

MONOCLE 25/25 VERBIER

Go to where the snow is. For the serious skier, and the serious partier, Verbier is known to all as a top destination for New Year. It attracts a mélange of eager red-faced British nationals and continental Europeans. Mingle with skiers in the know and sip on the hot, spiced wine.

01 Essentials

- 01 Come in a group – Verbier is better with a hoard of friends.
- 02 Forget booking a hotel and rent a chalet (unless you are staying fewer than five days). Try to get a ski-in and ski-out chalet; look out for places on La Rouge piste.
- 03 Verbier is a serious ski spot. Don't get it confused with its cousin, Gstaad, where people wearing designer ski suits usually can't find the cable car.
- 04 FYI: don't call them slopes, to locals they are pistes.
- 05 If your group varies in skiing ability, get a (good looking) private instructor for the piste. Don't slow others down; it ruins the fun.
- 06 Useless on a pair of skis? Don't fret, a full service spa, Richard Branson's The Lodge, is located at the bottom of the ski lifts.
- 07 Want a day off from the pistes? Book a taxi (or rent a car) and head to Gruyère, home of the eponymous cheese. It's only 45 minutes away. The castle is breathtaking, and the cheese is... well, it's worth the drive.
- 08 Verbier is a top New Year party place, so come the big day, get a bottle of champagne, reserve a table at a restaurant with a terrace over the square, wait till midnight and then spray those bubbles.
- 09 Remember that you are in Switzerland, all supermarkets close at 18.00 and you have to reserve that scrumptious roast chicken tantalising your taste buds in the boucherie window, one week in advance (first and last name please).
- 10 Eat, ski and be merry!

02 Hotels

Independent and easy

Hôtel Ermitage
18 Carrefour Central
+ 41 277 716 477
ermitage-verbier.ch

Le Chalet d'Adrien
Chemin des Creux
+ 41 277 716 200
chalet-adrien.com

Economical chalet rental
VerbierSkiChalet.com
verbierskichalet.com

Upscale (larger chalets)

DOMUS
Serge and Milko Picchio,
24 Route des Creux
+ 41 277 716 969
agencedomus.ch

Chalet Spa Verbier
Near Savolyer ski lift
chaletspa.com

03 Dining

Fast breakfast

Offshore café
+ 41 277 715 444
offshorecafe.com

Leisurely breakfast
Buvette de la Chaux
+ 41 277 781 535

Breakfast on the mountain
Cabane Mont Fort
+ 41 277 781 384
cabanemontfort.ch

Lunch on your own
Milk Bar
+ 41 277 716 777

Après ski
The Lounge Bar, Hotel Farinet
+ 41 277 716 626
hotelfarinnet.com

Dinner with friends
Al Capone
+ 41 277 716 774

Dining alone
Fer à Cheval
Rue de Médran
+ 41 277 712 669
feracheval.ch

Most exhilarating dinner
Café Restaurant le Namaste
Les Planards
+ 41 277 715 773
namaste-verbier.ch

Drink after dinner
Kings Bar
Downstairs at Kings Parc Hotel
+ 41 277 752 010
kingsverbier.ch/kingsbar

Late bite
Boulangerie Michellod (back window)
La Mareinda, rue de Médran
+ 277 753 075
boulangerie-michellod.com

On the tiles
Le Farm-Club
+ 41 277 754000
kingsverbier.ch/farmclub

04 Reading

News

Get your daily newspaper at the newsagent next to Co-op in Place Central.

05 Basics

Pharmacie Internationale
+ 41 277 716 622
pharmacie-internationale.ch

06 Shopping

Something you can't get anywhere else

Cheese, charcuterie and wine from La Chaumière
2 Rue de Médran
+ 41 277 712 530

Lost luggage – where to buy shirts, socks and underwear
Migros
+ 41 277 713 634

Something for the kids

The Rock Shop
+ 41 277 711 603

Something for someone you love

Chic vintage clothes and knick-knacks from Butterfly
+ 41 277 717 104

Something for yourself

A massage at Le Chalet d'Adrien
Chemin des Creux
+ 41 277 716 200
chalet-adrien.com

07 Two-hour tour

01 Fondation Pierre Gianadda
59 Rue du Forum, 1920 Martigny.
+ 41 277 223 978; gianadda.ch

02 L'Hameau village
The Espace L'Alpin museum looks at three centuries of Alpine Life.
lehameau.ch

03 Mont Fort
Take the gondola up to this peak, 3,300m above Verbier. You don't have to ski to go, and you will never forget the panoramic views.

08 Limousine/car

May Taxi
+ 41 800 771 771; maytaxi.ch

09 Transport

Take the train from the airport to Martigny from the airport terminal. From there take a taxi up to Verbier. Or you can take the San Bernard tram to La Chable and take the gondola up to Médran. In Verbier buses are free and run all day until sunset. Rent a quad, or snowmobile if you are lazy or just walk. Finding your way back to your chalet in the snow and ice at 03.00 is part of the Verbier experience.

10 Fitness

Cross-country skiing
Check the ski schools for information.
adrenaline-verbier.ch

Alternative diversion

Le Chalet d'Adrien has a great swimming pool. Or the Centre Sportif on Rue de la Piscine.
+ 41 27 771 6601; verbier-sport.ch

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