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The super-chic chalet Davos, Switzerland

Late January may be low season in the Swiss Alps, but this is when this beautiful new-build chalet, tucked away above Davos, teems with heads of state and business moguls attending the World Economic Forum. It features a globally connected office, and its dining room – fit for a small banquet – is serviced by a team of virtuoso cooks. For the rest of the winter, Tivoli welcomes families, groups and seekers of perfect seclusion. It has all the trappings: bathroom goodies by Jo Malone; Veuve Cliquot champagne; a cinema; an under-lit indoor pool and tub zone; a padded cell with computer games for the children; mountain guides and ski instructors; and, most important of all, fabulous food. *Seven nights, from £19,000 full board (sleeps 12–16), with Descent (020 7384 3854; www.descent.co.uk).*



The luxury lodge Vail, Colorado

Ski too fast off the mountain into Vail this winter, and you will glide directly onto the patio bar at the Arrabelle at Vail Square for unexpectedly early après. This bold new hotel, which could not be closer to the main gondola, has transformed the previously drab main square in a town that is Aspen's chief rival in Colorado. The hotel complex is a witty mix of ersatz Czech, Swiss and Tyrolean architectural styles that just about avoids the Disney effect. It's an expensive, eccentric creation, but it is fun to luxuriate in. The cavernous hotel lounge looks straight across to the piste. After aperitifs there, and a turn in the spa or rooftop lap-pool, the bustling vaulted and tiled brasserie is where you'll find the comforting soul of the place. *The Arrabelle at Vail Square (+1 970 754 7777; www.arrabelle.com); seven nights, from £1,995 a person B&B in a Superior Room, including flights, with Elegant Resorts (01244 897517; www.elegantresorts.co.uk).*



The weekend haven Mégevè, France

This self-contained hotel doesn't rely on winter sports to bring guests flocking to its door. Les Fermes de Marie is an irresistibly seductive hamlet of old Savoyard farms that have been lovingly reassembled and furnished, with a splendid spa, three restaurants, and an on-demand shuttle service for those who insist on tackling the slopes. Located in a park on the outskirts of town, just 45 minutes from Geneva, it is perfect for a weekend treat. *Les Fermes de Marie (+33 4 50 93 03 10; www.fermesdemarie.com), from €640 a room a night. Packages are available with Ski Solutions (020 7471 7700; www.skisolutions.com) or Momentum (020 7371 9111; www.momentum.uk.com).*