

# Guide to Late Season Skiing

## THE VIRTUES OF SPRING SKIING

March and April is a fantastic time of year to go skiing. The weather is generally better, the sun is stronger, the air is warmer and at higher altitude you have a whole season worth of snow as a base to ski on. The days are longer too, so you have more time to ski and enjoy the fresh mountain air.

The resorts are quieter, which means you have more space on the piste and less time spent waiting in lift queues. It also means that there are many great accommodation deals to be had as resorts look to sell their empty beds at low prices.



Fresh spring snowfall in Val d'Isere

Spring is also a great time of year if you wish to supplement your skiing with other outdoor activities such as climbing, walking or snow shoeing, or just meeting friends on the mountain for lunch.

The warmer weather can mean that the quality of snow isn't quite as good as in mid-winter, but despite preconceptions, big snowfalls are quite common in April, and you often have a deeper snow base from a full winter's worth of snowfall.

Off-piste skiing in spring is also something special. As the snow thaws out slightly during the day, and then re-freezes at night, when the sun hits it the following days it forms a smooth sugary texture and is a real joy to ski on.

The snow conditions will change throughout the day as the sun moves, so make sure you take a guide not only for safety, but also to take you the best spots at the right time of day.



Fantastic panoramic views from a mountain restaurant in Argentiere

## FINDING THE RIGHT RESORT

Snow is the main consideration when booking a late season ski holiday – so you have to know where to find it! Look for the resorts that are at high altitude (aim for resorts where most of the skiing is over 2000 metres), preferably north facing or have glaciers and therefore guaranteed snow.

Also, keep a regular eye on snow reports and book last minute. Have a look for areas that have the best snow coverage. To maximise your chances of getting some late season powder, keep an eye on the snow forecast to see which resorts are expected to get fresh snow. There are a number of good websites to check the latest weather – here are a few we would recommend:

- [PowderBeds Forecasts](#)
- [Snow Forecasts](#)
- [Ski Club Forecasts](#)
- [My Weather 2 Forecasts](#)



## OUR TOP SIX SPRING RESORTS

The old favourites.....

Try to time your trip with a snow fall wherever possible

### 1 - Tignes

The main villages of Tignes lie at 2100m and the ski area stretches up to the snow sure height 3,400m where conditions can remain very good, particularly on the Grande Motte glacier. Most of the ski area is open well into spring, and it's common to have good snow on the runs back down into town, especially on the shaded 'Lanches' runs coming down from the glacier, saving you from having to jump into the Gondola to get back home, a common requirement elsewhere during late season.

For more information on Tignes

[Click Here>>](#)

To see our range of accommodation in Tignes

[Click Here>>](#)



The view down to Val Claret in Tignes from the

### 2 - Val D'Iserre

Val D'Iserre is one of France's highest ski resorts (1800m-3400m) and offers many North facing slopes, making for good end of season snow conditions. The runs at Le Fornet are also generally North facing and also home to the lovely Pissailas glacier where the skiing is great in Spring. Lifts also remain open well into May. For those looking to do something other than ski all day, there is a wonderful walk which is at its best in Spring, from Le Fornet up to Pont St Charles

For more information on Val d'Iserre

[Click Here>>](#)

To see our range of accommodation in Val

d'Iserre [Click Here>>](#)



The petite town of La Fornet above Val d'Iserre

### 3 - Les Deux Alpes

(1600m-3600m) Depending on the snow cover you may not be able to ski back to the resort but Les Deux Alpes is home to Glacier de Mantel, one of Europe's largest glaciers for skiing so conditions up top can be excellent in Spring. With over 300 days of skiing a year Les Deux Alpes is also one of the sunniest resorts in the Alps so ideal for those looking for a bit of spring sunshine!

For more information on Les Deux Alpes [Click Here>>](#)

To see our range of accommodation in Les Deux Alpes [Click Here>>](#)

### 4 - Les Arcs

Linked to La Plagne under the Paradiski pass, there are numerous bases at 1600m, 1800, 2000m and the excellent 'Le Village' at 1950m. The ski area stretches up to 3,200m so a good proportion of it is over 2000m, providing good high altitude Spring skiing conditions.

For more information on Les Arcs [Click Here>>](#)

To see our range of accommodation in Les Arcs [Click Here>>](#)



A panoramic view of Mont Blanc

And something a bit different....

### 5 - Argentiere

Argentiere is a small town near Chamonix located 1000m above sea level with the valley peaks stretching up to 3800meters. Argentiere is lovely and warm in the spring, and provides access to the same skiing as Chamonix. You can also find cheaper accommodation deals there, as well as benefit from a more traditional, rustic atmosphere. We'd also recommend a day ski trip to Vallorcine from Argentiere which is quiet and sunny in spring. Vallorcine can be reached by skiing from Le Tour, the ski area which starts just outside Argentiere. It's a little lower in altitude but the runs are great and it's fantastic if you're looking for a change of scene.



Fantastic spring powder down from the Glacier in Argentiere

For more information on Argentiere [Click Here>>](#)

To see our range of accommodation in Argentiere [Click Here>>](#)



## Les Menuires

Set in the same valley as it's better-known neighbour, Val Thorens, Les Menuires is another high, snow-sure resort attached to an enormous ski area (the world's biggest, actually).

The town purpose-built resort is at the respectable height of 1850m, and has easy lift-links to Val Thorens where the lifts stretch up to 3,400m. The mainly ski-in / ski-out resort also offers better value accommodation than it's more famous neighbour, and has arguably better links to Meribel too.

For more information on Les Menuires [Click Here](#)>>

To see our range of accommodation in Les Menuires [Click Here](#)>>



Spring skiing holidays are ideal for relaxing and kicking back in the sun!

## Isola

Why not combine a ski break with some Mediterranean sunshine? Only 90 minutes from Nice airport, Isola stands at a respectable 1800m and has lifts stretching up to 2600m, so it offers good Spring skiing conditions. It gets good snowfall too, with an annual average of over 4 metres falling over the season. The highest runs can be found on Cime de Sistrun, which has a good mix of blue, red and black runs. Pack your swimming trunks and a pair of skis.

For more information on Isola 2000 [Click Here](#)>>

To see our range of accommodation in Isola [Click Here](#)>>

## SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

### Winter Sessions Festival

Come and join the fun at the Winter Sessions Festival in Chamonix at the end of April. Winter Sessions is a music and snow sports festival set in one of the most idyllic locations at the foot of Mont Blanc.



The event seamlessly combines freestyle ski and snowboard competitions, stand-up comedy, movies screenings, street art installations, concerts with live music and clubbing events with DJs.

<http://wintersessions.net/>

### Derby de la Meije

Taking place between the 31<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April, the Derby de la Meije is one of Europe's biggest off-piste races that runs all the way down to La Grave, an off-piste mecca accessible from LesDeuxAlpes. Most importantly the event finishes off with a big party!



Racers at the start of the Derby de la Meije

### Ski touring

Spring is arguably the best time of year for ski touring. Longer days, sunnier climbs, and nice spring snow all make for touring paradise. Being the off-piste mecca it is, Chamonix is a hot spot for ski touring but remember you'll need to hire a guide!



Ski touring is often at its best at late season

### Soak in the sun at La Folie Douce

The Apres Ski Bar 'La Folie Douce' in Val d'Iserre (<http://www.lafoliedouce.com/>) is at its best in Spring. The large out-door terrace complete with resident DJs, live music and plenty of dancing catches all of the afternoon Spring sunshine.



The après ski fun begins at the Folie Douce on the outdoor terrace by the ski slopes of Val!

### Royal Wedding? Na.. just get on the slopes

With Good Friday and the Royal Wedding conveniently cosying up together, we have the advantage of two bank holidays in one go this year. So you can take an 11-day ski break for just three days off work. How good is that! With a full 11 days on the slopes why not take a 2 centre break between Val d'Iserre and Chamonix?

#### Royal Wedding – trip details:

Arrive 22/4 at [Les Chalets de Soliase](#) for 5 nights (£154pp based on 4 people sharing a studio apt)

Then check into [La Riviere](#) on 27/4 for another 5 nights (£46pp based on 4 people sharing a studio apartment)

You could fly into Lyon and then out of Geneva, or go return from Geneva.

## 'TOP TEN' SPRING DEALS FOR 2011'

**Tignes** (Arriving on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April for 7 nights)

[L'Ecrin des Neiges>>](#)

From **£29pppn** - based on 6 people sharing a 2 bedroom apartment



**Val d'Isere** (Arriving on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April for 7 nights)

[Residence Les Balcons de Bellvarde>>](#)

From **£20pppn** - based on 4 people sharing a Studio apartment



**Les 2 Alpes** (Arriving on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April for 7 nights)

[Residence Le Surf des Neiges>>](#)

From **£11pppn** - based on 4 people sharing a Studio apartment



**Les 2 Alpes** (Arriving on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April for 7 nights)

[Residence Le Flocon d'Or>>](#)

From **£12pppn** - based on 8 people sharing a 3 bedroom apartment



**Les Arcs** (Arriving on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April for 7 nights)

[Residence Le Roc Belle Face>>](#)

From **£12pppn** - based on 8 people sharing a 3 bedroom apartment



**Argentiere** (Arriving on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March for 7 nights)

[Le Cristal d'Argentiere>>](#)

From **£16pppn** - based on 4 people sharing a 1 bedroom apartment



**Isola** (Arriving on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March for 7 nights)

[Les Terrasses d'Azur>>](#)

From **£11pppn** - based on 6 people sharing a 1 bedroom apartment



**Isola** (Arriving on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March for 7 nights)

[Les Chalets d'Isola>>](#)

From **£12pppn** - based on 8 people sharing a 1 bedroom apartment



**Tignes** (Arriving on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April for 7 nights)

[Le Hameau du Borsat>>](#)

From **£17pppn** - based on 4 people sharing a 1 studio apartment



**Les Menuires** (From the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> of April, short stays possible)

[Chalet Hotel Kaya>>](#)

**Get 1 free night!** When you stay for 6 nights or more. Offer also applies to mid-week stays of 4 nights or more.

Prices from **£60pppn**

Based on 2 people sharing a standard room, B&B.

