



CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC



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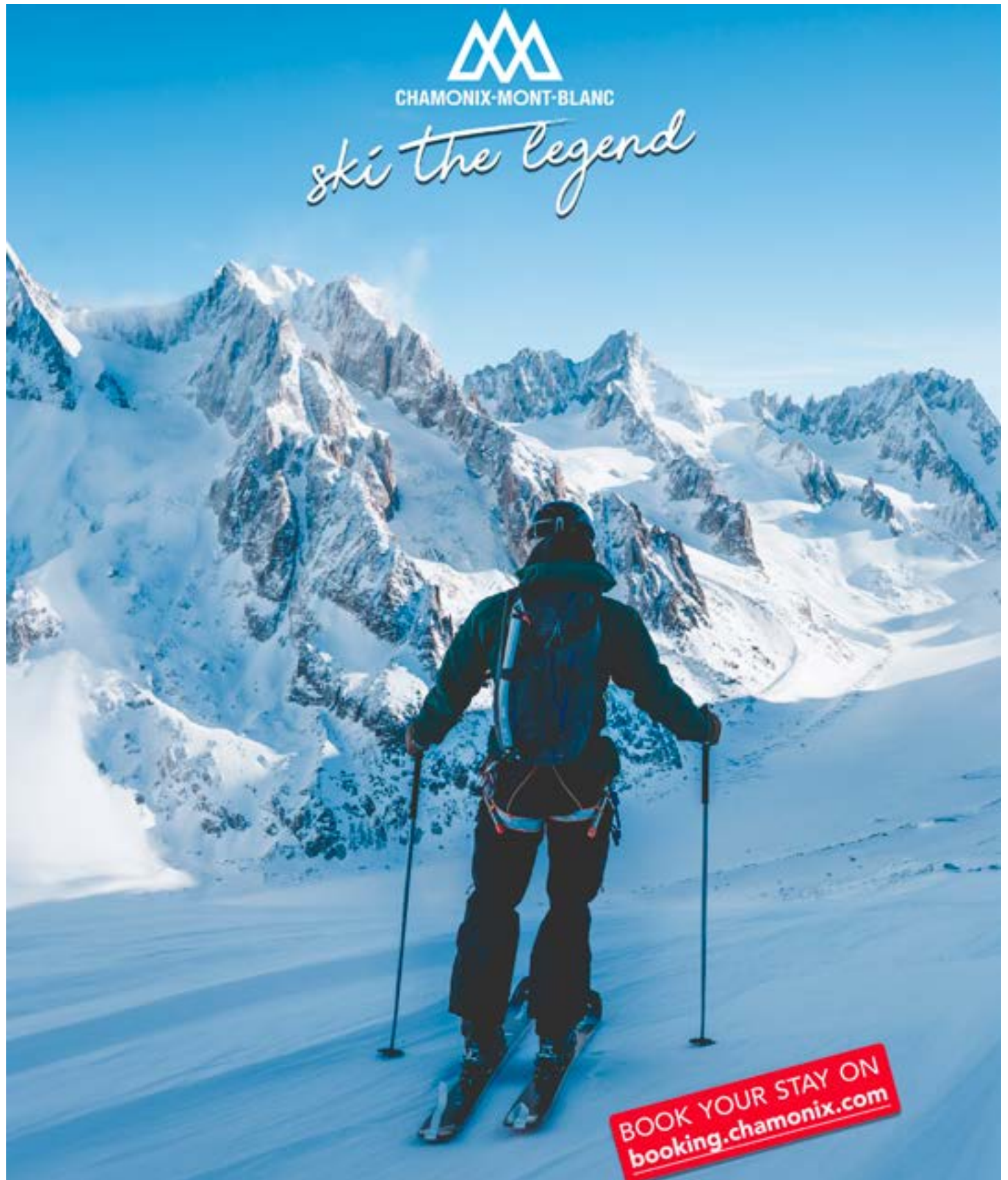
WINTER PRESS FILE 2024-2025

SERVOZ - LES HOUCHES - CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC - ARGENTIÈRE - VALLORCINE

WINTER COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN 24-25 SKI THE LEGEND !

The new winter communication campaign from the Tourist Office will launch in October. It will be based on the first pillar of its brand platform, 'Extraordinary History.' The previous campaign focused on the second pillar, 'Captivating Nature,' which aimed to engage the winter customers in the preservation of the region's biodiversity.

The third pillar of the brand, 'Chamonix, a Vibrant Capital,' will be featured in winter 2025-2026



AGENDA

CHAMONIX SCIENCE FESTIVAL

From 4 to 14 October 2024

<https://www.fetedelascience.fr/la-science-en-fete-chamonix>

NATIONAL SKI JUMPING CHALLENGE

From 12 to 13 October 2024

Ski jumping competition for the best French ski jumpers on the Grépon ski jump in Chamonix.

CHAMONIX PHOTO NATURE FESTIVAL

From 25 to 27 October 2024

2nd edition of this festival, which brings together tourists, photography enthusiasts, and professionals from near and far over three days, under the sponsorship of the renowned wildlife photographer Vincent Munier.

<https://www.chamonixphotofestival.com/en/>

CHRISTMAS MAGIC

From 18 December 2024, to 3 January 2025

During the Christmas holidays, enchanting decorations and magical parades will bring the streets of Chamonix town center to life, where a Christmas village will be set up. Children's performances will also be offered in Les Houches, Servoz, and Vallorcine.



DOWNHILL SLALOM

4 & 5 and 11 & 12 January 2025

The best male and female skiers are meeting on the Planards stadium for night slalom competitions.

<https://www.chamonixsport.com/en>



KANDAHAR JUNIOR

From 10 to 12 January 2025

International Downhill Ski competition – U14 organized by Les Houches.

www.kandaharjunior.com

LA TRACE DES GRANDS

8 & 9 March 2025

Launched in 2021, La Trace des Grands is a ski mountaineering race taking place on the Grands-Montets site. A choice of four races allows the expression of all forms of ski touring.

<https://www.latracedesgrands.com/>

CHAMONIX UNLIMITED FESTIVAL

From 26 to 30 March 2025

The Unlimited Festival brings together skiing and music on mountain tops! The event's DNA: an impressive electro scene program set in intimate, open-air venues at the most beautiful sites in the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley! Dates and program to follow on.

<https://www.unlimited-festival.com/en/>

FREE RIDE DAY

Early May (date subject to snow cover).

To end the winter season in style, the Grands Montets ski area is the place to be. A festive atmosphere is guaranteed for this free ride party.

<https://www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/freeride-day>

All major events and entertainment on : www.chamonix.com

MONTENVERS - MER DE GLACE

THE MONTENVERS TRAIN ADVENTURE

Made famous by the visit of the British explorers Windham and Pockocke in 1741, the Mer de Glace (Sea of Ice) quickly became a must-see excursion in the Chamonix Valley.

In one of the first Swiss tourist guides dating from 1793, it says that «Anyone who comes to Chamouni and does not make the Montenvers excursion missed the purpose of his trip».

Formerly accessible by mule, this site attracted the most famous personalities in their time: William Turner (1801), François-René de Chateaubriand (1805), Georges Byron (1816) and Mary Shelley (1816), Victor Hugo (1825), Alexandre Dumas (1832), Charles Dickens (1846) or Louis Pasteur (1860), to name but a amongst the long list of eminent visitors.



©Collection Musée Alpin de Chamonix

In August 1908, when the inhabitants of the Chamonix valley saw the first steam train set off from the Montenvers station in August 1908, they had possibly forgotten that 15 years earlier, this project had been strongly rejected by the population and the Municipal Council. At the time, in addition to farming, accompanying tourists to Montenvers by mule was a thriving activity which contributed considerably to the livelihood of 650 families, whose members worked as guides and mule-drivers.

Despite strong protests, the General Council endorsed the project of a 5 km rack and pinion railway line which would reach an altitude of 1913m and a remarkable viewpoint overlooking the Mer de Glace glacier.

The Montenvers station was built close to the PLM station (Paris Lyon Marseille), whose railway line had been transporting tourists to Chamonix since 1901



©Collection D. Cardoso



©Collection D. Cardoso

MONTENVERS - MER DE GLACE

KEY DATES

1906 - The highly ambitious construction work began in 1906, with 250 men labouring in extremely difficult conditions. Amongst them were many masons from the Piedmont in Italy, who were renowned for their expertise in hewing granite stone.

9 août 1908 - The train dropped off its first passengers on a provisional platform, «...twenty minutes from the Hotel du Montenvers, which is easily reached by a good path. The wonderful spectacle enjoyed on the terrace of the hotel is thus within the reach of the less ingambient people and the Sea of Ice becomes, from now on, the most easily accessible glacier...».

1909 - the train finally reaches the Montenvers terminal.

1946 - George Claret carved out a cave within the glacier to enable visitors to discover the inside of the Mer de Glace.



1954 - The steam locomotives were replaced by electric engines – a first in the history of cog railways. In 1962, diesel motors will replace them definitively.

1960- The first gondola lift was built to facilitate access to the glacier.

1967 - The first diesel locomotive was put into service, and these trains were used to reinforce electric trains during periods of high passenger volume (up to 3 in a row!).

1981 - It was the last commercial journey for a steam engine, with locomotive number 7.

1988 - The cable car was replaced by a gondola with a station suspended above the ice. The glacier is only 50 meters away, without any stairs.

1993 - The line opened for winter service after extensive safety upgrades.

MONTENVERS - MER DE GLACE

THE NEW GONDOLA LIFT AT THE MER DE GLACE



Explored for the first time by Englishmen William Windham and Richard Pococke in 1741, La Mer de Glace, the largest French glacier, is a living witness to the climate changes of our time.

In order to preserve and enhance the memory of this emblematic site an investment programme of over 53 million euros is underway. As part of the reconfiguration of the site, a new gondola lift between Montenvers and the glacier opened last Winter. It provides visitor access to the ice cave, and also facilitates travel to and from the glacier for alpinists and skiers descending the Vallée Blanche.

<https://www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/projet-montenvers>



INFORMATION

Since 1946, the Claret family has held the concession to excavate the Mer de Glace ice cave. The workers who achieve this feat every year are called the «grottus.»



PROJECT: THE NEW GLACIORIUM

The future Glaciorium represents another important step in the restructuring of Montenvers, the second most visited site in the Chamonix Valley after the Aiguille du Midi.

Currently, visitors can explore an interactive exhibition on the Mer de Glace and glaciers from around the world, covering their formation, history, and evolution, in a small granite building that once housed the mule stables, located near the Montenvers Refuge.

A new glacier interpretation center is set to open in the summer 2026. It will highlight the preservation of this pioneering site in glacier exploration and high-mountain access, as well as raise awareness among visitors about climate change and its impacts.

MONTENVERS – MER DE GLACE

A LEGENDARY HOTEL

Since immemorial times, the Montenvers site was frequented by chamois hunters, crystal seekers, and shepherds, who used to take shelter under a large granite boulder when storms broke out.

• BLAIR'S HOSPITAL - 1779

In 1779, Lord Blair, an English gentleman, found himself caught in a storm on the Montenvers. The shelter under the stone was so uncomfortable that he had a cabin built from planks and dry stones, with an inscription above the door : « Blair's Hospital – Utile Dulci ». Goethe would spend a night there in November 1779.

• THE TEMPLE OF NATURE- 1795

The old cabin built by Blair quickly became too small. Marc Theodore Bourrit was tasked with organizing the construction of a more durable structure to serve as a «hospice and observatory» for «enthusiasts and scholars.» With a single octagonal room, the Temple of Nature is considered the oldest refuge in the Alps.

• THE MONTENVERS'INN – 1840

«To serve as a refuge and rest stop for travelers visiting the remarkable sites surrounding Mont Blanc,» the municipal council built a small hotel consisting of four rooms, a dining room, a kitchen, and a cellar.

• THE HÔTEL DU MONTENVERS - 1880

On the eve of the annexation of Savoy to France, Chamonix was already a highly attractive tourist destination. The capacity of the Montenvers inn was insufficient, leading to the construction of a large building made of granite blocks. Even before the arrival of the train in 1908, the Montenvers site was already bustling with activity. On the terrace, in fair weather, there was a constant coming and going of muleteers with their animals, chair carriers, walkers, and trinket sellers—a lively scene that would only intensify after 1908.

• THE REVIVAL OF THE MONTENVERS REFUGE - 2017

Long left in its original state, the hotel was no longer suited to modern clientele. Beautifully renovated in 2017 by the Sibuet Group, which preserved the spirit and history of the place, the hotel now also opens in winter. Managed today by the Best Mont Blanc Group, the iconic establishment features 17 rooms, suites, and dormitories, as well as a restaurant. A stay at the Montenvers Refuge remains a unique and timeless experience!

<https://en.refugedumontenvers.com/>



NEW ACCOMODATION

HÔTEL MONT-BLANC 5* : A TRANSFORMATION BY SYBILLE DE MARGERIE

In November 2023, the luxury establishment in Chamonix unveiled a new design for its Junior Suites, led by the renowned French interior designer Sybille de Margerie. This iconic hotel, already celebrated for its location and history, undertook the renovation of all its rooms and Junior Suites to offer guests a renewed experience, combining contemporary luxury with Alpine elegance.

- **First phase: new design for 18 Junior Suites**

In November 2023, Sybille de Margerie redesigned the decoration of 18 Junior Suites. This first phase introduced a subtle blend of tradition and modernity. Each Junior Suite was conceived as a cozy retreat, telling the story of the region.

- **Creative expansion: 20 additional rooms and 2 Suites**

After the success of the initial transformation, the Hôtel Mont Blanc decided to extend the project to the remaining 22 rooms and Suites starting in November 2024. These spaces benefited from the same attention to detail and creativity that characterized the first phase. Sybille de Margerie continues to leave her distinctive mark, harmonizing contemporary design with local influences to enhance the hotel's soul.

<https://en.hotelmontblancchamonix.com/winter/hotel>



3 NEW SUITES AT THE CHALET HÔTEL HERMITAGE PACCARD 4*



A jewel of traditional Chamonix hospitality, this luxury chalet hotel is run by the Paccard family, who have carried on a certain mountain art of living for several generations



Nestled in the heart of Chamonix, in the hamlet of Mouilles, the establishment is offering 3 new suites this winter. The work was carried out exclusively by artisans from the Chamonix valley.

The interior design combines Alpine style with modern comfort. The rustic oak floors, made from the wood of old railway wagons, and the mazot door leading to the restrooms add an original and authentic touch.

<https://www.hermitage-paccard.com/en/>

NEW ACCOMODATION

THE NEW HÔTEL LYRET – FUSION OF ART AND CHARME



© Mont-Blanc Collection

The Hôtel Gourmets (3 stars, 37 rooms) is undergoing a makeover and will reopen in December 2024, transformed into Hôtel LYRET. For the establishment located along the Arve River, this new identity references its Latin name, which means «gravel,» as well as the Rue du Lyret and the eponymous neighborhood in which it is situated.

Ideally located in the heart of Chamonix, Hotel Lyret embodies an Alpine style that is warm and elegant, where art and hospitality meet to provide an exceptional experience.

hotel-lyret.com

This project is signed by Mont-Blanc Collection (Martin Devictor), Decalaage Interieur (Emmanuelle de Laage), Curation (Laurène Maréchal).

In collaboration with interior designer Emmanuelle Delaage, curator Laurène Maréchal invites six internationally renowned artists to create works on site. Immersed in the natural environment of Chamonix, the artists produce paintings, drawings, tapestries, installations, and sculptures that enhance the common areas and rooms of the hotel.

LE REFUGE DES AIGLONS BECOMES « L'HÔTEL LES AIGLONS 4* »

From December 2024, Le Refuge des Aiglons hotel with its 107 rooms will undergo renovation and decoration to become Les Aiglons Hôtel Chamonix 4*.

The mountain style will be revisited in a warm atmosphere with elegant touches of modernity by SZ Design.

The hotel offers a spa area with sauna, hammam, jacuzzi and outdoor swimming pool heated, and is open all year round. The Casa Nonna restaurant, with its panoramic views of Mont Blanc and the Aiguille du Midi, will provide a lively, intimate atmosphere where the French Alps meet Italian culinary surprises.

<https://aiglons.com/en/>



© Les Aiglons

FIRST WINTER FOR THE NEW LA COURONNE HOTEL IN ARGENTIERE



© La Couronne

Built in the 1860s and in operation since then, La Couronne is the oldest hotel in the Chamonix Valley. Purchased in 2021, it reopened its doors in June 2024 after extensive renovations and an expansion.

Located in Argentière, near the famous Grands Montets ski area, La Couronne offers 69 comfortable rooms (45 completely renovated in the historic building and 24 newly created in the extension), a spa with a sauna and hammam, and a restaurant.

The project was conceived by German-Danish designer Gesa Hansen and architect Nathalie Visnovsky, who sought to reinterpret the topography of the mountains: Scandinavian style, figurative use of wood, and a color scheme inspired by the hues of Chamonix—green for its springtime mountains, red for its fiery autumns, and the eternal blue of its glaciers. The Bordeaux red of the historic façade pays tribute to the 1950s, a prosperous period for the establishment.

<https://www.hotelcouronne.com/en/>

GOURMETS NEWS

NEW BREATH AT L'AUBERGE DU BOIS PRIN

Purchased in 2019 by the triple Michelin-starred Chef Emmanuel Renaut and his wife Kristine, the inn is an iconic establishment in the Chamonix Valley. This luxury chalet, overlooking the mountain, features 9 rooms, 2 suites, and a restaurant located at the very heart of the Inn.



At the end of 2023, Emmanuel Renaut appointed Chef Quentin Veyrat to lead his brigade. Hailing from a family of restaurateurs, the Savoyard from Manigod has extensive experience. He trained at renowned Michelin-starred restaurants, including l'Auberge du Père Bise in Talloires, Le Flocon de Sel in Megève, already with Emmanuel Renaut for four years, le Cheval Blanc in Saint-Tropez, les Barmes de l'Ours in Val d'Isère or l'hôtel de l'Image à Saint-Rémy de Provence, before a detour through Canada.

Passionate, energetic, and determined, the young chef expresses his personality through his generous and refined cuisine, which subtly blends local dishes, fruits, vegetables, and aromatic herbs with inventive recipes that feature balanced flavors.

<https://boisprin.com/en/>



LES JEUNES ETOILES (YOUNG STARS) AT LE HAMEAU ALBERT 1er*****



LES JEUNES ETOILES (YOUNG STARS) AT LE HAMEAU ALBERT 1er*****

A jewel of Chamonix gastronomy, the Michelin-starred restaurant at the Hameau Albert 1er now welcomes its guests only in the evening, offering a peak culinary journey through two menus: L'Appel des Cimes (with 9 courses) and Reflets Alpains (with 7 courses).

This autumn, the talented Chef Damien Leveau is creating a third menu, featuring a tasting experience with 2 appetizers, 1 main course, and 1 dessert (including wine pairing, water, and coffee).

This option, priced at €125 per person, is available exclusively to guests under 35 years old.

<https://www.hameaualbert.fr/en/>



GOURMETS NEWS

LE JUNGLE

First winter season for this new bar-restaurant, located on Rue des Moulins in the center of Chamonix. Housed in a brand-new building, Le Jungle is a friendly spot to gather with friends, featuring a terrace with views of the Aiguilles of the Mont-Blanc Range, and an atmosphere that evolves throughout the evening.

The design was entrusted to the young Chamonix interior designer Laura Roncin (who had previously designed the bar L'Alibi). The decor, subtly incorporating plants, and the furnishings reflect the restaurant's name, with a few unique touches, such as wall sconces shaped like climbing monkeys.



Hailing from Chamonix and passionate about cooking from a young age, Chef Cyril Choay has an unconventional background. He trained for 15 years at an establishment where he made all sorts of fresh pasta and Italian specialties. Assisted by his right-hand man Matthieu Nesme and his team, the young chef offers generous dishes to share: a variety of tapas, stuffed cabbage leaves, arancini, and his signature ravioli.

Open from 4 PM to 2 AM

Contact: Gabriel Verdier - +33 6.76.34.94.36



THE NEW RESTAURANT AT L'HÔTEL LES AIGLONS

Located in l'Hôtel les Aiglons, the new restaurant Casa Nonna will open from December 2024. Food enthusiasts can enjoy cuisine with Transalpine flavors, featuring both classic dishes and original creations from Italian and Savoyard cuisine.

<https://aiglons.com/en/>



NEW AT THE TOP - LE 3842 GETS A MAKE OVER



Situated at 3,842 meters altitude at the summit of Aiguille du Midi, the restaurant «3842» reveals a new look this winter after renovation work: a new décor in harmony with the exceptional view of the surrounding high peaks, and still a breathtaking culinary experience.

The cafeteria, « Le Summit 3842 », will also be revamped for added comfort.

<https://www.maisondesdrus.com/en/establishment/le-3842-winter/>



GOURMETS NEWS

LA BRASSERIE DU ROND POINT GETS A FRESH LOOK

Built in the 1950s in the heart of Chamonix, the establishment has been managed by the Cabuis family since its creation. Originally, the place housed a bistro section and a gourmet grocery store, which became the iconic 'Irish Coffee' in 1975 and is still in operation today. The former bistro, still known as the Brasserie du Rond Point, reopened in September 2024 after a year of work.

This renovation was necessary to restore the building's distinctive architectural charm.



The interior décor reflects the style of the construction time: the bar, tiles, and woodwork are original, as are the delightfully retro sconces that adorn the walls of the brand-new restaurant on the upper floor, which features a panoramic dining room that can accommodate around thirty guests.



On the ground floor, by the bar and on the spacious terrace, guests can order appetizer plates to share, featuring local products: mini farçons, bougnettes, and regional charcuterie.

Contact for the restaurant :
+33 4 .50.58.14.85

This winter, the menu features dishes such as Magland snail croustilles, confit pork, trout fillet in gravlax with Génepy, essential farçons and bougnettes (potato fritters), and chestnut cream fondant. . .

On the ground floor, by the bar and on the spacious terrace, guests can order appetizer plates to share, featuring local products: mini farçons, bougnettes, and regional charcuterie.

LE DAHU IN ARGENTIÈRE

Founded in 1966 by the Devouassoux family, this restaurant is a landmark in the Chamonix Valley. Acquired in 2016, by restaurateurs from the North of France, but also winter sports enthusiasts, the establishment was destroyed by a fire in 2022.

The Dahu has finally risen from its ashes after several months and now welcomes guests in a new, rustic, and very harmonious setting, with a capacity of 140 covers indoors.



The young and talented Chef Théo Hadzhiyski joined Thierry and his team at the end of 2023, after leading the kitchens at the orth de Philippe for 5 years and then working as a private chef in luxury chalets in neighboring Switzerland.

<https://www.ledahu.ski/>



In addition to traditional Savoyard dishes such as wood-fired raclette, three-cheese fondue, and very good beef cooked in a braséade, the chef creates original and flavorful dishes made with fresh, high-quality, and local products (Morgex trout, Magland snails. . .), and excels in preparing indulgent and refined desserts.

WHAT'S A DAHU ?

Legendary creature and iconic figure of mountain folklore, the Dahu looks like a chamois and is distinguished by the length of its legs, shorter on one side than the other, which restricts it to moving only on slopes. Its unique morphology forces it to always move in the same direction, without ever being able to turn around, for fear of falling.

LOCAL PRODUCTS & MADE IN VALLÉE DE CHAMONIX

THE FARÇON

This traditional Savoyard dish made with potatoes, dried fruits and bacon is typical of the Alpine valleys of Savoie and Haute-Savoie.

Each village, and even each family, jealously guards its own recipe, and passes it down from generation to generation.

In the Chamonix valley, farçon was the Sunday dish par excellence, cooked for a long time in the hearth and enjoyed by the whole family after returning from church. This hearty dish was made with the ingredients available to these families, who lived modestly from agro-pastoralism: chickens provided eggs, cows' milk was turned into butter and cream, potatoes and onions were grown in the garden, in autumn, pigs were prepared to make bacon, and prunes were harvested in the orchard at Passy, not far from Chamonix.

RECIPE

Ingredients (for 6 people)



- 1 farçon mold
- 1 kg of floury potatoes
- 200 g of dried prunes
- 100 g of bacon
- 12 thin slices of smoked pork belly
- 100 ml of heavy cream
- 2 eggs
- 1 tablespoon of butter
- 1 onion



© Les Vieilles Luges - OI Chamonix Mont-Blanc

1. Peel and wash the potatoes. Brown the bacon in the butter, peel and slice the onion, then add it to the bacon and cook for a few minutes over a low heat. Line the edges of a greased stuffing tin with the slices of smoked pork belly. Grate the potatoes, draining excess water if necessary.
2. Mix all the ingredients, check the seasoning, then press the mixture into the mold. Cover with aluminum foil.
3. Bake in a water bath at 150°C (300°F) for 2 to 3 hours, depending on the size of the mold.
4. Let it rest for a few minutes before unmolding.
5. Alternatively, once cooled, cut the stuffing into slices and fry in butter.

Here are a few restaurants to enjoy a farçon in the Chamonix valley: [La Fine Bouche](#), [Le Grenier](#), [La Maison Carrier](#), [Brasserie du Rond Point...](#)

ALTITUDE GIN: AN EXCEPTIONAL ALPINE GIN MADE IN LES HOUCHES



© Altitude Gin

Founded in 2017 and based in Les Houches, Altitude Gin is a local distillery that has quickly gained recognition for its unique products and its commitment to protecting the alpine environment.

This artisanal gin is crafted from local alpine botanicals, including juniper, blueberries, elderflowers, and pine needles. Its original flavor is enhanced by the addition of coriander, sweet orange peel, cardamom, and angelica root.

The distillery's high altitude plays a crucial role in creating this product, yielding an exceptionally smooth gin due to the lower boiling point and the use of pure mountain water.

Altitude Gin has earned recognition among professionals, winning numerous awards, including a gold medal at the 2024 Lyon International Competition

This virtuous local company is deeply committed to preserving the alpine ecosystem.

It is a proud member of the 1% for the Planet initiative and supports [CREA Mont Blanc](#), a non-profit organization based in Chamonix that studies the impact of climate change on alpine biodiversity.

As part of its sustainable approach, the founders have introduced a 5-liter Bag-in-Box (BIB) for bars and restaurants to refill their bottles.

These boxes, made from 100% recyclable materials, reduce the carbon footprint by decreasing glass use and CO2 emissions from transportation.

This ongoing commitment aims to achieve organic certification this year and reflects the dedication to producing an exceptional gin while respecting and preserving the valley's unique environment.

<https://www.altitudegin.com/en-fr>

Email : info@chxdistillers.com

4 SKI AREAS ON 4 MOUNTAIN SIDES



The Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley offers a little over 110 km of marked downhill trails, 90% of which are located at an altitude of 2000 m and above. There are also 50 km of marked trails for cross-country skiing.

Chamonix attracts some of the world's best skiers and snowboarders, and the reputation of the Grands Montets and the Vallée Blanche is far reaching. But the valley also offers several areas for intermediate and beginner skiers.

This winter, the season begins on 22 November 2024 (subject to snow conditions) and ends on 4 May 2025. Spring skiing conditions in the valley are optimal.

LES HOUCHES (1008m - 1900m)

Located at the entrance to the Chamonix valley, this is an ideal area for family skiing. There are many picturesque, gentle, tree-lined slopes and the views over the Mont-Blanc Massif and the Aravis mountain range are superb.

The area also has some technical descents, not least the famous «Verte des Houches». In February 2024, the world's best skiers raced down these slopes during the Kandahar



© Gretchen Hangedard

BRÉVENT - FLÉGÈRE (2525m)

Facing the Mont Blanc range, with a sunny exposition, the Brévent - Flégère ski area offers incredible panoramic views and a variety of slopes suitable for all types of skier and levels of expertise.



© Tony Harrington



© OT Chamonix Mont-Blanc - SA

LES GRANDS MONTETS (2765m)

Partially located on a glacier, this ski area covers three mountainsides (the Argentière glacier, Lognan and the Pendant) and offers a vast range of on and off-piste skiing with tremendous vertical drop. It is a popular departure point for ski touring. Since the 2018 fire that destroyed the mid-station, the summit of Les Grands Montets has only been accessible by ski touring, with no mechanical lifts.

However, the long-awaited opening of the new infrastructure is scheduled for December 2026!

<https://www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/projet-grands-montets>



© Fabian Bode

BALME - LE TOUR - VALLORCINE (2270m)

The snow-covered mountain pastures of Balme can be reached both from the village of Le Tour and from Vallorcine. Wide and gentle sunny slopes offer exceptional views of the Mont-Blanc Massif and on the Vallorcine side, tree-lined descents with many variants appeal to all levels of skier. Since December 2022, the new Charamillon Gondola (departing from Le Tour) is able to transport 2,200 people per hour, compared to 1,004 with the old equipment.



© Alexandre TUILLET

EASY SKI

From Les Houches to Vallorcine, several low-valley areas offer slopes suitable for beginners in skiing.

LES HOUCHES - LE TOURCHET (1 007 m)

In the Centre of the village: 2 drag lifts, free nocturnal skiing every Thursday evening. Also accessible with the Les Houches pass and the MONT BLANC Unlimited pass. (www.leshouches.com)

ARGENTIÈRE - LES CHOSALETs* (1 230 m)

Large area for beginners, ideal for children. 3 green runs.

(<https://www.chamonix.com/>)

**Subject to the opening of the ski area.*

LE TOUR - LA VORMAINE (1 450 m)

For beginner and intermediate skiers. Ideal for children, toddlers and beginners. 3 green runs, 1 blue, leisure area with free access, boardercross.

<https://www.lavormaine.com/index.php/en/>

CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC

• LES PLANARDS (1 062 m)* : The biggest ski area for beginners and children, right by the town centre. 2 green runs, 1 blue, 1 red, children's snow garden. Bar and restaurant, parking.

www.planards.fr

• LE SAVOY (1 049 m)* : In the very heart of Chamonix, at the foot of the Brévent. A favourite by beginners, ideal for children, equipped with two draglifts and a moving carpet. 3 green runs, children's snow garden.

www.montblancnaturalresort.com

VALLORCINE - LA POYA (1 350m)

Small family-friendly ski area located across from the Buet train station. Ideal for children and beginners. It features 2 drag lifts, a magic carpet, and a rope tow.

LIFT PASS DEALS

WEB ONLY : purchase anticipated = purchase rewarded ; best rates for the online purchase of a day or several-day pass (pre-purchase must be at least 3 days before 1st days of skiing).

FIND ALL RATES HERE : <https://www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/nos-forfaits>



A pass 100 % ski to enjoy the three major areas of Chamonix

110 km of ski runs : 17 green runs/30 blue runs/27 red runs/14 black runs

GOOD DEAL : day pass -20% (available on promotional dates)

- First snows : from 22 November to 20 December 2024
- Spring ski : from 29 March to 4 May 2025

<https://www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/chamonix-lepass>

Visits & ski safari in 3 countries: France, Switzerland and Italy

1132 km of ski runs (with Verbier) for season and annual passes ; for short stays, the number of km of ski runs is slightly less. 76 green runs /142 blue runs/208 red runs/76 black runs.

GOOD DEAL : 2 days = 3 days *

- First snows : from 22 November to 20 December 2024
- Spring ski : from 29 March to 4 May 2025

**Opening dates are given as a guideline and are subject to snow coverage*

<https://www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/montblanc-unlimited>



First domain at the entrance to the Chamonix Valley. A 360° view of the surrounding summits.

31km of ski slopes

2 green runs/8 blue runs/14 red runs/2 black runs

SMART : Les Houches Ski Deal : best rates for the online purchase of a day or several-day pass (pre-purchase must be at least 3 days before 1st days of skiing).

SKI TOURING AND NORDIC

SKI TOURING : ON THE UP !

Over the past few years in the Chamonix Valley, ski touring has become more and more popular. In order to facilitate training and practice, there are now four marked routes of different lengths and difficulty. After the effort, the reward is a gentle ski down the slopes!

Four marked itineraries (not patrolled) for different levels of ski tourers. Descent via the ski slopes.



- LES HOUCHES / Prarion : elevation 841 metres.
- ARGENTIÈRE / Lognan via La Trapette (*not recommended for beginners*) : elevation 730 metres.
- ARGENTIÈRE / Refuge de Lognan : elevation 800 metres.
- LE TOUR / Charamillon : elevation 358 metres.

Link to download the brochure:

Plaquette ski de rando 23.24.pdf (chamoniarde.com)

<https://www.chamoniarde.com/en/your-activities/ski-touring>



CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING



The Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley has a Nordic ski area of about fifty kilometers – both classic and skating trails – in the resorts of Les Houches, Chamonix, Argentière and Vallorcine. Cross-country skiing has become fashionable, especially since the advent of the «skating» technique, and it now attracts skiers of all ages. In the Chamonix Valley, the number of cross-country skiers has tripled since 2020.

FREE NOCTURNAL SESSIONS ON THURSDAYS

During the French holidays, the green track of the Bois du Bouchet, Chamonix, is free for evening sessions from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.



Chamonix native Enora Latuilière, the 2015 World Championship silver medalist in biathlon relay, has a special fondness for :

"The biathlon shooting range, deep in the Désert Blanc of the hamlet Les Bois. I go there when I need some peace and quiet. The view of the entire valley rejuvenates me."



SKI JUMPING

Ski jumping is an iconic sport in the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley, where it has been practiced since 1905, the year of the first competition organized by the city's Sports Club.

This spectacular sport gained prominence in the valley during the first Winter Olympics in 1924, the 1937 Ski World Championships, and numerous international competitions regularly held until 2004. Its fame has been further enhanced by the performances of Chamonix jumpers, most of whom have frequently competed in the Winter Olympics.



© Archives municipales de Chamonix-Mont-Blanc / Fonds Gay-Coutet

Currently, the Chamonix Sports Club has 20 ski jumpers, including two French champions (Capucine Mesnil and Jules Chervet) and three athletes who regularly compete in the World Cup (Emma Chervet, Jules Chervet, and Ari Repellin).



© Henri François Morand



© Henri François Morand

This discipline, which is practiced in winter as well as in summer (on jumping infrastructures equipped with a special surface), will be in the spotlight in the valley with the Mont-Blanc Tour on Saturday, 21 September 2024, and the National Ski Jumping Criterium on 12 and 13 October 2024.

These two competitions will bring together the best French ski jumpers at the Grépon stadium, located at the entrance of Chamonix, for a guaranteed spectacular show!

The ski jumping section of the Chamonix Sports Club welcomes all young athletes from the level of the second star onwards to introduce them to the joys of this extraordinary sliding sport.

Contact : Henri-François Morand, President of the Ski Jumping Section
montbarryhf56@gmail.com

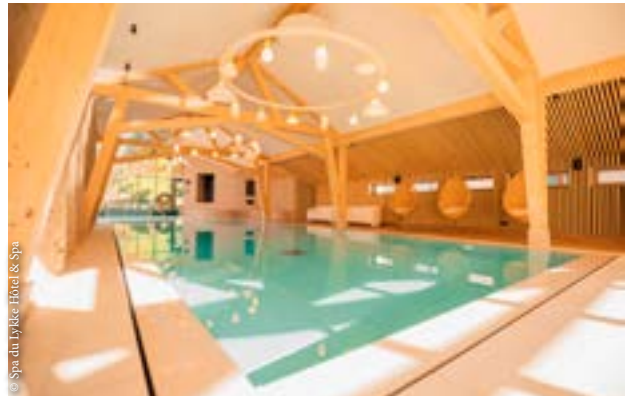
WELL-BEING

LYKKE – A NEW SPA 5 MONDES IN THE HEART OF CHAMONIX

Opened in December 2023, the Lykke Hôtel & Spa expanded in July 2024 with a new aquatic area featuring an indoor pool, outdoor sauna, hammam, fitness room, and outdoor exercise equipment.

On the wellness side, the new spa offers 4 treatment rooms, including 2 duo rooms, where guests can enjoy services provided by experts and therapists: facial, body, restructuring, relaxing, or custom treatments, along with grand rituals and beauty treatments. A delicate touch combined with the sensory experience of natural-origin treatments. *Cinq Mondes*

<https://en.lykkechamonix.com/the-spa>



GOURMET LUNCH AND WELLNESS BREAK AT LE BOIS PRIN

Nestled on the heights of Chamonix, the Auberge du Bois Prin offers a gourmet lunch and a relaxing break in a privileged setting.

After savoring a three-course meal crafted by the talented Chef Quentin Veyrat, guests can choose between a 30-minute treatment or massage at the establishment's spa and enjoy access to the small outdoor wellness area, featuring a sauna and hot tub with a view of Mont-Blanc.

€150 per person (excluding drinks).

<https://boisprin.com/en/>



QC TERME BECOMES « QC SPA OF WONDERS »

Like the other establishments in the «QC Terme » Italian Group, the wellness center located in Chamonix is changing its name to «QC Spa Of Wonders.»

With an exceptional location at the foot of the Mont-Blanc range, the 4,000 square meter balneotherapy center offers spaces and circuits for a relaxing break after skiing or at the start of the day.



A fully renovated bistro with a new panoramic terrace allows guests to enjoy beautiful winter days while savoring the creations of its chefs.

<https://www.qcterme.com/en/chamonix-mont-blanc/qc-terme-chamonix>

ACTIVITIES

FIRST SKI EXPERIENCE



This is the new leading product from the Tourist Office's reservation center. The perfect all-inclusive offer, tailored for beginners looking for a smooth introduction to skiing with professional supervision!

Everything is included :

- Ski lessons with a private instructor (3-hour session),
- Ski equipment (skis, poles, boots),
- Technical clothing (pants, anorak, hat, gloves and mask),

>> From 300€/person (ski pass extra, bookable online).

Links to products for sale online : [1 personne](#) | [2 personnes](#) | [3 personnes](#) | [4 personnes](#)

SNOWSHOEING, MILKING AND RACLETTE CHEESE

This winter, the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix is offering a new sporting adventure with snowshoeing, followed by a friendly dinner aperitif at the farm.

It's a memorable experience that combines discovery, relaxation, and local gastronomy. After the effort, participants will be able to enjoy a selection of regional products, including cured meats and cheeses from the valley, accompanied by a good glass of wine.



The group package is ideal for people seeking the friendliness of a group and an attractive price.

Every Thursday during the February vacation period ;

Meeting point at 5:00 PM in front of the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix. Groups of up to 8 people will be guided by an instructor.

Children must be at least 12 years old and

Rate for 2025 (group package): €95 per person

<https://www.chamonix-guides.com/fr/activites/categorie/raquettes/nos-journees-raquettes>

WINE TASTING

In her new downtown Chamonix shop, Marta Vini offers enthusiasts a tasting of wines, cheese, and charcuterie to explore the subtleties of regional and Italian wines.

This one-hour immersive experience takes place in a beautiful setting, with a tasting themed around the five elements: air, water, fire, Earth, and Bella Ciao which nourish the vine to impart their unique flavors to these wines selected by Marta.

The price is €33 per person, including 4 wines, tapas, charcuterie, cheese, and explanations.

Free cancellation is available up to 3 days before the activity begins.

<https://marta-vini.com/>



HANDICRAFT

CARPENTRY CHARLET MONTANT

A story of transmission and expertise...

Located in the well-named Bois district, this carpentry workshop exudes authentic charm.

Founded in 1923 by Jules Balmat, this chalet construction company was taken over by the Lochet family in the 1950s and then co-managed by Jean Charlet and Serge Montand until 2000.

Christophe Poirot, who has been with the company since 1987, took over the reins in 2000, perpetuating a century-old tradition of craftsmanship.

Alongside Julien, Germain, Sébastien, and Renaud, this passionate craftsman combines tradition and creativity.



Among his historic and loyal clients is the 4-star Hermitage & Paccard hotel, a family-run establishment since 1920. Christophe and his fine team are always given full creative freedom for the hotel's renovation projects. The most recent achievement was the interior refurbishment of the saunas in the biotope garden and the transformation of five rooms into three elegant suites.

This relationship of trust, based on quality and excellence, has lasted for over 60 years.

From carpentry to sculpture... it's just a small piece of wood away!

In parallel with his carpentry work, Christophe has been crafting wooden trophies for the children's cross-country ski races at the Chamonix club, where his son participates.

However, it was during the Covid-19 pandemic that he developed a new skill. With a slowdown in orders and plenty of time, he turned to carving wooden figurines.

These figurines, always featuring the same character within a wooden frame, illustrate various activities popular in the valley, such as skiing, paragliding, hiking, and climbing.



He uses wood scraps collected in his workshop, mainly local species such as arolla, walnut and larch.

Tin, copper and rope scraps are used to add details and life to his pieces.

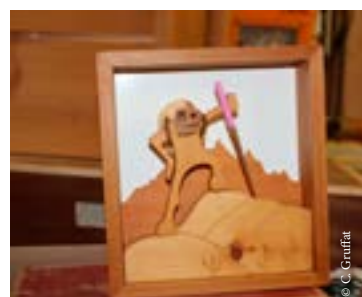
Christophe's sculptures tell stories, and capture the essence of Alpine life with great sensitivity and attention to detail.

Encouraged by his customers, he rapidly expanded his collection, from seven to two hundred models within a few months.

In December 2020, he was able to exhibit his creations at the Christmas market, alongside local artisans.

Christophe's story illustrates the journey of a craftsman who has used his roots to meet today's challenges.

His story showcases the ingenuity of Chamonix Valley artisans, who are committed and passionate about enhancing their environment.



More information : <https://www.chamonixmenuiserie.com/fr>

HANDICRAFT

RONIN SKIS - HANDMADE IN CHAMONIX



Originally from Johannesburg, Jonathan Jacobs, known as «Johnno,» discovered skiing at the age of 19 in New Zealand. He quickly became passionate, and what better place than Chamonix to indulge his new passion for skiing and mountaineering! In 2007, he permanently settled in the valley.

The adventure began in 2016. Johnno, a self-taught enthusiast, enjoyed making skis for himself and a few friends. After COVID, he sent a pair of skis to the magazine «Montagne,» which subsequently published a highly favorable article featuring the «high score ski test»!



« In Japan, Under feudal law during the Edo period, samurais who lost their master could not seek new employment, and thus became wandering, masterless warriors.

Answering to none but themselves and forever becoming « *rōnins* ». The desire to explore the mountains and choose one's path come hell or high water is the spirit that embodies *rōnins*. An integral part of *Rōnins's* ski design and creative philosophy to this day connects a community of skiers who feel the same.



Customers can choose from 5 basic models, which can be customized to order.

Fixed rate : 1 350 €

In his atelier in Taconnaz, Johnno also offers workshops, to build your own skis !

<https://www.roninskis.com/build-your-own>

Tel: +33 6.16.21.91.38

All the skis are created in limited editions with performance-enhancing materials and minimal environmental impact. The skis are made of wood, with different types of wood used depending on the models: balsa and bamboo for touring skis (super light skis), poplar, beech, and bamboo for more «classic» skis.

AT « L'ATELIER DES POMPES » ARTISANAL SHOEMAKING IN LES HOUCHES

A native of the Chamonix Valley, Célia Lachamp opened an artisanal shoemaking workshop in the heart of her village Les Houches last December. After spending 16 years as a childcare assistant, she chose a complete career change by undergoing training as a multi-service cobbler on the other side of France.

At L'Atelier des Pompes, Célia adheres to her values, by practicing a profession in decline, working with old machines «that already have a soul» to give a second life to objects. She repairs shoes, makes belts and other leather goods, and duplicates keys.



This new multi-service offering is particularly appreciated by locals and visitors who no longer need to travel miles for key duplicates or mountain shoe resoling. An increasing number of clients entrust her with the repair of their climbing shoes: «I didn't have the opportunity to work on this type of footwear during my training, but I work by instinct and am thrilled with this new challenge.»

Open Tuesday to Friday from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM, and Saturday mornings.
595, Avenue des Alpes – 74310 LES HOUCHES

ONCE UPON A TIME... SPORTS STORES THROUGHOUT HISTORY

The iconic sports shop in Chamonix is celebrating its 90th anniversary.

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

It all began in 1918, with the meeting of a young woman from Chamonix and an American soldier on leave at the foot of Mont Blanc.

During World War I, Chamonix was one of the 33 rest areas that welcomed soldiers from Uncle Sam's army who came to fight alongside the French troops. Between December 1918 and April 1919, over 16,000 of them traveled by train to Chamonix. Many contingents were housed at the Majestic or the Grand Hôtel Savoy, a real boon for hoteliers during these challenging times.

The young Marthe Devouassoud spoke some English, and at a dance, she was charmed by the handsome Harold Snell. The soldier had to return to the United States, but he kept his promise. After a few years, once his professional and financial situation was established, he returned to Chamonix, where he married his beloved in 1927. A year later, Donald was born, who would remain an only child.

AUX ARMES DE SAVOIE

In 1928, thanks to the success of the first Winter Olympics, Chamonix's reputation continued to grow. With a population of 3,000, there were already 50 hotels and 3,000 beds, accommodating 50,000 to 60,000 tourists throughout the two seasons. In this context, Harold and Marthe opened «Aux Armes de Savoie,» an antiques shop on Rue Nationale, which quickly began offering gaiters, goggles, ice axes, hats, and carabiners to British climbers.

Harold had caught the mountaineering bug, and word spread among foreigners: «At Aux Armes de Savoie, you'll find all you need for walking and climbing!» The shop had become the essential place to meet the great names in the world of mountaineering.

BIRTH OF THE BRAND SNELL

The sale and rental of sports equipment were booming, and antiques are moved to the second floor of the shop. In 1934, «Les Armes de Savoie» relocates to the top of Rue Vallot (now «Icebreaker»), and Marthe and Harold hang the sign «Snell, Sports Equipment» at the store on Rue Paccard (formerly Rue Nationale).

From ice pegs to 12-point crampons, the shop offers all the latest innovations and becomes a hub for all the great mountaineers.



REVOLUTION AND BIG MOVE

1968 was a year of international upheaval, marked by the Grenoble Winter Olympics and the May Revolution in France... and in Chamonix, tourism was booming, thanks to the Mont Blanc Tunnel, which had opened 3 years earlier.

At Snell, Donald, who is fluent in both languages, now manages the store with his wife Yvette and mingles with the leading figures of Anglo-Saxon mountaineering: Doug Scott, Chris Bonnington...

Skiing has become more accessible, the Grands Montets ski area (opened in 1963) has gained an international reputation, and in summer, the Tour du Mont Blanc attracts more and more visitors. Donald decides to expand, and the store moves across the street.

SNELL'S FIELD

In the 1970s, Chamonix became the world capital of mountaineering and skiing. Snell moved into a new building on Rue Paccard, and the store even boasted the very first climbing wall!

In the United States, climbing communities spend entire months at the base of Yosemite.

Climbing has become a way of life, and in Chamonix, climbers gather at the Snell's field, a property of the Snell family where the Orthaz stone stands, turning it into the relaxed meeting spot for beatnik mountaineers!



SNELL SPORTS

A STORY GUIDED BY PASSION...

SINCE 1934

THE « JAPONIARDS »

It was also in the early 1970s that Japanese visitors, passionate about mountaineering, flocked to Chamonix in large numbers. Some would settle there permanently and become known as «Japoniards». Masalu and Torunagano, two climbers already working at Snell, were joined by Yasuo Kanda, who participated in a notable first winter ascent at the Grandes Jorasses in 1972.

“At that time, 70% of the revenue came from summer sales, and... there were so many Japanese that I spoke my language all day,” Yasuo recalls. Yasuo spent 30 years at Snell before retiring in 2014.

Hiroshi Tsuda continues to work at Snell with the same enthusiasm for 45 years : Hiroshi, 45 saisons chez Snell Sports !



BIG STORE, LONG STORY : THE PLACE TO BE

Olivier Snell and his wife Corinne took over the business in the 1990s, continuing the tradition of innovation and risk-taking established before them by Harold and Marthe, and then Donald and Yvette.

The store expanded significantly, but it has remained a family business. Three couples have succeeded each other, growing the business, and the family spirit has never faded... a family that now includes around forty employees with diverse accents.

OLIVIA AND THE 4TH SNELL GENERATION

Since 2020, it is now Olivia, the daughter of Olivier and Corinne, who manages this Chamonix institution, with a team at Snell that remains as motivated as ever. With the rise of trail running, new encounters and fresh clientele have invigorated the shop.

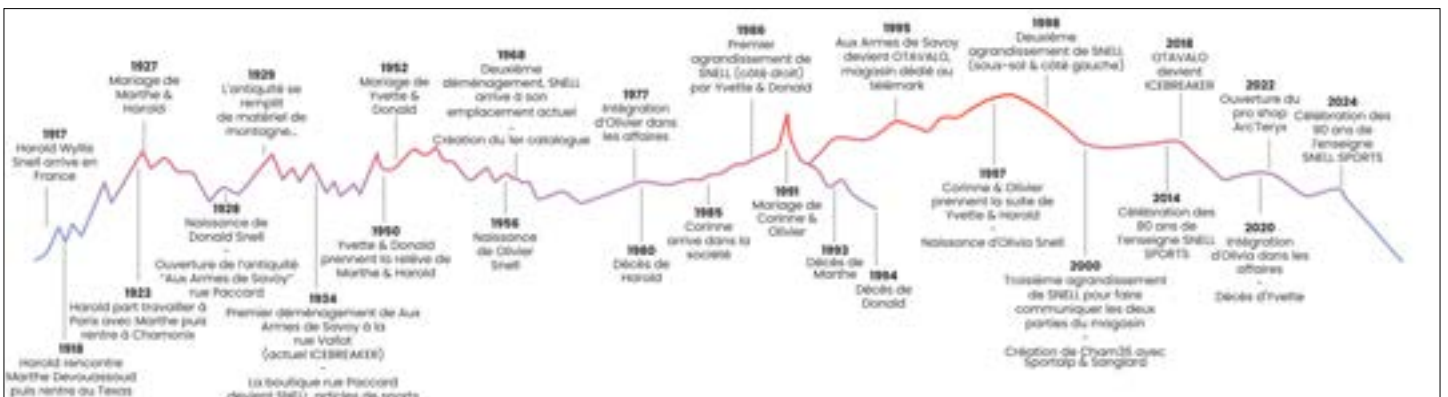
To learn more about the fascinating history of the Snell family : <https://snellsports.com/eng-about-us>

90 YEARS IS WORTH CELEBRATING !

To celebrate this anniversary, visitors can find interviews with iconic figures of the store and its long-time suppliers on the website <http://snellsports.com> or Instagram account.

A special range of products has been created for Snell's 90th anniversary, featuring a redesigned logo with retro and pop colors: caps, t-shirts, water bottles, and more.

Set against the backdrop of the Mont Blanc massif's skyline, a timeline also narrates the store's history.



SANGLARD SPORTS 100 YEARS OF SKIING IN CHAMONIX



Originally from the Swiss Jura, Fernand Sanglard and his wife Claire arrived in Chamonix in 1924, the year of the first Winter Olympic Games.

They soon established a sporting goods store located on Rue Paccard. The couple had three children. Jacqueline, the oldest, settled permanently in Canada.

Maurice became a multiple-time French alpine skiing champion and participated in the Oslo Olympics in 1952. Nicole became a ski instructor.

Nicole and her husband Jean-Claude Brun, both ski instructors, then took over the store, which had relocated under the arcades of Avenue Michel Croz.



In 1996, Dominique Chomarat took the reins of this Chamonix institution. The store moved in 2006 to its current location.

The brand is also present in Argentière with a second store located just above the cable car station of the Grands Montets.

Recently, Arthur, the son of Dominique, took over the management of the company. This symbolic passing of the torch to the 25-year-old young man is significant, as he is the same age his father was when he took over the store.



Partners with several major brands, it is a well-known address for locals who want to maintain their ski equipment. In addition to alpine skiing and snowboarding, the store offers rental of touring skis and snowshoes. It also features a bootfitting corner.

<https://uk.rentski.com/>



CHAM COLLECTIONS

DYNASTAR : A NEW SKI CHAMONIX MONT-BLANC

The Toursit Office of the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley and the ski equipment manufacturer Dynastar, united by shared values of commitment, authenticity, and a passion for the mountains, have collaborated on the creation of an eco-designed ski.

The «Chamonix Pro» ski will be launched for the 2024/25 winter season. This model embodies the pioneering spirit and innovation that define these two brands. Designed with particular attention to quality and environmental respect, this ski features the new Hybrid Core 2.0 technology, combining advanced technology and design inspired by the mountains of Chamonix.

The ski reflects a collaboration dedicated to providing an exceptional skiing experience, while showcasing the excellence of the Chamonix brand.



Ski Chamonix :

The M-Pro 90 is a ski that is dynamic, precise, and agile, with a moderate build. Accessible and lightweight, its grip is flawless and it will respond excellently to all situations.

TI ROCKET FRAME 2.0 REINFORCEMENT :

A masterful blend of the power generated by Titanal and a specially engineered geometry designed to lighten the ski. A high level of performance is guaranteed for M-Pro range series.

Designed for wide open spaces and different types of snow, the M-Pro 90 ski is your best friend for the winter!



Technologie Hybrid Core 2.0 :

The Hybrid Core 2.0 is the result of a modest yet determined approach to eco-design. It involves mechanizing the wood's folds in not just two but three directions—longitudinal, transverse, and vertical—thereby reducing the use of environmentally impactful fiberglass.

A first step towards eco-design while maintaining the same level of Dynastar skiability :

- Poplar wood featuring three different wood grain orientations
- Vertical for improved compression resistance.
- Longitudinal for a more dynamic flex response.
- Transversal for better torsional control.

CHAMONIX MONT-BLANC BY CELIO

For the third consecutive year, the brand Celio is partnering with Chamonix under an exclusive licensing agreement. This winter, the men's collection will feature pieces inspired by elegance, technicality, and alpine performance.

The major new addition this season is the launch of a collection entirely dedicated to women, offering contemporary, functional, and stylish outfits to take on winter in style!

The CHAMONIX MONT-BLANC women's collection will be distributed exclusively in the Celio / Camaïeu «bi-stores.»



CULTURE

CHAMONIX 1924: THE INVENTION OF THE OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES



Birthplace of the first Winter Olympic Games in 1924, Chamonix has been celebrating the 100th anniversary of this iconic event that greatly contributed to the resort's international reputation.

The Olympic spirit truly reigns in this valley, where sports have become a genuine tradition: since 1924, Chamonix has been represented by one or more athletes in each of the 21 editions of the Winter Olympic Games.»



To extend this Olympic centenary, visitors will be able to discover or rediscover until 15 March 2025 at the Maison de la Mémoire et du Patrimoine, the exhibition Chamonix 1924 : l'invention des Jeux Olympiques d'hiver, which offers an in-depth look at the organization and execution of the event.



A year of celebrations, culminating on the top on June 23, 2024, with the torch relay at the summit of the Aiguille du Midi!

Link to the video: [Relai de la Flamme Olympique / Aiguille du Midi - La Cordée Collective.](#)

THE CHAMONIX ALPINE MUSEUM WILL BECOMES THE MONT-BLANC MUSEUM

OPENING PLANNED FOR DECEMBER 2025

The Alpine Museum is currently undergoing a major renovation aimed at expanding its reserve and exhibition spaces, enhancing their appeal through updated scenography, and making the museum more accessible to a wider audience.

With an 1800m2 extension to the current site, it will offer 3 permanent exhibition spaces on 3 different themes: Adaptations (History of the region, from agropastoralism to tourism), Exploits (conquest of high mountain) and Landscapes (artists' views on the mountain). There will also be a temporary exhibition space.

This renovation project, costing an estimated 7.6 M€, is being carried out by the Communauté de Communes de la Vallée de Chamonix-Mont-Blanc, with substantial support from public and private partners.



PARTICIPATE TO THE RENOVATION OF THE ALPINE MUSEUM

To support the funding of its renovation, a fundraising campaign has been launched through the French Heritage Foundation <https://www.fondation-patrimoine.org/les-projets/musee-alpin>

100 YEARS AGO...

1925 - BLAISE CENDRARS AT THE PLAN DE L'AIGUILLE

The great French writer and poet of Swiss origin, Blaise Cendrars had the opportunity to spend the winter of 1925 at the Refuge du Plan de l'Aiguille.

It is said that while staying at the chalet, he rented, a certain Marie Couttet showed him the «three prunes of Jacques Balmat,» which he allegedly had in his possession since 1914.

According to this legend, Jacques Balmat, during the first ascent of Mont Blanc on 8 August 1786, buried three prune pits at the summit of the Roof of Europe to leave a trace of his achievement.

Over a century later, during the construction of Janssen Observatory, these pits were reportedly found. Edward Whymper, the conqueror of Matterhorn, claimed that only one pit was recovered on 18 August 1891.



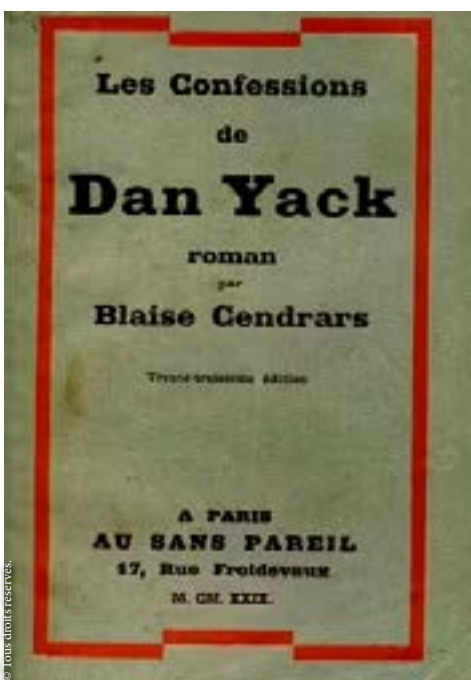
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These relics then passed from hand to hand, each time leading to the tragic death of their holder

François Couttet, who was killed in Sixt while hunting chamois; three Devouassoux family members who perished together on Mont Maudit; a Cachat who died in the mountains; a Tournier who died in the mountains; an François Ravel who disappeared into a crevasse, up to Marie Couttet who is said to have shown them to Blaise.

So what became of the three prunes of Jacques Balmat ?

More seriously, during his winter stay at the Refuge, Blaise Cendrars wrote the sequel to his novel «Le Plan de l'Aiguille» — published in 1917 and which, despite its title, never mentions the chalet or the eponymous mountain. However, in this second novel titled «Les Confessions de Dan Yack,» published in 1929, the writer recounts his comings and goings in the valley, describing the surrounding mountain and the observations he makes from his viewpoint. When he descends into the valley, he is called «the Englishman, the madman.»



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« It is said that I am going to kill myself. But I enjoy fighting with the elements: the storm, the night do not scare me, nor the hard climb, the winter, through the Tissours and the chalet of Trois.»



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ENVIRONMENT



THE CHAMONIX VALLEY: A LABORATORY FOR ENERGY AND ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION.

Aware that it is essential to preserve this environment, as exceptional as it is fragile, the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley is resolutely committed to the multiple challenges of ecological transition in many domains: mobility, habitat infrastructures, energy, waste disposal and circular economy...



SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DESTINATION

Visitors can find a specific tab on the Tourism Office's website that lists all the measures, environmental certifications, and concrete actions taken by the socio-professional stakeholders in the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley to promote sustainability.

<https://en.chamonix.com/la-vallee/destination-montagne-durable>

COMMITTED TO NATURE

The Chamonix Valley has 3 Nature Reserves, one Natura 2000 site, two classified sites and 90% of the lands is tributary to protective measures. There is a collective awareness of the need to respect our biodiversity and the preservation of ecosystems.

LA COMPAGNIE DU MONT-BLANC : A MISSION-DRIVEN COMPANY

The Compagnie du Mont-Blanc (CMB) stands as one of France's premier ski lift companies and it has become a mission-driven company.

This decision is the result of extensive dialogue with over a hundred stakeholders of the company who have contributed to the emergence of its purpose and the co-construction of its social and environmental objectives.

<https://www.compagniedumontblanc.fr/en/company/environment/>



LA COMPAGNIE DES GUIDES : STRONG COMMITMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Founded 1821, the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix is the oldest mountain guiding company in the world.

The effects of global warming and climate change have obliged the company to diversify its activities and to adapt its programme to the shifting seasons. Melting glaciers, limited snow cover, repeated rock falls, damage to the habitats of animal and plant species, are just some of the indications that have to be taken into consideration.



To reduce their direct emissions (operations & activities), they have implemented the following measures :

- Elimination of all trips outside Haute-Savoie, Savoie, Valais, and Val d'Aoste, and all day activities more than 60 km from Chamonix. When they are requested for activities outside these areas, they refer their clients to local guiding companies.
- Optimization of luggage transport during their trips and widespread use of public transportation
- Implementation of remote work for their employees, reduction of their minibus fleet, and remote work for their guides.

Consult the booklet : <https://www.chamonix-guides.com/sites/default/files/2023-05/Guides-et-Climat-compresse.pdf>

SHARING THE MOUNTAINS

In order to raise awareness among the numerous winter activity enthusiasts (such as ski touring, snowshoeing, freeriding), several stakeholders in the region have developed tools to encourage practitioners to balance enjoyment with the preservation of vulnerable wildlife, especially during the winter.



Initiated by the COMMUNITY OF COMMUNES OF THE CHAMONIX MONT BLANC VALLEY, ASTERS CEN 74, the MONT BLANC COMPANY, ARNAR, CREA, CHAMONJARDE, the GUIDES COMPANY, and WWF, this project initially targets mountain professionals (high mountain guides, mountain guides, ski instructors, etc.), who are the best advocates and ambassadors of the mountain.

Implemented through various media (maps, videos, etc.), this awareness campaign aims to promote eco-responsible practices that empower everyone to become stewards of wildlife preservation during the winter season.

Discover the educational video «*The Wild Side*» by clicking on the following link: [The Wild Side](#)

RIGHTS GESTURES TO ADOPT !

- Funnel principle: Avoid creating multiple tracks near the forest.
- Go around or keep a good distance from forest edges and snow-free areas.
- In the forest, stick to the main routes both uphill and downhill.
- Respect tranquility zones marked by ropes or specific signs.
- Hike without dogs or keep them on a leash.
- If you encounter an animal, stop to allow it to move away.
- On open snowy slopes, you have the freedom to choose your route.



FREE NATURE OUTINGS

WINTER IN THE MOUNTAINS: A FRAGILE LIFE

Organized as part of the activities within the natural reserves of the Aiguilles Rouges Massif and Natura 2000, free nature outings are offered this winter on Wednesday afternoons, focusing on the sensitivity of wildlife during the winter season.

Nature guides employed by the Community of Communes of the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley, lead a family-oriented audience (children aged 10 and above) in understanding signs of wildlife presence and provide valuable insights into how animals adapt to winter conditions. Additionally, they impart precious advice to help visitors act responsibly and minimize disturbance to winter wildlife: avoiding quiet zones, staying on designated paths, being discreet, assessing and reducing their impact, and more.



Throughout the winter, there will also be screenings, lectures, and discussions on various nature-related topics.

During school vacations and in coordination with ASTERS, one lecture and one outing are offered each week.

CONTACT : jolan.berard@ccvcmb.fr
07 63 78 62 84

USEFUL INFORMATION

82 339

Number of tourists beds



MUST-SEE EXCURSION SITES

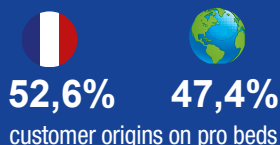
AIGUILLE DU MIDI
261 002 visitors

VALLÉE BLANCHE
35-45 000 skiers

TRAIN DU MONTENVERS
230 618 visitors

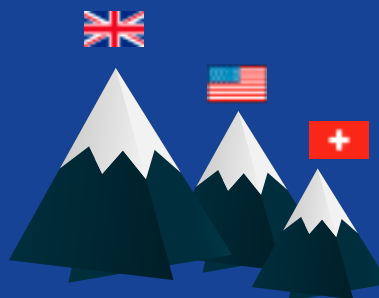
4 086 500

Number of tourist overnight stays



WINTER PODIUM

Great-Britain
United-States
Switzerland



THE CHAMONIX VALLEY BACKSTAGE... REPORTING IDEAS FOR THE MEDIA

Publié le
28/11/2023



Anticipating the future of the guiding profession

Publié le
18/10/2023



History
1924 : The first Winter Olympic Games

In addition to our press kit, don't hesitate to seek inspiration on our media blog. Articles cover tourist news, innovations, environmental initiatives, historical features, who's who and anything that we feel might be of interest to the press. Our aim is to convey the passion that animates Chamonix-dwellers and how a mountain journey, which spans the centuries, has shaped the valley and its inhabitants.

Chamonix is a multi-cultural melting pot, a hive of inspiration and a grain of « folie ». Mont Blanc is the object of dreams, whether it be to climb a peak, to ski a « couloir », to fly from a cliff top, or simply to contemplate its extraordinary beauty. What Chamonix people have in common is the desire to protect the heritage of this unique destination for future generations, and we hope that this ambition will transpire through the blog.

<https://en.chamonix.com/espace-pro-presse>

WHO ARE WE ?



WRITING HISTORY FOR OVER 250 YEARS

Birthplace of alpinism, the Chamonix Mont-Blanc Valley has been writing mountain history since the beginnings of tourism in 1741.

Through the identity of 5 villages (Servoz, Les Houches, Chamonix, Argentière et Vallorcine) (re)discover the multiple facets of this unique valley.



THE PILLARS OF THE IDENTITY CHAMONIX MONT-BLANC

Captivating nature
A place where nature is of an intensity beyond measure.

An extraordinary history
A never-ending story between mountains and people.

A vibrant capital
The epicenter of mountain culture.



OUR SOCIAL NETWORKS IN FIGURES

Facebook
225 215
Community (April 2023)
6,8 Millions
Page covers

Instagram
190 918
Community (April 2023)
2,2 Millions
Page covers



OUR SIGNATURE OPEN THE WAY

At the foot of Mont Blanc, 4810m, the highest peak of Western Europe, the Chamonix Mont-Blanc Valley is a temple of the mountain tourism.

In the face of such sacralized landscapes, we must be both humble and audacious. This birthplace of legends and exploits is worthy of absolute respect, whilst inspiring the pioneering spirit. Impelled to the heights by its needles and summits, bordered by rivers and glaciers, this exceptional environment calls for a high sense of responsibility.



INFLUENCERS KEY INFLUENCERS OF INTEREST TO US

Today, the reputation of the Chamonix Valley is far-reaching. In addition to inspirational content, we wish to relate the stories which have made, make and will make the identity of the Chamonix valley, via the following axes:

- Nature
- Sport
- Culture & heritage



NATURE

Discovery of local wildlife and flora, raising awareness to this fragile ecosystem that must be protected.

- Good practices to adopt in our mountain environment, living harmoniously and with minimal impact,
- Raising awareness to the effects of climate change,
- The Chamonix valley, sustainable mountain destination.

<https://en.chamonix.com/la-vallee/destination-montagne-durable>



SPORT

An amazing playground to be consumed with moderation.

Whatever one's approach and level of commitment, the Chamonix valley offers everyone an opportunity to live their personal adventure.



CULTURE & HERITAGE

Alpine, scientific, architectural, artistic, musical, literary, audiovisual...

The Chamonix Valley has also been a place that inspires. Much more than a ski resort, Chamonix is a mountain capital, full of authentic personalities who are the soul of this cosmopolitan place.



An influencer is a "person who, due to their popularity and expertise in a given field, is capable of influencing the consumer practices of Internet users through the ideas they disseminate" (source Larousse). For us, the influencer is also a content creator who combines creativity and analytical skills to relate their experience, with authenticity and objectivity, to a specific audience.

PRESS CONTACTS:

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[@chamonixmontblanc](https://www.instagram.com/chamonixmontblanc)



photo.chamonix.com



[Chamonix-Mont-Blanc](https://www.youtube.com/Chamonix-Mont-Blanc)



chamonix.com