

# altitude

WINTER 2007/08

XL ecom

## Fantasy island

Fabulous holiday homes to rent whatever your budget

## Sour grapes?

Buy the right wine every time with *Oz Clarke*

## Board stupid

Alternative activities in the Alps

## Dare to bare all

With *Gok Wan*

# Young at heart

*Harrison Ford* on why life at 65 has never been better

## WIN!

Your own French vineyard for a year

## WIN!

A load of great digital camera gear, including a Canon camera worth

£680



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class DJs, the Alps is where it's at. Die-hard clubbers don't even need to pack their thermals, as they'll be dancing all night and sleeping all day. Events to check out include Snowbombing in Mayrhofen, Austria; the Orange Brits in Laax, Switzerland; and in France, the Xbox Big Day Out in Val d'Isère, and TransAlpine XS in Val Thorens.

### Ice skating

You don't need to be a budding Tonyville or Dean to enjoy the thrills (and the inevitable spills) on ice, and there is something incredibly romantic about open-air skating with real snow all around. Afterwards, have a well-deserved mulled wine –

France. You'll be strapped onto an expert, so all you have to do is to remember to open your eyes and take in the spectacular views. If silently gliding over the mountains doesn't make you fall in love with them, then nothing will.

### Stay in

You don't actually need to do anything at all to enjoy your holiday. Why not just make the most of your cosy accommodation and catch up on some reading or watch a DVD, curled up in front of the fire? After all, holidays are for relaxing, so make the most of the quiet time and the incredible facilities that many

## “Holidays are for relaxing so make the most of the quiet time”

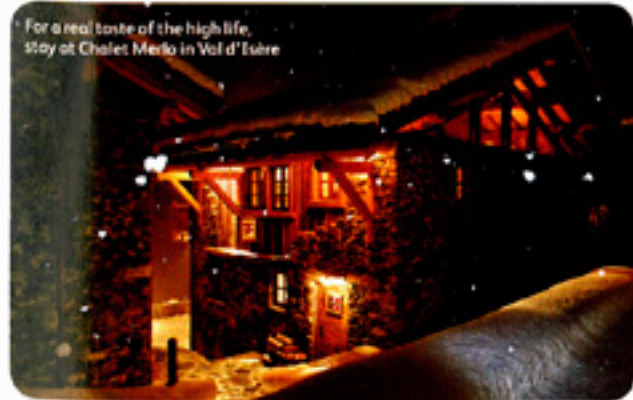
see, this holiday malarkey isn't so bad after all, is it?

### Up and away

Get a bird's eye view of the Alps in a hot-air balloon. With nothing but a wicker basket between you and the ground way below, it's an experience you will never forget. Just don't forget to wrap up warm. If you'd like to really fly like a bird, why not try paragliding – or parapenting, as they call it in

chalets offer. If you fancy a serious splurge, then Chalet Merlo ([www.chaletmerlo.eu](http://www.chaletmerlo.eu)) in the village of Le Miroir, overlooking Val d'Isère, is a must. For around £14,000 you and 11 mates can live in serious luxury, complete with helicopter airport transfers, your own chauffeur, daily champagne and four-course gourmet meals, cinema and in-chalet massage and spa services. Why would anyone want to go skiing? ☺

For a real taste of the high life, stay at Chalet Merlo in Val d'Isère



Holidays should be about stress relief, so curl up in front of an open fire with a good book... and rest



Snowshoeing offers great exercise and spectacular mountain views

