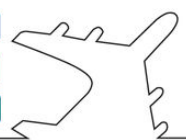


ESCAPE



TRAVEL // CULTURE // ADVENTURE

TRAVEL
SECTION OF THE
YEAR



MORE COUR!

Tamara Hinson on the rich beauty of Courchevel

Page 18 »

FIVE MORE SUSTAINABLE SKI RESORTS



1 GEILO Norway

Geilo resort has held the title of Sustainable Travel Destination since 2016. It's hydro-electric powered and accessible by one of Europe's lowest-CO₂-emitting railway lines. geilo.com/en



2 JACKSON HOLE US

Many resort buildings are upgraded with energy-efficient heating systems. Hotel Terra (hotelterrajacksonhole.com) was built using recycled materials. jacksonhole.com



3 ZERMATT Switzerland

This Valais village has been at the forefront of ecological advances since the 1970s, when it voted to ban cars. In 2019, it resurfaced a road using recycled plastic. zermatt.ch



4 LES ARCS France

Has run its ski lifts on renewable energy since 2011. It provides electric vehicles for staff and uses photovoltaic panels to convert the sun's energy. en.lesarcs.com



5 SKIWELT Austria

One of Austria's largest linked ski areas, it opened the world's first solar-powered lift, the Sonnenlift, in 2008 and uses renewable energy to heat facilities. skiwelt.at



Where eagles dare

STUART KENNY
VISITS MORZINE,
A SKI RESORT
COMMITTED TO
SUSTAINABILITY,
WITH THE HELP
OF A FEW WINGED
PREDATORS....

THERE'S a white-tailed eagle perched on the edge of my chairlift. I've shared a ride up the mountain with quite a variety of unusual characters over the years, but a bird of prey is a first. I'm in Morzine, a ski resort in France which recently received the Flocon Vert, an award for sustainable mountain tourism. This gawking eagle is one of the reasons why. Sitting between me and the eagle is Jacques-Olivier Travers, a conservationist who is as charismatic (and just as French) as his name suggests. 'This is Fletcher,' he says. 'I got him when he was four years old, and taught him how to fly in the mountains. He was born in captivity in Germany but now

Continued on Page 16 »



Slope style: Freeskiing in the French Alps

CHRISTIAN PFÄHL

ESCAPE

TRAVEL // CULTURE // ADVENTURE



Award-winning: Morzine received the Flocon Vert for its approach to mountain tourism



METRO TRAVEL PRESENTS... THE GETAWAY

WIN

A SEXY SIX-DAY CRUISE ROUND THE CARIBBEAN!

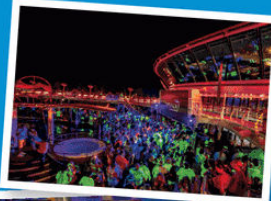
Sometimes life needs a little bit of spicing up – which is why we're offering you a fabulous five-night party cruise around the Caribbean, departing on February 11 2023... just in time for Valentine's Day.

Starting in uber-cool Miami, where the nights are as hot as the weather forecast, your Temptation getaway stops off in quaint, buzzy George Town in the Cayman Islands – where glass bottoms are the order of the day, either on a boat or rum distillery tour! – and Florida's Key West. Here, gorgeous coral reefs are just begging you to dive in.

In between, your two days at sea will up the heat, so you may as well pack light – your Celebrity Edge ship features topless and clothing-optional zones, Naughty By Nature pool parties and a couples-only R-Rated Red Room to get your Fifty Shades on. Perfect for singletons, lovers and everyone in between.

Oh, and talking of rooms – yours will be a Oceanview Stateroom offering full board, room service and the Classic Beverage Package to get the party started. So quit your blushing and get on board. What are you waiting for?

To be in with a chance of winning, sign up to Metro's brilliant travel newsletter, The Getaway, and register your details at metro.co.uk/getawaycomp. Entrants must be aged 21 and over.



TEMPTATION
CARIBBEAN CRUISE

Cruise departs Miami at 4pm Feb 11 and returns to Miami at 7am Feb 16. Flights and transfers not included. Full T&Cs apply. Visit metro.co.uk/getawayterms for more details. For more information about Temptation cruises, visit uniqueadultescapes.co.uk or call 0344 9840 838.

Reach the summ

» Continued from Page 15

he's the ambassador for our programme. We will reintroduce this species of eagle into the wild in France this year – after an absence of 130 years.'

We disembark the Raverettes lift and Travers whispers to the eagle in French, prompting him to soar off down the piste ahead of us, occasionally peeking back to check that we're following. Before long, we're back at Les Aigles du Léman, the restaurant where we started (lesaiglesduleman.com/en/winter). Nestled on the mountain at 1,500m, it's a busy hub of hungry skiers. Once a day, about noon, a lucky skier in the restaurant can race a falcon down the Raverettes slope, which leads back to the restaurant. If the skier can beat the bird down, they win a free falconry experience. 'The falcon usually wins,' says Travers, 'but sometimes it gets distracted. The race shows people how fast these birds are.' You can also book a snowshoeing excursion with a bird of prey, or an outing on the pistes, like we've just done. It all aids the reintroduction programme.

'The idea is not just to see eagles, but to breed and reintroduce them,' says Sara Burdon, who works for the Morzine tourist office, as she

guides us over to the Les Gets resort via wide, sun-soaked pistes. 'A lot of it's just for fun and entertainment, but it's hugely linked to conservation efforts.'

Entertainment and environment seem to go hand in hand in Morzine – a point I contemplate as I sit in the hot tub outside my chalet, run on renewable energy, and sip on a locally brewed beer.

I'm staying in Ferme à Jules, a beautiful converted farmhouse built in 1808. The place is run by AliKats, a carbon neutral luxury holiday operator. It provides breakfast and dinner each night, and any food waste from the meals is composted,



Winging it: Stuart with Jacques-Olivier Travers and Fletcher

TRAVEL // CULTURE // ADVENTURE **ESCAPE**



Carbon neutral:
Ferme à Jules is a
converted farmhouse



GETTING THERE
Flights from London to Geneva from £26.99 one way, easyjet.com; transfers via skiidvgonzales.com

Valley adventure:
Stuart Kenny surveys the scene at Morzine

mit of sustainability

turned into mulch and then used locally to help grow more food, which is then served back to guests.

'We're particularly sensitive to climate change in the Alps,' says Al, one half of AliKats. 'So making sure that we operate sustainably is essential.' They drive guests to the lifts in electric vehicles and even offer a discount on your lift pass if you've travelled in by train. There hasn't been a new dump of snow for a while when we arrive in Morzine but there is still plenty of snow, and blue skies. The area is renowned for that. It's part of the immense Portes du Soleil ('Doors of the Sun') ski area, which, along with 11 other resorts, offers 650km/400 miles of pistes.

Morzine is a rare ski resort that also thrives in summer, thanks to excellent cycling and hiking trails. That means there's a strong year-round community, crucial in the development of local green infrastructure. One particularly pleasant example is the town centre of Morzine, which was recently pedestrianised.

'You've got this lovely area now where families can sit out without cars circulating,' says Burdon. 'And a lot of other things were happening anyway. The idea of using local produce is in their blood here. They wouldn't do anything else.'

An overdue powder drop comes on our final day before departure and we wake to

Nothing wasted:
Leftover meals are composted at Ferme à Jules



'Using local produce is in their blood here. They wouldn't do anything else'

the sight of a million snowflakes falling over our chalet and the valley beyond. The visibility isn't particularly good, so it's not a day for skiing – though a tasty powder day awaits those who will be back on the mountain tomorrow.

For me? Well, a final day in the hot tub and sauna will just have to do.

One week at Ferme à Jules from £797pp (based on two sharing), including breakfast and most meals and bus runs to the lifts/centre of Morzine between 8am and 10pm, alikats.eu



Get excited about...
£100 off all hotel packages
when you book before 30th November



sardinianplaces.co.uk



Call us on 01489 866959 to receive £100 off per booking on all hotel package holidays booked by 30th November 2022 with voucher code **100OFF**.