



CHALET CHARM

Newcomers to the *elegant* ski-lodge landscape of Switzerland's *VERBIER* have added yet more style to the resort town – the gateway to the *dazzling* trails of the Four Valleys ski fields.

THE SWISS SKI resort town of Verbier has gained even more cachet with the arrival of a number of new chalets in recent months. While nearby the famous peaks of the Matterhorn and Mont Blanc are visible, Chalet Kernow, located just below the main Medran ski lift, is one of the swishest hamlets around – it's one of the few lodges where you can ski in through the back door. It also has a chalet driver to run you to the Medran or the Savoleyres lifts. This luxurious resort has a French flavour, and London-based designer Marion Lichtig has sourced antiques from dealers such as Appley Hoare, who specialises in treasures from France. Departing from traditional alpine decor, Lichtig combines these with unexpected items such as kilims and vintage saris, which have been quilted and used as throws on the beds. The design is finessed with bespoke furniture, such as the dining table from London's Guinevere and dining chairs from Christopher Howe Antiques. >



COSY GLAMOUR AT CHALET KERNOW IS CREATED WITH A COMBINATION OF RUSTIC ANTIQUES AND MODERN PIECES. ABOVE LEFT: THE DOUBLE GUESTROOM.



MARION LICHTIG'S STYLISH TAKE ON LODGE BUNK ACCOMMODATION. RIGHT: THE OPEN FIREPLACE IS THE PERFECT PLACE TO DECAMP AFTER DARK.

ON THE TOP FLOOR OF THE LODGE, THE LIVING AREA WITH DOUBLE HEIGHT CEILINGS OFFERS SPECTACULAR VIEWS OF THE VALLEY



< "I enjoy giving a quirky edge to things," says Lichtig. "Much of my inspiration came from objects and furniture I found which just fell into place with the fabrics and rugs I was sourcing." While the chalet looks completely at home in its alpine surroundings, it's in fact a new building with larch used on the exterior, and old pine and tinted new pine warming the interior.

On the top floor of the three-storey lodge, the living/dining area with double height ceilings offers spectacular views of the valley. On the middle floor there are several guest rooms – all with ensuite bathrooms and beds dressed with Egyptian cotton. There is also a studio on the ground floor with an additional twin guestroom.

Recently opened at the start of the season, its sister, Li Ti Chalet, has accommodation for up to nine. Both have outdoor tubs for an incredible bathing experience. SUSAN WESTWOOD Reservations (+41) 794 280 172; www.ckverbier.com. Marion Lichtig details, last pages.



A KNIGHT'S LODGE

RICHARD BRANSON'S DEBUT SKI RETREAT, THE LODGE, ALSO IN VERBIER, LEFT, IS PROVING POPULAR WITH SNOW-LOVING HEDONISTS. SITUATED ON THE EDGE OF A FOREST, IT'S ANOTHER OF THE FEW THAT IS SKI-IN/SKI-OUT. THE CHALET BOASTS NINE MEGA SUITES AND A HOST OF LEISURE FACILITIES (IF YOU FEEL LESS INCLINED TO SKI ALL DAY) SUCH AS A MINI ICE RINK, AND PAMPERING SPA. DETAILS, WWW.VIRGIN.COM/LIMITEDEDITION. ALSO CHECK OUT THE NEVAĪ, BY DESIGNER YASMINE MAHMOUDIEH, A NEW FOUR-STAR HOTEL THAT FUSES CONTEMPORARY DESIGN WITH ALPINE CHARM. IT HAS 33 ROOMS AND TWO DELUXE PENTHOUSES. ITS BAR WITH ICICLE MOTIFS IS BECOMING A FAVOURITE SPOT TO UNWIND FOR APRÈS-SKI COCKTAILS. DETAILS, WWW.KINGSVERBIER.CH/NEVAI.