



### > Unmissable Events

Morzine's neighbour Avoriaz kicks off the winter season in style each year with the Ultimate Rock On music festival and equipment demonstration on 13 and 14 December. Live DJs and bands pack the streets of the resort, and here's an insider's tip for you – it always snows on opening weekend in Avoriaz, which should please the two-time Olympic snowboarding supremo and flying tomato Shaun White, who'll be in attendance with his band Bad Things for a performance on the 13th.

In recent years a night at the ice hockey has become an unmissable holiday experience. The Skoda Arena in the centre of Morzine is home to The Penguins, and they're one of the best teams in France playing in the premier 'Magnus' league. Comprised of top players from around the world, a night watching The Penguins is a fantastic opportunity to soak up some (often highly charged!) local atmosphere.

Our friends at Snow-Camp return to Morzine for a sixth time for their annual Alpine Challenge mountain endurance event between 12-15 March.

Raising important funds to change the lives of kids from underprivileged backgrounds, the Alpine Challenge has become much more than just a sponsored skiathon. The challenge



Thanks to Eurostar's new ski train route extension, it's never been easier to access the Portes du Soleil by train. The new service leaves London St Pancras and arrives in Geneva just over six hours later, shaving a staggering amount from your journey, and arguably a staggering amount of hassle too. Many of Morzine's excellent airport transfer companies will collect you from Geneva train station, delivering you in resort just over an hour later.

The local lift operating companies aren't shy of investment in Morzine and this season sees the arrival of two major lift developments. The Super Morzine area and the linking lifts towards Avoriaz have been upgraded to reduce journey times and solve bottleneck problems at the beginning and end of each day. Both the Seraussaix and Proclou chairlifts have been replaced, making your ascent to the area's highest peaks easier than ever.

The Burton Stash in the woods above Les Lindarets was the first 100% natural terrain park of its kind in Europe and during the intervening 7 years it's become home to some of the world's best freeriders and trick stompers, all of whom will be delighted to hear that The Stash is 20% bigger this winter and now includes a staggering 100 modules.

### **> Big Après**

Morzine has seen its après scene change beyond all recognition in the last 4 years, and you'll find yourself spoilt for choice on any given night of the week. Hotel Le Tremplin immediately opposite the new Pleney lift is where any après session should commence. Live DJs and bands can be heard from halfway down the homerun, especially on Wednesdays when Basscamp Sessions DJs take over from 4pm.

Those who like their après slightly calmer and more family friendly will enjoy the big terrace, table service and friendly chat at Hotel Le Cottage, just a few steps down from the Pleney base station.

Le Tibetan Café is also a Morzine après staple, especially on cold afternoons when standing outside hugging a rapidly cooling vin chaud doesn't seem so appealing. Le Tibetan is a cosy, snug charm of an après bar with a slightly more sophisticated style and some of the best mojitos you'll taste in the Alps.

Away from the more obvious après spots in the centre of the resort, you'll find locals favourite Chez Roger on Rue du Bourg. Roger himself being something of a local legend, you're more likely to find yourself in the company of Jean Pierre, the owner of the Pleney and far less likely to hear those generic après playlists.

The opening of Bec Jaune Brewery last winter brought a whole new twist to the resort's après offering. They brew their own real ales in their microbrewery and there's also bio wines and a delicious menu of homemade treats so tempting that they'll make missing your chalet dinner a real possibility.