

Winter 2020 2021

# Black Book

A GLOBAL GUIDE FOR  
THE DISCERNING TRAVELLER

SUITE TO SLOPE

## Smart Schussing

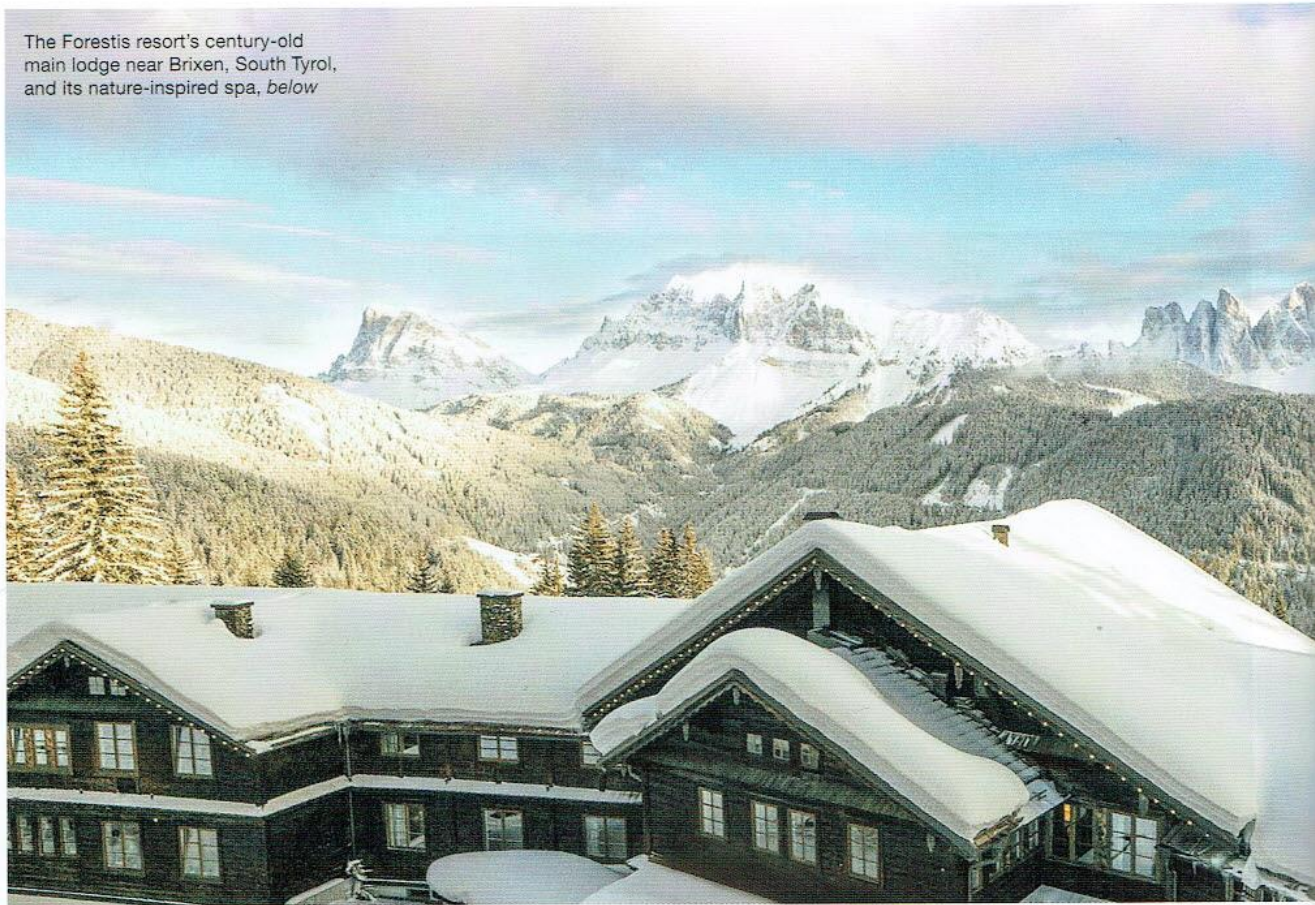
Privacy is paramount at these ski-in, ski-out Alpine hideaways, which allow you to skip the queues at sunrise and fully indulge after a day on the piste – whether it's this winter or the next

### ITALY

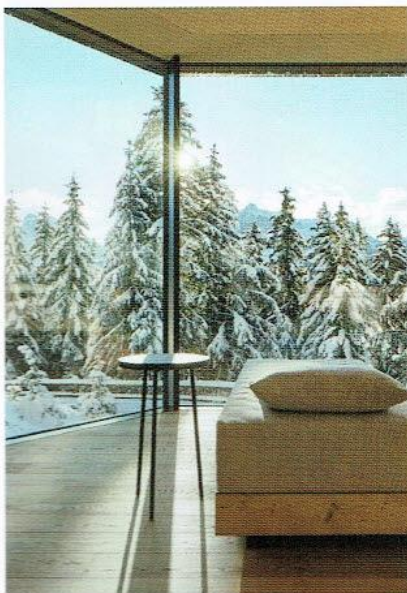
The sharp-toothed peaks of the Dolomites in South Tyrol are home to a quartet of piste-side stars, none brighter than the newly expanded Forestis (*forestis. it*), 20 kilometres from Brixen on the Plose massif. Originally built as a sanatorium more than a century ago, the three new suite-only towers required serious creativity and bureaucratic wrangling from >

The Zallinger, set 2,054 metres above sea level in the South Tyrolean Dolomites

The Forestis resort's century-old main lodge near Brixen, South Tyrol, and its nature-inspired spa, below



proprietors Stefan and Teresa – and the results are astonishing. The panoramic views from the handsome rooms are topped only by the ones from the restaurant, where private, cocoon-like alcoves give you a personal Imax-size vista. Farther south in the



Alpe di Siusi, a trio of standout properties offer more ski-in, ski-out options in this jaw-dropping, Unesco-protected winter playground: Adler Lodge ALPE ([adler-resorts.com](http://adler-resorts.com)) has a safari vibe (the Sanoner family were inspired by a trip to Namibia) and with just 30 rooms, the feeling of splendid seclusion pairs wonderfully with the excellent restaurant and spa. With a more traditional Tyrolean style, Alpina Dolomites ([alpinadolomites.it](http://alpinadolomites.it)) nevertheless manages to avoid kitsch all together with its Spartan-chic rooms, which make elegant use of stone, wood and glass. They are joined by a sprawling spa and a pair of top-notch restaurants, all of which look out onto the stunning landscapes. Finally, clinging to the edge of the Alpe di Siusi plateau – so high up that it's not accessible by car – is Zöllinger ([zollinger.com](http://zollinger.com)), a 19th-century guesthouse that was expanded with seven new mini-chalets by noa\* architecture studio three years ago. Now fully in its stride, the village-like atmosphere is as charismatic as its location directly on a Val Gardena piste. – BN

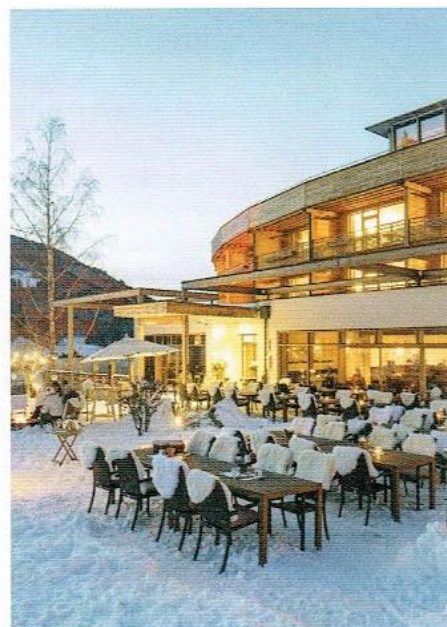
## AUSTRIA

The tiny hamlet of Oberlech – reachable only by cable car – has for decades been one of the bucket-list winter highlights in the Alpine nation, and the Skilodge Oberlech ([skilodge-oberlech.at](http://skilodge-oberlech.at)), debuting this season, is the newest feather in its cap. Run by Austrian ski racer and Olympic gold medallist Patrick Ortlieb and his wife, Kathrin, the property comprises a cosy clutch of ten balconied rooms and suites adorned with Alpine woods and natural stone baths and a top-storey Living Room for convivial tipples in the warm glow of the open fireplace, as well as a panoramic-view sundeck. Not far away, spread out among six architecturally compelling structures deep with the Bregenzer Forest, Fuchsegg ([fuchsegg.at](http://fuchsegg.at)) is a delightfully self-contained slice of paradise, emphasising holistic encounters with both the surrounding nature and self – and the dynamic, if small, ski area is perfectly proportioned for families. Inside, the guestrooms feature locally sourced woods, stones and fabrics; a vast saunascape is complemented by all-



seasons outdoor pool and yoga programme, and locavore ingredients and wines inform the menu. Meanwhile, over in Leogang, the eco-friendly Forsthofalm ([forsthofalm.com](http://forsthofalm.com)) brings the great outdoors, well, inside: the hotel was largely constructed with trees felled during “positive moon phases”, which lends the entire resort a fresh pine aroma and, in theory, a healing atmosphere. Recently connected to Saalbach-Hinterglemm’s 270 kilometres of pistes, the hotel has become a ski sanctuary, with wood-walled, minimalist rooms. The Kukka restaurant draws on regional ingredients in its eye-popping “rainbow” dishes that taste as delicious as they look; and, rounding out an indulgent hat trick, the spa – whose treatment menu is overseen by a dedicated herbalist – includes a rooftop pool with dazzling Alpine views. –CW

owned hostelry resonates with tradition and ineffable charm. Ski directly into the 181-key hotel in the evening and the carved solid-oak columns and elaborately decorated ceiling of the Grand Restaurant await. Here, executive chef Fabrizio Zanetti serves exquisite market-fresh French fare in a daily-changing, four-course menu. The terrain around Zermatt, in southern Switzerland, makes for an altogether more rugged experience, with the casual luxe of revamped Cervo’s ([cervo.swiss](http://cervo.swiss)) seven chalets offering a welcoming contrast to the outdoor challenge. The hardiness required to take on the slopes is offset in the resort’s new Mountain Ashram Spa, inspired by Japanese onsen, Bhutanese hot-stone baths and Scandinavian saunas. The idea of mixing cultures spreads to the three dining concepts, >



Clockwise from left: the cosy Living Room at the new Skilodge Oberlech; the wintry terrace at Forsthofalm in Leogang, Austria; the panoramic outdoor pool, open year-round, at Alpina Dolomites

## SWITZERLAND

High in the Swiss Alps, The Lodge ([virginlimitededition.com](http://virginlimitededition.com)) is as simply named as it is spectacularly situated, a Verbier institution that has nine sumptuous rooms along with a standout kitchen and multi-sensory wellness zone. Set directly on Verbier’s famed slopes, it offers easy access to the more than 400 kilometres of pistes in the Quatre Vallées. Just two kilometres from the equally renowned St Moritz, private-lift access gives a direct connection from Suvretta House ([suvrettahouse.ch](http://suvrettahouse.ch)) to the 350 kilometres of pistes in the Corviglia-Marguns ski arena. The 108-year-old, family-



## The journey to the Arosa pistes from Tschuggen

Grand Hotel is one taken in true comfort from the leather seats of the establishment's own funicular railway

with Madre Nostra (contemporary Italian), Bazaar (Oriental cuisine) and Ferdinand (Swiss products only) serving a tantalising mix. Across the country, the journey to the Arosa pistes from Tschuggen Grand Hotel ([tschuggen.ch](http://tschuggen.ch)) is one taken in true comfort from the leather seats of the establishment's own funicular railway. Warmth emanates from the hotel's classic-meets-contemporary 94 rooms and 34 suites, but the real star is the Bergoase spa designed by architect Mario Botta. The 5,000sq m four-floor temple to wellness is framed by striking sail-shaped windows that stand out even among the mountain beauty that surrounds them. -JM

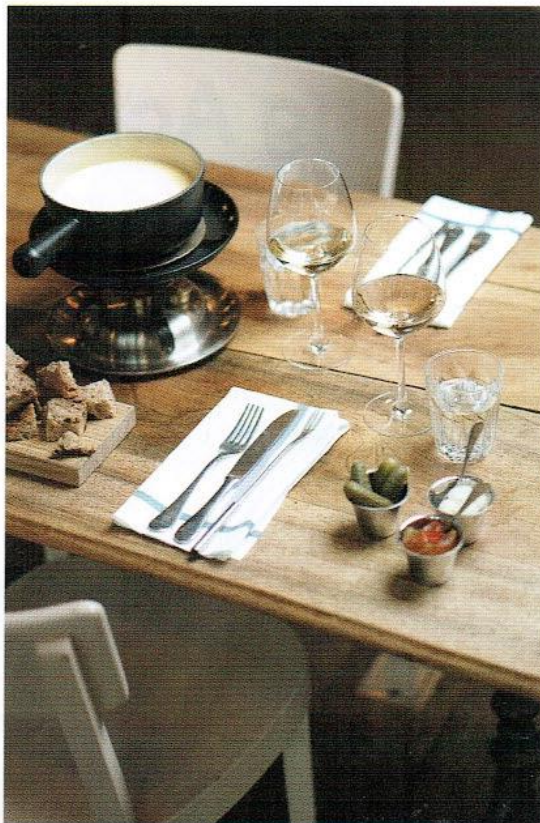
### FRANCE

From its gilded perch 1,850 metres above sea level in Les Trois Vallées, Courchevel has long held court as one of the premier Alpine resorts, bursting at the seams with a brand of old-world luxe seldom found in

such concentration. This season, a handful of ski-in, ski-out properties are set to lead the pack – among them, the 53-key L'Apogée ([oetkercollection.com](http://oetkercollection.com)), a palatial chateau that commands spectacular vistas and boasts similarly spectacular accommodations. The chalet-like Penthouse, for instance, is decked out in plush natural materials and rustic-chic decor, and features its own rooftop terrace and hot tub perfect for après-ski aperitifs under the stars. The culinary delights at both Le Comptoir, for refined French fare, and Koori, for superlative sushi and sashimi, are worth the trip even for non-guests. A refreshing dose of Far Eastern elegance comes to this quintessentially European destination with Aman Le Mélézin ([aman.com](http://aman.com)), where the artful dishes at Nama – informed by the Unesco-celebrated washoku style of cooking – are complemented by the holistic offerings at the spa, a Japan-inspired space with a bamboo-floor yoga room, stone hammam



The mountain-facing chalets at Ultima Courchevel



From left: pistebound on the Tschuggen Grand Hotel's house-own funicular; fondue at Ferdinand, the restaurant at Cervo, in Zermatt

and five treatment rooms for shiatsu and Thai massages. The serene rooms and suites are outfitted in soothing hues and natural woods. Over in Courchevel 1650 and spread out across nearly 3,700 square metres, Ultima Courchevel ([ultimacourchevel.com](http://ultimacourchevel.com)) joins the ranks of the town's most tempting ski-in, ski-out properties with 13

swish, four-to-five-bedroom chalets, each lavish home-from-homes with postcard-worthy views of the snowy landscape from the floor-to-ceiling windows and generous terraces, while après-slope delights come in form of the 350sq m wellness area and the in-house restaurant. Meanwhile, up north in the shadow of Mont Blanc, Four Seasons

Megève ([fourseasons.com](http://fourseasons.com)) makes a convincing case for a wintry sojourn in the likewise pedigreed resort, where guests overnight in contemporary rooms, recover from a day on the slopes in the La Prairie spa and discover new culinary heights at the two-Michelin-star La Dame de Pic - Le 1920. -CW ♦

## ALTERNATIVES IN THE ALPS

Notable newcomers in Austria and Italy offer everything from private chalets to superlative sushi



In Leogang, Austria, Senhoog ([pictured left; senhoog.com](http://senhoog.com)) comprises two new chic private-hire chalets, one with two bedrooms, the other with three. Both have integrated wellness areas and hosts who can handle everything from booking a yogi or chef to childcare and heli-shuttles. Another newcomer this winter is Falkensteiner Hotel Kronplatz ([falkensteiner.com](http://falkensteiner.com)), a 97-key hideaway in South Tyrol designed by architect Matteo Thun that features a 1,400sq m spa and a restaurant that fuses cuisine from high-altitude destinations around the world. Back in Austria, two premier ski towns feature noteworthy additions: in Lech, Hotel Arlberg ([pictured centre; arlberghotel.at](http://arlberghotel.at)) has refitted its rooms in high style and opened a new spa area with an outdoor pool, while Hotel Weisses Rössl ([pictured right; roesslkitz.at](http://roesslkitz.at)), in Kitzbühel, was entirely made over last winter and this year brings a ski-season residency from Japanese restaurant Zuma. -BN