

Spend summer in the mountains

You don't need snow to see ski resorts at their best. In the summer, they are a cheaper, less crowded and more scenic option than the beach. **James Ellis** picks 20 of the best summer chalets

JOE CONDRON / ROCKZERMATT



Most of us head for the hills in winter when the powder is fresh and the skiing is sublime, but a growing number of chalets are opening up in the summer to offer a different — less expensive — stay than your average beach holiday. The air is fresh, the food good and there are plenty of quaint villages that can be reached by cable car. Hike down the mountain (go by mountain bike if you're brave) or take part in activities, from swimming in a lake (many chalets also have pools) to rock climbing. There are great offers available once you're there, too. For example, the French resort of Morzine operates a scheme where you pay €1 a day for unlimited cable-car use, entry to the swimming pool, and ice skating. Summer money stretches further in the mountains.

7 **Chalet Gemini** Zermatt, Switzerland

Zermatt is almost as buzzy in summer as it is in winter, with everything from swimming and golf to paragliding available. For a great place with a view that's close to the Matterhorn Express lift for summer skiing and hiking trails, check into Chalet Gemini, which has five bedrooms, an outdoor hot tub, private sauna and wi-fi.

Details from £3,800 a week for 10 people on a self-catering basis, or from £5,200 catered. Shorter breaks are available (08454 252001, mountainexposure.com)