and are subject to snow coverage.

[montblancnaturalresort.com  
/en/ticketing/chamonix-lepass](http://montblancnaturalresort.com/en/ticketing/chamonix-lepass)



**MONT BLANC  
Unlimited**

**Visits & ski safari in 3 countries:  
France, Switzerland and Italy**

1132 of ski runs\*  
76 greens, 142 blues, 208 reds, 76 blacks  
\*With Verbier for season and annual passes.  
For short stays, number of km is slightly less.

#### GOOD DEAL : 2 JOURS = 3 JOURS :

During «First snows» promotional dates:  
From 15 November to 19 December 2025\*\*

During «Spring ski» promotional dates:  
From 28 March to 3 May 2026\*\*

\*\*Given as a guideline and are subject to snow coverage

[montblancnaturalresort.com  
/en/ticketing/montblanc-unlimited](http://montblancnaturalresort.com/en/ticketing/montblanc-unlimited)



**LES HOUCHES  
Forfait**

**First domain at the entrance of the  
Chamonix Valley. A 360° view  
of the surrounding summits**

31 km of ski runs  
2 greens, 8 blues, 14 reds, 2 blacks

[montblancnaturalresort.com  
/en/ticketing/les-houches-saint-gervais](http://montblancnaturalresort.com/en/ticketing/les-houches-saint-gervais)

#### GOOD DEAL: WEB ONLY

**purchase anticipated = purchase rewarded  
best rates for the online purchase  
of a day or several-day pass  
Pre-purchase 3 days before 1st days of skiing**

## 100% PEDESTRIAN STAY PASS

This pass offers exclusive access to mountaintop restaurants and breathtaking panoramas, from Planpraz, Brévent, Flégère, Charamillon, Aiguille du Midi and Montanvers - Mer de Glace.

[montblancnaturalresort.com/en/ticketing/pedestrian-stay-pass-chamonix](http://montblancnaturalresort.com/en/ticketing/pedestrian-stay-pass-chamonix)

# 90 YEARS OF THE BELLEVUE CABLE CAR IN LES HOUCHES

In the early 20th century, the Chamonix Valley equipped itself with pioneering facilities to bring visitors closer to the peaks: the Montenvers train (1909), the Glaciers cable car (the first passenger cable car in France, 1924), followed by Planpraz (1928) and Brévent (the highest cable car in France in 1930).

The first Winter Olympic Games, held in Chamonix in 1924, further cemented the valley's growing international reputation.

The 1930s saw the rise of alpine skiing. With the introduction of paid holidays, the Popular Front government encouraged sport for all. The mountains called to city dwellers eager to discover the new joys of skiing. At the end of January 1935, Les Houches hosted downhill races on the "red" Bellevue piste for the French University Championships, followed by the French International Civil and Military Championships. The events were a success, though competitors had to descend all the way to Le Fayet (13 km below) to take the Mont Blanc Tramway back up to Bellevue!



© Corentin Leray



© Collection Musée Montagnard des Houches

A true pioneer of cable transport in the region, Charles Viard founded the Société des Téléférriques du Massif du Mont-Blanc. He envisioned a cable car linking the Trabets area (in Les Houches) to the Bellevue Plateau. In May 1936, the Les Houches municipal council granted the concession, and engineering was entrusted to the German company Bleichert, a specialist in the field. Local men were recruited to clear a broad swathe of forest for the installation of cables and towers. The construction was completed in record time. The Bellevue cable car officially opened on 25 December 1936, just in time to facilitate the organisation of the Alpine Ski World Championships the following year.

Since then, the Bellevue cable car has remained a key junction with the Mont Blanc Tramway and continues to serve skiers, hikers, sightseers, and mountaineers heading towards Mont Blanc. In just five minutes, it carries passengers 767 metres higher to the Bellevue Plateau, the gateway to the Les Houches–Saint-Gervais ski area, as well as to hiking and snowshoeing trails depending on the season. From here, the views of the Bionnassay Glacier are simply spectacular.

**EXPOSITION**  
**TÉLÉPHÉRIQUE**  
Les remontées  
mécaniques  
aux Houches **ET COMPAGNIE**

## EXHIBITION "CABLE CARS AND COMPANY"

Until 16 May 2026, the Montagnard Museum in Les Houches is dedicating an exhibition to the Bellevue cable car and other lifts in the commune. The exhibition retraces the story of these mountain installations through photographs, historical documents, and eyewitness accounts.

[Exposition Téléphérique et Compagnie - Musée Montagnard](#)



# PROJECT LES GRANDS MONTETS

Seven years after the devastating fire of 2018, a new chapter is being written for one of the Alps' most iconic ski areas, Les Grands Montets. The reconstruction of its ski lifts and infrastructure is bigger, more ambitious and innovative than ever.



The Compagnie du Mont-Blanc has entrusted the project to the renowned architects RPBW, founded by the world-famous Renzo Piano. The result is a visionary project that will transform the way skiers and visitors experience this legendary mountain. The new development includes the installation of two state-of-the-art Doppelmayr lifts. The first one is a 10-seater gondola linking Argentière to the Lognan plateau.

From there, a spectacular detachable 3S cable car, with 24 seats, will transport visitors directly to the summit of the Les Grands-montets, at an altitude of 3,300 metres. Inspired by nature and crystal shapes, the lift stations will be luminous glass volumes housing the powerful machinery, within elegant, modular steel structures that echo the geometry of pyrite.

A responsible construction site, in harmony with the protected Mont-Blanc area: an innovative logistics system has been put in place to minimise the use of helicopters and ground vehicles. Two 10-ton material ropeways call “blondins”, transport equipment and supplies from Argentière to the various work sites.

Meanwhile, staff access to the Aiguille des Grands Montets is ensured by a dedicated service cable car, built specially for the project, running from the top of the Herse chairlift to the 3,300-metre summit. These temporary installations will be dismantled once the new lifts are fully operational.

[Projet des Grands Montets](#)

## KEY DATES

- **WINTER 2025-2026** : Opening of the first section of the Argentière-Lognan gondola lift, the beginner's area, and the Lognan restaurant corner.
- **HIVER 2027-2028** : The opening of the second Lognan – Grands Montets section is scheduled for December 2027.



# SKI TOURING & NORDIC

## Ski touring: an activity on the rise !



With the rapid growth of ski touring and increasing demand, the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley offers solutions tailored to all levels, from beginners to elite athletes. Dedicated routes have been established to allow skiers to train and practice ski mountaineering and ski touring safely. Four marked routes (not maintained or secured) of varying difficulty are available for daytime touring, with descent on the alpine ski pistes.

**LES HOUCHES / Prarion:** elevation gain 841m. **ARGENTIÈRE / Lognan via La Trapette:** not recommended for beginners, elevation gain 730m  
**ARGENTIÈRE / Refuge de Lognan:** elevation gain 800m. **LE TOUR / Charamillon:** elevation gain 358m

Leaflet: [Ski Touring](#) Website: [Ski touring - La Chamoniarde](#)

## Nordic ski



The Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley offers approximately 50 kilometers of cross-country ski trails, catering to both classic and skatings techniques. These trails stretch across Les Houches, Chamonix, Argentière, and Vallorcine, providing a varied terrain for Nordic skiing enthusiasts. Since 2020, the popularity of cross-country skiing in the valley has tripled, driven largely by the increasing appeal of the skating style, which attracts practitioners of all ages. This rise highlights the sport's growing status in the region.

**Free evening sessions every Thursday :** from 6:30 to 8:30 pm and during school holidays, the green trail at Bois du Bouchet is accessible for free to offer a unique chance to experience Nordic skiing under the stars.

[Nordic ski: Chamonix Mont Blanc](#)



# PORTRAIT

## Fabienne Bozon-Ravanel, a passion for nordic skiing

Originally from the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley, Fabienne comes from two families with deep roots in the mountains and in sports. Her paternal grandfather, Marcel Bozon, from the hamlet of Les Pélerins, was a craftsman, but also a talented skier and a particularly distinguished member of the Chamonix Guides Company. A Knight of the Legion of Honor, he was also the first National President of the French Guides Association and one of the founders of ENSA (the National School of Skiing and Mountaineering). On her mother's side, the Choupin family from Les Houches had a grandfather dedicated to working the land and herding his cows («the Blacks») through the valley's alpine pastures.

Years before the cross-country ski instructor certification existed, Fabienne's parents were already coaching adult groups in Nordic skiing, and she was practically born with skis on her feet! In fact, all three Bozon sisters - »My,« «Fa,» and «So» - were immersed in cross-country skiing from a very young age! After an unpromising start at age eight in the swimming club, Fabienne naturally followed in the footsteps of her father Bernard and mother Michèle, joining the newly formed cross-country ski club in 1974. Coached by Philippe Simond, she moved up through the ranks of the Mont Blanc Committee and the French Junior Reserve Teams, competing in numerous national competitions, such as the famous Sugar Trophy (where the winner would receive her weight in sugar cubes!). The young athlete competed in several European cups, but health issues forced her to stop her pursuit of top-level competition. Always a fighter, at 21 she became the first woman to earn a second-level coaching certification. In 1988, she joined the Chamonix Sports Club as a coach, surrounded by a strong team of colleagues.

Following in her parents' footsteps, she loved sharing her passion for cross-country skiing and dedicated over 18 years to promoting the sport, long before it became fashionable. Still passionate about her work, she continues to coach the adult section of the Nordic ski club and teaches at the ESF (French Ski School) in Chamonix. Her husband, Thierry Ravanel, a native of Chamonix and an alpine ski instructor, shares the same passion for mountain and snow sports. They are both mountain guides with the Chamonix Guides Company.

In parallel, in 1998 they opened a sports and ski rental shop in Les Praz, «Ravanel & Co,» followed by a second, larger one in central Chamonix in 2003, which specialized in Nordic gear and was a forerunner in trail running. Under their banner, «Ski, Run & Breath,» they travel across France with their event truck, going from one trail running event to another. Energetic, passionate, and visionary, Fabienne and Thierry had the idea in 2013 to create the RUN & SKATE, a winter competition that combines two endurance sports: trail running and cross-country skiing. It's a popular race that brings together the Chamonix community of trail and Nordic enthusiasts. A prestigious Nordic ski and trail running brand relies on their expertise to develop ad hoc products. Heavily involved and wanting to kick off the cross-country ski season, since 2016 they have organized the Nordic Monster Test each year with the Nordic section of the Sports Club. This event is a trade show for Nordic ski equipment manufacturers and a large, free equipment test open to the public.

[www.ravanel-sportshop.com](http://www.ravanel-sportshop.com)



### SENTIER - THE NEW GENERATION TAKES THE LEAD AND INNOVATES

Immersed in sport and in love with their valley, Léo and Tom, the two Ravanel sons, are taking over the family business, bringing their own fresh and innovative touch. Now at the helm of the shops, in May 2025 they opened an ultra-modern concept store next to the Ravanel & Co shop in Chamonix, dedicated to the sport of trail running.

Born from a collaboration between Ravanel & Co and Nike ACG, this unique, hybrid shop is for anyone who sees the mountains as a playground, a space for self-expression, and a way of life.

[www.sentier-chamonix.com](http://www.sentier-chamonix.com)

# ACTIVITIES

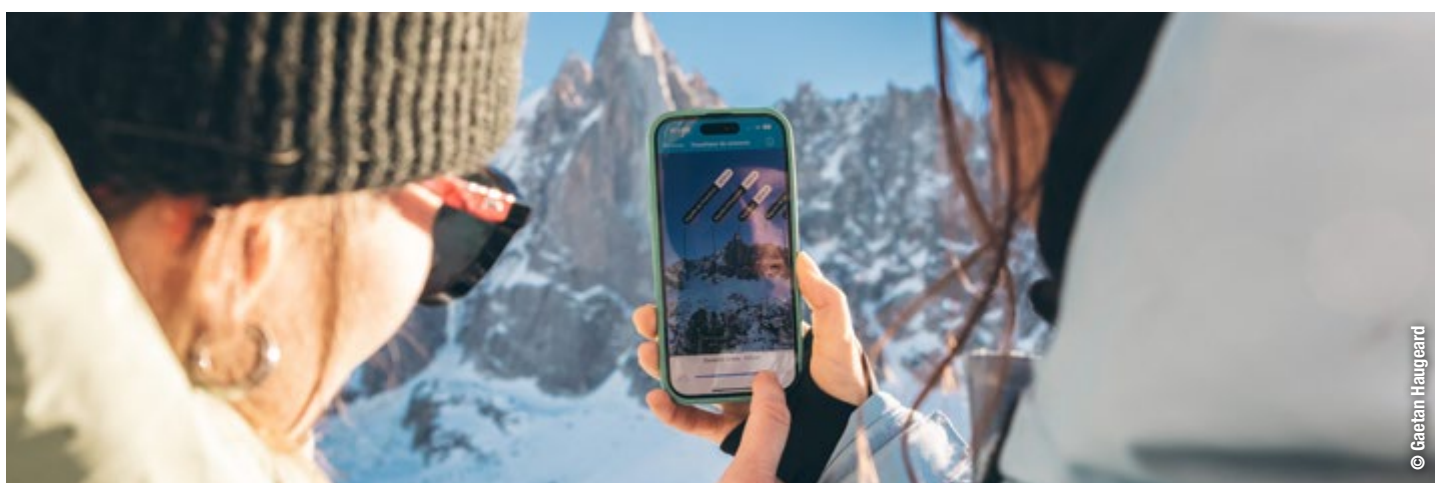
## Swing House the first indoor golf in Chamonix



A new playful and original activity to discover this winter in the heart of Chamonix. Created by young Chamonix native and golf enthusiast Sam Pochat, Swing House is designed to be a playground for everyone—from seasoned pros to curious beginners just looking for a good time. It's a spot where you can enjoy the sport regardless of the weather outside. Whether you're solo, with a partner, or among friends, it's the ideal spot to practice with advanced performance data, take on challenges across more than 400 golf courses, or simply discover golf through a variety of fun games. Three state-of-the-art Trackman simulators offer players the chance to immerse themselves in the world's most beautiful courses with astonishing precision. But you don't have to be a golfer to enjoy the atmosphere. Swing House is also open to those who simply want to relax at the bar and enjoy a drink and some snacks in a great environment.

[www.swinghouse-chamonix.com](http://www.swinghouse-chamonix.com)

## Whympr, the leading app for outdoor sports



Born and developed in Chamonix, and embraced by mountain lovers worldwide, Whympr has become the go-to application for planning winter adventures. With more than 50,000 active users each month across over 100 countries, the app is the leading tool for preparing for winter mountain adventures. This winter, Whympr introduces a series of major innovations designed to enhance the experience of skiers, snowboarders, mountaineers, and winter hikers: A new winter satellite map of the Mont-Blanc massif, the most precise ever published, offering unmatched detail for route planning ; Avalanche forecasts for the entire Alps (France, Italy, Austria) and other major mountain ranges worldwide ; Global slope orientation and steepness overlays – essential tools for assessing terrain and making safe decisions ; Offline access to topographic maps and community feedback, ensuring reliability even far from network coverage.

[get.whympr.com](http://get.whympr.com)



# WELLNESS



## BIG SKY HOTEL WITH YON-KA PARIS

Nestled at the foot of the Bossons Glacier, the 4-star Big Sky hotel is redefining the art of mountain hospitality. With its vibrant, retro-inspired atmosphere, the property offers more than just a stay—it's a living, inspiring space centered on people and wellbeing. Big Sky has partnered with Yon-Ka Paris, a leading French brand in high-end phyto-aromatic cosmetics, to create a wellness haven open to all. Guests can immerse themselves in a cocoon of relaxation facing the stunning Bossons Glacier. Among the signature treatments offered: · CBD Treatment – With soothing and anti-stress properties, this ritual is designed to release deep-seated tension. “Retour des Cimes” Treatment – Specially crafted for hikers to help them revitalizing tired muscles after long treks and physical effort. Visitors can also enjoy massage cabins, saunas—including a purifying salt sauna—alongside a heated pool and jacuzzi overlooking the glacier. A fitness room, yoga sessions, and a calming ambiance complete this alpine cocoon at the foot of Mont-Blanc. The Spa Yon-Ka du Big Sky is more than a wellness retreat—it is a unique invitation to disconnect, recharge, and embrace the captivating beauty of the Mont-Blanc natural environment.

[www.bigsky-hotel.com/en/bien-etre](http://www.bigsky-hotel.com/en/bien-etre)



## “FROST SHIMMER” NEW EXPRESS TREATMENT BY PURE ALTITUDE

The Pure Altitude boutique in Chamonix is introducing a brand-new ultra-effective facial protocol. The «Éclat de Givre» is infused with edelweiss and mountain plants. Fully customized to meet individual needs, this treatment deeply cleanses the skin and delivers an instant glow — all in just 25 minutes! The treatment is priced at €45.

[www.pure-altitude.com/pages/nos-concept-stores](http://www.pure-altitude.com/pages/nos-concept-stores)



## WELLNESS MENU BY CLARINS AT LE MATAFAN

At the five-star Hôtel Mont Blanc, dining is an invitation to wellbeing. In addition to its refined « à la carte » selection, Le Matafan restaurant, is proud to introduce an exclusive new «Wellness Menu» in collaboration with Clarins, created by Dr Olivier Courtin (Clarins) and Chef Mickey Bourdillat. This menu combines gourmet flavors and balance, highlighting seasonal products, culinary tradition, and the pleasure of healthy refined cuisine. The Wellness Menu by Clarins is priced at €70 and includes an amuse-bouche, starter, main course, dessert, and an elegant selection of mignardises.

[www.hotelmontblanchamonix.com/winter/restaurant](http://www.hotelmontblanchamonix.com/winter/restaurant)

# PODCAST

## « LA MONTAGNE HALLUCINÉE »

An immersive podcast supported by the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley Tourist Office. Since ancient times, the high mountains - of which Mont Blanc is the emblem - have been a fertile ground for imagination: an arid and dangerous space, hidden by mist and covered in snow of changing colors and textures. The mountain people feared it, while travelers and scientists sought to discover it, opening routes and mapping this once-forbidden territory. Since then, countless stories and legends, tales and novels, both known and forgotten, have taken place there.

This podcast invites us to rediscover these stories, whether orally told by farmers or emblematic fictions of 18th-century writers on holiday, through the memories of those who live in the mountains today, to reconnect with yesterday's world.

On the occasion of the International Year of Glacier Preservation, La Montagne Hallucinée offers a journey back into Alpine imagination through three powerful narratives where intimate testimonies, forgotten literary texts, and oral legends intertwine.

[Podcast «La Montagne hallucinée»](#)



### EPISODE 1: THE CURSED ICE OF MONT-BLANC

The Aiguille du Midi cable car leaves from the center of Chamonix and climbs to an altitude of 3,842 meters. From here, climbers can continue their ascent to the highest point in the Alps: Mont Blanc, at 4,806 meters. From the intermediate point, the Plan de l'Aiguille, glaciologist Luc Moreau describes and observes the glaciers - small, large, temperate and vertical - that have been at the top of the mountain for the past 40 years, and how they are retreating. These glaciers haunted the villagers when their tongues engulfed the hamlets, and are sometimes the refuge of fairies or creatures invented by travelers who stay there, such as Mary Shelley and her Frankenstein.

### EPISODE 2: HAUNTED NIGHTS IN THE MOUNTAIN PASTURE

At the Montroc farm, a few bends above the village of Argentière, Yvane has already prepared the morning's tommes with milk from her cows grazing in the surrounding fields, and is feeding the young calves just a few weeks old. Still in the valley for the winter season, she is preparing with her husband and two children to join the alpine pastures for the summer. Here, on the edge of the human world, is a world of silence, where domesticated and wild animals reign, and, at nightfall, mountain spirits.

### EPISODE 3 : CRYSTAL SONGS

Behind the display case lie white and black quartz, clusters of astonishing shapes, and precious pink tourmalines from Jean-Franck Charlet's personal collection. Each one has its own story: they were sought out, then picked from the mountainside, in the heights of the surrounding valley - like treasures. Jean-Franck knows how to unearth these almost inaccessible «ovens» at the edge of glaciers, having been introduced to them as a child by his father, mother and grandfather before them. These crystals are said to be the treasures or shelters of fairies, beings that crystal-makers know how to recognize... and greet. They populate their dreams and inspire extraordinary journeys, such as the one George Sand recounted in Laura, or the journey through crystal.

### WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF:

Luc Moreau glaciologist, Yvane Pissart breeder at Montroc farm, Jean-Franck Charlet high-mountain guide and crystal-maker, Zian des Alpes storyteller, Bernadette Tsuda heritage guide.



# CULTURE

## MAX LINDER AND CHAMONIX

A talented actor and producer, Max Linder was the darling of the roaring twenties and one of the greatest French stars of the period. Europe, Hollywood, Australia and China, Linder enjoyed worldwide acclaim and his «Max» character even inspired Charlie Chaplin who considered him his teacher! Max Linder loved Chamonix, where he made three films between 1910 and 1911. These were the first fictional movies ever shot in the valley: «Max asthmatique» (Max the Asthmatic), «Max fait du ski» (Max goes Skiing), and the hilarious «Max et sa belle mère» (Max and his Mother-in-Law). between 1910 and 1911.

These comical short films presenting skiing, skating and tobogganing scenes are nothing less than the very first films of winter sliding sports and as such can be appreciated today as veritable documentaries on winter sports as they were practiced at the turn of the century. Thanks to his films and his international reputation, Max Linder no doubt participated in the success enjoyed at the beginning of the twenties by Chamonix, whose sumptuous palaces welcomed a fashionable international clientele arriving from all over the world to revel in winter sports pleasures.

During his long stays in Chamonix, the artist habitually stayed at the Hôtel Beau Site, then the Savoy Palace (the current Folie Douce), and finally the Majestic, which was known at the time as the most beautiful palace in the world. He would throw extraordinary parties there where Linder loved to make a name for himself, entertaining a crowd of prestigious guests, organizing mock bullfights, twirling elegant ladies around the dance floor, or showing his own films.



© Collection Max Linder

## LOVE AT FIRST SITE AT THE MAJESTIC

In January 1923, he met his future wife in the great hall of the Majestic. The young Ninette was 17, and her beauty captivated the charming man. The day after they met, Max went to great lengths to win over his lovely lady. At the Alpine Bobsleigh Championship in Chamonix, he gulped down a large glass of cognac for courage, then sped down the track to finish in first place and impress the woman of his dreams. The two lovebirds were inseparable and spent two blissful weeks in Chamonix, full of laughter, snowball fights, and social dinners. At the end of the vacation, Ninette and her mother boarded the train back to the capital. Max soon returned to Paris himself and married the young woman. Having left us 100 years ago, in November 1925, Max Linder starred in more than 200 films and inspired numerous comic artists.

Sources : « Chamonix fait son cinéma – Françoise Rey & Catherine Cuenot

# LECTURES

## «Samivel» Illustrated biography – By Sophie Cuenot

A Chamonix native, Sophie Cuenot has written the very first illustrated biography of Samivel. More than thirty years after his passing, this multi-talented artist, continues to fascinate. Illustrator, watercolorist, journalist, documentary filmmaker, and novelist, Samivel left behind a truly remarkable legacy. A visionary ahead of his time, Samivel was one of the first to sound the alarm for the preservation of the alpine environment. He participated in the creation of the Vanoise National Park and the Mountain Wilderness association.

Enriched with rare documents, this beautiful book was made possible by the meticulous work of iconographer Catherine Cuenot. It will be published on October 30, 2025, in the prestigious Guérin collection by Éditions Paulsen. Founded in Chamonix in 1995 by Michel Guérin, the publishing house will be celebrating its 30th anniversary on this occasion.

[Editions Guérin Paulsen](#)



## Chamonix change de siècle, volume 2 «Un Tour de Ville» - Jean-Philippe Gaussoit

Jean-Philippe Gaussoit

### CHAMONIX CHANGE DE SIECLE

Un tour de ville



Photos de Philippe et Jean-Philippe Gaussoit

Another native of Chamonix, Jean-Philippe Gaussoit is deeply passionate about the history of his valley. (One of his ancestors, Michel Devouassoux, was in fact the guide who accompanied the young Victor Hugo on the Mer de Glace in 1825!

Jean-Philippe also wishes to share and highlight the literary and photographic work of his father, Philippe Gaussoit, who was a press photographer, journalist, and head of the Dauphiné Libéré agency in Chamonix.

After a first book dedicated to the history of the Chamonix « Plage » (beach), closely linked to his family, he took on the challenge of reproducing several hundred shots taken by his father in the streets of Chamonix and its surroundings, 50 or even 75 years earlier. Enriched by documentary research and meetings with many witnesses of the past or their descendants, his aim through this book was to present the evolution of Chamonix from one millennium to the next.

[www.gaussoit.eu/textes/contact.html](http://www.gaussoit.eu/textes/contact.html)



# ENVIRONNEMENT



FLOCON VERT

## Limit your footprint, free your emotions!

### A DESTINATION COMMITTED TO THE ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

Awarded the Flocon Vert sustainability label, the destination strengthens its reputation as a model valley for positive energy. It highlights a wide ecosystem of Green Key certified accommodations, eco-friendly outdoor activities, and a soft mobility network that makes a 100% car-free stay possible. From the Mont-Blanc Express train to electric shuttle buses, everything is designed for a smooth and mindful exploration of the valley.

### TRAVEL IMPACTS THE ENVIRONMENT

In September, the destination is launching a social media competition to encourage visitors to create their own adventure while minimizing their environmental impact. Visitors will have the genuine opportunity to combine their desire for discovery and adventure with their ecological concerns. This initiative is a clear nod to an optimized, conscious, and responsible experience, emphasizing tangible, real, and measurable choices in terms of mobility and on-site activities.

### A TAILOR-MADE OFFER FOR RESPONSIBLE TRAVELLERS

This initiative aims to meet the expectations of a generation increasingly aware of the impact of their choices.

Specifically targeting 25-45 yearolds, the offer allows everyone to design their ideal stay online, based on three key criteria:

- Low-carbon transport options to get to the valley (train, carpooling, long-distance coach),
- A certified eco-responsible accommodation.
- Committed activities, such as hiking with guides from the legendary Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix, environmental awareness workshops, or non-motorised nature outings.



**More than just a stay, this is an experience of meaning and connection with nature. With this new offer, the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley invites everyone to discover a different way of exploring: Limit your footprint, Unleash your emotions:**

[Limit your footprint, unleash your emotions : Chamonix-Mont-Blanc](#)

### SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DESTINATION

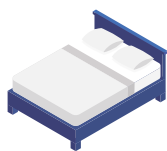
Visitors can find a specific tab on the Tourist Office's website that lists all the measures, environmental certifications, and concrete actions taken by socio-professional stakeholders in the Chamonix-Blanc valley.

[Sustainable mountain destination: Chamonix Mont Blanc](#)

A new section is also available with practical information and solutions to help visitors reduce the environmental impact of their travel and encourage them to choose sustainable mobility.

[How to get there? Chamonix Mont Blanc](#)

# KEY FIGURES WINTER 2024-2025



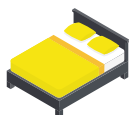
## 82 282

TOURIST BEDS



15 620

PROFESSIONAL



18 020

PRIVATE



42 262

HOLIDAYS HOMES



## 4 116 800

TOURIST OVERNIGHT STAYS



43,1%

FRENCH



56,9%

FOREIGNERS

## MUST-SEE EXCURSION SITES

AIGUILLE  
DU MIDI

290 168  
VISITORS

TRAIN DU  
MONTENVERS

403 900  
VISITORS

VALLÉE  
BLANCHE

45 000  
SKIERS

## WINTER PODIUM

1 UNITED KINGDOM

2 UNITED STATES

3 SWITZERLAND



## NUMBER OF INHABITANTS IN THE VALLEY

1154

SERVOZ

3 617

LES HOUCHES

# 14 209

8 998

CHAMONIX

404

VALLORCINE



Historique et patrimoine  
Joseph Vallot, le scientifique du  
mont Blanc



Historique et patrimoine  
Les chapelles et oratoires des  
Houches : un itinéraire entre...



Historique et patrimoine  
Chamonix, l'histoire extraordinaire  
- L'aventure olympique



Historique et patrimoine  
Chamonix, l'histoire extraordinaire  
- l'épopée du ski



Historique et patrimoine  
Chamonix, l'histoire extraordinaire  
- les grandes constructions



Historique et patrimoine  
Chamonix, l'histoire extraordinaire  
- l'aventure scientifique

## THE CHAMONIX VALLEY BACKSTAGE... REPORTING IDEAS FOR THE MEDIA

In addition to our press kit, don't hesitate to seek inspiration on our media blog. Articles cover tourist news, innovations, environmental initiatives, historical features, who's who and anything that we feel might be of interest to the press.

Our aim is to convey the passion that animates Chamonix-dwellers and how a mountain journey, which spans the centuries, has shaped the valley and its inhabitants.

Chamonix is a multi-cultural melting pot, a hive of inspiration and a grain of « folie ». Mont Blanc is the object of dreams, whether it be to climb a peak, to ski a « couloir », to fly from a cliff top, or simply to contemplate its extraordinary beauty.

What Chamonix people have in common is the desire to protect the heritage of this unique destination for future generations, and we hope that this ambition will transpire through the blog.

[www.en.chamonix.com/espace-pro-presse](http://www.en.chamonix.com/espace-pro-presse)



# WHO ARE WE ?



## WRITING HISTORY FOR OVER 250 YEARS

Birthplace of alpinism, the Chamonix Mont-Blanc Valley has been writing mountain history since the beginnings of tourism in 1741. Through the identity of 5 villages (Servoz, Les Houches, Chamonix, Argentière et Vallorcine) (re)discover the multiple facets of this unique valley.



## THE PILLARS OF THE IDENTITY CHAMONIX MONT-BLANC

**Captivating nature**  
A place where nature is of an intensity beyond measure.

**An extraordinary history**  
A never-ending story between mountains and people.

**A vibrant capital**  
The epicenter of mountain culture.



## OUR SOCIAL NETWORKS IN FIGURES

**Facebook**  
**225 215**  
Community (April 2023)  
**6,8 Millions**  
Page covers

**Instagram**  
**190 918**  
Community (April 2023)  
**2,2 Millions**  
Page covers



## OUR SIGNATURE OPEN THE WAY

At the foot of Mont Blanc, 4810m, the highest peak of Western Europe, the Chamonix Mont-Blanc Valley is a temple of the mountain tourism. In the face of such sacralized landscapes, we must be both humble and audacious. This birthplace of legends and exploits is worthy of absolute respect, whilst inspiring the pioneering spirit. Impelled to the heights by its needles and summits, bordered by rivers and glaciers, this exceptional environment calls for a high sense of responsibility.



## INFLUENCERS KEY INFLUENCERS OF INTEREST TO US

Today, the reputation of the Chamonix Valley is far-reaching. In addition to inspirational content, we wish to relate the stories which have made, make and will make the identity of the Chamonix valley, via the following axes:

- Nature
- Sport
- Culture & heritage



### NATURE

**Discovery of local wildlife and flora, raising awareness to this fragile ecosystem that must be protected.**

- Good practices to adopt in our mountain environment, living harmoniously and with minimal impact,
- Raising awareness to the effects of climate change,
- The Chamonix valley, sustainable mountain destination.

<https://en.chamonix.com/la-vallee/destination-montagne-durable>



### SPORT

**An amazing playground to be consumed with moderation.** Whatever one's approach and level of commitment, the Chamonix valley offers everyone an opportunity to live their personal adventure.



### CULTURE & HERITAGE

**Alpine, scientific, architectural, artistic, musical, literary, audiovisual...**  
The Chamonix Valley has also been a place that inspires. Much more than a ski resort, Chamonix is a mountain capital, full of authentic personalities who are the soul of this cosmopolitan place.



An influencer is a "person who, due to their popularity and expertise in a given field, is capable of influencing the consumer practices of Internet users through the ideas they disseminate" (source Larousse). For us, the influencer is also a content creator who combines creativity and analytical skills to relate their experience, with authenticity and objectivity, to a specific audience.



CONTACTS PRESS:

## OFFICE DE TOURISME DE LA VALLÉE DE CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC

Nathalie Tortora [press.en@chamonix.com](mailto:press.en@chamonix.com) • Astrid Lanceau : [presse@chamonix.com](mailto:presse@chamonix.com)

Cécile Gruffat : [c.gruffat@chamonix.com](mailto:c.gruffat@chamonix.com)



chamonixmontblanc



chamonixmontblanc



chamonix.com



photo.chamonix.com



Chamonix-Mont-Blanc