

Above: Chalet Chloe is two minutes' walk from the Swiss village of Saas Fee. Below: W London -Leicester Square is new to the capital's West End

overlooks the Faraglioni, its sleek interiors punctuated with poppy pink and lime green against whitewashed walls.

> But the ski season is upon us first, and with it some choice, new-to-the-market chalets. Start in **VERBIER**, where the former proprietors of Ski Verbier are offering No 14 Verbier (www. verbierexclusive.com; from £32,500 a week), which sleeps up to 28 guests over five floors. All wood-panelled Gemütlichkeit

on the outside, the interiors are sumptuously appointed with flat screens, an indoor pool, a steam room and two spa treatment rooms. To the east, in SAAS FEE, Mountain Exposure (www.mountainexposure.com) has the lovely little four-bedroom Chalet Chioe (from £928 per person per week), with a charming, open-plan living-dining room, a wide south-facing deck, and a location two minutes' walk from both Saas Fee

village and the Hannig toboggan lift station.

→ Of course, mountains and balmy summer pleasures aren't mutually exclusive. To enjoy both, head south of the equator, to ARGENTINA, where Cazenove + Loyd (www. cazloyd.com; from £2,200 per person) is launching a six-day ride through Mendoza and the Andes, weekly from January through March. Riders will spend six to seven hours a day in the saddle, traversing a diverse landscape of dunes, lakes, woods and vineyards. Base camp is the new Guatana - the first at this altitude to feature full bathrooms, feather beds and electricity in lieu of floor mats and bucket showers.



Above: Cazenove + Lovd's riding holiday will cross many types of terrain in



> From the emptiness of the high Andes to the bustle of the Eighth Arrondisement in **PARIS**, where a sister hotel to the perennially sought-after Pavillon de la Reine has opened its doors. **Le Pavillon des Lettres** (www.pavillondeslettres; from €300) has 26 rooms (one for every letter of the alphabet), each styled after a famous scribe. Didier Benderli, who recently redesigned Pavillon de la Reine, is responsible for the uniformly chic interiors, with poetry lines stencilled onto the walls - a whimsical touch.

And, finally, back to **LONDON**, where there's no discernible slowdown on the hotel scene. In the west, London Syon Park (www. waldorfastoria.com; from £179), opening in a few weeks, is a sleek 137room new-build in the grounds of the Duke of Northumberland's Grade I-listed Syon House. Some of the more outstanding features: a floor-to-ceiling butterfly house in the lobby, and an artisanal ice-cream parlour. Proposing a more urbane experience when it opens - also in the

coming weeks - is the 192-room W London - Leicester Square (www.starwoodhotels.com; from £275). With interiors by über-chic Dutch firm Concrete, an outpost of Jean-Georges Vongerichten's Spice Market restaurant and a VIP bar managed by Matt Hermer (of Boujis fame), it's bound to make waves in the West End. +

