



LIVING THE HIGH LIFE

U READER **GILLIAN REITH** TOOK A TRIP TO VAL D'ISERE
IN THE SNOWY FRENCH ALPS

Embarking on our first family holiday in five years was an exciting but slightly daunting prospect. We were no longer young children and everyone had their own idea of what makes the perfect holiday. We immediately decided on a winter holiday as apart from Mum, we have all been keen skiers since an early age. Finding something to suit the whole family, however, was a hurdle.

It needed to be a resort with decent nightlife for myself and my two sisters. However, our parents and aunt and uncle were looking for a more relaxing experience. Our group also comprised a wide range of skiing

abilities so we had to find a resort that would be suitable for all levels of skier and also offer some walking tracks and activities for Mum who doesn't ski.

We came across Highlife, an Irish-based chalet company, through a friend. We looked through their website and the chalets looked really nice — they were beautifully furnished and had great facilities including hot tubs and a sauna. We chose Val d'Isere as a resort because, as well as amazing skiing, it is renowned for having fantastic nightlife and lots of opportunities for some shopping!

When we arrived in the resort, we were transferred to our chalet, which we were

absolutely delighted with — it was everything we expected and even included our own personal chef. The chalet host and chef were absolutely superb, nothing seemed too much trouble for them. The food was definitely one of the biggest surprises of the week. Every morning, we were served pancakes, omelettes and porridge, as well as a fry for those who wanted it.

In the evenings, our chef Chris prepared three-course meals of a standard I would expect from an expensive restaurant. It was such a treat that we often ended up sitting in front of the fire enjoying our giant cheese board and a glass of wine rather than heading into town after dinner.

The size of the ski area was vast, covering not only Val d'Isere, but also the adjoining resort of Tignes. We were very impressed by the free guiding service that was also provided which helped us quickly get to know the ski area, including the best runs and places to lunch on the mountain. We were also lucky to have excellent skiing conditions on most days providing breathtaking scenery across the mountains.

All in all the whole holiday was perfect for our family, we genuinely couldn't have asked for more. **U**

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN

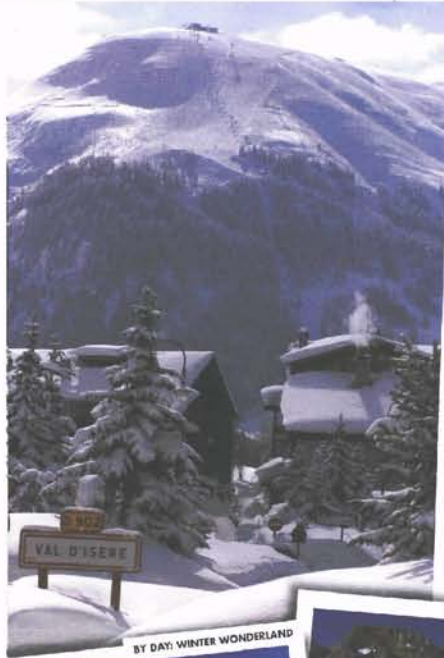
We want to hear more of our readers fab travel reviews, and as a thank you, we are pleased to be able to offer a copy of the *Lonely Planet's Best In Travel 2009* for those whose stories are published. *A Year of Festivals* lists the best places to go and things to do around the world right now.

Drop us an email to umagazine@harmonia.ie or send us a letter (we still read them too) to:

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Include about 450 words & six high-quality pics please!

The U crew



CHECK OUT THE HOT TUB

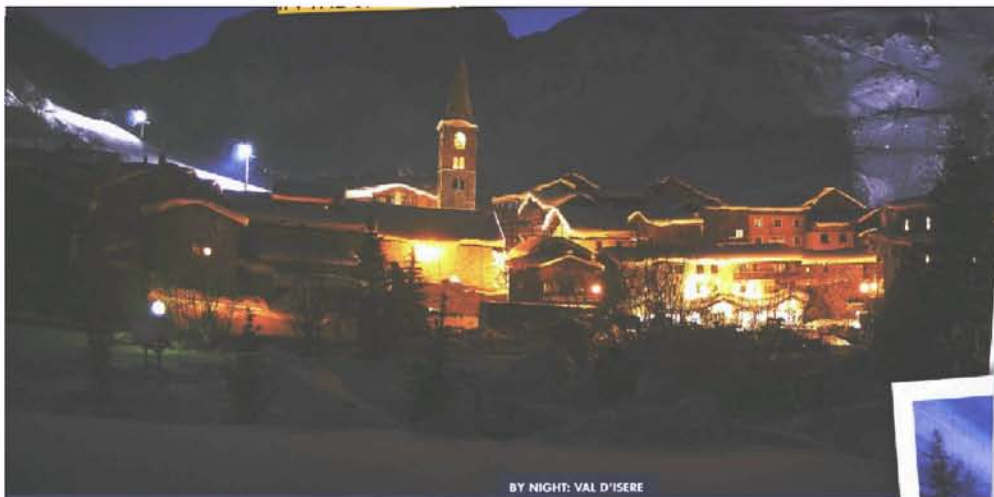


BY DAY: WINTER WONDERLAND

YOU COULD GET VERY COMFY IN THIS CHALET



GILLIAN AND HER SISTER NICOLA HIT THE SLOPES



BY NIGHT: VAL D'ISERE