



WINTER 2023-2024

CHÂTEL

PRESS PACK



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Portes du Soleil

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CHÂTEL,

INTENSE NATURE ...



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2023-2024 DIARY DATES



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**Saturday 23rd December 2023 to
Sunday 7th January 2024**

FAIRYTALE CHRISTMAS

Christmas and New Year are magical times, with festive Christmas lights and stars in everyone's eyes! Christmas in the mountains is marked by the arrival of Father Christmas giving out treats, spectacular torchlit descents to enchant all generations, Saint Sylvestre party (New Year's Eve) in the open air with a DJ, fireworks display and an exciting new year ahead ...

**Saturday 27th January to
Sunday 3rd February 2024**

JUNIOR WORLD SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

The 4th largest ski event in the world; 54 nations, 7 days of competition, 6 disciplines.

Focussing on low-impact transport to limit the carbon footprint by moving around the area in a different way using skis and lifts links in the Portes du Soleil. Location: Morzine.

Châtel competitions take place at Linga.

Programme:

- › **28th and 29th January:** Châtel : Training sessions Men and Women.
- › **30th January:** Châtel: Men and Women downhill.
- › **31st January:** Châtel: Super Giant and combined Men and Women.
- › **1st February:** Les Gets: Men and Women Team Event.
- › **2nd February:** Saint Jean-d'Aulps/ Morzine: Men's Giant/Women's Slalom.
- › **3rd February:** Avoriaz/Saint Jean-d'Aulps: Men's Slalom/Women's Giant.

**Saturday 10th and
Sunday 11th February 2024**

FIRST UCI SNOWBIKE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

This event will take place on the snow at Linga with two different competition

formats both inspired by alpine skiing. On the programme for this first edition are the Super-G and Dual Slalom.

The Super-G will be a one-stage competition, with racers starting one by one at regular intervals.

The Dual Slalom (similar to the downhill and snowboard parallel slalom) is a series of elimination races between two riders. They will race in pairs down two parallel slalom tracks each with two stages, alternating between tracks over 30 seconds. The racer with the combined fastest time will move to the next round of the competition.

For this event, teams will be equipped with downhill mountain bikes and licenced by a National Federation affiliated to the UCI.

Tuesday 13th February 2024

MARDI GRAS

A carnival parade through the village streets by Châtel infant and primary school children dressed in themed costumes of their own creation!

Thursday 15th February 2024

FARMER'S FAIR

With 30 active farms in Châtel, a dozen of which make Abondance (AOP) cheese every day, the fair is the highlight of this agriculture-themed week.

Adults and children are invited to spend a uniquely colourful evening with the traditional Charivari! Farmers tour the village on a brightly decorated farm-cart to the accompaniment of cow bells. In the village hall Abondance cheese will be the star of the show. There will be a « best cheese » competition with the public as jury, cheese-making demonstrations, cheese for sale, a mini farm, wooden games, music and a prize-giving ceremony.

Thursday 7th March 2024

SKIERS BLESSING AT PLAINE DRANSE

For the 5th year, Plaine Dranse chapel welcomes skiers, walkers and mountain rescuers to an evening blessing service. This winter blessing is an extension of the summer tradition of blessing cattle

during the "Fête de la Belle Dimanche". This agricultural fair, one of the largest in the region, is held on the 3rd Sunday in August and will celebrate 46 years of existence in 2024.

**From Sunday 17th to
Saturday 23rd March 2024**

ROCK THE PISTES FESTIVAL – PORTES DU SOLEIL

The Portes du Soleil ski area welcomes big-name international and Franco-Swiss rock and pop performers to ephemeral concerts stages across the Portes du Soleil. The concerts are scheduled in the early afternoon to ensure skiers can return home on the lift network. The concert in Châtel takes place at Plaine Dranse. Access to the festival is with valid lift pass.

**From Sunday 17th to
Saturday 23rd March 2024**

CHÂTEL BANDS CAMP

After-ski concerts in the village, and the opportunity for musical members of the public to perform on stage.



DON'T MISS...

Gastronomy festival
"Les Neiges Etoilées",
Châtelem (telemark event),
Happy Valley Banked Slalom
(fancy dress on snow)...

FAMILY

Families have always been a priority in Châtel. The village has retained its traditional values whilst developing into a popular resort: its unique character, sense of welcome, plethora of activities, events and leisure activities, gastronomy and local traditions enable both children and adults to slow down and recharge their batteries in the mountains.



The weekly activity programme includes sixty events and leisure activities. There is an orientation course in the village, an ice rink, the Forme d'O water activity park, spas, The Old Customs house (a mountain contraband information centre), heritage visits, the little train taking visitors through the village and surrounding hamlets, the C l'Aventure (large indoor play area for children from 2 – 12 yrs.), a carousel for little children, visit to an Abondance cheese maturing cellar, library, Belalp Escape game, cinema, age-specific children's workshops and children's shows during the school holidays, sledging areas, mountain biking on snow, sled-dog activities, snowshoe outings (guided or not), concerts, street entertainers ...



NEW ESF CHÂTEL – MARMOTTONS – PIOU PIOU CLUB:

The ESF (French ski school) is improving the Marmottons area for the Piou Piou club to create a better, more effective learning space for both young skiers and their teachers. The slopes will be remodelled and a 40m rolling carpet will be added to the existing drag lift and snowlines. There will be a piste on both sides of the carpet.

FLOCON VERT LABEL



NEW:

To learn the secrets of Abondance cheese maturing, the Cave d'Azélie, located in the village centre, offers, on reservation, a visit to their maturing cellars on Thursday mornings from 10am to 11am, followed by an Abondance cheese tasting.

Reservation at Châtel Tourism until Wednesday at 6pm. Price: €2.



AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM

During the winter, farmers and their herds of cattle remain in their village farms until going up to the summer pastures in the spring. Despite the shortened hours of daylight, the work remains intense: milking twice a day (morning and evening), making and fermenting the cheese, pressing the cheese and the daily wiping of the cheese wheels already maturing in the cellars – for a minimum of 100 days. The cattle must also be cared for; fed and watered. A typical day begins at 6am and finishes around 8pm, all in addition to spending time with the family and selling cheese from the farm.

Abondance cheese (AOP), which the farmers make, is very versatile. One delicious dish made from the cheese is

Berthoud, STG (Guaranteed traditional speciality).

Berthoud is eaten with local charcuterie, potatoes and green salad making a satisfying meal. It is on the menu at numerous restaurants and hotel-restaurants in the village, ski area and along the walking or show-shoe tracks.

Farming, traditionally an important activity in Châtel and the Abondance valley (with the Pays d'art et d'histoire label), is also important for tourism. Its values, traditions, know-how and gastronomy all have an important place in local tourism, which has been sympathetically developed on a human-scale. The sense of welcome remains intact.





PAYS D'ART ET D'HISTOIRE LABEL

Exactly 20 years ago, the Abondance valley obtained the Pays d'art et d'histoire label. In August 2019 an extension of the label was validated to cover all the communes in the Evian-vallée d'Abondance area. The promotion of local heritage preserved for the public to enjoy is due to the work of local guides and experts.

In Châtel, various sites are recognised in the accreditation:

- › The Old Customs House, mountain contraband information centre. The centre can be visited with or without a guide. The guides, from the cultural service of Châtel town hall, provide commentary and information. There are also family and children's games, role-play, and group activities... The current temporary exhibition "The Old Customs house celebrates its 10th Birthday", is a retrospective of the building's history and the Customs brigade that operated from there.
- › The Villapeyron sawmill, built in the 1920s,
- › Oratories, 20 in total
- › The Plaine Dranse chapel, in the heart of the mountain pastures in summer and surrounded by snow in winter.
- › The neo-gothic Saint-Laurent church built in 1908.
- › Traditional mountain chalets of typical regional farm architecture built of stone and wood with two sloping roof panels and carved wooden balconies, some of which are over 100 years old.
- › The Essert chapel, built in 1784 to commemorate the lives spared in the hamlet following a terrible landslide.
- › The Vonnes chapel, located on the Pas de Morgins road since 1630, very modest when built but enlarged in 1886.



SKI AREA

The “Châtel Liberté” ski area includes 59 ski lifts and 76 slopes, prepared daily by piste professionals, ensuring visitors can ski with confidence and pleasure. Châtel has activity equipment in each of its sectors: Super Châtel – Barbossine and Linga – Pré la Joux – Plaine Dranse.





SUPER CHÂTEL – BARBOSSINE SECTOR:

- › Snowpark “Smoothpark” for beginners to experts
- › Chermillon, a fun, interesting ski piste (with a mountain flora and fauna theme including figurines and information boards).
- › Speed track with a timing zone at Chalet Neuf

LINGA – PRÉ LA JOUX – PLAINE DRANSE SECTOR:

- › The ‘Great White’ version of the Fantasticable at Pré la Joux (at the top of the Rochassons chairlift).
- › Belette Information Piste (explaining the history of Abondance cheese-making from its origins in the 12th century)
- › New snow activities: supervised by professionals, fans of snakegliss, airboard, yooner and other snowracer will love this final run before the Pierre Longue chairlift closes for the day.

THE 12 PORTES DU SOLEIL RESORTS:

- › **In France:** Châtel, La Chapelle d’Abondance, Abondance en Vallée d’Abondance, and Avoriaz, Morzine, Montriond, Saint Jean d’Aulps, Les Gets in Vallée d’Aulps.
- › **In Switzerland:** Morgins, Torgon, Champoussin-Les Crosets and Champéry.

The Portes du Soleil ski pass gives access to all resorts.



SKI PASS PRICES (SAMPLES)

Individual prices

Châtel Liberté (at ticket office)

- › 1-day adult:..... €52
- › 6-day adult:..... €258

Portes du Soleil (at ticket office)

- › 1-day adult:..... €68
- › 6-day adult..... €342

Information: www.chatel.com

RAN DO PARC

Like hiking enthusiasts in summer, who take to the trails as soon as the snow has melted, ski-tourers wait impatiently for the first quality mantle of snow, and head off on seal skins to explore the village, Abondance valley, neighbouring Switzerland, and wider region. And there is plenty to discover ...

For some, the discipline is second nature, for others wanting to try this new activity (an alternative to snowshoes), it is a challenging skill to learn.

For them, there are now 4 defined circuits of varying difficulty, close to the ski area, where beginners can learn and perfect this new technique.



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THE FRANCO-SUISSE (EASY)

Leave the centre of Châtel on the Super Châtel bubble (with pedestrian lift pass). At the top, follow the footpath towards Conche Lake. The first part of the route follows the footpath until the intersection with the Chalet Neuf drag lift, where you keep going to the Col de Culet. There is a beautiful view of the Dents du Midi.

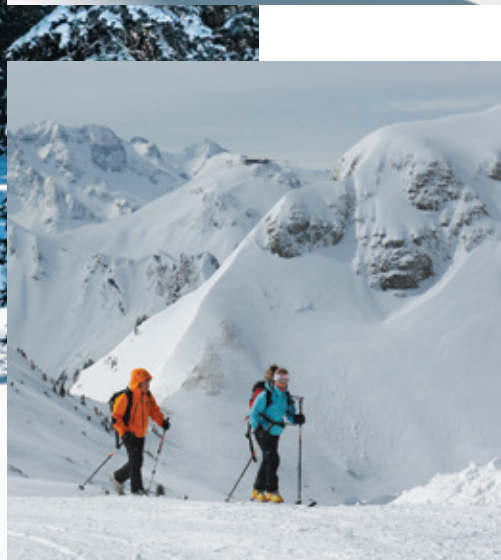
Ski down on the blue “Le Lac” piste to the left of the draglift before 4.30pm.

Details: Start: Super Châtel, length: 4.5kms, climb: 226m, time: 2 hours, highest altitude: 1 840m. The perfect circuit to learn ski-touring.

BARBOSSINE (FAIRLY DIFFICULT)

Start on the Petit Châtel chairlift (with a pedestrian lift pass). At the top, a little below to the right, a gentle climb takes you the Barbossine pasture. Turn left towards the forest on the summer track. The next part takes you through the forest, to the start of the Chaux Longe drag lift. The third part is opposite the Dents du Midi (Switzerland) and alongside the draglift, crossing the “Panoramique” piste to rejoin the first-aid post Tour de Don. Take care to follow the security markers around the draglift mechanism. Ski down on the red “Tour de Don” and “Ecureuil” pistes. At the bottom of the “Ecureuil”, take the Petit Châtel chairlift to return to the village.

Details: Start: Barbossine, length: 3.6kms, climb: 485m, time: 3 hours, highest altitude: 1 962m.



MORCLAN (FAIRLY DIFFICULT)

Start from Châtel centre on the Super Châtel bubble (with a pedestrian lift pass). At the top, turn left towards the telecord. In the middle of the piste, head towards the Morclan chairlift and join the groomed piste to the summit, which has breathtaking 360-degree views. Ski down on the red “Chermillon” piste before 4pm.

Details: Start: Super Châtel, length: 3.8kms, climb: 305m, time: 2 hours, highest altitude: 1 948m. This circuit, with a high and regular climb, is ideal for working on your cardio.

LA SERPENTINE (FAIRLY DIFFICULT)

Start from Pré la Joux, and climb through the forest with some magnificent viewpoints over the valley. It's a straight climb with a few technical areas on the first part. Leave the dense forest and cross the open clearings to Plaine Dranse. Ski down on the red “Rochassons” piste or the green la “Belette” piste.

Details: Start: Pré la Joux, length: 6kms, climb: 341m, time: 3 hours, highest altitude: 1 640m

CHATEL STATISTICS

RESORT

- › **1247** full times residents
- › **25151** tourist beds
- › **19** hotels (1 hotel ****, 8 hotels ***, 10 hotels **)
- › **3** **** holiday rental complexes
- › **2** *** holiday rental complexes
- › **1** *** holiday rental complex with hotel facilities
- › **8** group holiday centres
- › **1** camping/winter caravan site****
- › Other accommodation: **1** holiday and stopover gite, **5** chambres d'hôtes/B&Bs, **1** youth hostel, **1** holiday village, **1** appart hotel
- › **58** restaurants (including hôtel restaurants)
- › All shops

CHÂTEL LIBERTE SKI AREA

- › **59** ski lifts (3 bubble lifts, 18 chair lifts, 33 drag lifts, 3 rope tows et 2 carpets)
- › **76** pistes (7 black runs, 24 red runs, 31 blue runs, 14 green runs)
- › Hourly flow: **56,667 people**
- › Facilities: **2** snowparks, **3** boardercross, **300** snow cannons, **16** piste groomers, **44** piste maintenance/first-aiders
- › Wifi areas
- › Minimum altitude: **1,100 m**
- › Maximum altitude: **2,200 m**
- › Maximum height difference: **1,000 m**

PORTES DU SOLEIL SKI AREA

- › **600 km** of ski runs
- › **195** remontées mécaniques (3 cable cars, 10 bubble lifts, 76 chair lifts, 91 draglifts, 25 tow ropes and carpets)
- › **306** pistes (32 black runs, 105 red runs, 131 blue runs, 38 green runs)
- › Hourly flow: **266,717 people**
- › Facilities: **10** snowparks, **2** half-pipes, **4** boardercross, **100** piste groomers, **1,300** snow cannons, **174** piste maintenance/first-aiders
- › Minimum altitude: **950 m**
- › Minimum altitude: **2,400 m**
- › Maximum height difference: **1,450 m**



SPECIAL OFFERS

SKI AND NURSERY

Always keen to enhance the family aspect of the resort, Châtel offers a particularly interesting childcare scheme during the Christmas and February holidays in partnership with the ski schools.

Children from 4 to 8 years old can enjoy a half-day ski lesson in the morning from 9am to 11am. Parents drop their children at the pre-booked ski-class at either Pré la Joux or Super Châtel. At the end of the lesson, the children are collected by a dedicated minibus, with a childminder and taken to have lunch at the Petit Montagnard's Club. At the end of the meal, the children are looked after for the afternoon and can enjoy the various organised activities. Parents collect their children at the end of the afternoon.

Information and registration at the ski school of your choice for children's lessons.



LET THE MOUNTAIN WIN YOU OVER!

EARLY BOOKING

Before 15th October 2023, 10% off accommodation rental in Châtel!

Offer valid for reservations of selected chalets and apartments in Châtel participating in the scheme.

Information:

www.chatelreservation.com



SPRING IN THE MOUNTAINS

Try everything SKI te plait!

Spring in the Mountains means family and friends, skiing, special offers on accommodation, new activities, gastronomy, festivals, well-being and March and April mountain nature in Châtel.

Enjoy the sun, the longer days and take time to (re)discover the mountains in springtime.

Information:

www.leprintempsdesmontagnes.com
and www.chatelreservation.com

EXAMPLE PRICE OF A ONE-WEEK, ALL-INCLUSIVE HOLIDAY IN FEBRUARY

One week stay in a family apartment for 2 adults and 2 children (less to 12yrs) with 4X6-day Châtel Liberté ski passes valid on 130 kms of pistes, ski equipment rental for 4 people and half-day ski lessons for the week for the children.

From €2,300 based on 4 people sharing a studio from 10 to 17/02/2024.

Information: www.chatelreservation.com





CHÂTEL

Portes du *Soleil*

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