

# Livingetc



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Hôtel Barrière Les Neiges looks every inch the classic chalet; natural materials and chic decor rule; the Prestige rooms include a spacious terrace, and enjoy traditional cuisine at Fouquet's



## FRESH FACES

Remixed for the 2018 snowfall, these Euro ski hotels are ready to glow over again



### HÔTEL BARRIÈRE LES NEIGES Courchevel, France

**S**taying chic on the slopes isn't just about Fendi mirrored ski goggles and Stella McCartney salopettes. These Euro mountain retreats all make equally strong fashion statements – and have emerged from dramatic makeovers to stay ahead of interiors trends. An old Mercure in Val Thorens is unrecognisable as the über-cool Fahrenheit Seven and since Alpaga in Megève was taken under the wing of the luxurious Hôtels d'en Haut group, it's been chic all the way. Swiss beauty Chandolin Boutique hotel was treated to a five-year revamp and Huus Gstaad (previously a Steigenberger hotel) has been entirely reimagined by architect and designer Erik Nissen Johansen. Finally, the Barrière group has transformed the Les Neiges hotel, while drawing on the history of its Courchevel setting. Still glamorous, but with a fresh face.

**The lowdown** Ultimate luxury in a magnificent ski setting.  
**Best for** Those accustomed to high-altitude living. With exceptional rooms and a ski-in, ski-out location that gives access to Les Trois Vallées, this hotel knows it's a bit of a star. The aura of old-school glamour is reinforced by the moody black-and-white photographs of Hollywood's finest silver screen icons and the private screening room. Rooms are clad in pale larch wood and beds and sofas are layered with impossibly soft mountains of cushions and faux furs – the perfect vantage point to admire the views over pristine slopes. For fine dining, Parisian brasserie Fouquet's has an outpost here offering a deliciously classic menu. This establishment dines out on its past, but feels new all over again for 2018.  
**Book it** Double rooms from £1,100 (hotelsbarriere.com).





CLOCKWISE FROM THIS PICTURE Savour fine dining at La Rôtisserie; knock back a cocktail at Le Zinc bar; teal and mustard furnishings reign supreme; the well-appointed boot room; and vintage details add a relaxed touch.



## FAHRENHEIT SEVEN

Val Thorens, France

**The lowdown** A retro rework of Seventies and Sixties ski style.  
**Best for** Fondue and *vin chaud* in furry retro moon boots.

If you're wondering, the hotel name refers to the exact temperature at which the 'perfect' snowflake is formed. The founders have taken an equally precise approach to reworking this hotel's interiors, casting an eye back to the Seventies design and adding luxe touches that infuse it with fresh character. Cozy wood cabin walls are cool rather than cutesy when they are set against soft leather sofas, slate and velvet. Moody hues include the can't-fail combo of teal and mustard, while geometric tiling and mirrors add a bit of edge to the bedrooms. The ski room opens directly on to the slopes, while the lively village is only 10 minutes away. Or, stay put for the retro-feel après bars and outstanding La Rôtisserie restaurant. The perfect base to cosy up and watch era-appropriate reruns of *The Spy Who Loved Me*.

**Book it** Double rooms from £197 (fahrenheitseven-valthorens.com).