

Home sweet ski chalet

Bespoke ski holidays are luxuriously cosy with Scott Dunn

Scott Dunn is a luxury tour operator who organises amazing, tailor-made holidays to world-wide destinations.

Founded in 1986 as a ski leisure company, today skiing accounts for 25 per cent of their business, with 23 luxury ski chalets on its books. Located across four of the best alpine resorts, eight chalets have indoor swimming pools and four have rooftop hot tubs.

Enter a world of ski

Relaxing in the comfort of your cocoon-chalet, enjoy the culinary talents of an experienced chef who prepares breakfast, lunch and multi-course dinner accompanied by fine wines and served by attentive staff.

In addition to mouth-watering gourmet meals, the best vintages, impeccable service, and expert childcare, Scott Dunn pays attention to the smallest details and provides the little extras that maximise your enjoyment. It's no wonder they pride themselves on organising the best skiing holidays available, something guaranteed by their 24 years experience.

About the chalets

The company's portfolio of beautiful chalets are located

in some of the world's most exclusive resorts in France, Switzerland and Austria, including Courchevel 1850, Zermatt and St Anton.

Divided into three categories - Original, Premier, and Flagship - all offer an exceptional standard of service along with the following luxuries and essentials:



Chalet Mathilda in Val d'Isère sleeps 10

canapes before dinner served with Laurent-Perrier Champagne, a selection of REN toiletries, hairdryers, tea in bed, daily newspapers and a driver service. As the Scott Dunn mantra says: "Nothing is too much trouble."

Val d'Isère, France

Chalet Mathilda is a deluxe 'Premier' chalet on the Les Fermes de Val d'Isère estate.

Chalet Mathilda in the Scott Dunn portfolio is the sister of three other chalets, Marie,

Alice and Pauline, all four designed and built by the same architect as one of the company's flagship chalets Eagle's Nest.

Chalet Mathilda includes not only an indoor swimming pool (4.4 x 6m) with jet stream but also a Hammam to revive aching muscles après-ski. The five bedrooms are en suite.

Stunning features, such as wooden beams and panels and wood furniture infuse the chalet with a true mountain feel. An authentic stone fireplace compliments the open plan living room and dining area. A large sun terrace adds to this impressive living

space. Located less than ten minutes from the Bellevarde Express and five minutes from the town centre, chalet Mathilda is in an ideal spot to access the slopes. It is perfect for families or adult groups, with broadband, live out chef and chalet hosts and a nanny also available on request.

www.scottdunn.com/ski
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Holidays: +44 (0) 2086825065
Scott Dunn Ambassador in France: +33 (0) 678721552

The end of skiing?

Resorts start to wise up to the real cost of global warming

continued from front page

It is, Shepherd says, not conclusive but still might suggest that if temperatures continue to rise our skiing days could be over.

With livelihoods at stake, the ski industry is starting to take the environment very seriously. Rather than contributing to a problem that has a direct and detrimental effect on business, many resorts are developing sustainable systems and promoting more eco-friendly winter tourism.

"Our objective now is to develop the resort in a green way," says Pascal Lequenne, in charge of promotion in Isola 2000 and Auron. Even though a resort like Isola will always have snow, it has been making, over the past few years, a concerted effort to reduce its carbon footprint. "It wasn't something we thought about even five years ago," Lequenne continues, "and it takes time to change people's mentality as well as the mechanical structures."

Shepherd agrees: "A lot of resorts want to become more sustainable but don't know where to start, that's why the Mountain Riders guide is important, it advises and encourages them into taking

action." The French non-profit organisation has been, since 2000, raising awareness about environmental issues in the mountains.

In 2007 they conducted the first carbon footprint analysis of ski resorts and discovered that the main contributor was not ski lifts or artificial snow machines but the transport taken to get to the resort. This accounted for 74 per cent of GHG emissions. The next big contributor was energy used for heating buildings.

Transport then is a relatively easy thing to act on that makes a big difference. In Isola there is significant movement in the right direction with the introduction of cheap public transport in, to and from the resort. The one-euro bus from Nice is particularly important for Isola where 70 per cent of customers come just for the day.

The resort has also made other important changes, erecting solar panels and recycling bins, for example. The responsible disposal of waste is, of course, a major environmental issue and every spring, Mountain Riders organises a huge clean up, enlisting local children to pick up litter. Isola is one of the resorts partner-

ing the project with young students from Nice coming up every May to lend their hands. Last year 30 tons of rubbish were collected in total; under each ski lift an average of 30,000 cigarette butts were found.

"There are organisations who lobby against the existence of ski resorts but we're more positive," Shepherd rationalises. "There's no point trying to stop people from skiing, because they won't. It's more important to recognise the necessity of economic development and then find ways to do this both responsibly and sustainably."

With 6,500 ski passes sold in Isola over its opening weekend and pre-bookings up on last season, it doesn't look as if the region's ski resorts are suffering too badly at the hands of global warming just yet. However, for the bounty of winter fun to continue, we should take action now. In the words of German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, "If each and everyone does a little bit more then we can do this." Forsaking a car for the bus is a small price to pay. And next time think before throwing a cigarette on the ground. HM

ADVERTORIAL

Lufthansa a star in the air now a success on water

After winning the Longtze European Tour 2009, the airline has set its sights on the Figaro 2010

Boyed by winning the Longtze European Tour 2009, Lufthansa France recently announced that it will participate in the Figaro 2010 circuit.

Heading bow first with the same enthusiasm, passion and talent that gained them the prestigious Longtze title last year, Lufthansa has employed the skills of another talented skipper in Ronan Treussart to lead them to glory in 2010 - see panel right. Last year was the first time the

German airline had ventured into the world of sailing and winning the event seems to have whetted their appetite. The sportsmanship and pro-



The Figaro Bénéteau 2 just before putting up the sails with Lufthansa colours; she is currently being redesigned

fessionalism of the Lufthansa skipper, Luc Gellusseau, no doubt played a big part in the decision to commit themselves again this year in this technically challenging sport.

Gellusseau, holder of eight world champion titles, had the daunting task of defending the proud airline's colours on board the "Longtze Team emotion and respect for the environment are essential values in sailing. As Lufthansa upholds the same ideals, sailing was a natural choice for Lufthansa when it came to choosing a sport to sponsor," explains Claus Becker, General Manager Lufthansa France & Benelux on why the company became involved.

The company is putting its weight behind four races - a Transat (transatlantic race for two), the Quiberon Solo, the Solitaire du Figaro (the main

most challenging of the solo events, with this year's Figaro course covering 1,717 nautical miles in four stages. For the first time in its 41 year history Le Havre will host the event with the first leg being a marathon of 515 nautical miles to Gijon in Spain. The second leg back across the Bay of Biscay to Brest is 418 miles, before the boats head for Kinsale in Ireland, and then make their return to the French town of Cherbourg on the final 435-mile stretch.

challenge) and the daunting Cap Istanbul. **Forty-one-year-old race still attracting worldclass sailors**
The Solitaire du Figaro, now in its 41st year, is the most tightly controlled one-design solo sailing event in France, and a breeding ground for French and British ocean racers. It is also one of the

competitors have to use to enter the competition, has been designed by Marc Lombard and many of the Figaristes themselves. It is bigger and more powerful than its predecessor which should add to the excitement and the spectacle of the racing.

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Boat designed by sailors

The one-design Figaro Beneteau 2, which all competitors have to use to enter the competition, has been designed by Marc Lombard and many of the Figaristes themselves. It is bigger and more powerful than its predecessor which should add to the excitement and the spectacle of the racing.



Lufthansa's skipper for the Figaro 2010 challenge: Ronan Treussart

THE MAN who Lufthansa has chosen to fly the airline's colours is French sailor Ronan Treussart. Born in Saint-Brieuc in the Côtes-d'Armor, Ronan has been passionate about the sport since he was a child. Today it is his life.

Aged 27, he was the 2004 France Espoir Champion and came sixth in the French championship of 2007.

"A new partnership project like this one is the result of good preparation and cooperation between the two parties," explains Ronan. "The enthusiasm and amount of work that Lufthansa has put into this project bodes well for a great race. I really am very happy and proud to fly the 2010 colours of one of the world's biggest airlines." CL

Claire Lalibury

Figaro 2010

Transat AG2R - La Mondiale
18 April 2010 (Concarnau - St Barthélémy)

Quiberon Solo
12-19 June 2010
Quiberon Bay

Solitaire du Figaro
20 July-22 August 2010
Le Havre, Gijon, Brest, Kinsale, Cherbourg

Cap Istanbul
14 September - 16 October
Nice (France) -Trapani (Sicily) -Athens (Greece) - Didim, Bozcada, Istanbul (all in Turkey)

The great sea escape

Discover luxury and originality at the Monte Carlo Travel Market

VIP globetrotters will be heading to the Grimaldi Forum between 15th and 17th January for the sixth edition of the Monte Carlo Travel Market.

Dream holidays to unusual, as well as exotic, locations are on offer and they span the whole range: from safaris to cruises, sophisticated spas to luxury hotels, private jets and yachts to legendary train journeys, and unique holiday lets. Of note is the

new Grand Hotel on Via Veneto, Rome, and an ancient Ottoman palace in Turkey.

For the second year in a row, the Tunisian tourism and real estate group, Kélibia la blanche, is the official partner. They are sponsoring a new exhibition space dedicated to eco-tourism, in which international companies will present their latest technologies towards developing eco-friendly tourism facilities and accommodation.

One area that organisers, the Platinum Group, have expanded on this year is the

space at the centre of the exhibition, which has the atmosphere of an airport lounge. As Vice-President Steve Sasportas explains: "People enjoy relaxing here



Exclusive travel in the lap of luxury at the MCTM

and looking at the luxury items - jewellery, watches, cars, etc. It is very popular so we have increased the number of Luxury Lifestyle exhibitors by 20 per cent."

This being the top end of luxury travel, you can expect some very unusual items for the home or office. For example, there's a company which converts 1930s aircraft parts into unique items of furniture.

In its sixth year, the MCTM is going from strength to strength. It moved to the bigger Grimaldi Forum, a few years ago and attracted over

14,300 visitors. Organisers expect more for the 2010 show which features 235 companies represented by 128 exhibitors.

Despite the global downturn, the exhibition is full. "Certainly economic events have had an impact on the travel industry but the luxury sector is holding its own," says Mr Sasportas. "The tour operators seem to be doing fine and MCTM is looking forward to boost-

ing business for exhibitors and giving business people direct travel connections. For others, this is where dreams really can come true. "Wealthy people like this show because they can explore a wide variety of unusual travel experiences in one place, and can be assured of a confidential, personal service should they wish to book straight away." **Monte Carlo Travel Market**
15th to 17th January 2010
Grimaldi Forum Monaco
Avenue Princesse Grace
Tél: +377 93 25 47 01
www.mctm.mc

Local resorts en famille

Stations are equipped and organised to host skiers of any age

As a resident of the Côte d'Azur, not taking the children up to the local resorts as little as 45 minutes from Nice may be considered a crime, even for a non-skier! These small but well-equipped and very child friendly resorts are great for a day trip or a longer stay.

Breathtaking views and pure mountain air do a world of good to stressed parents, toddlers and adrenaline seeking teenagers alike!

Resort highlights

Auron: A cozy village square that revolves around an ice skating rink in the winter. Good sledging slopes and places to build snowmen. Ski lessons (group

or private) from three years. A nursery open at weekends and during school holidays.

Valberg: Owner of the 'Family Plus' label. Quite a flat resort easily walked with a pushchair. Ski lessons (group or



Ski lifts accommodate the whole family and gear

private) from three years. A nursery open at weekends and during school holidays. Organisation of other activities for children.

Beuil: One of the smallest but a good starting point for children learning to ski.

Col de Turini: Fantastic for sledging with a big slope, but you have to be prepared to walk to the top of it first!

Isola: Direct access onto the slopes without having to take a ski lift or cable car. A hotel with a kids' club at the foot of

the slopes. Ski lessons (group or private) from three years. A nursery open at weekends and during school holidays. Activities for children and new indoor pool.

Useful tips

Always reserve the kids' ski club or private lessons in advance, especially during school holidays.

Do call the crèche before

leaving and do not forget the child's vaccination certificates or health book and a doctor's certificate stating that the child is fit to attend, otherwise they will not be accepted.

If you need to hire equipment, use a shop on or as near to the slopes as possible to avoid having to carry it all and helping a child walk at the same time. Think of leaving your equipment at the shop at the end of each day if you are staying for a while to avoid having to lug it to and from your place of residence.

If you are in a self-catering chalet, save money by shopping before your arrival, especially for expensive baby products, as although most resorts have quite good small supermarkets prices are higher.

To find out more about the French Riviera's family friendly ski reports you get more information by connecting on to www.familyfirst.fr (French and English).

A dream holiday to the Caribbean!

Sail from island to island with the famous superyacht 'Scarena' (a 30-metre Jongert) A few weeks availability left from January until May 2010

Enjoy summer in wintertime!

4 twin cabins, exceptional catering service, experienced staff. 2 Seabobs, fishing, water skiing and wakeboarding, snorkeling and diving equipment - all on board.

Pure paradise!



Ask for our brochure:

Tel: +49 211 542 142 83

Email: scarena@skyfile.com

www.familyfirst.fr

Your bilingual on-line guide to the Côte d'Azur for families

