

## 28 of the most enchanting ski chalets in the Alps

From a slick Austrian retreat with a private chef and a wine cellar to a cosy self-catering retreat in France, these are the most distinctive stays to book now



The privacy and convenience of a ski chalet are popular with well-heeled customers from around the world

---

[Sean Newsom](#) | Wednesday December 25 2024, 12.01am GMT, The Times

---

“**W**here have all the ski chalets gone?” It’s a common refrain among British skiers these days as they scramble to find a catered Alpine property in which to gather family and friends.

And with good reason. Brexit, Covid, the energy crisis ... it’s been a tumultuous few years for the British ski companies that supply chalets. Faced with staffing shortages and rising costs, many have thrown in the towel or sharply reduced their programmes.

That’s not to say the chalet era is over, as you’ll see from this selection of new and revamped properties. They range from glittering house-party palaces — step forward Chalet La Tene in Val d’Isère — to barns and storehouses that have been reborn as cute and creaking mountain refuges. Consult the websites of specialist travel agencies such as Snowfinders, Ski Solutions and Sno and you’ll find plenty more.



It is true, however, that the chalet scene is changing. Least affected by the turmoil is the top end of the market, where newly built trophy homes are satisfying a global craving for trophy holidays. It's not just well-heeled Brits who like the privacy and convenience of a ski chalet. The Americans, the Dutch, the Swedes, the Belgians and the French are acquiring a taste for them too.

Meanwhile, at less extravagant levels, it's a time of innovation as daily housekeeping and food delivery services take the place of chalet staff (who can no longer be seconded from the UK and are more expensive to house and employ). These days, many properties are let on a self-catering basis, with a menu of supplementary services that you can pay extra for. If you're prepared to cook and look beyond the big-name resorts, you'll find that stunning Alpine venues are not reserved for the super-rich.

For anyone who loved the simplicity of the old-style chalet scene, the good news is that some of the specialist companies have survived. They're still offering cooked breakfasts, tea and cake in the afternoon and dinner on six nights as part of Atol-bonded, flights-inclusive packages. They're revamping their properties too.

## AUSTRIA

### 21. Apartment 3, Chalet Marmotta Culm, St Anton

The number 1  
for chalets in  
Austria



The Marmotta Culm replaced St Anton's Underground Bar

MARMOTTA CHALETS

#### St Anton on your doorstep, sleeps 6

It's hard to imagine a better location in St Anton. Book into one of the three serviced apartments in the traditionally styled Marmotta Culm building and you'll be at the bottom of St Anton's home run, next to its two main lifts. You may get the odd old-timer peering in, wondering where the Underground Bar went (the Marmotta Culm has taken its place). But that's not likely to lessen the sense of comfort and convenience as you relax into your cosy, wood-panelled rooms. The top-floor, three-bedroom apartment No 3 is the pick of the pads, with daily breakfast deliveries part of the service.

**Details** Seven nights' B&B from £1,613pp ([marmotta-chalets.com](http://marmotta-chalets.com)). Fly to Innsbruck or take the train to St Anton