

Tignes

Stark apartment blocks and a bleak, treeless setting are the prices you pay for the high, snow-sure slopes and varied terrain

£115
RESORT PRICE INDEX

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The resort

Charm	*****
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- + Good snow guaranteed for a long season – about the best Alpine bet
- + One of the best areas in the world for lift-served off-piste runs
- + Huge amount of varied terrain, with swift access to Val d'Isère
- + Lots of accommodation close to the slopes
- + Efforts to make the resort villages more welcoming are paying off
- Resort architecture not to everyone's taste (including ours)
- Bleak, treeless setting – many lifts prone to closure by storms
- Still a few long, slow chairlifts – though progress is being made
- You need an area pass to find long green runs
- Limited, but improving, après-ski

The appeal of Tignes is simple: good snow, spread over a wide area of varied terrain, shared with Val d'Isère. The altitude of Tignes is crucial: a forecast of 'rain up to 2000m' means 'fresh snow down to village level in Tignes'.

We prefer to stay in Val, which is a more human place. But in many ways Tignes makes the better base: appreciably higher, more convenient, surrounded by intermediate terrain, with quick access to the Grande Motte glacier. And the case gets stronger as results flow from Tignes' campaign to reinvent itself in a more cuddly form. The place is a lot less hostile to the visitor than it once was.

In the past few seasons the resort has also, at last, got around to installing some fast chairs on the western side of the Tignes bowl. But there are still a few key links that need upgrading.

THE RESORT

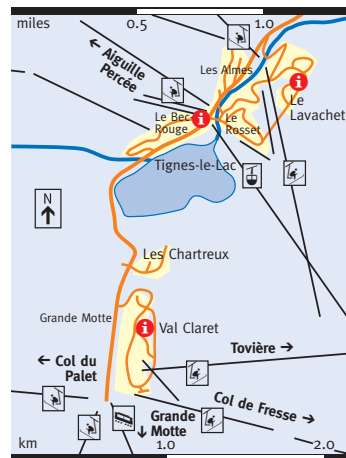
Tignes was created before the French discovered the benefits of making purpose-built resorts look acceptable. But things are improving, and the villages are gradually acquiring a more traditional look and feel.

Tignes-le-Lac is the hub of the resort, split into two sub resorts, Le Rosset and Le Bec-Rouge. It's at the point where these two meet – a snowy pedestrian area, with valley traffic now passing through a tunnel beneath – that the lifts are concentrated: a powerful gondola towards Tignes and Val d'Isère and a fast six-pack up the western slopes. There is also a suburb built on the lower slopes known as Les Almes. A nursery slope separates Le Rosset from the fourth component part, the group of apartment blocks called Le Lavachet, below which there are good fast lifts up both sides.

Val Claret is 2km/1 mile up the valley, beyond the lake. From there, fast chairs head up to the western slopes, towards Val d'Isère and to the Grande Motte. An underground funicular also accesses Grande Motte.

Beside the road along the valley to the lifts is a ribbon of development in traditional style, named Grande Motte (after the peak). Val Claret is built on two levels, which are linked by a couple of (unreliable) indoor elevators, stairs and by hazardous paths.

Down the valley from the main resort villages are two smaller places. Tignes-les-Boisses, quietly set in the



↑ Tignes-le-Lac in the valley on the left, Val Claret to the right. Great view of le-Lac's nursery slope and the steep black Trolles run coming down from Val d'Isère too

OT TIGNES / MONICA DALMASSO

trees beside the road up, consists of a barracks and a couple of simple hotels. Tignes-les-Brévières is a renovated old village at the lowest point of the slopes – a favourite lunch spot, and a friendly place to stay.

VILLAGE CHARM ★★★★★

Functional, not fancy

Some of Tignes-le-Lac's smaller buildings in the central part are being successfully revamped in chalet style. But the place as a whole is dreary, and the blocks overlooking the lake from Le Bec-Rouge will remain monstrous until the day they are demolished. But some attractive new buildings are being added both in the centre and on the fringes. The main part of Val Claret, Centre, is an uncompromisingly 1960s-style development on a shelf above the valley floor. So, if it's more charm you seek, try the lower villages.

KEY FACTS

Resort	2100m 6,890ft
Espace Killi	
Slopes	1550-3455m 5,090-11,340ft
Lifts	89
Pistes	300km 186 miles
Green	15%
Blue	40%
Red	28%
Black	17%
Snowmaking	692 guns
Tignes only	
Slopes	1550-3455m 5,090-11,340ft
Lifts	47
Pistes	150km 93 miles

CONVENIENCE ★★★★★

Good all rounder

Location isn't crucial, as a regular free bus service connects all the villages until midnight – though in the daytime the route runs along the bottom of Val Claret, leaving residents of Val Claret Centre with a climb.

SCENERY ★★★☆☆

Great from the glacier

Tignes is in a high, bleak, treeless bowl; when the sun shines the rugged mountain terrain is splendid, especially from the glacial heights of the Grande Motte.

THE MOUNTAINS

The area's great weakness is that it can become unusable in bad weather. There are no woodland runs except immediately above Tignes-les-Boisses and Tignes-les-Brévières. Heavy snow produces widespread avalanche risk and wind closes the higher chairs.

Piste classification here is more reliable than in Val d'Isère ('excellent' says a 2009 visitor) and signposting is 'very clear'. But we've had complaints that lift and piste opening information is unreliable.

EXTENT OF THE SLOPES ★★★★★

High, snow-sure and varied

Tignes and Val d'Isère share a huge area of slopes known as L'Espace Killi. Locally, Tignes' biggest asset is the **Grande Motte** – and the runs from, as well as on, the glacier. The underground funicular from Val Claret whizzes you up to over 3000m/9,840ft in seven minutes. There are blue, red and black runs to play on up here, as well as beautiful long runs back to the resort.

The main lifts towards Val d'Isère are efficient: a high-capacity gondola from Le Lac to **Tovièr**, and a fast chair with covers from Val Claret to **Col de Fresse**. You can head back to Tignes from either: the return from Tovièr to Tignes-le-Lac is via a steep black run but there are easier blue runs to Val Claret.

Going up the opposite side of the valley takes you to a quieter area of

NEWS

For 2008/09 a six-pack replaced the Tufs chairlift from Val Claret to Tovièr. Also in Val Claret, the Nevada 4-star hotel and spa resort opened. The terrain park was redesigned and a 'Shoot my Ride' scheme started where your run is filmed.



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predominantly east-facing slopes split into two main sectors, linked in both directions – **Col du Palet** and **L'Aiguille Percée**. This whole mountainside has at last been given some of the fast lifts it has needed for years – there are five so far.

The Col des Ves chairlift, at the south end of the Col du Palet sector, serves one of the six 'naturides' (see 'For experts'). You can descend from L'Aiguille Percée to Tignes-les-Brévières on blue, red or black runs. There's an

efficient gondola back, but the chairs above it are old and slow and need upgrading ('a quicker route back is the bus', says a reporter).

FAST LIFTS *****

Improved but not good enough

Fast chairs and gondolas get you up the mountain from most parts of the resort. Recent investment has added more fast chairs higher up too, but a few key slow ones remain that could do with being upgraded.

QUEUES *****

Very few

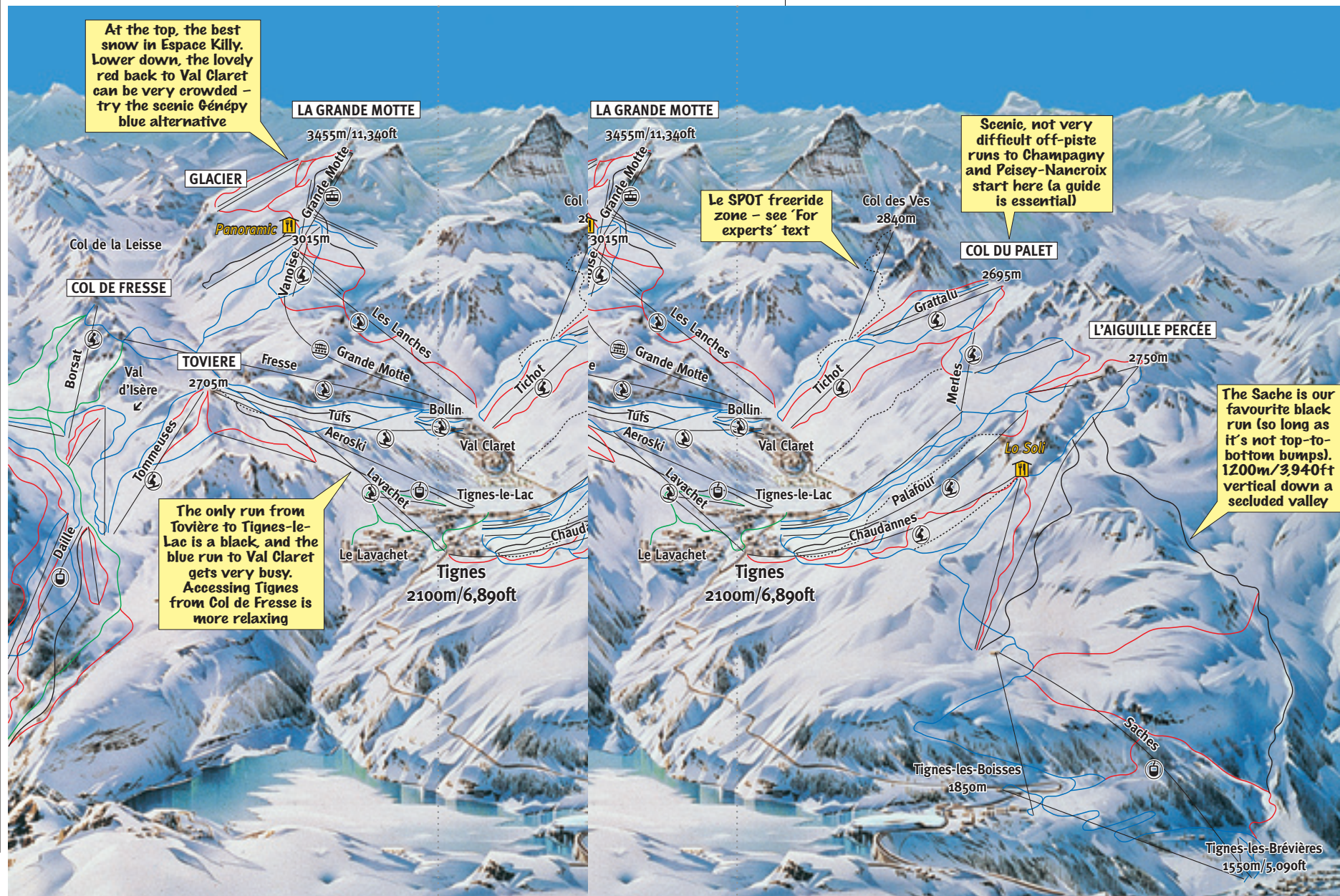
The queues here depend on snow conditions. If snow low down is poor, the Grande Motte funicular generates queues; the fast chairs in parallel with it are often quicker, despite the longer ride time. These lifts jointly shift a lot of people, with the result that the red run down to Val Claret can be unpleasantly crowded (the roundabout Génepy blue is a much quieter option). The worst queues now are for the

cable car on the glacier – half-hour waits are common. Of course, if higher lifts are closed by heavy snow or high winds, the lifts on the lower slopes have big queues. Otherwise there are usually few problems; crowded pistes are more of an issue.

TERRAIN PARKS *****

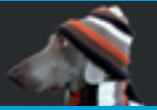
Vastly improved

Tignes was one of the first French resorts to build a terrain park but we've had some criticism of the park



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LIFT PASSES

Espace Killy

Prices in €

Age	1-day	6-day
under 14	35	167
14 to 64	44	209
over 65	35	167
Free	under 5, over 75	

Beginner five free lifts

Notes

Covers Tignes and Val d'Isère; half-day and pedestrian passes; family discounts; 5-day plus passes valid for one day in the Three Valleys, one day in Paradiski (La Plagne-Les Arcs)

Alternative passes

Tignes-only pass available

boarding

Tignes has always been a popular destination for snowboarders. Lots of easily accessible off-piste and the fact that it's cheaper than Val d'Isère are the main attractions, and quite a few top UK snowboarders make this their winter home. For those who buy the Espace Killy lift ticket, the backside of Col de Fresse in Val d'Isère is a natural playground. There are a few flat areas (avoid Génèpy and Myrtilles), but the lift system relies more on chairs and gondolas than drags (though a long drag serves the boardercross area). There are long, wide pistes to blast down, such as Grattalu, Carline and Piste H, with acres of powder between them to play in. There are three specialist snowboard schools (Snocool, Surf Feeling and Alliance) and a snowboarder chalet (www.dragonlodge.com). Go to Snowpark-shop in Tignes-le-Lac for all your freestyle needs.

in the past. However, for 2008/09 Swatch started sponsoring it and the park (on Col du Palet above Val Claret) was completely redesigned with all levels in mind. A new 'Shoot my Ride' scheme was also started; your run is filmed and then played back on a giant screen at the bottom of the park. You can watch it later online. There's a boardercross too. Tignes also has a 120m/390ft long half-pipe, which is well shaped and a good size for those not comfortable with a super-pipe. It is right at the bottom of the mountain, which means if you have the energy to hike, you can ride it for free. In the summer the park doubles in size and moves up to the Grande Motte for freestyle camps. There's also a children's park in Le Lac.

SNOW RELIABILITY *****

Difficult to beat

Tignes has all-year-round runs (barring brief closures in spring or autumn) on its Grande Motte glacier. And the resort height of 2100m/6,890ft generally means good snow-cover right back to base for most of the long winter season – November to May. The west-facing runs down from Col de Fresse and Tovièrre to Val Claret suffer from the afternoon sun, although they now have serious snowmaking. Some of the lower east-facing and south-east-facing slopes on the other side of the valley can suffer late in the season, too. Grooming is 'excellent'.

FOR EXPERTS *****

An excellent choice

Tignes has converted six of its black runs into 'naturides', which means they are never groomed (a neat way of saving money!) but they are marked, patrolled and avalanche protected. Many of them are not especially steep (eg the Ves run – promoted from red

status and renamed after the local freeride hero Guerlain Chicherit). Perhaps the most serious challenge is the long black run from Tovièrre to Tignes-le-Lac, with steep, usually heavily mogulled sections (the top part, Pâquerettes, is now a naturide, but the bottom part, Trolles, is a normal black). Parts of this run get a lot of afternoon sun. Our favourite black run (still a 'normal' black) is the Sache, from l'Aiguille Percée down a secluded valley to Tignes-les-Brévières. It can become very heavily mogulled, especially at the bottom – you can avoid this section by taking the red (used to be blue) Arcosses piste option part-way down.

But it is the off-piste possibilities that make Tignes such a draw for experts. Go with one of the off-piste groups that the schools organise and you'll have a great time. See the feature box for a few of the options.

And the bizarre French form of heli-skiing is available: mountaintop drops are forbidden, but from Tovièrre you can ski down towards the Lac du Chevril to be retrieved by chopper.

FOR INTERMEDIATES *****

One of the best

For keen intermediate piste-bashers the Espace Killy is one of the top three or four areas in the world.

Tignes' local slopes are ideal intermediate terrain. The runs on the Grande Motte glacier nearly always have superb snow. The runs from the top of the cable car are bizarrely classified red and black, but they are wide and mostly easy on usually fabulous snow and could easily be blues. The Leisse run down to the chairlift is classified black and can get very mogulled but has good snow. The long red run all the way back to town is a delightful long cruise – though

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333

t 0479 062088

Surf Feeling

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Alliance

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Tetra

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often crowded. The roundabout blue (Génèpy) is much gentler and quieter.

From Tovièrre, the blue 'H' run to Val Claret is an enjoyable cruise and generally well groomed. But again, it can get very crowded. There is lots to do on the other side of the valley and the runs down from l'Aiguille Percée to Tignes-les-Boisses and Tignes-les-Brévières are also scenic and fun. There are red and blue options as well as the beautiful Sache black run – adventurous intermediates shouldn't miss it. The runs from l'Aiguille Percée to Le Lac are gentle, wide blues.

FOR BEGINNERS ★★☆☆☆

Good nursery slopes, but...

The nursery slopes of Tignes-le-Lac and Le Lavachet (which meet at the top) are excellent – convenient, snow-sure, gentle, free of through-traffic and served by a slow chair and a drag. The ones at Val Claret are less appealing: an unpleasantly steep slope within the village served by a drag, and a less convenient slope served by the fast Bollin chair. All of these lifts are free.

Although there are some fairly easy blues on the west side of Tignes, for long green runs you have to go over to the Val d'Isère sector. You need an Espace Killy pass to use them, and to get back to Tignes you have a choice

between the blue run from Col de Fresse (which has a tricky start) or riding the gondola down from Tovièrre. And in poor weather, the high Tignes valley is an intimidatingly bleak place – enough to make any wavering beginner retreat to a bar with a book.

FOR CROSS-COUNTRY ★★☆☆☆

Interesting variety

The Espace Killy has 44km/27miles of cross-country trails, including 20km/12 miles of tracks on the frozen Lac de Tignes, along the valley between Val Claret and Tignes-le-Lac, at Les Boisses and Les Brévières and up on the Grande Motte.

MOUNTAIN RESTAURANTS ★★☆☆☆

A couple of good places

The mountain restaurants are not a highlight – a regular hazard of high, purpose-built resorts, where it's easy to go back to the village for lunch. **Editors' choice** Lo Soli (0479 060742) at the top of the Chaudannes chair is a clear favourite. The terrace shares with the adjacent self-service Alpage a superb view of the Grande Motte; a reporter endorses our opinion: 'excellent food, ambience and service; excellent gâteau d'agneau, Caesar salad and melt-in-the-mouth pot-au-feu'. The table-service bit of the

A MECCA FOR OFF-PISTE SKIERS

Tignes is renowned for offering some of the best lift-served off-piste skiing in the world. There is a tremendous choice, with runs to suit all levels, from intermediate skiers to fearless freeriders and off-piste experts. Here's just a small selection. Don't go without a guide.

*For a first experience of off-piste, **Lognan** is ideal. These slopes – down the mountainside between the pistes to Le Lac and the pistes to Val Claret – are broad and not very difficult.*

*One of our favourite routes is the **Tour de Pramecou**. After a few minutes' walking at the bottom of the Grande Motte glacier, you pass around a big rock called Pramecou. There is then a multitude of possibilities, varying in difficulty – so routes can be found for skiers of different abilities.*

***Petite Balme** is a run for good skiers only – access is easy but leads to quite challenging north-facing slopes in real high-mountain terrain, far from the pistes.*

*To ski **Oreilles de Mickey** (Mickey's Ears) you start from Tovièrre and walk north along the ridge to the peak of Lavachet, where you get a great view of Tignes. The descent involves three long couloirs, narrow and pretty steep, which bring you back to Le Lavachet.*

*The best place to find good snow is the **Chardonnet** couloirs – they never get the sun. The route involves a 20-minute walk from the top of the Merle Blanc chairlift.*

*The **Vallons de la Sache** is one of the most famous routes – a descent of 1200m/3,940ft vertical down a breathtaking valley in the heart of the National Park, overlooked by the magnificent Sache glacier. Starting from l'Aiguille Percée you enter a different world, high up in the mountains, far away from the ski lifts. You arrive down in Les Brévières, below the Tignes dam.*

*One of the big adventures is to go away from the Tignes ski area and all signs of civilisation, starting from the Col du Palet. From there you can head for **Champagny** (linked to La Plagne's area) or **Peisey-Nancroix** (linked to Les Arcs' area) – both very beautiful runs, and not too difficult.*

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Panoramic (0479 064721) at the top of the funicular competes; one regular reporter gives it the edge: 'a veritable joy – excellent rack of lamb, tiramisu'. **Worth knowing about** The atmospheric chalet at the top of Tovière is 'fairly basic' but does 'very good portions'. A reporter found the 'service just OK'. At the top of the Tichot chair from Val Claret, the Palet 'serves good food at good prices'. On the nursery slope above Val Claret, the 'expensive' Chalet du Bollin has been recommended for its 'casserole served from the pot and the portion is huge! Excellent'. The big Panoramic self-service at the top of the funicular gets crowded, but has great views from its huge terrace and 'good portions at reasonable prices'.

There are lots of easily accessible places for lunch in the resorts. One ski-to-the-door favourite of ours in Le Lac is the hotel Montana, on the left as you descend from l'Aiguille Percée. Another is La Ferme des 3 Capucines (see 'Eating out') a short walk down from the bottom of the Chaudannes and Paquis chairs. In Val Claret the Taverne des Neiges has 'good food and service' and Pignatta serves 'quality and value succulent pizzas'. In

Le Lac, the Arbina offers 'consistent high quality'.

At the extremity of the lift system, Les Brévières makes an obvious lunch stop. A short walk round the corner into the village brings you to places much cheaper than the two by the piste. Sachette, for example, is crammed with artefacts from mountain life and offers 'lots of good cheese dishes'. The Etoile des Neiges 'serves great, typical Savoyard food'.

SCHOOLS AND GUIDES ***** *Plenty of choice*

There are over half-a-dozen schools, including three specialist snowboard schools, plus various independent instructors. A recent reporter recommends Ali Ross Skiing Clinics (pre-booking required) – 'a great character who achieved results'. Reporters advise that at busy times pre-booking is 'essential' for normal schools as well. ESF gets mixed reviews: one 2008 reporter tells of an instructor losing a pupil, who then had to find and fund his own way home from Val d'Isère, and all of those in this reporter's group who tried the ESF had 'bad experiences'. But one child was 'admirably looked after' and the instructor showed 'great professionalism and understanding'.

New Generation, a British-run school with branches in five other resorts, opened in Tignes last season. See the Courchevel, Méribel, Les Arcs and Val d'Isère chapters for glowing reports of their instruction.

Reports on Evolution 2 are generally positive for adult tuition. Members of a recent reporter's group were pleased with their progress and one took private lessons with an 'encouraging and very patient instructor'. The off-piste 'Tarentaise Tour' has also been praised ('a superb long day, with an enthusiastic guide'). But one visitor was 'very unhappy' with the children's lessons: 'The children changed level every class. At the end of one lesson, the class arrived back without our child – when asked where she was, the instructor said he simply didn't know. She returned later with another group.' The same reporter moved his children to the 333 school where 'the difference was dramatic – I would highly recommend them'.

BASS has 'excellent, small group clinics', and we have a glowing report

Tignes-le-Lac is a bit of an eyesore, especially when it's not covered in snow. But you come here for the great snow-sure slopes not the village charm →

OT TIGNES / MONICA DALMASSO

CHILDCARE

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Ski schools
Evolution 2 takes children from age 5 and ESF takes children from age 4 (6 days €210)

GETTING THERE

Air Geneva 225km/140 miles (3hr30); Lyon 230km/145 miles (3hr15); Chambéry 145km/90 miles (2hr15)

Rail Bourg-St-Maurice (30km/19 miles); regular buses or taxi from station

ACTIVITIES

Indoor Wellness and fitness centres (pools, saunas, Turkish baths, hot tub, spa and beauty treatments, weight training), multi-sports hall, yoga, squash, climbing wall, library, bowling, heritage centre

Outdoor Dog sledding, mountaineering, ice climbing, ice driving, ice diving, ice rink, tobogganing, paragliding, skijoring, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, biking on snow, horse riding, helicopter flights

SMART LODGINGS

Check out our feature chapters at the front of the book.



of a British-run snowboarding outfit, Alliance: 'They teach with passion and enthusiasm; by far the best week's instruction I have received.'

FOR FAMILIES *****

Mixed reports

We have had good reports on the Marmottons kindergartens – 'brilliant' said a father of a four year old – and the Spritelets ski classes arranged by Esprit Ski and Evolution 2: 'She loved her class and could snowplough by the end of the week.' But we've also received a poor report for Evolution 2 (see 'Schools').

STAYING THERE

All three main styles of accommodation are available through tour operators. More luxury options are appearing.

Chalets The choice of catered chalets is increasing. Ski Total have several smart chalets, including some with pool, hot tub and sauna. Total's Chalet Artik is 'excellent, comfortable', with pool and sauna. Family specialist Esprit has a chalet hotel and several chalets here, including the smart new Corniche with sauna, steam and hot tub for this season. Ski Olympic's chalet hotel Rosset and chalet Madeleine have been recommended by reporters; their other chalets look good too. Mark Warner has two chalet hotels, one with an outdoor pool.

Hotels The few hotels are small and concentrated in Le Lac.

*****Campanules** (0479 063436) Smartly

rustic chalet in upper Le Lac, with good restaurant. One reporter was impressed enough to suggest that it deserved a 4-star rating.

*****Village Montana** (0479 400144) Stylishly woody, on the east-facing slopes above Le Lac, with a 4-star suites section. Outdoor pool, sauna, steam, hot tub.

*****Lévanna** (0479 063294) Central in Le Lac – comfortable, with a 'generous hot tub'; a reporter found 'friendly staff but a woeful lack of them'.

*****Diva** (0479 067000) Biggest in town (121 rooms). On lower level of Val Claret, a short walk from lifts. 'Very comfy rooms, excellent meals.'

Recommended again in 2008. Sauna.

*****Arbina** (0479 063478) Well-run place close to the lifts in Le Lac, with lunchtime terrace, crowded après-ski bar and one of the best restaurants.

*****Marais** (0479 064006) Prettily furnished, simple hotel in Les Boisses. **Génépy** (0479 065711) Simple Dutch-run chalet in Les Brévières.

Apartments There are lots of apartments in all price ranges. Erna Low and Ski Collection have some good-looking options and Leisure Direction and Ski Amis do self-catered places here too. The growing number of smart places include the Ecrin des Neiges, Ferme du Val Claret and Nevada in Val Claret and Telemark and Residence Village Montana in Le Lac. In Les Brévières, the Belvedere has very smart large apartments and chalets with three to six bedrooms. All the above have access to pool, sauna etc, but at extra cost in some cases.

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The Chalet Club in Val Claret is a collection of simple studios, but it has a free indoor pool, sauna and in-house restaurant and bar.

Alpservice specialises in cheap accommodation for young people who want to spend the season – or at least several weeks – in a resort.

The supermarket at Le Lac is reported to be 'comprehensive but very expensive'.

EATING OUT ★★★★★

Good places scattered about

The options in Le Lavachet are rather limited, though a recent reporter enjoyed the Grenier with its 'excellent cold meats and tartiflette' and another the 'novel experience' of eating with over-wintering farm animals on display through a viewing window at the 'atmospheric' Ferme des 3 Capucines (we had a good lunch here in 2009 too). And we have very positive reports of the British-run Brasero: 'This restaurant is establishing a good reputation in Tignes; the food was quite simply excellent. We were made to feel very welcome.' Finding anywhere with some atmosphere is difficult in Le Lac, though the food in some of the better hotels is good. The Campanules has 'exemplary service', but the food 'wasn't as memorable as on other occasions', says a regular visitor. The Arbina continues to provide 'outstanding food, very good value and first-class service'. The Escale Blanche is almost as popular. Two visitors recommend the 'delicious food' at the 'quirky' Clin d'Oeil. Bagus Cafe's 'eclectic cuisine' is also praised. One visitor particularly highlights the Monday champagne nights at the Alpaka Lodge – 'a relaxed restaurant with duck breast the star attraction'. A recent visitor enjoyed 'traditional food' at the Eterlou.

In Val Claret the Caveau is

recommended for a special treat – 'superbly presented food and good service in an intimate cellar setting'. The Petit Savoyard 'is friendly with efficient service'. The buffet at the Indochine has been strongly recommended by several reporters. Pepe 2000 has 'reasonable prices and helpful staff', but a reporter says the Pignatta 'slightly trumps it' and is enjoyable at lunchtime too – one reporter's group 'savoured really tasty meals'. The Auberge des 3 Oursons was recommended for 'massive portions, friendly service'.

The Cordée in Les Boisses offers unpretentious surroundings, good traditional French food, modest prices.

APRES-SKI ★★★★★

Hidden away

Reporters agree that there is plenty going on if you know where to find it. Val Claret has some early-evening atmosphere, and happy hours are popular. Reporters differ on the merits of the Crowded House (popular with Brits). Grizzly's is 'cosy and atmospheric, but you pay for the ambience'. The 'whisky lounge' in the Couloir is a 'great place to relax'.

Le Lac is a natural focus for immediate après-ski drinks. The 'lively' Loop, with pool table, has a 'two for one' happy hour from 4 to 6pm. The bar of the hotel Arbina is our kind of spot – adequately cosy, friendly service. It's a great place to sit outside and people-watch. The Alpaka Cocktail Bar is 'hard to leave', 'a real gem later on'. TC's bar is 'very friendly, with good music'. Jack's is a popular late haunt.

OFF THE SLOPES ★★★★★

Forget it

Despite the range of alternative activities, Tignes is a resort for those who want to use the slopes, where anyone who doesn't is liable to feel like a fish out of water. Some activities do get booked up quickly as well – a reporter said it was impossible to find a free dog sledding slot in April. The ice skating on the lake includes a 500m/1,640ft circuit as well as a conventional rink. There's ice driving at Les Brévières. The Lagon leisure centre, with various pools, slides, wellness and fitness facilities, meets with readers' approval and a 2009 visitor's kids 'really enjoyed the bowling alley' at Tignes le Lac.