

SKI AND BE SEEN

During the last three seasons, high net worth skiers preferred to rent their chalets. They are now returning to the market as buyers, reports Savills, who anticipates alpine resorts will, as in 2012-2013, see similar average growth of around 5 per cent in 2013-2014. Claire Pilton reports



The world alpine capital of hot-air ballooning, **CHATEAU D'OEX** is located 90 minutes from Geneva airport. The Vaud ski region offers seven ski lifts and 40km of pistes; it has recently become part of the new SuperPass ski pass that comprises 420km of slopes throughout the valley of Gstaad. Here snow-shoe treks and toboggan runs are teamed with year-round hiking, mountain biking, paragliding and tennis, not forgetting a choice of restaurants, cafés, bars, boutiques and markets. Constructed six years ago, Chalet Cala Sona, *above left* offers 246sq m of five-bedroom family accommodation; an elegant open-plan living space incorporates a dining area, formal seating area, open fire and TV corner – all with panoramic views and balcony access. Savills Alpine Homes (020 7016 3740) is seeking CHF4.5 million. If that's beyond your budget, a 135sq m two-bedroom apartment, *pictured above right inset*, with a south-facing balcony and lovely alpine views is for sale in Château d'Oex through Sine Tempore (+41 (0)33 744 9669) for CHF1.5 million.



Ideally located to offer easy ski-in, ski-out access, Chalet Aka in **VERBIER** nestles into the mountain a quarter of the way down 'Le Rouge' with the popular Le Carrefour restaurant just above. Designed with cosy family living in mind, there are four bedroom suites on the ground floor, a reception room, dining room and kitchen on the first, and a master suite with a study/sitting room on the top. Each floor opens onto a terrace with stunning views over the valley. Complete with self-contained staff quarters to the rear and three underground parking spaces, Aylesford (020 7351 2383) is asking CHF14.9 million.



Close to the heart of **VAL D'ISERE** in the Espace Killy ski area, Erna Low (020 7590 1624) is instructed on one of only two classic freehold new-build developments in this popular resort. With six of the eight properties at Chalet Alaska sold off plan, prices now range from €2.5 million for a 120sq m four-bedroom chalet to €12 million for the scheme's largest seven-bedroom two-storey chalet.



Described by the French as one of their *monuments historiques*, the ancient village of **SAMOENS** forms part of the Grand Massif ski domain. Above the traffic-free village with its gourmet shops, local market, Savoyard interior-design shops and famous botanical garden, Chesterton Humberts (020 3040 8210) is selling a historic south-facing château with a tower. The owners are seeking €2.7 million for the eight-bedroom accommodation, completely refurbished between 2006 and 2008.

As one of the most prestigious ski resorts in the Alps, **COURCHEVEL** continues to attract senior buyers from France and the Eurozone, the UK, Russia and the CIS. Enjoying ski-in, ski-out access onto the Cospillot piste at Courcheval 1850, a magnificent modern chalet is for sale through Knight Frank (020 7629 8171) for €25.5 million. It has six bedrooms and bathrooms, two grand salons, a library and dining room, a fabulous swimming pool, steam room, a large balcony and predictably wonderful mountain views.



This traditional Savoyard chalet in the heart of **MERIBEL** is located 'ludicrously close to the home piste' and all the amenities of the town centre. The Chaudanne, Meribel's ski epicentre, is just a swift slalom down the hill, and affords access to Les Trois Vallées – the largest ski area in the world linked solely by ski runs and lifts. Available through Hamptons International (020 7265 6595) for €4.8 million, the chalet has six bedroom suites and has been stylishly refurbished while retaining its original Savoyard charm. The large open-plan living and dining room has an open fireplace and doors to a terrace with an outdoor hot tub and mountainous views.

'Suvretta is **ST MORITZ**'s alpine answer to Mustique.' So says Joachim Wrang-Widen of Christie's International Real Estate, whose Swiss affiliate Wetag Consulting (+ 41 (0) 91 751 3106) is marketing 'priceless alpine sophistication' by way of a five-bedroom chalet in this most exclusive ski resort and summer retreat. Chesa

Cherina affords uninterrupted views across to the Swiss Alps, and an interior that lavishly interprets the traditional Engadine style. The accommodation includes a health spa and swimming pool as well as a detached one-bedroom staff house that can also be accessed via the chalet's custom-made wine cellar.



For those who would follow in the snow-prints of Rupert Murdoch, the media mogul's former home on Eppley Drive in **ASPEN**, Colorado, flutters an \$8.5 million price tag through Sotheby's International Realty Aspen (+1970 429 6046). Built in 1979 and remodelled in 2007, it has a tennis court and indoor pool, five bedroom suites, staff quarters and the most fabulous living room with reclaimed beams, a massive stone fireplace and breathtaking views. The sale includes designer furniture, linens, a fully equipped kitchen and artwork... just bring your toothbrush and dazzle the ski-pants off your mates!