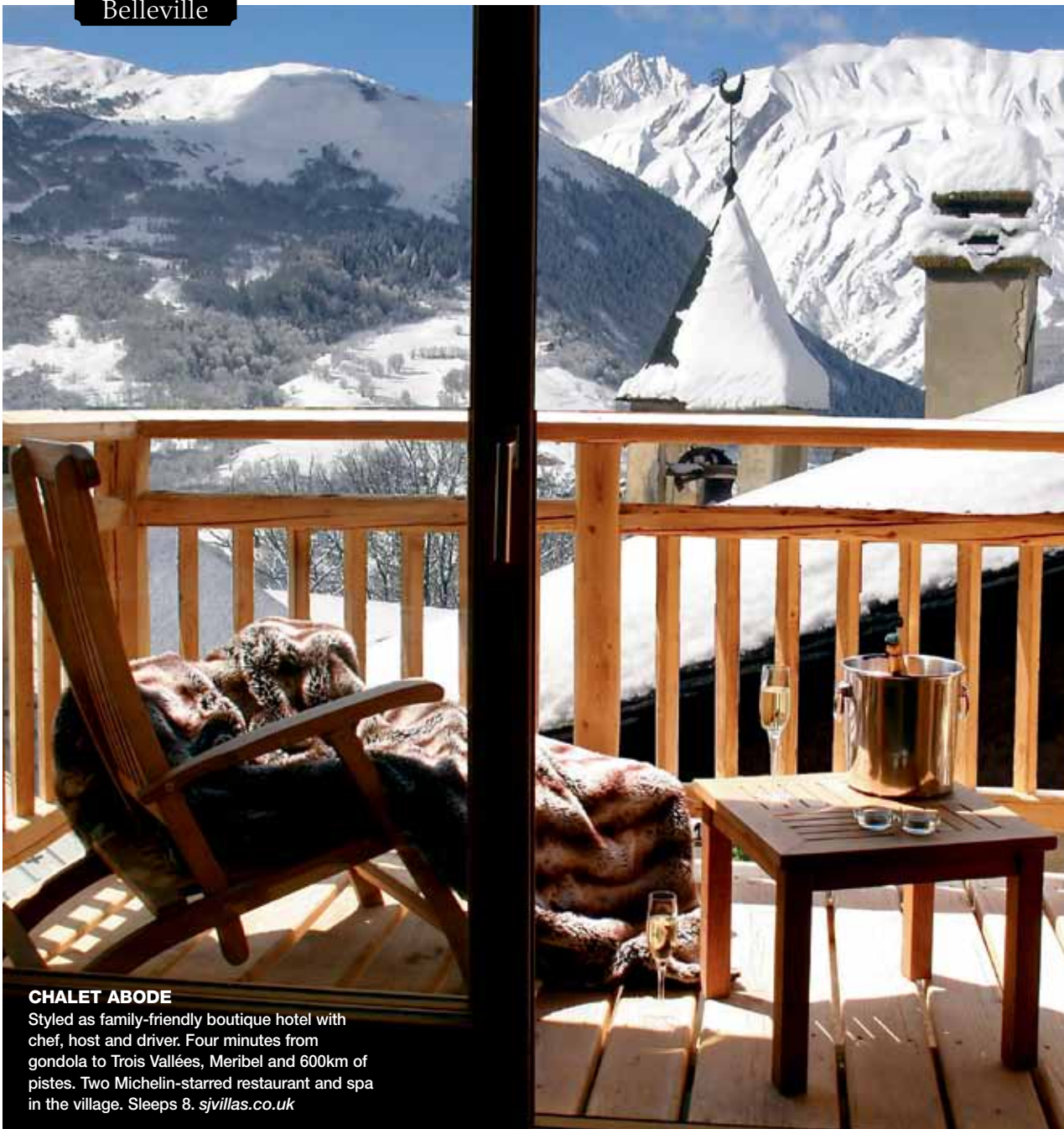


Belleville



CHALET ABODE

Styled as family-friendly boutique hotel with chef, host and driver. Four minutes from gondola to Trois Vallées, Meribel and 600km of pistes. Two Michelin-starred restaurant and spa in the village. Sleeps 8. sjvillas.co.uk

Elevated RETREATS

From the glacial lakes of Slovakia to the shimmering slopes of British Columbia and beyond, a host of new chalets and retreats offers classic charm and Old World indulgence on both sides of the Atlantic

FOR MANY EUROPEANS, Hans-Peter Mayr and Gernot Langes-Swarovski included, Canada's ruggedly handsome and vineyard-rich Okanagan Valley recalls the rolling pine-covered foothills of the Alps. But until now, this outdoorsy slice of British Columbia, with its

shimmering lakes and golf courses, lacked a world-class hotel and spa to call its own. Enter **Sparkling Hill**, a first-of-its-kind wellness resort, courtesy of the two aforementioned Austrians – the former a Kurzentrum alumnus, the latter of the eponymous crystal family, ►

who backed the \$122 million project.

Created by Cannon Design atop Mount Royce in the sleepy hamlet of Vernon, the resort emerges out of solid granite like the sci-fi lair of a crystal baron. Indeed, with nearly two million crystals from the co-creator's legendary family firm, it pays unapologetic homage to the delicate beauty of Swarovski installations – everything from large sculptural pieces that rain down like waterfalls in the lobby to tiny crystal pendants hung in a stairwell – as well as the wilderness that surrounds it (think framed views of Okanagan Lake, raw granite hillsides and wandering deer).

Sparkling Hill



The effect is seamless. A return to one of the 152 guest rooms after a visit to the aromatic saunas or a dip in a trio of saltwater pools features a walk through a marbled hallway filled with crystalline lights. Once ensconced, an inverted triangle of crystal illuminates the bed, while the night sky, revealed by a huge picture window and an adjacent one that opens up, showcases the Big Dipper.

If guests can bear to leave the 3,700sq m spa for a day trip, wine-tasting opportunities abound, with wineries like the venerable Grey Monk or Ex Nihilo a mere 20-minute drive away. For more ascetic types, the Austrian FX Mayr cure (consisting of a weeklong semi-fast on dry bread, broth and veggie peelings) offers a kind of luxury purge. But here, the line between health and hedonism is a fine one, and others will surely be tempted by the cuisine of chef Ross Derrick, a young Canadian who buys only local, organic ingredients and whips them up into dishes that manage to be delicious, elegant and rejuvenating. Rather like Sparkling Hill itself.

sparklinghill.ca

HADANI DITMARS

CHALET CHIC

Newly built or stylishly upgraded, these are the superchalets that make an Alpine holiday unforgettable, says *Julian Allason*

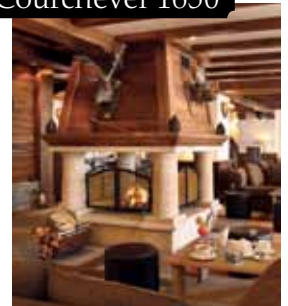
St Anton



CHALET ARTEMIS

Spacious, quirky hexagonal chalet with pool, spa and 12-seat cinema with red velvet chairs. Chef, host and driver. Five-minute drive to ski station, 10 to the village. Sleeps 12. *scottdunn.com*

Courchevel 1650



LE PORTETTA

Four mountain lodges by the Lime Wood team in discreet Belvedere. Rustic chic with uninterrupted views and ski in/ski out access. Private and child friendly but self-catering. Sleeps from 2 to 14. *elegantresorts.co.uk*

Megève



CHALET DES SENS

Atmospheric traditional chalet at the centre of discreet Megève, sleeping nine. Good for children with indoor pool, video projector, wifi. Fitness room and hammam. Visiting chef, housekeeping and masseuse. Optional transfer to the slopes. *sjvillas.co.uk*

Courchevel 1850

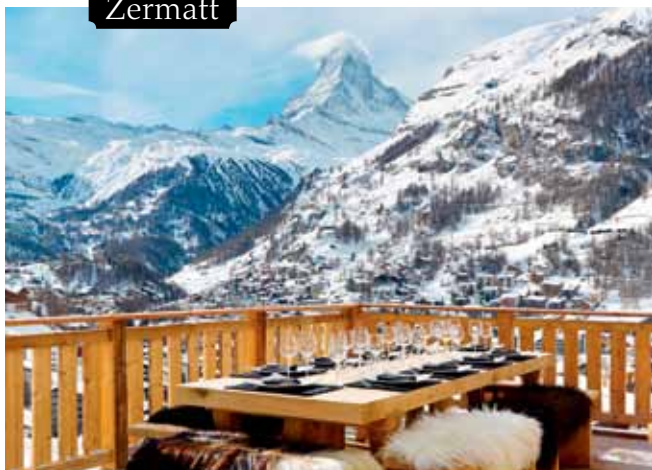


CHALET BELLECOTE

Spectacularly decorated luxe lodge with pool and state-of-the-art technology. Chef, nanny, security, helicopter on standby. Sleeps 12. *cedricreversade.com*

PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: HADANI DITMARS, © SCOTT DUNN, GERARD COTTET, © CEDRIC REVERSADE, © SJ VILLAS

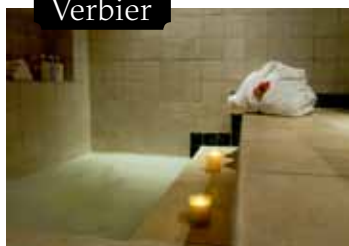
Zermatt



CHALET LES ANGES

Panoramic Matterhorn views throughout from Petit Village enclave. Sun terrace, open fire, grand piano and wellness centre with reflecting pool. Five-minute walk from lifts, 10 into town. Half by electric taxi. Concierge and chef. Sleeps 14. luxurychaletcollection.com

Verbier



CHALET SOLMAI

Largest private chalet in Verbier with glacier views. Light, spacious, furnished with antiques. Spa, high-tech communications and entertainment. Concierge, chauffeur and chef. Two-minute drive from lifts. Sleeps 20. carpediemtravel.co.uk

ALTITUDE LODGE

Newly completed chalet with funky urban interior, sauna, massage room, outdoor hot tub, games and all the tech. Right on the piste. Self-catering. Sleeps 18. vip-chalets.com



Les Gets

Val d'Isère



CHALET SOLYNEOU All en-suite panelled chalet awash with champagne. Open fireplace and indoor pool. Chef, host and driver service. Close to town-centre action and good for children. Sleeps nine. scottdunn.com

UP NEXT

Just in time for this year's ski season a trio of fêted resorts will unveil an equal number of stylish hotels bound to lure downhillers to the slopes starting this December. The ski-in, ski-out **MONTAGE** (montagedeervalley.com), built in the style of the great mountain lodges of the West, will offer 220 rooms and a 3,250sq m spa, all on the snowboard-free runs of Deer Valley, Utah. Over in Colorado, the \$250 million **FOUR SEASONS VAIL RESORT** (fourseasons.com/vail), with its peaked roof and lodge-like façade, adds 121 rooms and suites to the heart of Vail Village. And not to be outdone, the **ALPINA DOLOMITES LODGE** (alpinadolomites.com), situated at 1,860m on the Dolomiti Superski circuit, will feature 56 rooms, an expansive wellness centre and four restaurants and bars, on the high-altitude Alpe di Siusi plateau. FH

The ALPINE treatment

Kempinski's first bespoke spa is a diamond among rough mountain peaks

SINKING INTO A PLUMP upholstered chaise-longue wrapped in a soft blanket, utterly relaxed after a rigorous "letting go" massage from a sweet Slovak masseuse, it's easy to believe you've found paradise. That is, until the swirls of mist over the glacial lake, visible through the floor-to-ceiling glass wall, threaten to obscure the view of the snow-capped mountains beyond, providing an eerily satisfying return to reality. It may rest on terra firma, an hour south of the Polish border in the Slovakian ski resort of Strbské Pleso, but the wellness centre at the **Kempinski Grand Hotel High Tatras** is undeniably heavenly nevertheless.

Kempinski's first bespoke spa – hitherto its hotels have favoured operators such as Anantara and Daniela Steiner – is a one-off in several respects. Most notably, its 1,300sq m interior is an exercise in extreme opulence, the very antithesis of the now de rigueur Oriental minimalism. Walls of iridescent gilt-flecked glass mosaic and translucent alabaster are complemented by floors paved in golden granite. There are Fendi sofas and mirrors, and over the pool hang three fabulous Bisazza Marie-Antoinette chandeliers.

In terms of facilities, the expansive space is admirably equipped: six oak-panelled treatment rooms; lap, vitality and cold-plunge pools, along with a sauna, caldarium, fragrant steam room, exhilarating "experience" showers and a Kneipp circuit: a succession of alternately hot and cold footbaths with pebble floors, which feels less benign than it sounds to walk through. But perhaps the spa's most attractive attributes are its winning lack of pretension and any sense of self-denying wholesomeness. (Alongside juices and mountain herb tisanes, the Vitamin Bar also offers coffee and beer.) Its ethos is to cosset and make you feel good, which it resolutely succeeds in.

kempinski.com/hightatras

CLAIRE WRATHALL

Tatras



SNOW POLO as played at the Grand Kempinski

PHOTOS FROM TOP LEFT: BARRY MURPHY, © CARPE DIEM TRAVEL, © SCOTT DUNN, © VIP CHALETS, © KEMPINSKI