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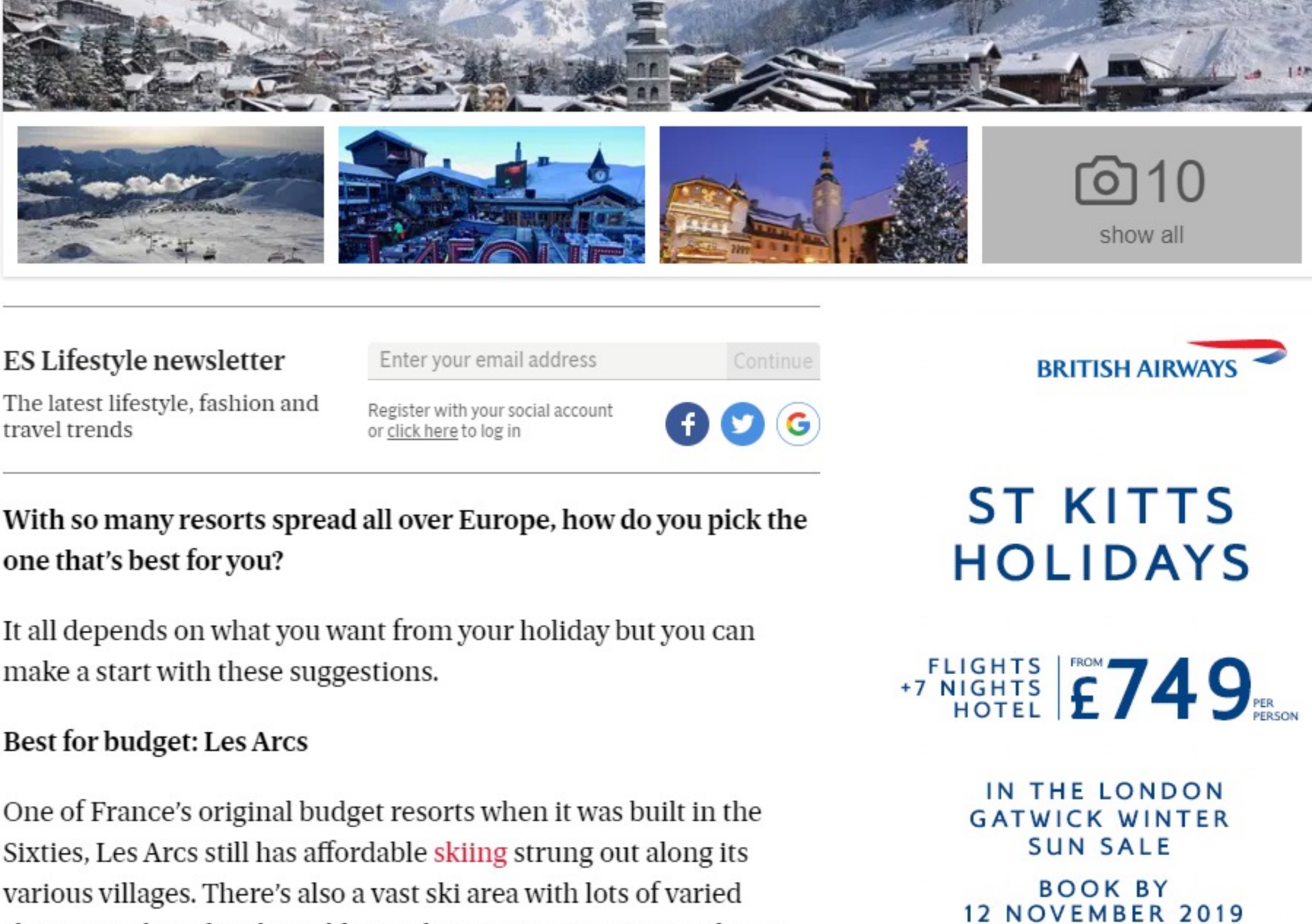
Best ski resorts in Europe

There's already been fresh snow in the Alps, and resorts are gearing up for the season. Mary Novakovich picks the best in Europe

MARY NOVAKOVICH | Monday 28 October 2019 12:26 | 1 comment



Best ski resorts in Europe - in pictures



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With so many resorts spread all over Europe, how do you pick the one that's best for you?

It all depends on what you want from your holiday but you can make a start with these suggestions.

Best for budget: Les Arcs

One of France's original budget resorts when it was built in the Sixties, Les Arcs still has affordable **skiing** strung out along its various villages. There's also a vast ski area with lots of varied skiing, combined with a cable car that connects you to La Plagne within the same Paradiski domain.

Who goes there: Erna Lov ([ernalow.co.uk](#)), Lagrange Holidays ([lagrange-holidays.co.uk](#))



Best for budget: Les Arcs (Adam Batterbee)

Best for nightlife: Ischgl

Austrian ski resorts know how to throw a good party – which usually means jumping into apres-ski mode soon after lunch and not finishing until the early hours. In a land of many hedonistic competitors – including St Anton, Mayrhofen and Kitzbühel – Ischgl still manages to stand out. Start off gently at Cafe Bistro Bar Kiwi before carrying on at the Showarena till 4am.

Who goes there: Powder White ([powderwhite.com](#)), Iglski ([iglski.com](#))



Best for partying: Ischgl (Office de Tourisme)

Best for a quick getaway: La Clusaz

Want to cram in as much skiing over a weekend as possible? Avoid long transfer times by going to La Clusaz in France's Aravis range, only an hour from Geneva airport. You also have the option of a lift pass that includes neighbouring La Grand Bornand, as well as night skiing in Manigod.

Who goes there: Ski Weekender ([skiweekender.com](#)), Peak Retreats ([peakretreats.co.uk](#))

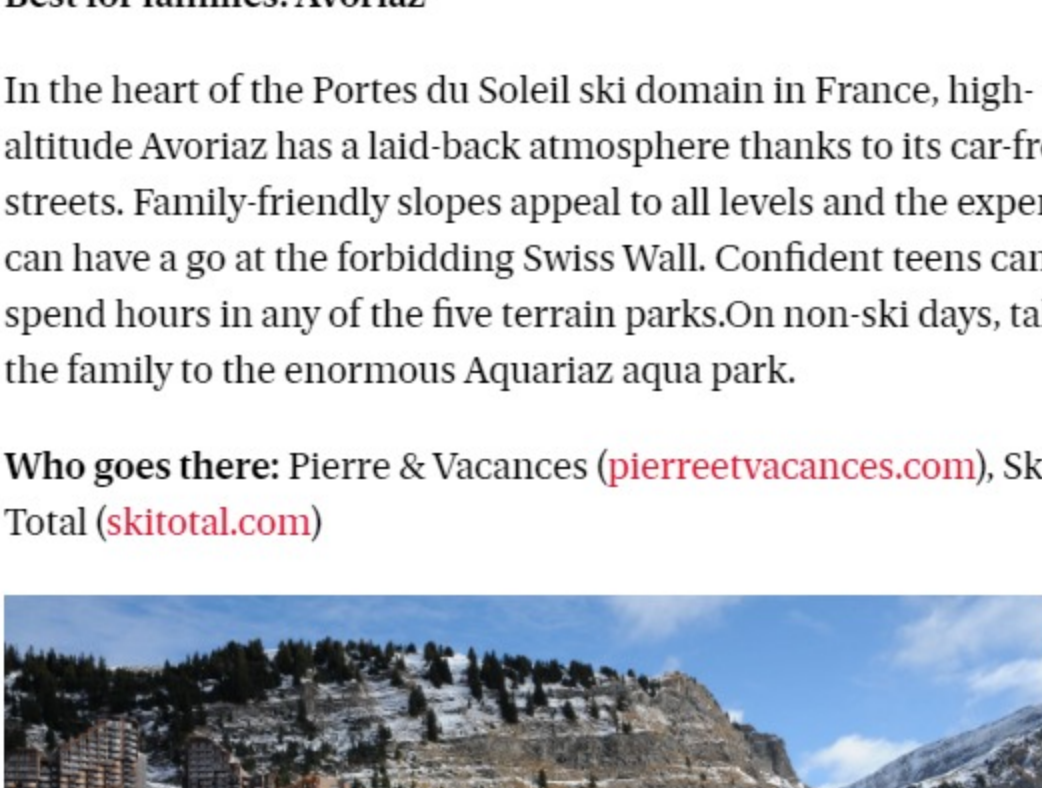


Best for a quick getaway: La Clusaz (Office de Tourisme)

Best for foodies: Alta Badia

Gourmet skiers have been making a beeline to Italy's South Tyrol, specifically Alta Badia in the Dolomites, for a few years now, attracted by the Michelin-starred restaurants and food festivals. It's not so surprising to hear that top chefs have been clamouring to join the "Taste for Skiing" winter-long event that turns simple mountain huts into gourmet destinations. And there's even a sommelier on the slopes for impeccable wine pairings. The skiing's not bad either, especially the Sella Ronda circuit which you can join from Alta Badia.

Who goes there: Crystal ([crystaliski.co.uk](#)), Neilson ([neilson.co.uk](#))

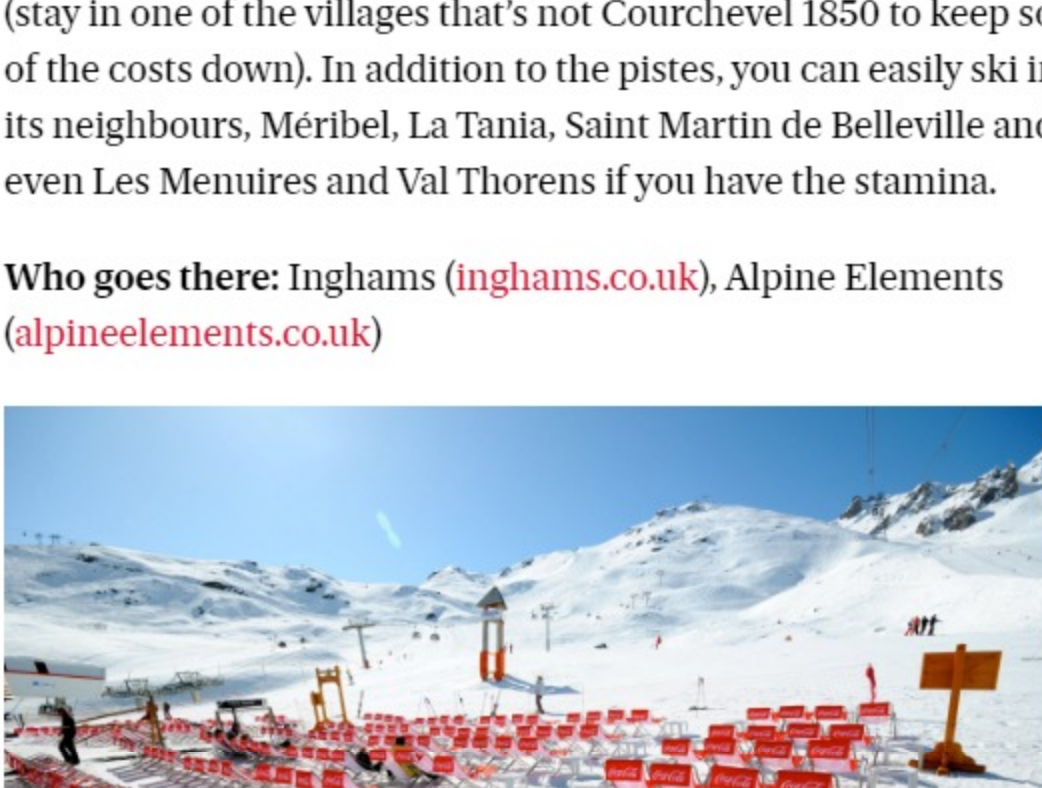


Best for foodies: Alta Badia (Armin Terzer)

Best for snow-sure slopes: Val d'Isère

There are many reasons why high-altitude mega-resort Val d'Isère continues to be a favourite among British skiers. It covers a vast expanse of the Espace Killy ski domain and it's easy to ski over to neighbouringignes.

Who goes there: Le Ski ([leski.com](#)), YSE ([yseski.co.uk](#))



Best for snow-sure slopes: Val d'Isère (Adam Batterbee)

Best for families: Avoriaz

In the heart of the Portes du Soleil ski domain in France, high-altitude Avoriaz has a laid-back atmosphere thanks to its car-free streets. Family-friendly slopes appeal to all levels and the experts can have a go at the forbidding Swiss Wall. Confident teens can spend hours in any of the five terrain parks. On non-ski days, take the family to the enormous Aquariuz aqua park.

Who goes there: Pierre & Vacances ([pierreenvacances.com](#)), Ski Total ([skitotal.com](#))

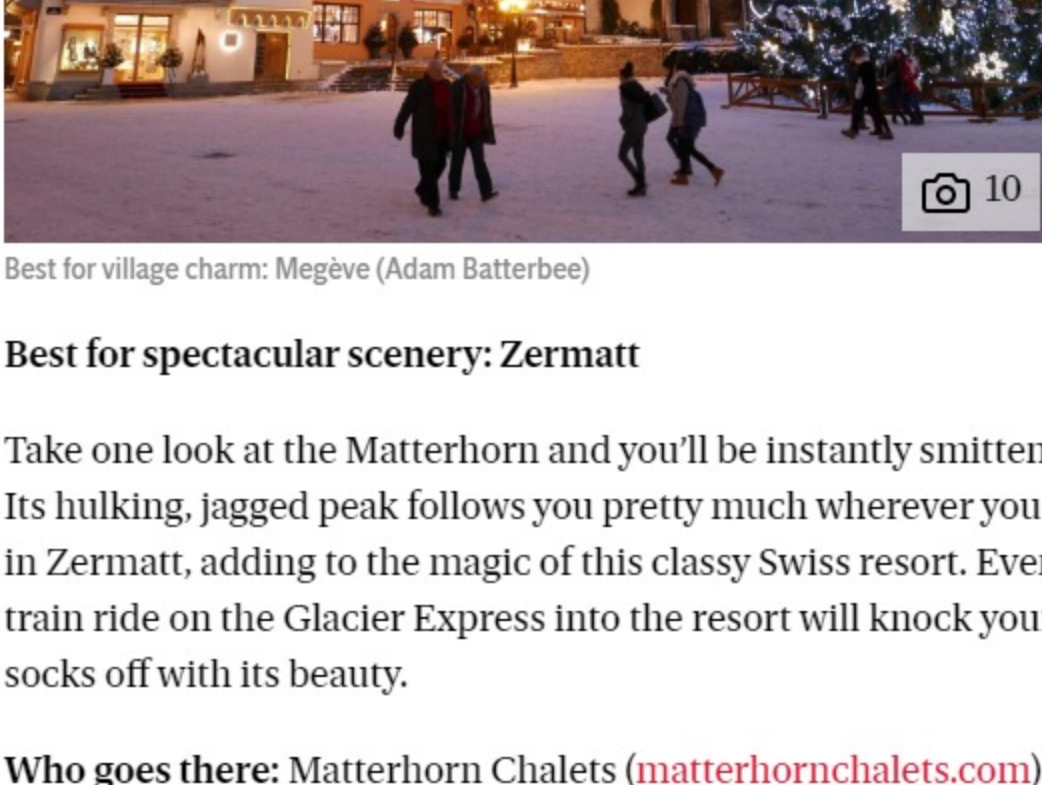


Best for families: Avoriaz (Adam Batterbee)

Best for variety: Courchevel

One of the best resorts within the Trois Vallées, the world's largest ski domain, Courchevel has excellent skiing despite the high prices (stay in one of the villages that's not Courchevel 1850 to keep some of the costs down). In addition to the pistes, you can easily ski into its neighbours, Méribel, La Tania, Saint Martin de Belleville and even Les Menuires and Val Thorens if you have the stamina.

Who goes there: Inghams ([ingham.co.uk](#)), Alpine Elements ([alpineelements.co.uk](#))

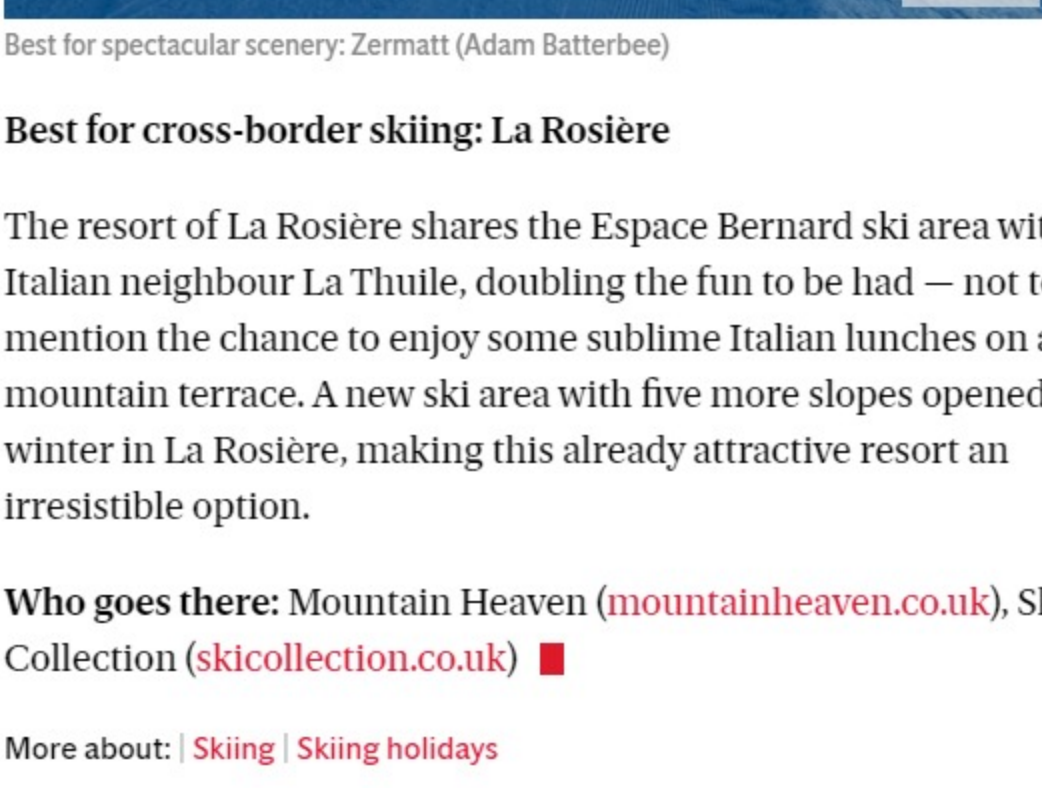


Best for variety: Courchevel (Adam Batterbee)

Best for beginners: Alpe d'Huez

While many resorts have their nursery slopes down in the village, Alpe d'Huez in France has a huge network of beginner slopes high on the mountain, so you don't have to wait till you're a good skier before you can soak up gorgeous views of the Ecrins.

Who goes there: Ski Solutions ([skisolutions.com](#)), Esprit ([espritiski.com](#))



Best for beginners: Alpe d'Huez (Adam Batterbee)

Best for village charm: Megève

Well-bred, chic Megève sits cosily in the shadow of Mont Blanc and offers a winning combination of an enchanting village centre and some superb skiing that carries on into neighbouring Saint-Gervais. Many visitors come for the shopping and the food, leaving those lovely slopes relatively empty for skiers.

Who goes there: Stanford Skiing ([stanfordskiing.co.uk](#)), Kuoni ([kuoni.co.uk](#))

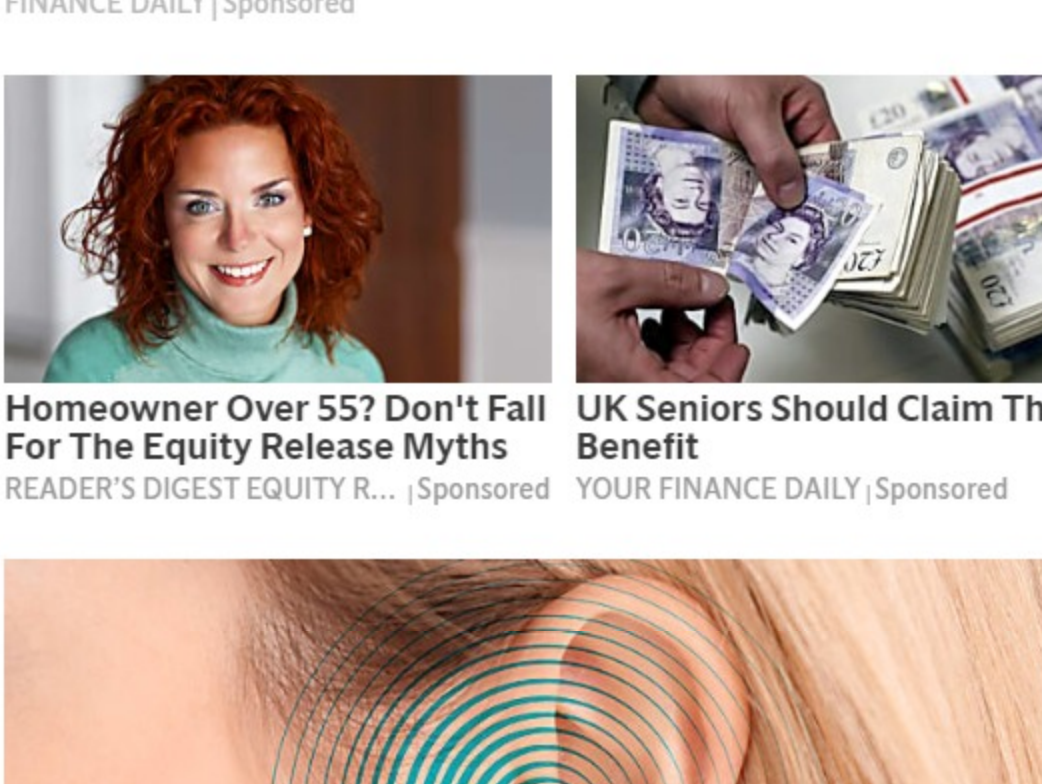


Best for village charm: Megève (Adam Batterbee)

Best for spectacular scenery: Zermatt

Take one look at the Matterhorn and you'll be instantly smitten. Its hulking, jagged peak follows you pretty much wherever you go in Zermatt, adding to the magic of this classically Swiss resort. Even the train ride on the Glacier Express into the resort will knock your socks off with its beauty.

Who goes there: Matterhorn Chalets ([matterhornchalets.com](#)), Momentum Ski ([momentumski.com](#))

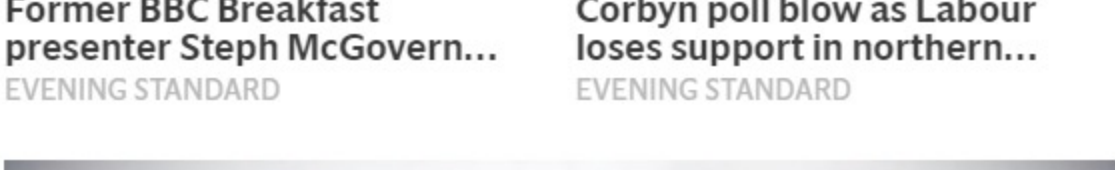


Best for spectacular scenery: Zermatt (Adam Batterbee)

The resort of La Rosière shares the Espace Bernard ski area with its Italian neighbour La Thuile, doubling the fun to be had – not to mention the chance to enjoy some sublime Italian hunches on a mountain terrace. A new ski area with five more slopes opened last winter in La Rosière, making this already attractive resort an irresistible option.

Who goes there: Mountain Heaven ([mountainheaven.co.uk](#)), Ski Collection ([skicollection.co.uk](#))

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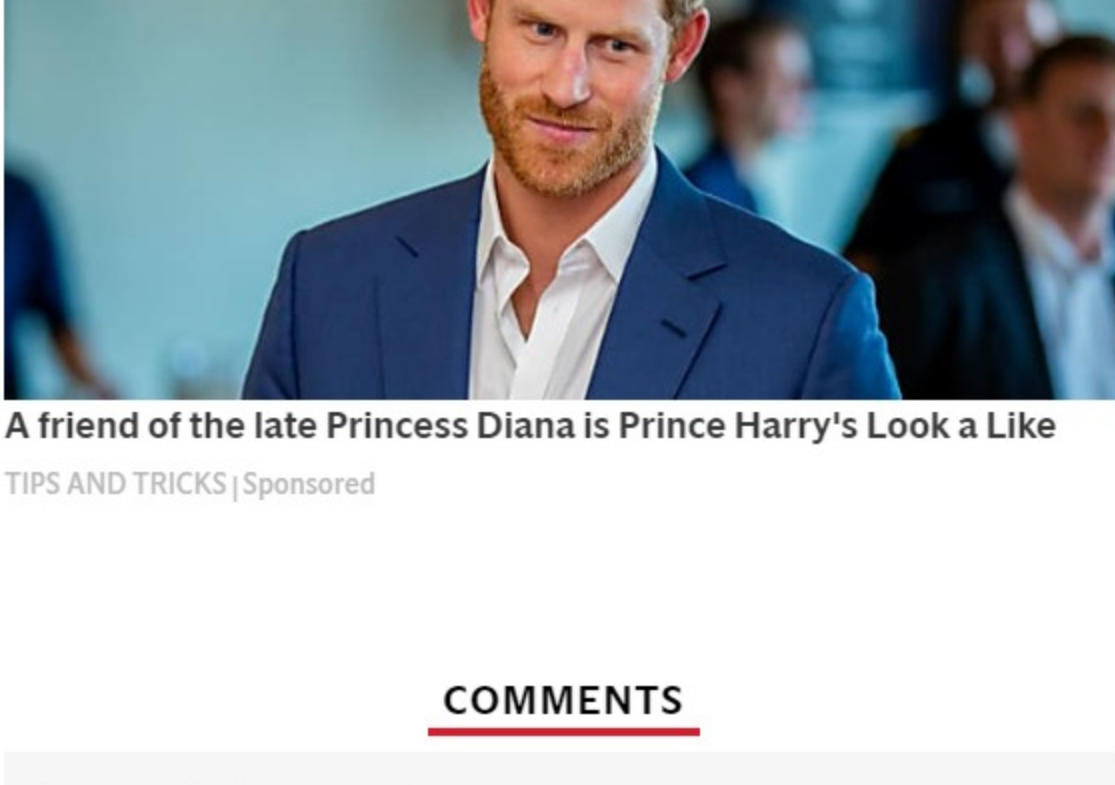
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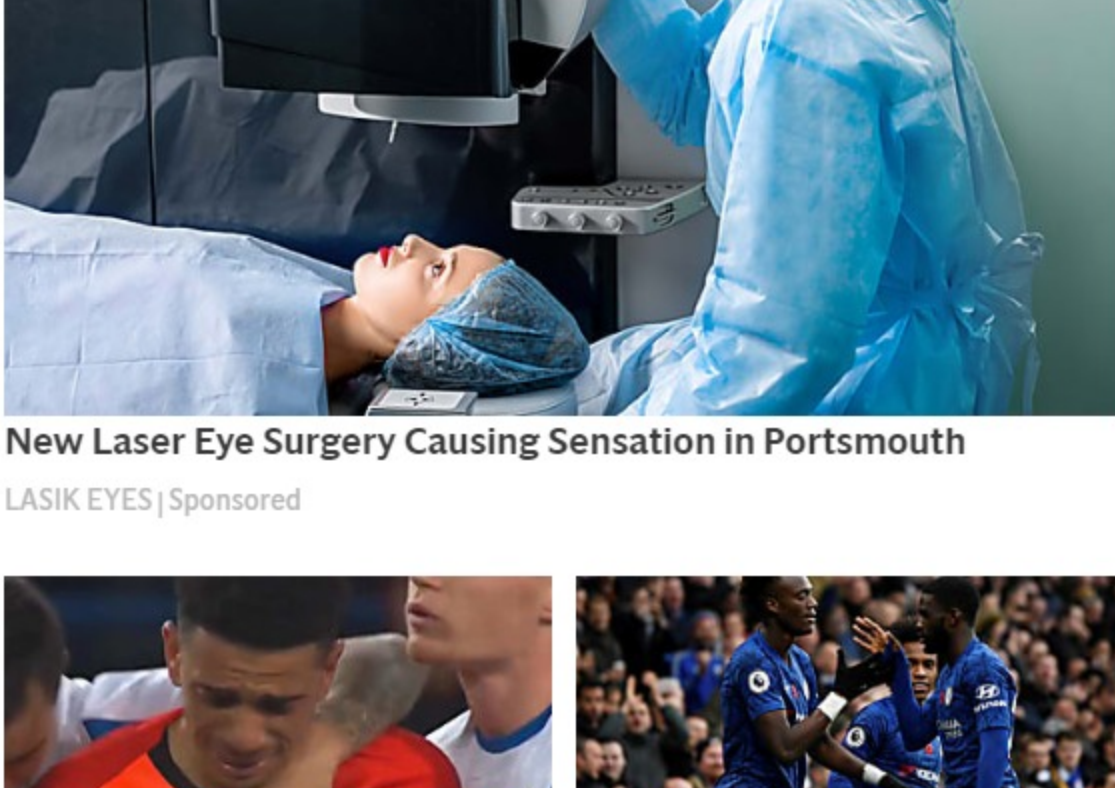
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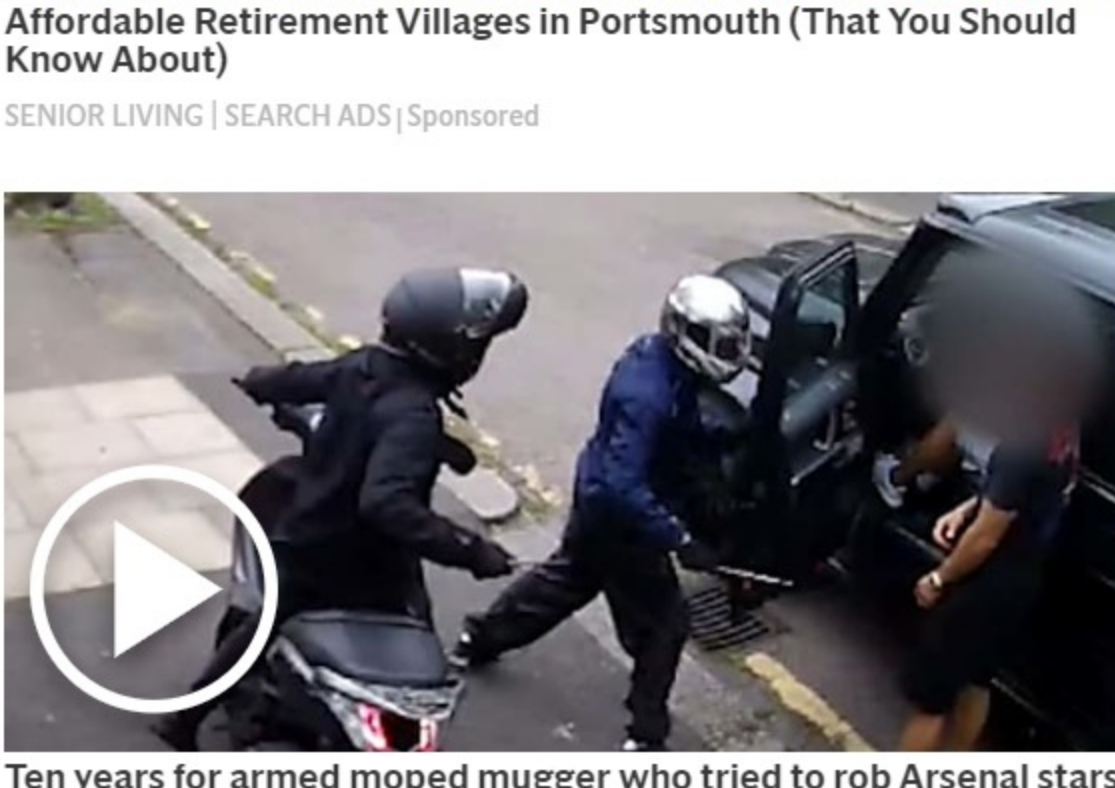
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