

Val Thorens: Be adventurous this winter and visit France's favourite Ski resort

FOR beautiful scenery and guaranteed snow all season, it's hard to beat high-altitude resort Val Thorens, says Kirsty Nutkins

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France's Val Thoren is the highest ski resort in Europe at 2,300m

At 2,300m, Val Thorens, in France, is the highest ski resort in Europe.

Its topmost lift reaches 3,230m – the pinnacle of the entire 600km Les 3 Vallées (or Three Valleys) ski area, home to eight internationally renowned resorts.

At such a lofty altitude, snow-sure Val has one of the longest seasons – it opened last week and closes in early May. For this reason, among others, it was voted Best Ski Resort in the World for the third time in four years last season.

High altitude skiing comes with other benefits, too; the dramatic mountain scenery, for one, and the high proportion of heavenly ski-in ski-out accommodation, saving lots of unnecessary schlepping to and from the lifts with equipment.



We travelled with winter sports experts Crystal Ski Holidays and checked into the four-star Fahrenheit Seven – one of the resort's newest openings – which has a fantastic position, right on the edge of the slopes.

There's a panoramic après ski drinks terrace and it has a ski shop downstairs opening directly onto the piste.

Next-door, you'll find a boot room like no other, with its own table football and a coffee bar.

Establishing itself as the trendiest spot in town, F7 is a cool design-led property with lots of dark wood, and colourful 70s-style velvet and sheepskin furnishings.

Each of the 107 rooms – with either village or piste views – has retro-style teak furniture and fun touches such as vintage mustard-yellow coloured bakelite phones.

There's a small wellness area (with treatments available on request), while downstairs are two fantastic restaurants – La Rotisserie, with mountain views, where we ate breakfast every morning, and cheese and wine restaurant Le Zinc where we sampled delicious fondue, a French Alps specialty.

Way to go

Crystal Ski Holidays (020 8610 3123; crystalski.co.uk) offers a week's half board at the four-star **Hotel Fahrenheit Seven** in Val Thorens from £1,005pp.

This is based on two sharing and includes flights from Gatwick to Chambéry and transfers (this price given is for a January 6, 2018 departure).

A local lift pass for six days starts from £218 and ski hire with rental company Skiset costs from £76 for the week.

Treat yourself to a pre-flight stay at **Hilton London Gatwick Airport** (01293 518080, hilton.com), with prices starting from £89 per night.

This is based on two adults sharing.