

ON THE MARKET

Looking after a little place in the snow? **La Passino** checks out what's on offer

Chalets de Nant Giraud, Martin de Belleville, France

Martin de Belleville has many appeals: old-fashioned mountain charm, three Michelin-rated restaurants and a lift system linking it to slopes of Méribel, Val Thorens, les Menuires & Courchevel. The panoramic Chalets de Nant Giraud stand at the entrance of the village and touch its traditional look with stone and wood accents. Perhaps because it is a small development (nine phase-one chalets, to be followed by a possible three more in phase two), it places much emphasis on individual choice. The interiors of each chalet can be styled to suit the owner's requirements, from open plan living to en-suite bathrooms and even (bliss!) creating a spa or sauna to restore weary muscles after a day on the slopes. Prices start from €438,000 (about £38,500) for a two-bedroom unit through Ernalow Property (020-7590 1624; www.ernalowproperty.co.uk or email: property@ernalow.co.uk).

One-bedroom chalet, Val d'Isère, France

Buying properties rarely come more luxurious than this stone and wood chalet in Val d'Isère. The interiors are a triumph of wooden panelling, floors and beams. The nine bedrooms are rich in mountain charm, the open bathrooms are some of the most beautiful ever seen near the slopes and there are perfect touches scattered throughout the house—from the spacious kitchen and fireplace in the living room to a cinema room, a fully equipped ski room and even a lavish *mmam* and a Jacuzzi for eight. Alas, the price reflects the chalet's rare opulence—the Prestige



Especially for you: tailor-made homes in St Martin de Belleville, from £328,600



Affordable luxury in Austria: apartments from £148,000

Property Group (01935 817188; www.prestigeproperty.co.uk or email: sales@prestigeproperty.co.uk) are asking €5.25m (about £3.88m) for it.

Three The Woods, Whistler, Canada

Set in Blackcomb Benchlands, parallel to the Fairmont Chateau Whistler golfcourse, this three-bedroom town home stands close to Lost Lake. Spacious and recently renovated, it has all the comforts a buyer could wish for—from a wood burning fireplace to a 50in plasma screen, a steam shower to heated floors, and windows that frame forested views. It is for sale at CAN\$1,038,000 (about £520,039) through Denise Brown (00 1 604 905 6335; www.whistler-realestate.ca or email: denise@myseatosky.com).

Zehnerkar Mountain Resort, Obertauern, Austria

A few hours' drive from Obergurgl and Hintertux, and about one hour away from Salzburg's international airport, Obertauern is one of the highest resorts in Austria and has a long skiing season. Here, Savills are marketing 41 luxury apartments set across three chalet-style buildings, with skiing in and out available from the top level of the development (which is accessible by lift by those in the lower levels). The apartments range from one-bedroom flats to three-bedroom penthouses and have high quality finishes, including underfloor heating and ISDN sockets, as well as exclusive access to Zehnerkar Mountain Resort's spa. Prices start from £148,000 (020-7016 3740; www.alpinehomesintl.com or email: enquiries@alpinehomesintl.com).

For a selection of skiing properties for sale around the world, visit: www.countrylife.co.uk/skiing



High and mighty: buy this Val d'Isère chalet for £3.88m



Creature comforts: secure this Whistler townhouse for £520,039

All white now: hitting the slopes in Val Thorens



character, including the delightfully traditional Saint Martin de Belleville, chic Courchevel and the chalet-dotted Méribel. There are some 375 miles of skiing (573 runs) in the Three Valleys region, served by more than 200 lifts. Of these, 98 runs are green (very easy), 191 are blue (fairly easy), 214 are red (more difficult) and 70 are black (advanced/expert). Val Thorens is the ultimate in the moody but magnificent genre of resorts, made more so by its stark architecture, which gives it a space-age feel. But its main selling point is the immense variety of mainly strong-intermediate and hard-core skiing. The off-piste is challenging, and, with a high-mountain guide, there are all kinds of ski-touring opportunities. **Best place to stay:** the four-star Fitz Roy—the only luxury hotel in the heart of the resort (00 33 4 7900 0478; www.hotelfitzroy.com).

Zermatt, Switzerland

Zermatt is one of the world's most celebrated resorts, mainly because of its iconic Matterhorn, but also because most of its two dozen or so mountain restaurants are rated as being among the best in the Alps (or anywhere). The resort, which is linked with Italy's Cervinia, is also supported by a glacier: the Klein Matterhorn-Theodol. Zermatt has the largest and highest summer skiing area in Europe, so that if the normal snowfall fails, you can still ski