

**2020 Club Holiday      Sundays - 19<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

For our next holiday we will be returning to **La Tania** in the extensive **3 Valleys** ski area.

Traveling with **Alpine Elements** we will be staying at their **Hotel Montana** on Half Board\*\*

The hotel offers spa facilities and has a small indoor swimming pool. There is a relaxing bar area with open hearth as well as a games room and a lounge with Sky TV.

La Tania is a car free village with a small beginner area. The hotel is in a ski to the door location, with the choice of green, blue or red tree lined runs back to the resort. In the morning you can glide the 100 metres to the main gondola which takes you up to link with chairlifts that give you a choice to ski down to Courchevel 1850 and then on to the other resorts on that side or head over to Meribel and beyond.

**Free bus** – In addition to the excellent lift system, there is a free bus (ski pass not required) that runs on an hourly basis from 8.30 in the morning **until late evening** up to Courchevel 1850, stopping at the various other resorts on that side of the ski area on the way.

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**Half board** \*\*The introduction of new employment laws in the EU has meant changes to the way that UK companies who employ British staff in the Alps operate their Chalet Hotels and Chalets. Alpine Elements staff, in line with those for other operators now have 2 days off per week\*\* Our catering will be... Buffet breakfast with daily hot option on **5 days**.

Afternoon tea/coffee **every day**, with a selection of cakes.

**On 5 Nights** – 3 course a la carte evening meal (wine not included).

On staff days off Breakfast and Afternoon tea will be self-service and no evening meal provided.

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**The cost for Flights/Transfers/Hotel is:    **£675 per adult** (based on two sharing)**

**Child Discount of £50** (for children 12 years and under on date of travel)

As well as Double/Twin rooms there are a small number of Triple/Quad rooms at the same cost. There is no single occupancy option available.

**Deposit** – In order to secure the hotel and flights from Manchester, the Club has already paid a deposit of **£175 per person** for **76 places**. Your deposit will therefore be paid to the Club and the balance and cost of any extras direct to Alpine Elements in October.

The Club will again take out Group Tour Organisers Liability Insurance and we ask that a contribution of **£4 per person** towards the cost of the premium be paid with your deposit.

\*\*This holiday is sold under the terms and conditions of Alpine Elements Ltd., full details can be found on their website or in their brochure.\*\*

## Brexit Blamed For A Reduction In Catered Ski Chalet Nights For 2018/19

I'm sure many skiers will be scratching their heads wondering why Brexit is having an impact on the UK's favourite ski holiday, the [catered ski chalet](#). Since its conception, the chalet staff only ever had one night off. However, from 2019, Inghams, Ski World, Ski Total, Ski Esprit & Alpine Elements have announced that they will only provide catering on 5 nights a week. More ski chalet operators are expected to follow the larger companies lead. Some of the smaller chalet operators may well be thinking they can slip under the net but we think it's only a matter of time before all ski chalets change to 5 nights catering.



### So why?

It's partly about employee welfare but more about the "[European Posted Workers directive](#)". After Brexit, which falls midway through the 2019 ski season, the European directive will no longer apply. The posted workers Directive isn't likely to be high on our Governments list of priority. It's also an area which the rest of Europe will not be moved. Europe is vehemently opposed to social dumping! (Drafting in cheap, workers from other parts of Europe).

It also comes down to the hours that chalet staff work, in the UK, we opted out of the [Working Time Directive](#), which allows us Brits to work up to 48 hours a week, but in France, Austria, Italy and most of Europe, it's a 35-hour week. Lucky them!

On change over days, some chalet staff might work 15 hours in a day, if snow or aircraft delays effect arrivals, there might need to be working at 4:00am, if guests are departing early. By reducing the chalet staffs workload by 1/6 and giving them two days off a week, instead of the previous one day, a chalet worker will be able to work with the local laws.

## **Why isn't the loss of a night's catering reflected in the cost of my skiing holiday?**

Brexit had a big impact on currency, the shift between the Pound and the Euro is now adding an additional 15% to tour operator costs, and so far, this hasn't been reflected by price increases. A catered ski chalet holiday represents excellent value for money, a similar standard of accommodation in a hotel would cost 50% more and not match the experience of sharing a chalet with your family or friends.

## **Why simply getting extra chalet staff isn't an option.**

Chalet staff require a room, board and a season ski pass, after all that's the only reason workers take jobs in the Alps! The UK, where chalet staff are paid from, the Employers NI contributions are 13.8% of the salary, in France, it's between 25% to 45%.

The costs of doubling up on chalet staff, would make the cost of a chalet holiday beyond what the industry believe the market can stand.

## **The Upside is another opportunity to dine out and perhaps a less obvious one!**

There is always a good variety of restaurants across the Alps, sadly for chalet guests, they often only get to sample them one night a week.

Vince, owner of the fabulous [Del Falco Restaurant in Sauze d'Oulx](#), welcomed the news. “Its great news for our British guests, many of whom stay in chalet hotels here in Sauze, we often turn away guests on the chalet staffs night off as we simply don't have enough tables”.