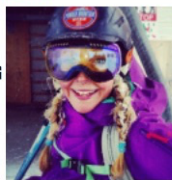




PHOTO: CHANEL LUTY

HOW TO SPEND IT

GABY LE BRETON, WHO HAS CUNNINGLY CORNERED THE LUXURY END OF THE SKI-WRITING MARKET (THINK TATLER AND THE FT), NAMES THE PLACES SHE HAS BEEN THAT ARE WORTH A MEGA-SPEND



I'm lucky to experience "once-in-a-lifetime" ski trips more than once in a season. And, while I'm the first to admit to being spoiled rotten, I like to think I've remained level-headed – as my ski holiday this winter I stayed in a log cabin in Norway with no running water or electricity.

So, it's my inner granola girl speaking when I urge you to save up for a few nights at San Lorenzo Mountain Lodge in the Dolomites (from £2,150 per night for a double; sanlorenzomountainlodge.com; pictured below) rather than Chalet N in Oberlech, Austria (from £163,500 per week for up to 24; chalet-n.com).

Not that there's exactly anything wrong with the 54,000sq ft N, with its private elevator to the pistes, monster spa, snow bar, 26 staff and pinking wine cellar – it's just, well, a bit excessive. On the flipside, San Lorenzo Mountain Lodge is a converted 16th-century hunting lodge set in secluded pastures high above a sleepy valley. There are four bedrooms, a cosy living area, snug spa, jaw-dropping views from the hot tub and a helipad for ski jaunts around the Dolomites – all you really need for a dream holiday.

That said, my all-time favourite trip has to be the time I spent in Bighorn Lodge in Revelstoke, BC (from £42,000 per week for 16 people plus £790 per person per day for heliskiing; bighornrevelstoke.com). This place truly has it all: heliskiing from the back garden, big mountain skiing in Revelstoke Mountain Resort and all the trappings of the ultimate party chalet from a private cinema and 16-person hot tub to a poolroom and teppanyaki kitchen.

Complete the rock star experience by booking heli transfers from Kelowna, giving you more time to contemplate Mt Begbie from the hot tub with a Begbie beer in hand. Oh, and to ski Revy's famed steepes and trees, of course.

THREE DREAM-TRIP ESSENTIALS

- Dragon Alliance goggles, the very best out there in my opinion
- Odlo thermals: my faves for warmth, durability and non-ponginess
- Ortovox Freerider ABS bag – a necessary luxury if you ask me



