

Exquisite pleasure high up in the Alps: Pontresina

350 km of panoramic downhill, resplendent in the sunshine and topped off by Michelin-starred chefs.

Nestled in the Bernina massif, wildly romantic, sunny and sheltered from the wind, Pontresina is a tranquil place for winter delights as well as sporty pursuits. You're sure to find fine powdery snow and 350 km of perfectly prepared slopes. Pontresina shares three of the most famed Swiss skiing areas with Engadin St Moritz: Diavolezza, Corviglia and Corvatsch. But be it cross-country skiing, snowshoe and winter walking or ice-skating and ice climbing, you'll find an offer you can't refuse. The health and beauty treatments on offer at the local hotels and the Bellavita Pool and Spa are the perfect way to unwind after a hard day on the pistes. Its proximity to Italy guarantees high-class gastronomy and hour upon hour of sun-soaked moments. Pontresina has also been awarded the "Families welcome" quality seal, which recognises holiday destinations that cater specifically to the needs and requirements of children and accompanying adults. For successful family holidays from A to Z. The harmonious blend of excitement and relaxation set Pontresina apart. For an unforgettable stay and feeling like you've found a home from home.

Piz Bernina (4,049 m), Palü, Roseg and Bellavista are altogether omnipresent and quite literally a cut above the rest, featuring as they do the highest peaks of the Eastern Alps with their majestic glaciers. Bernina is a breathtakingly monumental and impressive four-thousander that makes even the most passionate skier, snowboarder, cross-country skier or climber pause to look upwards every once in a while. Slowing down has never been this radiant. The high alpine location is sure to fulfil that wintry dream of powdery snow that's metres high. With a valley that stands at 1,800 m and mountain stations at a maximum altitude of 3,303 m, you're absolutely certain to find snow here. Added to that is the generally favourable weather that combines copious amounts of sunshine with no shortage of snow. Pontresina therefore boasts the ideal conditions for winter sports enthusiasts. And anyone who likes to be a bit more cosy can book a ride on a horse-drawn sleigh, enjoy a health and beauty programme at the Bellavita Pool and Spa, or just treat themselves to something from the exquisite selection at one of the many starred hotels and restaurants. At Pontresina, luxury really comes to life. Here, the nature and originality of the place are all part of this lap of luxury – luxury that particularly tickles the fancy of winter sports enthusiasts.

Diavolezza, Corviglia, Corvatsch: snowy delights at the highest level

Their names will soon represent 150 years of winter sports history. Today, they stand for 350 km of perfectly prepared slopes at a height of between 1,800 and 3,303 m in Switzerland's largest snowsports region. Thrill-seekers can find endless panoramic downhill, pros famed World Cup routes and beginners flat, sunny slopes. 60 state-of-the-art mountain railways and ski lifts reduce waiting times and allow you to enjoy your experience to the maximum. Freeriders, tourers and telemark skiers are also in for the best this fine region has to offer on the Diavolezza and Lagalb: expansive, untouched and diverse deep-snow areas. Experienced skiers should definitely try out the Morteratsch glacial downhill – 10 km long and intoxicatingly beautiful. Cross-country skiers, on the other hand, can enjoy a bit of the peace and flair of the idyllic Roseg and Morteratsch side valleys. 200 km of cross-country ski runs through a unique winter landscape that's also a haven for snowshoe and winter walking.

On the rocks: climbing, walking and kiting

Making your way up ice-shrouded cliffs and frozen waterfalls with just a pick and climbing iron has been regarded as a rare adventure in many areas since global warming took hold. In Pontresina, it's breathtakingly diverse. In the Pontresina ravine, mighty walls of ice with imposing icicles form every winter. Further, right in the midst of Pontresina is a natural ice rink. Ice-skating, ice stock sports, curling and hockey matches take place where ice occurs naturally and is tended to every evening. Lago Bianco, though, is a favourite among snowkiting enthusiasts and in Pontresina, icy delights aren't just enjoyed at the table.

Dolce far niente: haute cuisine, tranquillity and fine art

If you take the recommendations of Gault Millau on board, Pontresina and the surrounding areas are also the first choice for gourmets. An abundance of sun terraces are perfect for enjoying a fine bottle of wine and a first-class meal. The diverse cuisine covers everything from classis viande des Grisons through to Mediterranean fare and international specialities. The homely pleasures include long walks, sleigh rides and, last but not least, a ride on the Bernina Express. The UNESCO world heritage track is one of the world's most spectacular natural phenomena.

For the refined guest, the evening concerts are also a great choice, not to mention comedy acts and theatrical performances at the Convention and Event Centre Pontresina. In the low season, it's also the perfect location for congresses and seminars, and offers that special something for discerning individuals during high season thanks to top-class events.

Be it winter sports, culinary delicacies, fascinating landscapes or cultural delights, Pontresina provides its guests with the finer things in life.