

THE ALPS • FRANCE

Club Med Serre Chevalier

FRANCE  ANTONIA WINDSOR

SET THE SCENE

I'm standing on a mountain-facing terrace with the sun on my face and a glass of Aperol spritz in hand. To my right, dancers in glittering silver costumes are busting moves to DJs spinning tunes. To my left, a bottle of Moët pops. It's 1pm and we have just come back from a morning on the slopes to experience the hotel's dynamic après ski. Fresh from a €50-million renovation, this popular ski-in, ski-out all-inclusive in the French resort of Serre Chevalier is in full party mode. Among the guests celebrating are two-time Olympic snowboarder Aimee Fuller and South African fashion designer Gert-Johan Coetzee. I'm here to make the most of the ESF ski lessons and experience everything the hotel has to offer, from the Payot spa to the evening entertainment.

THE VIBE

The excellent provisions for children, including kids clubs, ski school and family entertainment, make it a popular choice for well-heeled families. Parents spend the day skiing or snowboarding, safe in the knowledge that their children are being well cared for. However, because the children's activities are so wide-ranging, there are plenty of moments when you don't encounter kids at all. In the evening, a fun show in which all staff participate makes way for a later, adults-only crowd and lively dancing into the early hours.

THE STYLE

The hotel throughout has a bright and joyful colour palette that reflects the upbeat atmosphere and the smiling faces of staff and guests. The new design aims to be an extension of the landscape by utilising natural materials, including larch wood from the local conifers and stone. Rooms are a little on the small side, but, like most guests, I didn't spend much time in mine. I enjoyed having my morning coffee on my little balcony with a view of the gondola climbing up the mountain.

THE FOOD AND DRINK

The all-inclusive offering is excellent with Le Vauban serving a large multi-station buffet at breakfast, lunch and dinner. Food is prepared freshly at each station, whether it's omelettes or avocado muffins at breakfast, steak or fish on the grill at lunch, or hand-tossed pizzas or raclette straight off the burners at dinner, always accompanied by a large salad selection. Alternatively, a la carte is offered in La Meije, where we enjoyed a fondue evening – you can also choose to cook on a hot stone here. Inclusive drinks include cocktails, local wines, mid-range spirits and international beers.


IMAGES: CLUB MED SERRE CHEVALIER



FACILITIES

One of the biggest advantages of staying at Club Med Serre Chevalier is the ski-in, ski-out access to 250km of pistes. The resort caters to all ability levels, with ESF ski lessons, divided by level, guided off-piste excursions for advanced skiers and a mix of high-altitude and tree-lined runs. When I arrived, my equipment was waiting for me in my numbered locker in the spacious ski room. Having the pro ski shop in the hotel makes adjustments and switches super quick – or visit to admire all the latest Rossignol skis, snowboards and boots (there's also a boutique for browsing a range of resort wear). For snow days, the hotel has both indoor and outdoor pool, a range of fitness classes, including aqua aerobics, yoga and pilates (no need to book), a gym and a spa offering Payot facials and massages. If the weather is really bad, staff are also able to transport guests to another of their hotels in the Alps.

ECO CREDENTIALS

During the refurbishment hundreds of beds were donated to a women's refuge, equipment was donated to local schools and other pieces of furniture were upcycled and resold into the local community. The resort integrates renewable energy, eco-friendly materials, and waste-reduction initiatives, aligning with Club Med's "Happy to Care" programme. Each room has a metal water canister that can be refilled at water fountains on every corridor, reducing single-use plastic. The hotel is on track to receive BREEAM certification "Very Good", reflecting its commitment to responsible tourism and environmental stewardship. 

RATES

Seven nights all-inclusive from £2,905 per adult, including return flights from London and transfers. clubmed.co.uk/r/serre-chevalier

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