



Cellar après ski

There's nothing quite like sinking into a luxury sofa with a glass or two of red to recount the day's ski adventures — and this stellar lineup of private wine cellars just happen to be hidden in luxurious ski chalets around the world

From European chalets in the thick of resort action, to backcountry retreats in Canada and Chile, and gadgets galore in Japan, these six chalets have everything you could ever want for after a day of skiing.

Canada

For those who prefer to stay away from the hustle and bustle of ski



resort life, Tamarack Lodge in British Columbia's Lake Island is about as isolated as it gets. Just outside of Fernie, 300-kilometres south of Calgary, and set among the Rocky Mountains' Lizard Range, this is a cat-skiing haven for backcountry explorers. The 8-bed Lodge boasts a whopping 3,000 bottle wine library and a spa. And don't expect to make any stay here a working holiday — there are no phones, computer jacks or TV's — just outdoor sauna sunsets, in-house massages and

Above: La Tene's wine cellar in the French Alpine resort of Val D'Isere Left: Tamarack Lodge in Canada's Rocky Mountains is beautifully secluded

French-inspired Rocky Mountain gourmet meals. islandlakelodge.com

Chile

With literally hundreds of acres of high-quality powder terrain accessible, Noi Puma Lodge, in Chile's Andes' Rio Los Cipreses National Reserve, is a heli-skiing wine-lover's dream. Après ski consists of Los Cipreses spa, a games room, an outdoor hot tub, sauna and swimming pool, dinner at Alto Las Leñas restaurant and a visit to the well-stocked wine cellar. The 24-room Lodge is only accessible by four-wheel access — snow chains essential. From US\$350 per person per night. noihotels.com/noi-puma-lodge

France

Designed by Oliver Thornton Architects of Stockholm, Chalet La Tene in Val D'Isère oozes elegance, yet achieves a beautifully homely comfort. From the heated boot room to the outdoor deck Jacuzzi, this is one of the most sought-after chalets in one of the most sought-after resorts on the planet. The upstairs living area is quite spectacular, with glass walls to provide a universal sense of space, championing breathtaking panoramic piste views of La Face — the imposing black run that lies opposite. The chalet boasts its own bar, complete with beer tap, a log fire and flat screen TV with surround-sound system. And then there's the never-ending 'magical wine cave', where you get to choose the wine to accompany dinner. Also downstairs, the heated boot room leads into the sauna, Hamman and massage area, providing the perfect way to relax and soothe your body. alpineculture.com



Italy

White Deer San Lorenzo Mountain Lodge, situated above the South Tyrolean town of Brunico / Brunek, provides the perfect combination of elegance and charm, as it welcomes its guests into the quiet and relaxed atmosphere of a lived-in home. The Lodge features four bedrooms which can accommodate up to ten guests, each offering a unique charm and character of its own.

The Lodge's wine cellar is considered to have the finest range of South Tyrolian wines in the region, with more than 1500 to choose from including the most prominent Italian wines. With all the modern comforts of home, including an iPod docking station, LCD TV, DVD player, stereo, radio, CD player, telephone, printer and access to the internet, you can stay connected while you're away from it all. Each room features down pillows, linen bed sheets with goose down duvets, bathrobes and personal

slippers. This private luxury Lodge also features a kitchen that offers expertly crafted regional specialties, and indoor and outdoor recreation centres, including a spectacular panoramic whirlpool. sanlorenzolodges.com

Japan

From discreetly placed iPads, to retractable ceiling Bang and Olufsen plasma televisions, and an infra-red heated viewing deck,

One Happo takes a Japanese spin on a traditional European ski chalet – one James Bond himself would be proud of. Throw in a world-class gym, an 8-person onsen and a sauna, plus exclusive use of a 4x4 vehicle to explore the valley, and it's easy to see why this is the number-one-rated ski chalet in Asia. The glass-top pool table (first ever imported into Japan), floor-to-ceiling glass wine room, transparent fireplace,



and marble cocktail bar-topped Teppanyaki counter combine to take things to the next level. Five en-suite rooms feature either mountain or Wadano Forest views and the Happo ski resort gondola is just 100 metres from the chalet door for access to the 1998 winter Olympic ski slopes. onechalets.com/one-happo

Switzerland

Set in the heart of Verbier, Le Ti is an intricately designed traditional alpine home. Perfectly positioned on Chemin de Clambin, the chalet is a short distance from the main Medran and Savoleyres lift stations, and just a short walk from the centre of town. The property sleeps up to nine people in three bedrooms and a mezzanine twin room. A much-loved home, sumptuous sofas surround the natural stone fireplace whilst the large rustic dining table can sit nine people comfortably. The extensive wine cellar is packed full of old world and new world wines and the sun-drenched south-facing terrace offers breath-taking views of the surrounding mountains, with an outdoor hot tub. The ground floor is home to the entertainment room with pool table, bar and flat screen TV, with a Creston entertainment system wired throughout. The property is available catered and self-catered, and can be taken in conjunction with the Bella Coola next door to create The Bella Coola Estate.

brambleski.com/luxury-chalets-verbier/le-ti ■

Above: A platter in the snow after a tough day on the slopes
Left: The Wine Room in Japan's One Happo, located just metres from the 1998 Olympic Downhill slope in the Hakuba Village