

WHOOSH YOU WERE
HERE . . . La Rosiere



KIDS WON'T SLOPE OFF AT SKI SCHOOL

SCROLL through Instagram for five minutes and you'll feel like the worst parent.

There's Sky Brown, the Olympic skateboard prodigy whose British dad Stuart had her surfing and skateboarding before she could spell.

And toddler Aubrin Sage, who started snowboarding Washington's Cascade Mountains at 18 months.

My feed is basically a highlight reel of super-parents raising mini athletes while I'm celebrating that my daughter ate a vegetable.

The pressure is real. And it's been amped up in light of the Winter Olympics.

So when I heard about La Rosiere – a French Alps resort that takes kids as young as 18 months – I saw my chance. Time to turn my 20-month-old Lena into the next big thing on snow.

La Rosiere doesn't mess about. Its ESF ski school's Galopins Club had Lena on a snowboard-sled hybrid that looked utterly adorable.

Between snow play sessions they kept the kids busy with crafts and stories. Half-day or full-day options with lunch meant I could hit the slopes guilt-free.

Founded by shepherds in the 1960s, the resort has somehow kept its cosy village vibe while going all-in on the family market.

The revamped beginner zone at Les Eucherts features a toddler-friendly four-seater chair lift and a covered mountain picnic area – genius for when your hangry three-year-old has a meltdown in ski boots.

For families, here's where La Rosiere gets clever. Its X-periences pass costs £59 extra on top of a six-day ski pass but throws in ice skating, cinema, laser tag, paintball, and something called X'treme Luge that sounds like it should come with a waiver.

Evolution 2, the resort's adventure school gets kids playing at being ski patrol, opening slopes, and doing outdoor escape games. While Lena was learning not

GO: LA ROSIERE

GETTING THERE: British Airways flies from London City to Chambery, from £80 return. See ba.com.

STAYING THERE: Seven nights' self-catering with Peak Retreats at Le Lodge Hemera in a two-bedroom apartment is from £468pp based on five sharing. Price includes return Eurotunnel crossing, with a free FlexiPlus upgrade (except on some school holiday dates), peakretreats.co.uk.

MORE INFO: larosiere.net/en

to face-plant, I got to explore the Espace San Bernardo area – 96 miles linking La Rosiere with Italy's La Thuile.

The new Mont Valaisan lift opens up serious back country at 2,800 metres, and I lucked out with blue-sky powder days. The south-facing slopes make for sun-soaked days with stunning views of the Haute Tarentaise valley. And with 80 per cent of the slopes above 1,850m, snow conditions were fantastic throughout our stay.

Time of her life

My base at Lodge Hemera (booked through Peak Retreats) was ski-in, ski-out luxury with a kitchen that saved my family a fortune.

On the nights we didn't feel like cooking, we went to Le Comptoir, a family-friendly bar with great pizza.

Did Lena become the next Shaun White? Not exactly. She spent more time eating snow than shredding it. But La Rosiere delivered: World-class childcare that let me remember why I love snowboarding, while my toddler had the time of her life playing in the snow.

So no, I won't be posting videos of my prodigy daughter doing backflips. But at least I can say we tried – and I got a decent ski holiday out of it. In the Instagram parenting Olympics, I see that as a win.

JACOB LEWIS



WONDERLAND . . .
snow-topped
chalets in resort