

# Save our Snow

BY PATRICK THORNE



## 4 OUT OF 6 LARGEST FRENCH SKI REGIONS 100% GREEN POWERED

Four of the six largest ski regions in France are now reported to be powered by 100% green energy, in most cases using locally sourced hydro power.

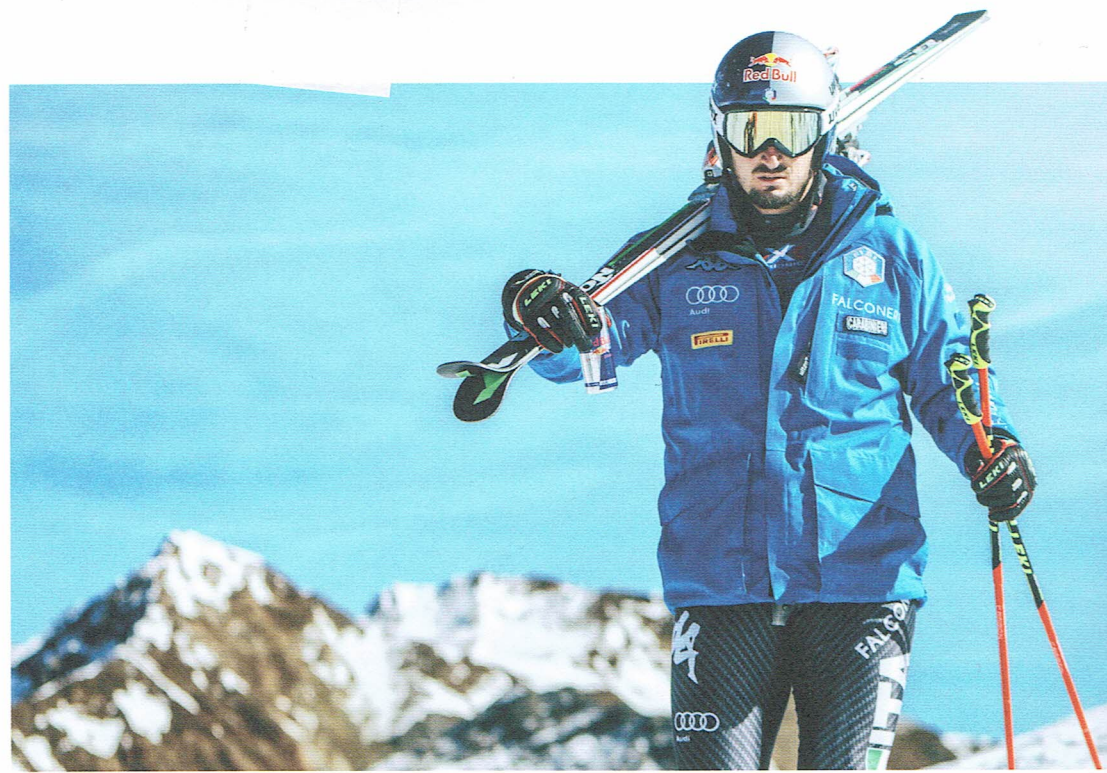
Les Sybelles, one of the world's biggest ski areas and the fourth biggest in France with more than 300km of slopes, nearly 150 runs and 70 ski lifts interconnecting half-a-dozen resorts in the Maurienne region, is the latest to announce that all of its electricity needs will be met by 100% renewable energy sources.

From this winter 2019/20 the region will receive 100% certified renewable electricity from local hydro-electric centres, as well as solar and wind power sources, for all lifts, snowmaking and other operations thanks to a partnership with power company EDF.

The Three Valleys Lift Company, which operates lifts in the world's largest ski area, Les 3 Vallées, including the skiing of Courchevel, Méribel, Les Menuires and Val Thorens, has been using 100% green electricity for more than 10 years.

The country's third biggest, the Paradiski region, combining the skiing of Les Arcs and La Plagne, has been using 100% renewable energy to power its ski lifts and other electrical needs since 2012.

The five resorts making up the Grand Massif ski area (Flaine, Samoëns, Morillon, Les Carroz and Sixt), the country's sixth biggest,



## WORLD CUP TOUR HEADING TO CHINA FOR THE FIRST TIME

The Men's FIS Alpine Skiing World Cup tour will roll into China for the first time in its 53-year history in February, two years before the Beijing Winter Olympics. Downhill and Super-G events will be staged on 15–16 February 2020 at the new National Alpine Skiing Centre, 90km northwest of Beijing.

The downhill course's location was initially controversial as the area gets little or no natural snowfall, and, as with the South Korean Olympic venue's downhill course in 2018, the site was previously protected national park type land, leading to objections by environmentalists to the slope's construction. However, extensive snowmaking is

expected to ensure adequate snow as temperatures are normally low in mid-winter for snow machines to work. The course has been designed, and Olympic downhill courses have been in the past three decades, by former racer Bernhard Russi, who says he finds the course more challenging than might have expected.



## TOUR OP LAUNCHES FUN FAMILY CHALLENGE

French Alps specialist Peak Retreats has created a new "Winning at Winter Challenge" for families travelling with them this season.

Aimed at anyone under the age of 18,

include plenty of ski-related fun, such as trying a jump, but also cover off-slope experiences such as sampling some French mountain food, making a snowman or watching a torchlit descent.

activities earn a silver Winning at Winter certificate and those who complete more of the 20 experiences earn a gold certificate and a Buff-style neck-warmer. Activities can be completed over