

Harper's

November 2007 £3.70

# THE ICON ISSUE



# SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND

Each issue, we recommend two great short breaks – one perfect for a splash-out, the other a real steal. This month: Michelin-starred ski hotels, by **ADAM RUCK**



SPA INDULGENCE  
Rosa Alpina in the  
Alta Badia valley

## BLOW-OUT

### ROSA ALPINA, SAN CASSIANO, ITALY

From Venice or Innsbruck airports, it takes no more than two hours to reach the Dolomites and a world of mountain beauty.

San Cassiano and Corvara may not be on the tip of every skier's tongue, but they are better-placed than Cortina, and Alta Badia is where only the highest standards of hotel-keeping prevail – such as at Rosa Alpina. Run by the Pizzinini clan for three generations, it has had an infusion of fresh blood from beautician Daniela Steiner, with her milk baths, massages and mud wraps.

Daniela's goal to perfect her guests' wellbeing does not stop here: rooms are immaculate and chef Norbert Niederkofler has two Michelin stars. The Pizzininis are gracious hosts: say the word, and they will arrange a helicopter to the Marmolada glacier and book lunch before your ski home. *Rosa Alpina, San Cassiano in Badia, Italy* (+39 04 7184 9377; [www.rosalpina.it](http://www.rosalpina.it)), from €200 a room a night half board. Book with Momentum (020 7371 9111; [www.momentumski.com](http://www.momentumski.com)) or Relais & Châteaux (00800 2000 0002; [www.relaischateaux.com](http://www.relaischateaux.com)).

## LUXE FOR LESS

### HAMEAU ALBERT PREMIER, CHAMONIX

Chamonix has skiing for all seasons: forest gullies for tumbledown fun in January; enjoyable piste-skiing in the sun at Le Brévent; and glacier snowfields for off-piste spring. It is Europe's weekend-skiing capital and, on Friday and Sunday evenings, the Autoroute Blanche from Geneva is chock-a-block with ski commuters.

At the Albert Premier, the Carrier family is in its fifth generation at the helm. The current custodian, Pierre, is a tireless improver who, not content with two Michelin stars for his kitchen, has transformed the old family hotel into an elegant *hameau* by adding chalets and a spa with a pool. Amid all the upgrading, four small double bedrooms remain in the old building, offering the chance to stay in one of the best hotels in the French Alps for around £100 a night.

*Hameau Albert Premier, Chamonix Mont-Blanc, France* (+33 4 50 53 05 09; [www.hameaualbert.fr](http://www.hameaualbert.fr)), from €160 a room a night half board. Book with Ski Solutions (020 7471 7777; [www.skisolutions.com](http://www.skisolutions.com)) or Relais & Châteaux (00800 2000 0002; [www.relaischateaux.com](http://www.relaischateaux.com)). □



ALL-SEASON SKIING  
The winter pool at  
Hameau Albert Premier