



Chalet CHIC

When packing for a ski break, you can make a style statement with pieces that work well both on and off-piste, finds **Jenny King**

Arriving at a ski chalet with your suitcase splitting at the seams does no good for your slope cred – or the porter's back. Instead, pack light with essentials that will take you effortlessly, yet stylishly, from the mountain to the après bar.

DOUBLE DUTY

The first rule of ski style is layering. "Pack beautifully designed under-layers and you won't need to change your outfit between skiing and après," recommends Rebecca Thoirs from skistyle.net. Look for luxe staples like merino wool socks, a cosy neckwarmer, cashmere sweater, shearling

vest, thermal underwear and light leggings that can be worn under ski pants.

You also want to ensure your outerwear is as appropriate on the slopes as off them. "To save space, pack a ski jacket that wouldn't look out of place in the evening," says Thoirs. "Lacroix have some beautiful jackets that can be worn both day and night, and Moncler's new collection of ski fleeces would fit in at the chicest nightspots." You'll stay warm and dry while skiing but can easily adapt your look for a trip into town or a dinner party at the chalet.

TREND ALERT

Luckily, looking your best is no longer a choice between fashion and function with athleticwear designers looking to ready-to-wear runways from New York to Paris for inspiration. "This season, designers have figured out a way to incorporate treated fabrics and prints that look fashionable but are still technical, waterproof and breathable," reveals Fedaa Ghanem, Menswear Buyer for Bloomingdale's Dubai. "Plaids and horizontal stripes are big trends for jackets, paired with solid neon trousers and printed flannel shirts."

Skiwear has gone streamlined this season, so trade in your classic bulky jacket and baggy trousers for a more fitted silhouette. Narrow trousers and nipped-in waist jackets have taken over, thanks to Hermès – who recently launched a collection of technical skiwear in slim-fitting leather, inspired by the brand's long association with the sport – and prints and bold colours are big news, as seen at Mary Katrantzou for Moncler, adidas by Stella McCartney and Gwen Stefani's L.A.M.B skiwear for Burton.

RESORT STYLE

If all of this seems like it involves too much planning, there's good news: some of the best pieces can be found at your destination itself. "Resorts have the biggest and best selection of stylish skiwear and special collections that you wouldn't be able to find in a city," says Karin Kunz, General Manager of Mont Cervin Palace in Zermatt, Switzerland.

Lorenz Bach, owner of the eponymous fashion label and luxury ski boutique in Gstaad, agrees. "The worst mistake you can make is buying everything beforehand and arriving overpacked with things that may be unsuitable. Luxury resort boutiques seek out special pieces from top designers, so your look will be unique."

DOS AND DON'TS ON A SKI VACATION

DO BRING SLIPPER SOCKS

Ski boots are far too noisy in a chalet and will wake other skiers as well as mark up the nice wooden floors.

DON'T SKI ABOVE YOUR ABILITY

While it's OK to challenge yourself, it's not good to endanger yourself or others by losing control.

DO TIP

A big source of income for staff comes from tips, so leave cash in an envelope or ask for it to be added to your bill.

DON'T WASTE TIME AT THE SKI LIFT

Nothing irks fellow skiers more than a gondola going up half full, so join other groups or singles.

STYLISH OPENINGS

The hot new ski hotels on our radar

**W VERBIER**

The W Hotels' first ski property, which opened this month in Switzerland's high-octane resort town, sits next to the main Medran gondola for easy access to the mountain. For après-ski, head straight to Arola restaurant, where two-Michelin-starred chef Sergi Arola serves up Spanish cuisine with a modern Swiss twist, and the party set mingle over cocktails and tapas.

Double rooms from AED 1,800; 0041-27-472 8816, wverbier.com

**THE LANDING RESORT & SPA LAKE TAHOE**

Lake Tahoe's only five-star lakeside resort is now open in America's Sierra Nevada. The suites, each featuring a private deck with lake views, are set up as the perfect refuge after a cold day on the slopes, equipped with a cosy fireplace and heated floors in the marble bathrooms.

Double rooms from AED 475; 00855-700 5263; thelandingresortandspa.com

**L'APOGEE COURCHEVEL**

This new Alpine resort has panoramic views over the valley and village, and features a guests-only ski lift. Award-winning Iranian designer India Mahdavi created the sleek interiors while two-Michelin-starred chef Yannick Franques runs the kitchen. Catering to the jetset, a private air strip is just three minutes from the hotel.

Double rooms from AED 4,440; 0033-4-9293 3240, lapogeeecourchevel.com

UNIQUE PEAKS

These pistes less-travelled are perfect for powder junkies

**KASHMIR**

Enjoy untouched powder away from the crowds in the picturesque hill village of Gulmarg in the western Himalayas. Equipped with the world's highest gondola and benefitting from heavy snowfall, the slopes of Afarwat cater to both experts and beginners, and are attracting the ski cognoscenti.

LEBANON

Just an hour's drive from the buzzy capital Beirut, Lebanon's premier ski resort Mzaar is spread across the slopes of Ouyoun El-Simane in the village of Kfardeblian. Mount Lebanon has been attracting in-the-know skiers since the Fifties, but is now gaining popularity as the "Switzerland of the East".

MOROCCO

It may be known for its scorching deserts, bustling souks and colourful riads, but just 45 miles south of Marrakech is Africa's highest ski resort. Oukaïmeden in the High Atlas Mountains boasts picturesque valleys, exciting mountain treks and the choice of ski lift or donkey to reach the peak of Jebel Attar, some 10,825ft up.

DO LISTEN TO YOUR BODY

Skiing is a tough workout. If your energy is draining, take a break by the fireplace.

DON'T GO OFF-PISTE

Off-piste skiing can be dangerous and should never be attempted alone or without considerable experience.

DO FOLLOW SLOPE RULES

People ahead of you have the right of way, so when passing fast, give a wide berth to beginners.

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE UV

Wear plenty of sunscreen to protect against the sun's rays reflecting off the pristine white snow.

**Q&A****Chemmy Alcott**

The three-time British Winter Olympian (and finishing school graduate) shares her top ski etiquette tips

What are your top ski lift rules?

Firstly, chairlifts are made for chatting – use them to find out which pistes are in good condition, which restaurants people recommend and which cliffs are safe to drop off. Stepping on people's skis when queuing is a big no-no. People pay a lot of money for these and don't want them to get scratched. And unless you're under three and a cute toddler, you can't push in the lift line – wait your turn like everyone else.

How can someone up their ski cred?

The first lift-riders of the day are viewed with respect – especially those who were partying into the early hours. The perfectly groomed pistes don't last all day and quickly become cut up, warm and bumpy. So get up there nice and early, then when the rest of the resort descends, head back to the chalet for a siesta.

What style faux pas should we watch out for?

Clashing used to be a faux pas but it's back in fashion – the brighter the better. I love fluorescent pink mixed with orange, and bright zinc sun protection is cool again for cheeks, noses and lips.

The retro look is back. **CNT**