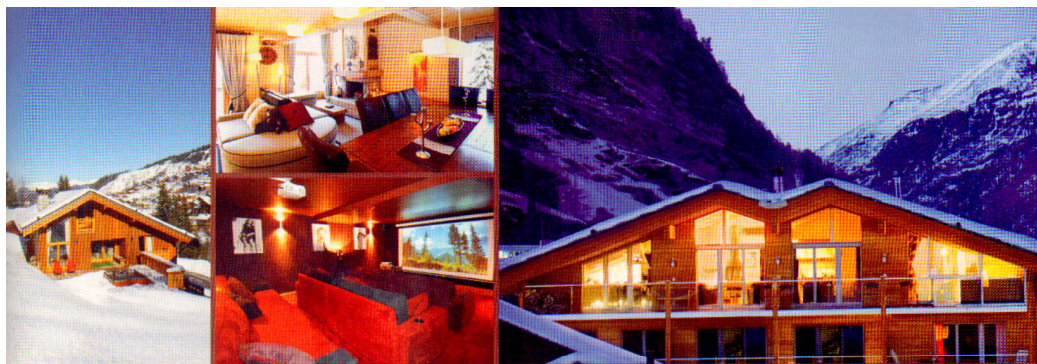




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**Media:** Food And Travel  
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### *Taiga Lodge* MERIBEL, FRANCE

#### **X-FACTOR THE PRIVATE CINEMA**

Located in Dou du Pont, the so-called 'Mayfair of Méribel', Taiga is a bright and comfortable chalet sleeping ten (plus one infant) in five rooms, all with balconies and variously with views of Dou du Pont, Méribel and Mont du Vallon. While dining, make a point of sampling something from the stellar wine list: it was chosen by Xavier Rousset, chef sommelier at Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons. We could go on about the roomy six-person outdoor hot tub or the south- and east-facing terraces perfect for sun-worshippers, but it is the splendid, ten-person state-of-the-art cinema that is Taiga's real trump card. Take a seat on one of the huge squishy sofas in the cosy room, which has suede-lined walls and is decorated with pictures of classic movie icons, and curl up in front of your favourite flick. Despite the exclusivity of its location, Taiga Lodge is conveniently situated just 100m from La Chaudanne terminus. With five lifts it is your ticket to the stunning Trois Vallées.

**Details** Sleeps ten. Seven nights half-board from £9,690 exclusive use (including flights and transfers). VIP Chalets (0844 557 3119; vip-chalets.com)

**Credit crunch** Chalet Bartavelle a beautiful three-storey barn conversion in Le Cruet, a hamlet just outside Méribel. The owner is a professional chef who previously worked at Harvey Nichols Fifth Floor restaurants, so expect plenty of gourmet grazing. Sleeps eight, from £2,909 for seven nights, fully catered exclusive use (excluding flights). Chalet Bartavelle (00 33 4 79 08 19 55; chaletbartavelle.com)

**New in Méribel this season** Ski now and pay later at Méribel this winter with the introduction of Holiski (holiski.com), a ski card that allows access to the slopes without having to queue for a lift pass.

### *The Zermatt Lodge* ZERMATT, SWITZERLAND

#### **X-FACTOR MATTERHORN VIEWS FROM THE HOT TUB**

This luxurious penthouse chalet boasts unrivalled views of the Matterhorn. At just two years old it was designed by California-based interior designer Marie-Christine Julien, who was born and raised in Zermatt. The property, which sleeps ten in five double rooms, combines contemporary style with the authentic feel of a traditional chalet, making use of cowhide coverings and slate and recycled alpine wood in the beamed ceilings and floors. Stylish furniture has been specially designed by local carpenters and the beautiful suspended fireplace gives the main living area a stunning focal point. Grab your swimming costume and discover the chalet's second wow-factor on the south-facing balcony: a Jacuzzi hot tub with uninterrupted views of the Matterhorn. Modern luxuries include a surround-sound music system, wireless internet access throughout and plasma TV screens. For further indulgence, in the bathrooms you'll find Elemis products and Egyptian cotton towels. Food lovers will be right at home in Zermatt: a fine dining chef is on hand at The Lodge and the wine list incorporates some of Switzerland's finest bottles.

**Details** Sleeps ten from £8,450 per week exclusive use and fully catered (excluding flights). Mountain Exposure (00 41 794 864504; mountainexposure.com)

**Credit crunch** A quaint Swiss bolthole, Haus Bor sleeps six and all the bedrooms are en suite. Prices start at £509 per person, fully catered (excluding flights). Ski line (020 8313 3999; skiline.co.uk)

**New in Zermatt this season** Mogul aficionados can access the notorious Tiffl/Tstockhorn area once again, thanks to a new T-bar lift that serves the Stockhorn mountain station at 3,405m. ➡



LEFT TO RIGHT:  
POOL AT EAGLE'S  
NEST, ALPINE  
AUSTRIAN STYLE  
AT GERTRUD GABL,  
THE ZERMATT  
LODGE'S LIVING  
ROOM AND HOT  
TUB WITH A VIEW