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THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

It's a perennial quandary: do you go for the intimacy and seclusion of a chalet or the buzz and facilities of a hotel? Fortunately for the indecisive, you can now enjoy the best of both worlds. The family-owned Sibuet hotel brand, pioneer of cowshed chic, has launched Les Chalets de Fermes, a collection of 10 suitably lust-worthy chalets dotted around Megève. Ranging from the ski-in/ski-out Chalet du Darbelet at the top of Mont d'Arbois to the historic Chalet des Fermes de Marie, which is linked underground to the Sibuet's legendary Les Fermes de Marie hotel, the stylish properties can be taken on a self-catered or catered basis. There's also the option to go for 'chalet service', where dishes such as veal blanquette are delivered directly to your door.

Building on the success of its properties in Gstaad, Crans-Montana and Megève, Swiss brand Ultima Collection is set to open the doors to Ultima Courchevel this month. A smattering of 13 opulent chalets on the slopes of Courchevel Moriond, the mini village will offer guests access to two spas and a restaurant, as well as use of its private ski school.

Alternatively, to get the best of both worlds you could do a hotel buyout. In Austria's Arlberg ski area, the eclectic Kristiania Hotel and sumptuous Tannenhof nearby are offering just that. Following a summer refurb, the Kristiania in Lech is now a 15-suite beauty, blending informal luxury with a remarkable contemporary art collection and ideal for a buyout.

fermesdenarie.com; ultima.courchevel.com; kristiania.at



PINE AND DANDY

Ultima Courchevel's chalets (top and above) guarantee mountain views, as well as direct access to the Beivédère slopes