



WINTER-SPRING 2024-2025

CHÂTEL

PRESS PACK



CHÂTEL
Portes du Soleil

WWW.CHATEL.COM



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2024-2025 DIARY DATES

Saturday 21st December 2024 to Sunday 5th January 2025

FAIRYTALE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Christmas in the mountains is celebrated by the arrival of Father Christmas with his distribution of sweets, spectacular torchlight descents to delight all generations, New Year's Eve in the great outdoors with a DJ and fireworks display and the prospect of an exciting New Year...

Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th February 2025

SECOND UCI SNOWBIKE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Following the success of the first edition last winter, appreciated by both riders and spectators, the second edition will take place on the 8th and 9th February at Linga. The format will be the same, a super-G and a dual slalom. Riders must have a licence issued by a National Federation affiliated to the UCI (Union Cycliste International).



Second UCI Snowbike World Championships.



Fairytale Christmas and New Year.



Fête des agriculteurs.

Tuesday 11th February 2025 (to be confirmed)

AGRICULTURAL FAIR

The fair is the highlight of this agriculture-themed week involving approximately 30 working farms. Adults and children are invited to spend a uniquely colourful evening with the traditional Charivari - a brightly decorated farm cart in which farmers tour the village to the sound of cow bells - Abondance cheese is the star of the show with a «best cheese» competition (with the public as jury), cheese-making demonstrations, cheese for sale, a mini farm, wooden games, music and a prize-giving ceremony.

Thursday 25th February 2025

LES P'TITS FLAMBEAUX

Châtel is proud to participate in this national charity event for children.

Instigated in 2024 by France Montagnes with the support of its three founding members: the National Association of Mountain Resorts, Ski areas of France, and the National Union of French Ski Instructors, this charity event will take place simultaneously across many French mountain resorts on the 25th February. The aim is to introduce more children to the mountains in winter. Châtel is organising a torchlit descent with the ESF ski instructors, open to the public. The funds raised from the sale of torches will be donated to the «The Petit Princes», «Génération Montagne» and «Enfance et Montagne» charities.



Les P'tits Flambeaux.



Rock The Pistes Festival - Portes du Soleil.



Tuesday 4th March 2025

MARDI GRAS

A carnival parade through the village streets by Châtel infant and primary school children dressed in themed costumes of their own creation!

Thursday 6th March 2025

SKIERS BLESSING AT PLAINE DRANSE

For the 6th year, skiers, walkers and mountain rescue workers are welcomed to the Notre-Dame chapel for a special blessing service dedicated to them.

Sunday 16th to Saturday 22nd March 2025

ROCK THE PISTES FESTIVAL - PORTES DU SOLEIL

The Portes du Soleil, once again hosts ephemeral concert stages for this music festival. Fans can enjoy French and international pop-rock concerts from 13h30, ensuring they can return home on the lift network. The Châtel concert is at Plaine Dranse.

Sunday 16th to Saturday 22nd March 2025

CHÂTEL BANDS CAMP

The music continues for après ski in the resort with concerts in the village performed by new and upcoming artists, and... of course, any musical members of the public wishing to join are very welcome on stage. A great atmosphere guaranteed!





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FAMILY

Families have always been a priority in Châtel. The village has retained its traditional values whilst developing into a popular resort: its unique character, sense of welcome, plethora of activities, events and leisure activities, gastronomy and local traditions enable both children and adults to slow down and recharge their batteries in the mountains.

The weekly activity programme has sixty events and leisure activities. There is an orientation course in the village, an ice rink, the Forme d'O water activity park, spas, The Old Customs house (a mountain contraband information centre), heritage visits, the little train taking visitors through the village and surrounding hamlets, the C l'Aventure (large indoor play area for children from 2-12 yrs.), a carousel for little children, Abondance cheese-making demonstrations, library, Belalp Escape game, cinema, age-specific children's workshops and children's shows during the school holidays, sledging areas, mountain biking on snow, sled-dog activities, snowshoe outings (guided or not), concerts, street entertainers ...



NEW: HAVING OPENED THIS SUMMER, THE ZOÉTIM KID'ADVENTURE, INDOOR PLAY AREA WILL OPEN FOR ITS FIRST WINTER SEASON.

There are two play areas; one with modules for children from 1-2 years and another with modules for children from 3-12 years ensuring fun and games for children of all ages.

There is also a snack bar, pancakes, ice creams and drinks on site, for a well-deserved pause. Birthday parties can be organised with advanced reservation.

THE COULEUR MENTHE À L'EAU BOUTIQUE HAS MOVED...

The Couleur Menthe à l'eau boutique has new address in the village centre, route du Linga.

In addition to the stylish decoration, eco-responsible accessories, French creations, a haberdashery stocking everything required for sewing, knitting, embroidery, etc., a tea room (8 places) with homemade pastries now completes the offer of this concept store.

And... 2-hour sewing machine workshops are now on offer where participants can sew their own articles: t-towel, basket, tote-bag, pencil case, snood...

Minimum age: 6 years, reservation required.
Tel +33(0)6 76 17 04 05



« FLOCON VERT » LABEL

AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM

During the winter, farmers and their herds of cattle remain in their village farms until going up to the summer pastures in the spring. Despite the shortened hours of daylight, the work remains intense: milking twice a day (morning and evening), making and fermenting the cheese, pressing the cheese and the daily wiping of the cheese wheels already maturing in the cellars - for a minimum of 100 days. The cattle must also be cared for; fed and watered. A typical day begins at 6am and finishes around 8pm, all in addition to spending time with the family and selling cheese from the farm.



Abondance cheese (AOP), which the farmers make, is very versatile. One delicious dish made from the cheese is Berthoud, STG (Guaranteed traditional speciality).

Berthoud is eaten with local charcuterie, potatoes and green salad making a satisfying meal. It is on the menu at numerous restaurants and hotel-restaurants in the village, ski area and along the walking or snow-shoe tracks.

Farming, traditionally an important activity in Châtel and the Abondance valley (with the Pays d'Art et d'Histoire label), is also important for tourism. Its values, traditions, know-how and gastronomy, all have an important place in local tourism, which has been sympathetically developed on a human scale. The sense of welcome remains intact.

For the last 2 years, the Cave d'Azélie, in the village centre, has shared the secrets of Abondance cheese-making. Every Thursday morning from 9am to 10am they offer a visit to their maturing cellars followed by an Abondance cheese tasting.

Reservation required at Châtel Tourisme until Wednesday at 6pm. Price: €2.



« PAYS D'ART ET D'HISTOIRE » LABEL

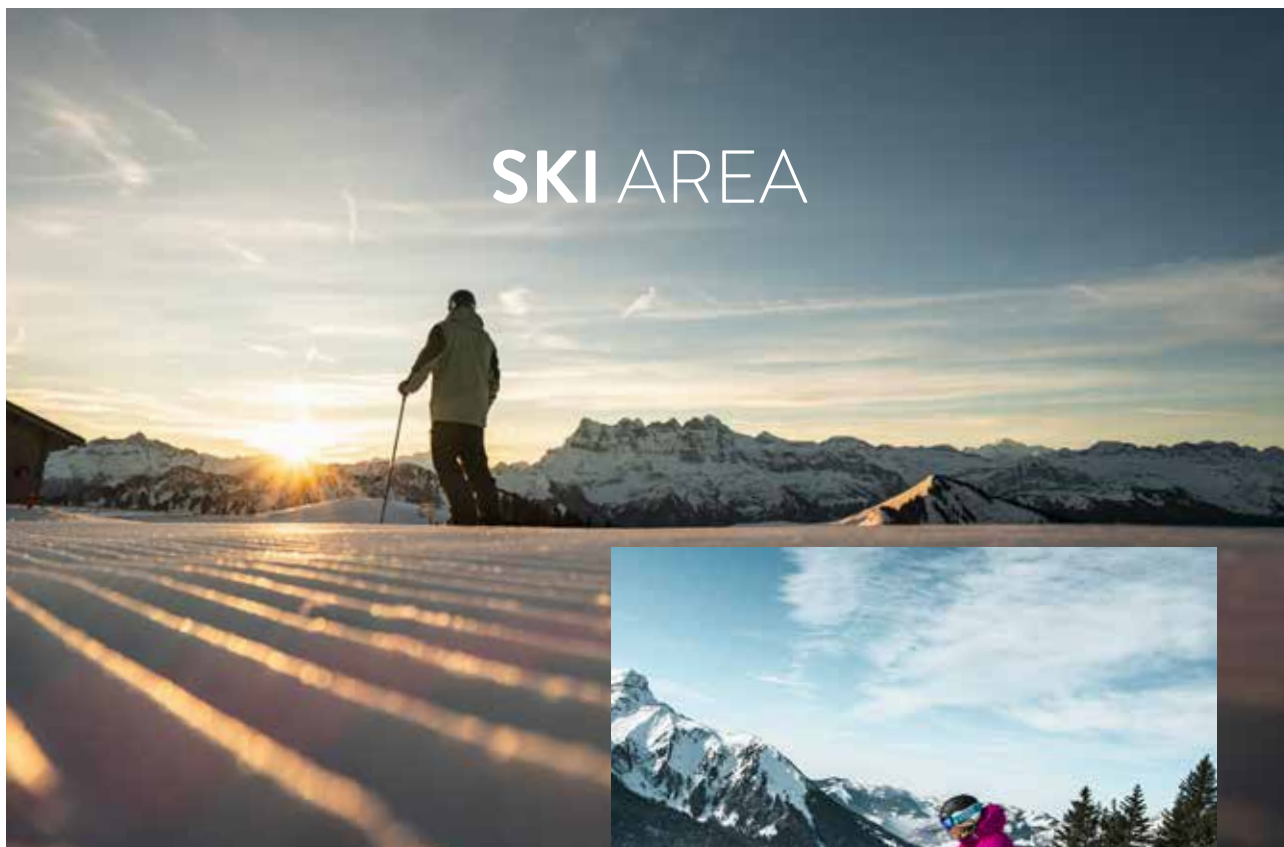
In 2003, the Abondance valley obtained the "Pays d'art et d'histoire" label. In August 2019 an extension of the label was validated to cover all the communes in the Evian-vallée d'Abondance area. The promotion of local heritage preserved for the public to enjoy is due to the work of local guides and experts.



In Châtel, various sites are recognised in the accreditation:

- **The Old Customs House**, mountain contraband information centre. The centre can be visited with or without a guide. The guides, from the cultural service of Châtel town hall, provide commentary and information. There are also family and children's games, role-play, and group activities... The temporary exhibition entitled "Everything to declare!... in the customs office at the smuggling and contraband museum..."
- **The Villapeyron sawmill**, built in the 20s.
- **Oratories**, 20 in total.
- **The Plaine Dranse chapel**, in the heart of the mountain pastures in summer and surrounded by snow in winter.
- The neo-gothic **Saint-Laurent church** built in 1908.
- **Traditional mountain chalets** of typical regional farm architecture built of stone and wood with two sloping roof panels and carved wooden balconies, some of which are over 100 years old.
- **The Essert chapel**, built in 1784 to commemorate the lives spared in the hamlet following a terrible landslide.
- **The Vannes chapel**, located on the Pas de Morgins road since 1630, very modest when built but enlarged in 1886.

SKI AREA



The « Châtel Liberté » ski area includes 59 ski lifts and 76 slopes, prepared daily by piste professionals, ensuring visitors can ski with confidence and pleasure.

Improvements are being made to the ski area, such as the rope pull in the beginners area at the top of the Super Châtel bubble, being replaced with a moving carpet.

Châtel has different activities and modules in each of its sectors : Super Châtel - Barbossine and Linga - Pré la Joux - Plaine Dranse.





SUPER CHÂTEL – BARBOSSINE SECTOR:

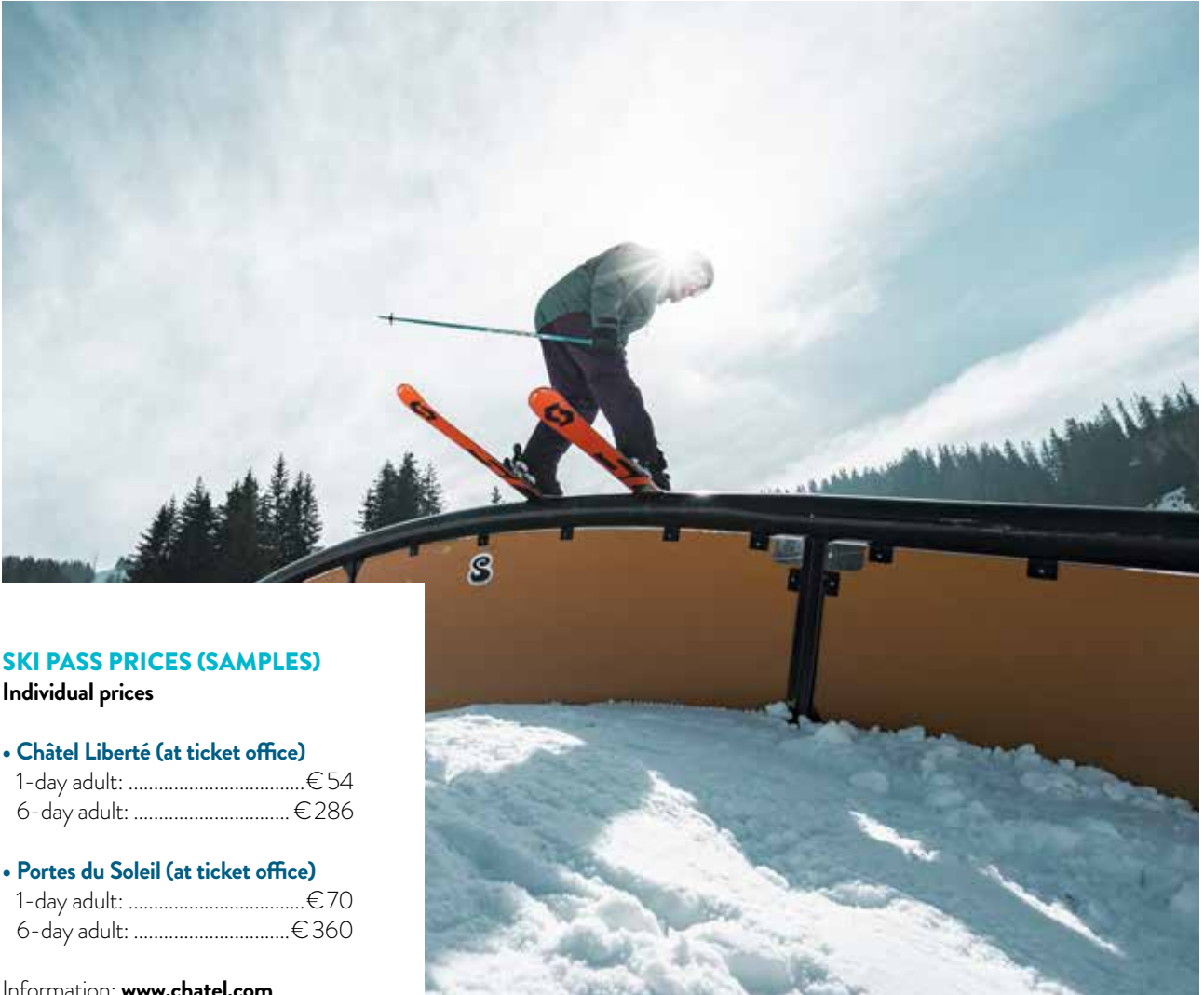
- **Snowpark «Smooth Park»** for beginners to experts.
- **Green piste - Flocon Vert** (with a mountain flora and fauna theme including figurines and information boards).
- **Speed track** with a timing zone at Chalet Neuf.

LINGA - PRÉ LA JOUX - PLAINE DRANSE SECTOR:

- The 'Great White' version of **the Fantasticable** at Pré la Joux (at the top of Rochassons chairlift).
- **Belette information Piste** (explaining the history of Abondance cheese-making from its origins in the 12th century).
- **New snow activities:** supervised by professionals, fans of snakegliss, airboard, yooner and other snowracer will love this final run before the Pierre Longue closes for the day.

THE 12 PORTES DU SOLEIL RESORTS:

- **In France:** Châtel, La Chapelle d'Abondance, Abondance in Vallée d'Abondance, and Avoriaz, Morzine, Montriond, Saint Jean d'Aulps, Les Gets in Vallée d'Aulps.
- **In Switzerland:** Morgins, Torgon, Champoussin-Les Crosets and Champéry. Included in the Portes du Soleil ski pass.



SKI PASS PRICES (SAMPLES)

Individual prices

• Châtel Liberté (at ticket office)

1-day adult:€54

6-day adult: €286

• Portes du Soleil (at ticket office)

1-day adult:€70

6-day adult:€360

Information: www.chatel.com

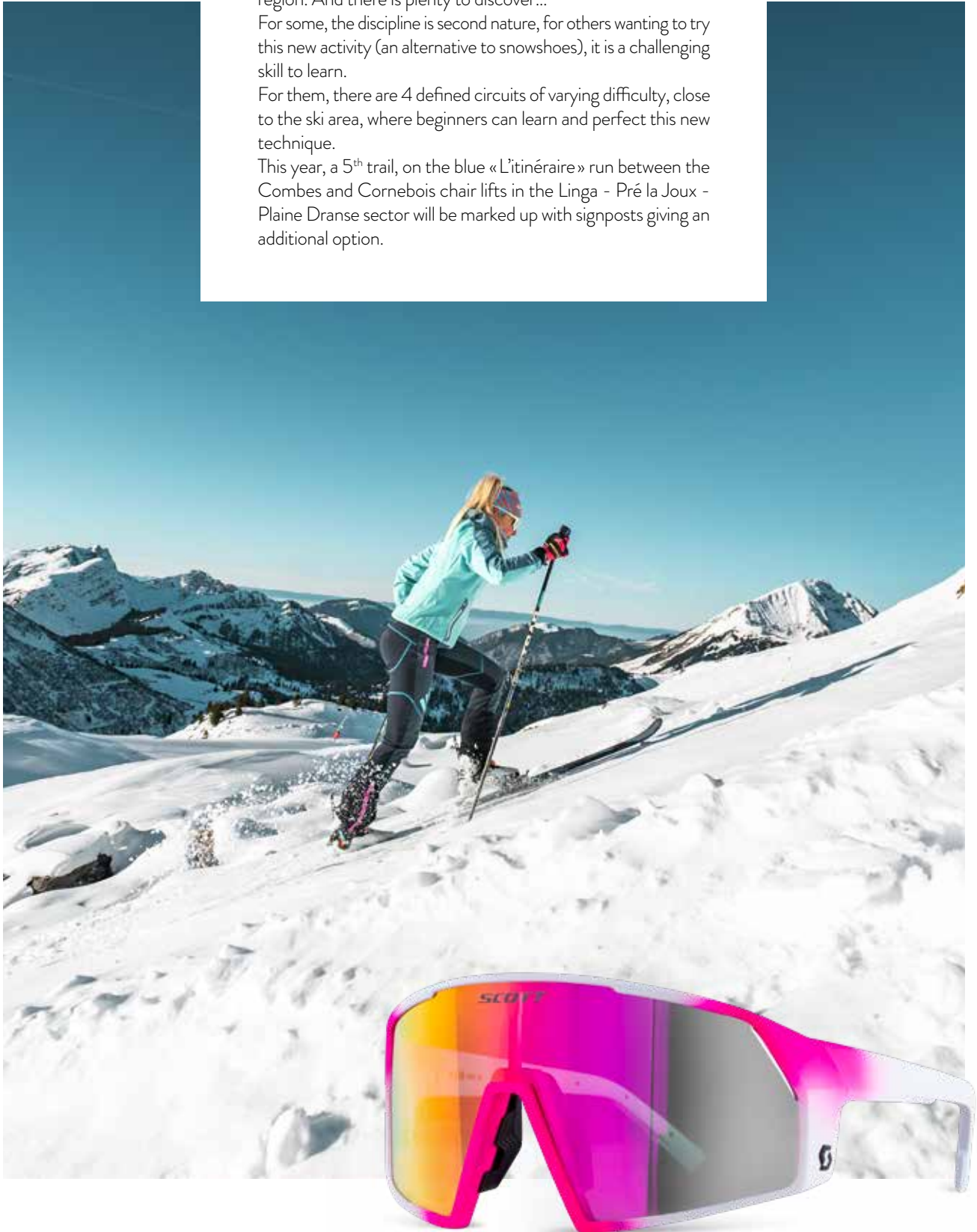
RANDO PARC

Like hiking enthusiasts in summer, who take to the trails as soon as the snow has melted, ski-tourers wait impatiently for the first quality mantel of snow, and head off on seal skins to explore the village, Abondance valley, neighbouring Switzerland, and wider region. And there is plenty to discover...

For some, the discipline is second nature, for others wanting to try this new activity (an alternative to snowshoes), it is a challenging skill to learn.

For them, there are 4 defined circuits of varying difficulty, close to the ski area, where beginners can learn and perfect this new technique.

This year, a 5th trail, on the blue « L'itinéraire » run between the Combes and Cornebois chair lifts in the Linga - Pré la Joux - Plaine Dranse sector will be marked up with signposts giving an additional option.





THE FRANCO-SUISSE (EASY)

- Start: Super Châtel (bubble arrival)
- Length: 4.5 kms
- Climb: 226 m
- Time: 2 hours
- Highest altitude: 1840 m

The perfect circuit to learn ski-touring.

BARBOSSINE (FAIRLY DIFFICULT)

- Start: Barbossine (arrival of Petit Châtel chairlift)
- Length: 3.6 kms
- Climb: 485 m
- Time: 3 hours
- Highest altitude: 1962 m

MORCLAN (FAIRLY DIFFICULT)

- Start: Super Châtel (bubble arrival)
- Length: 3.8 kms
- Climb: 305 m
- Time: 2 hours
- Highest altitude: 1948 m

This circuit, with a high and regular climb, is ideal for working on your cardio.

LA SERPENTINE (FAIRLY DIFFICULT)

- Start: Pré la Joux (on the right of the piste groomers garage)
- Length: 6 kms
- Climb: 341 m
- Time: 3 hours
- Highest altitude: 1640 m





CHÂTEL STATISTICS

RESORT

• **1247** full time residents • **25 598** tourist beds • **17** hotels (1 hotel****, 8 hotels***, 6 hotels**, 1 no-starred hotel) • **3****** holiday rental complexes • **2***** holiday rental complexes • **1***** holiday rental complexes with hotel facilities • **7** group holiday centres • **1** camping/winter caravan site**** • Other accommodation: **1** holiday and stopover gite, **2** chambres d'hôtes/B&Bs, **1** youth hotel, **1** holiday village • **41** restaurants (including hotel restaurants) • All shops

CHÂTEL LIBERTÉ SKI AREA

- **59** ski lifts (2 bubble lifts, 19 chair lifts, 33 drag lifts, 3 rope tows and 2 carpets)
- **76** pistes (7 black runs, 24 red runs, 31 blue runs, 14 green runs)
 - Hourly flow: **56 667** people
- Facilities: **2** snowparks, **3** boardercross, **300** snow cannons, **16** piste groomers, **44** piste maintenance/first aiders
 - Wifi areas
 - Minimum altitude: **1100 m**
 - Maximum altitude: **2200 m**
 - Maximum height difference: **1000 m**

PORTES DU SOLEIL SKI AREA

- **600 km** of ski runs
- **195** ski lifts (3 cable cars, 10 bubble lifts, 76 chair lifts, 91 drag lifts, 25 rope tows and carpets)
- **306** pistes (32 black runs, 105 red runs, 131 blue runs, 38 green runs)
 - Hourly flow: **266 717** people
- Facilities: **10** snowparks, **2** half-pipes, **4** boardercross, **100** piste groomers, **1,300** snow cannons, **174** piste maintenance/first aiders
 - Minimum altitude: **950 m**
 - Maximum altitude: **2400 m**
 - Maximum height difference: **1450 m**



SPECIAL OFFERS



EARLY BOOKING

Before 15th October 2024,
10% off accommodation rental in Châtel!

Offer valid for reservations of selected chalets and apartments in Châtel participating in the scheme.

CHILDREN SKI FREE AT EASTER!

A -12yr ski pass free of charge with each adult ski pass purchased...

From 30th March 2025... buy a Châtel Espace Liberté or Portes du Soleil 3 days + pass at the same time as booking your accommodation and benefit from this Easter offer.

EXAMPLE PRICE OF A ONE-WEEK, ALL-INCLUSIVE HOLIDAY IN FEBRUARY

One week stay in an apartment for a family of 2 adults and 2 children (-12yrs) with 4x6-day Châtel Liberté ski passes (valid on 120kms of pistes), ski equipment rental for 4 people and half-day ski lessons for the children for the week.

From € 2 500 based on 4 people sharing a 2-room apartment, from 1st to 8th March 2025.





CHÂTEL

Portes du Soleil

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