

TWIN PEAK EXPERIENCES



**AWAY  
WITH  
THE  
CHAMPS**

**AWAY  
FROM  
IT  
ALL**

WE CREATE MEMORIES

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# AWAY FROM IT ALL TWIN PEAK EXPERIENCES

*Our Epic Peaks program* focuses on the area between two of the Alps' most epic mountains: *Matterhorn* and *Mont Blanc*, dominating the tri-state area between Italy, France and Switzerland. Three **totally different, luxurious** but yet extraordinary hotels located in Chamonix, Zermatt and Aosta are the starting point for one- or multiple day excursions, may they be **active, cultural or culinary** – or a little bit of all. Out of an abundance of options and according to your preferences we create **customized, truly unique alpine experiences**, never to be forgotten. Amazingly simple or top-notch – the mix of authenticity and **high-end luxury** makes the difference!



# HOTELLERIE DE MASCOGNAZ THE AUTHENTIC

Up here, everything seems to be enchanted, as if time stood still. 6000ft above sea level you feel the silence, that reflects 800 years of history of an ancient Walser mountain village. Over the course of the last 10 years all cabins have been converted into truly authentic one-of-a-kind luxury chalet hotel. Centuries of tradition meet modern design. This combination can be found in every single one of the individually decorated rooms and suites, the amazing modern mountain spa and the extraordinary cuisine that focuses on local ingredients and wines. The perfect place to experience life as it should be outside of our high-speed, technology-driven world.

In winter the hotel is accessible by snow mobile only. It is located in the middle of the Monte Rosa skiing area (115 miles of well-groomed slopes over three valleys) and can be used as a base for our heliskiing programs and extraordinary ski tours.

In summer it provides direct access to a vast network of hiking and mountain biking trails. It is also a starting point for exceptional art-historical excursions or gourmet tours through the Aosta Valley and city tours to close by Milan or Turino. Truly awayfromitaly!



# GRAND HOTEL DES ALPES THE TRADITIONAL

Built in 1840, Grand Hotel des Alpes is located in the center of Chamonix, one of the most prestigious ski resorts of the Alps, right at the foot of Europe's highest mountain, the Mont Blanc (15800ft). From its very beginning the hotel has always been a symbol of Savoyan hospitality. During its restauration in 2004 the owners preserved the charming character of an historic Grand Hotel of the early 20th century, making it not only one of the best hotels in town but also a true rarity with breath-taking views of the majestic Mont Blanc.

Apart from its only 30 lovingly decorated rooms, that blend tradition with modern elements, the hotel offers an indoor pool and a wonderful small spa area. A free hotel shuttle takes you to the neighboring ski areas Grands Montets and Agentiere. At the same time it is only steps away from Aiguille du Midi cable car station.

Chamonix is located in Haute Savoy (France). Even though only a few miles apart from the Aosta Valley, the proximity of Lake Geneva and the French influence have created a totally different atmosphere, both art-historically and culinary. Yours to explore!



# THE MATTHIOL THE MODERN

When it was built in 2008, the owners picked one of the last remaining magic spots where they could be sure that the clear view on one of the Alps' most iconic peaks, the Matterhorn, would not be compromised - ever. The Matthiol gives you direct access to the slopes and is still only a few walking minutes away from the center of Zermatt.

Despite its clean, modern touch the architects of this tastefully decorated design hotel created a warm and welcoming atmosphere by using a variety of local woods and stones. Our guests appreciate the friendly service of the Matthiol's young, highly motivated team, that makes everyone feel at home, only minutes after your arrival. The modern pool and spa area certainly belong to the best that Zermatt has to offer. Zermatt is located in the Wallis region of Switzerland.

Separated from Italy and France by the highest mountain range of the Alps, the local cuisine has created its very own twist. Its wine area is one of the best in Switzerland. Thus Zermatt is not only a Skiing-Mekka, but can also be a great starting point for amazing food-, wine- or art excursions to the surrounding hills, valleys and villages.



14,690ft.  
(4,478meters)

# MATTER HORN

## THE WORLD'S MOST ICONIC MOUNTAIN

Sometimes referred to as the 'Mountain of all Mountains', the Matterhorn has become an iconic emblem of the Swiss Alps and the Alps in general. The border between Switzerland and Italy runs right through its 300ft. long rocky peak ridge.

Technically the mountain has two summits, one Swiss and one Italian with the Italian being 4 ft (1 Meter) lower than the Swiss. It is estimated that since its first climb in 1865, by the Englishman Edward Whymper, more than 500 alpinists have died on the Matterhorn, making it one of the deadliest peaks in the Alps.

The mountain's iconic Northern front-side belongs to Switzerland, its Southern back-side is Italian territory

"The slope eased off, and Croz [a fellow climber] and I, dashing away, ran a neck-and-neck race, which ended in a dead heat. At 1:40pm the world was at our feet, and the Matterhorn was conquered. Hurrah! Not a footstep could be seen."

**Edward Whymper, reaching the Matterhorn summit on July 13, 1865**



Mont Blanc is the highest mountain in the Alps and the highest peak in Europe

15,780ft.  
(4.810meters)

# MONT BLANC

## TOP OF EUROPE

A number of cable cars ascend and cross the Mont Blanc mountain range from Courmayeur (Italy) to Chamonix (France) in both directions during the summer months. A 19-year drilling project concluded in the opening of the 7.215 mile (11.6 kilometer) long Mont Blanc tunnel that was opened in 1965, making it one of the marvels of modern time.

Did you know that Chamonix was the site of the first Winter Olympics in 1924? Even though its height, the summit is relatively easy to climb for mountaineers who are well trained and used to the altitude. Mont Blanc was first climbed by Frenchmen Michel-Gabriel Paccard and Jacques Balmat in 1786. In 1960, Henri Giraud landed on the summit with an airplane, which is only 100ft. (30 meters) long.

Glacier des Bosson is an ice-field that reaches from the Mont Blanc summit all the way to the city boundaries of Chamonix, making it the glacier with the highest vertical drop in the Alps (11,120ft. = 3390 meters)

# HIKING ALPINE SUMMER EXPERIENCE

All three hotels are great bases for hiking trips to the near or far. The network of tracks in these areas is very dense and there are literally thousands of options for everybody, well or not so well trained. Awayfromitall has detailed track information and tour tips, that we are happy to share with you. Your options reach from wide, comfortable walking trails to climbing the Mont Blanc or the Matterhorn (strong physical condition and professional guidance is mandatory).

Apart from day trips, that can be both self-guided or guided, awayfromitall offers you the possibility to connect two or three countries by a guided multi-day hiking trip. There is no greater way to experience and feel the pristine world of the Alps alongside its most epic peaks, the Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn, while staying in cosy mountain refugios and enjoying the superb food of the respective areas. You define the destination, the duration and tell us your abilities - we take care of the rest. If you need to get picked up by a car at one point - due to bad weather or just because you shouldn't be feeling well - our guide is prepared to arrange for a 'support car' at the next possible intersection of the tour with a road that takes you straight to the next hotel or cabin, if necessary. All you have to do is: Hike and enjoy!



# BIKING PUT THE FUN BETWEEN YOUR LEGS

The Aosta Valley, Haute-Savoie and the Valais region are also perfect playing grounds for road- and mountain bikers. Awayfromitall has detailed track information and tour tips, that we are happy to share with you. If you should decide to leave your own bike at home, we will provide a suitable rental bike locally.

Apart from day trips, we are happy to offer customized multi-day trips as well as trips that let you connect two or even all three of our partner hotels in three countries. Road bike or mountain bike, quiet mountain roads or single trails, relaxed or challenging – your call! Stops und lay-overs for wine tastings, historic site visits can always be included in your itineraries, according to your preferences. If you wish to be guided by a wine- or history-savy guide while enjoying your excursions: that can also be arranged! Oh, and we almost forgot: Should your tour be one-way only, of course we also take care of returning your rental bike!



# RAFTING & CANYONING

## WATER ACTION FUN

Yet another activity we have to offer in summer. The tours are suitable for adults and kids from 4 years of age. Should you require transportation to the starting point in La Salle, we are happy to arrange that for you.

Rafting is also a great way to interrupt your bike or hiking tour for a day of change. All necessary equipment is being provided.

Not thrilled enough yet? Then try Canyoning. A great walk along a steep creek, through marvelous gorges, slides, jumps and waterfalls, abseiling along ropes and guided by experienced guides in small groups ... an extraordinary adventure!



# WINE & GOURMET TOUR EXCLUSIVE CULINARY EXPERIENCES

The Aosta Valley is the highest wine producing region in Europe. This unique combination of different soils, exceptional grapes and the unusual climate creates very interesting trends of taste, probably not to be found anywhere else in the world.

Due to the relatively high altitude, in Aosta and Vallais the most popular grapes to be cultivated are Bonda, Comalin d'Aoste, Fumin, Freisa, Mayolet, Petit Arvine, Roussin and Vuillermin. You can also find some more international grapes like Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Gamay, Merlot, Müller-Thurgau, Nebbiolo or Pinot Nero.

As the climate differs dramatically in the Lake Geneva region, cultivated grapes reach from Chasselas, Chardonnay, Silvaner, Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc and Sauvignon (white), to Pinot Noir, Gamay, Merlot, Gamaret, Garanoir and Syrah (red).

We handcraft each wine tour according to your personal preferences. Both one-day and multi day wine tours can be offered, always guided by a local wine expert and we blend the tours with extraordinary culinary experiences of the respective region. Specific wineries or restaurants can also be included in a bike or hiking tour.

In addition, some of our partner hotels also offer private wine tastings with selected regional wines upon request.



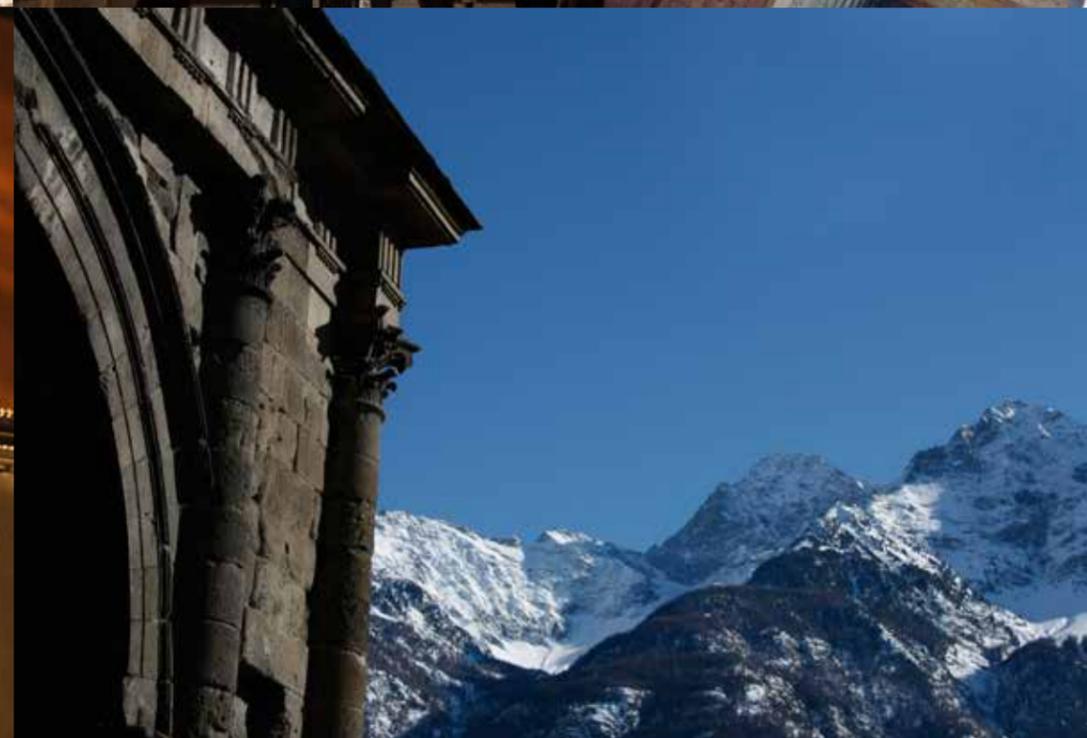
# CITY & ART TOURS YES, OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

.awayfromitall' might also mean that we get you access to 'off the beaten path' tours in close-by cities like Milan, Torino or Geneva.

We customize your tours according to your personal favors, including reservations in great restaurants, ticket reservations or a local guide, no matter if you are interested in museums, opera visits, soccer tickets for Juve, Milan or Inter or simply want to shop until you drop.

## ART TRAVELLING

Hard to believe, but true: The valleys of the South-western Alps are like a well-protected 'jewelry box' of antic and medieval architecture and art. The Aosta valley looks back on more than 2000 years of history as a trading route connecting the Roman heartland with the provinces in the West. Well-preserved amphitheatres and bridges are still to be found in the area. Frescos and sculptures from as early as the 10th century are as common as renaissance and baroque art. Castles and fortresses along the valleys of Aosta and the Wallis are also worth seeing and visiting. We recommend to combine this tour with our wine- and gourmet tour!



# SKI TOUR & GOURMET FUN DO IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Due to the high altitude both alpine and nordic skiing is possible from early December all the way to the beginning of April. Here is a short summary of our partner hotel's three world-class ski areas:

Monte Rosa ([www.monterosa-ski.com](http://www.monterosa-ski.com)) 4800ft - 10,760ft, 110 miles of slopes (27 miles blue, 73 miles red, 10 miles black)

Chamonix ([www.compagniedumontblanc.com](http://www.compagniedumontblanc.com)), 3300ft - 12,700ft, 118 miles of slopes (50 miles blue, 32 miles red, 36 miles black)

Zermatt ([www.matterhornparadise.ch](http://www.matterhornparadise.ch)), 5350ft - 12,800ft, 194 miles of slopes (42 miles blue, 116 miles red, 36 miles black)

It's your choice: One, two or three? Of course you can focus on one skiing area only. But why should you, if you have the chance to try all three of them, while we take away from you the hassle of planning and organizing? Ski passes are to be found in your hotel upon arrival, guides and the best tables in the best mountain cabins have been reserved... Anything else we can do for you? Name it!

If skiing only comes second for you, but food and wine rank first, then please let us know! We are happy to plan an extraordinary culinary tour through each ski area for you and reserve tables without a surcharge. As many of those hidden-gems are, well... hidden (some of them can only be accessed by snow mobile or snow cat), we only offer this tour with a ski guide who knows his way around. We ask for your understanding!



# HELI- SKIING THE NEXT DIMENSION

Heliskiing is technically possible in all three areas. However, the Aosta Valley has to offer the best Heliskiing conditions and the best possibilities in the entire Alps. There are 40 mountain landing pits, giving you access to more than a hundred different untouched deep-powder descents. Our helicopter pilots and mountain guides have been flying and guiding up here for years if not decades.

Due to the high altitude terrain and the great snow conditions up to 7,000 ft of vertical drop and descents as long as 9 miles are quite common.

If heli-skiing alone is not enough for you, the extraordinary high-mountain terrain offers a wide variety of additional options. Combine backcountry skiing with a helicopter bump and experience the best of both worlds or spice up your day with a little Via Ferrata while you descend through amazing chutes. The possibilities are endless!

For those of you who don't want to go as far as Canada or Kamchatka: This is as good as it gets in Europe!



# AWAY WITH THE CHAMPS TO TOP IT OFF

You are looking for company? What do you think of the idea of travelling with a true champion? Awaywiththechamps gives you access to a number of former gold-medallists in alpine skiing, road- and mountain biking. World Cup Winners, Olympic Champions or Tour-de-France Winners: We work with a team of personalities who are looking forward to accompany you on your tours - as long as you want! Here are some options:

## MARINA KIEHL



ALPINE SKI RACER, GERMANY  
Between 1984 and 1987 she won five German Championships. The former Junior World Champion in downhill skiing already participated in the 1984 Olympics in Sarajevo and took the Gold in the Olympic Downhill Race of Calgary in 1988.

## FRANK WÖRNDL



ALPINE SKI RACER, GERMANY  
Mr. Efficiency! During his career Frank never actually won a single World Cup race, however, in 1987 in Crans-Montana he became World Champion in the slalom discipline.

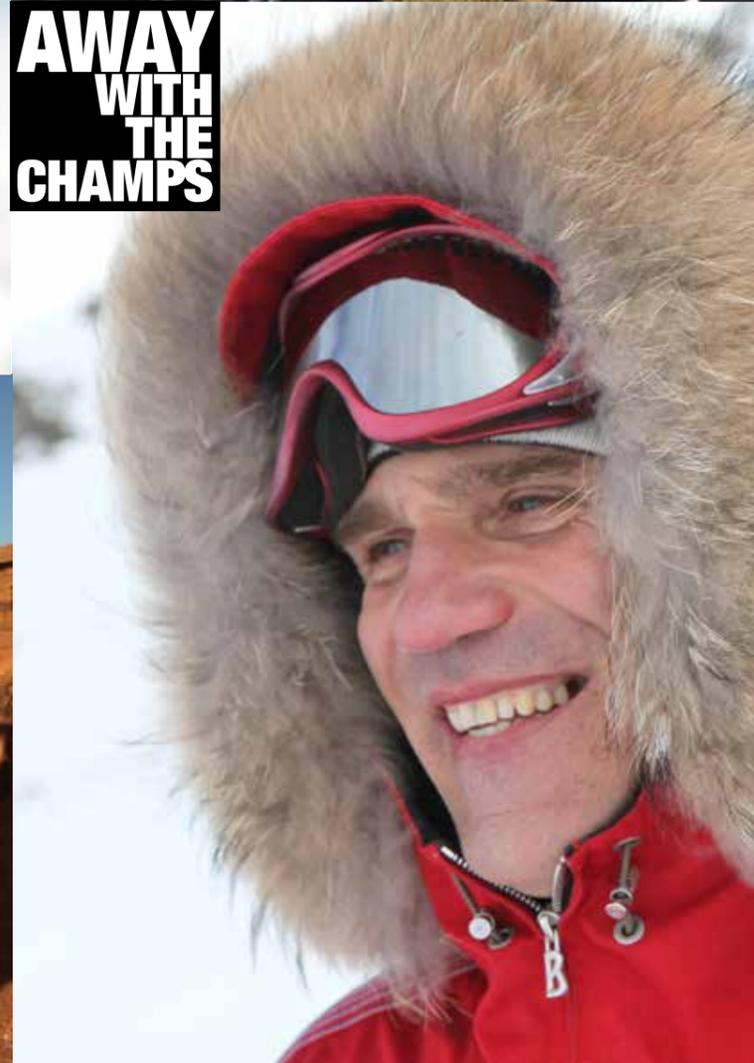
## JAN ULLRICH



ROAD RACING CYCLIST, GERMANY  
There is not much to say about Jan, for he is a legend. He is the first and only German to win the Tour de France, which he did in 1997. Furthermore, until 2006 he had won second place five times and fourth place once.



**AWAY WITH THE CHAMPS**



# HIDDEN-GEMS, MAP & WHO TO CALL

The list of activities and one-of-a-kind experiences in the Twin Peak area is literally endless and would exceed the capacity of this brochure. But, hey, some of them are just too good not to be mentioned, so please find some more of these hidden gems in the map on the right...

GENEVA

## A JOURNEY YOU'LL NEVER FORGET

Says who? Here are some statements of clients who already digged deeper into our Alpine wonderland:

„ *Little did we know that a world like this still exists - thank you for showing us...* “ - W. M., Washington DC

„ *The entire family had the best time. Everything was perfect. We loved it!* “ - C. S., Zuerich

„ *Before the trip, awayfromitall promised us the best of two worlds: authentic simplicity and true luxury. We all agree: You kept your word!* “ - R. M., Munich

„ *Thanks again for planning this weekend ... unforgettable!* “ - B. A., London

## WHO TO CALL

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### SWISS RIVIERA

The North shore of Lake Geneva is also known as 'Swiss Riviera'. The surrounding hills are UNESCO world heritage and home of one of Europe's best wine producing regions.

### BEST TIME TO TRAVEL

December to April and June to September

### COWBELL MANUFACTORY

A truly unique experience. A local guide takes you into the secret world of one of the last manufacturers of Alpine cowbells - what a souvenir!

### THE LAND OF CHEESE AND CHOCOLAT

An absolut 'must' for gourmets! See and experience how real cheese and chocolate is being made. We take you there!

### WATCH IT!

Legendary Swiss watch-making culture experienced first hand! Let us take you into the workrooms of some of the World's finest watchmakers. Feel pure precision!

GRAND HOTEL DES ALPES

MATTERHORN

HOTEL MATTHIOL

HOTELLERIE DE MASCOGNAZ

MONT BLANC

### SKYWAY TO HEAVEN

3 cable cars connect Chamonix with Courmayeur. Vallee Blanche bridges a 3.6 mile lap from Aiguille du Midi in France to Puntó Helbronner in Italy at an altitude of more than 12,600ft. (3.842 meters)

### GOLFERS WELCOME

There are more than half-a-dozen amazing golf courses in the Twin Peak area with a symbiotic relationship of breathtaking alpine views and everything that thrills a passionate golfer.

### PICTURE PERFECT

The Alpine outdoor as a stage for photography. Perfect your photo-knowledge together with a professional photographer who is not only offering his skills but who can also provide professional equipment that most people dream of!



MILANO



TORINO