

TRAVEL

ESCAPE  
ROUTESIT'S TIME TO HIT  
THE SLOPESTHE PENTHOUSE AT  
HAUS ALPINA: CHIC  
YET SERIOUSLY COSY

## SKI IN STYLE IN ICONIC KLOSTERS



**Stylist's shopping editor Lucy Reber discovers her inner chalet girl at the luxurious alpine den of**

**Haus Alpina in Switzerland**

For years I believed the world was divided into two camps: skiers and non-skiers. There seemed little point in going to the Alps in winter unless you'd mastered the dark art of downhill at the age of eight. Nobody is that into fondue.

But lately I've found myself increasingly smitten by pictures of stylish alpine boltholes – not to mention retro ski-chic fashion. So I pounced at the chance to review Haus Alpina – the luxury home of The White Company founder Chrissie Rucker, which can now be rented by mere mortals.

Arriving in pitch black, my chauffeur drives me into the

cavernous garage from where I'm whisked up to the penthouse by lift. Feeling every inch the glamorous Bond villain, I step into my lair for the weekend. There are double-height ceilings, breath-taking snowy mountain views and signature, sumptuous The White Company furnishings in every corner.

You might not want to leave this divine haven in the sky, but the town of Klosters deserves to be explored. It is a town even I, as a non-skier, knew to have legendary status. Celebrating 150 years as a resort this winter, it's been a regular in the pages of *Vanity Fair* for decades; William and Kate are regulars, as were Charles and Diana before them. But there's also sport to be had.

For style-junkies and ski-newbies like me, Mount Madrisa (a 10-minute drive from Haus Alpina) boasts beginner slopes and cosy restaurants for hot

chocolate pit-stops. In just two days, my charming ski instructor Marco of Absolute Powder ([absolute-powder.ch](http://absolute-powder.ch)) had me not only standing on skis, but moving in them too. Klosters is also famous for its off-piste, so for experienced skiers there are paths criss-crossing the mountains, some leading as far as Austria. Tobogganing, horse-drawn carriages and skating are also on offer for those less inclined to ski.

Returning frozen to Haus Alpina, I'm greeted by our hosts Jimmy and Tracey, a wonderfully welcoming couple who whip up wildly delicious dinners, starting with canapés and running through dishes

like Thai beef salad, sea bream with lentils and individual tarte tatins. Think Ottolenghi-style feasts – light, flavourful and indulgent.

Post-powder, I book an in-house massage with Monika, also of Absolute Powder (£72 per hour). The massage is tough but brilliant, showing my muscles no mercy and dissolving any ski-induced aches.

As I sadly contemplate my departure while sipping ginger tea on one of the many large cream sofas, I wonder if I'll be able to imbue the same sense of Alpine charm in my own London home with a couple of flickering The White Company candles. Well, it's worth a try.

**Haus Alpina (sleeping 10) costs from £280 per person per night, on a half-board basis. Flights from London to Zurich start at £125 return with [swissair.com](http://swissair.com)**

LUCY WRAPS UP WARM  
TO EXPLORE THE ALPINE  
CHARM OF KLOSTERS