

PRESS PACK

WINTER 2022-2023



CHÂTEL

Portes du Soleil

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WINTER PRESS PACK 2022-2023
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CHÂTEL,

INTENSE NATURE



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UNMISSABLE WINTER

2022-2023 EVENTS

The events calendar may be subject to changes



**From Saturday 17th December 2022 to
Sunday 1st January 2023**

FAIRYTALE CHÂTEL

Enjoy fairytale mountain magic over Christmas when spectacular Christmas lights shine in Châtel's streets.

Throughout the week children and adults can meet Father Christmas' friends and enjoy shows and activities before the man himself arrives in Châtel!

Children's workshops and entertainers, visits to Father Christmas' home, treats and surprises and the arrival of Father Christmas on the 24th December to the delight of all generations!

**From Wednesday 28th to Friday 30th
December 2022**

6TH CHÂTEL CLASSIC FESTIVAL

World-renowned artist Elena Rozanova is musical director of this 4-day festival where classical music take centre stage in the snow. Musicians and music lovers of all ages can enjoy performances by well-known international artists.

During the festival, the matinées "Snow Piano" at Plaine-Dranse, offer a very special opportunity for the public - skiers or non-skiers - to come and play on a piano installed on the snow.

Saturday 31st December 2022

NEW YEAR 2023

A special evening! Bring in the new year! Rendez-vous at the Place de L'Eglise for the Saint-Sylvestre fireworks display and celebrate the start of a new year.

Party atmosphere with DJ and music!



New Year 2023

9th Neiges Etoilées: International food festival

Farmers' Fair



Mardi Gras

**From Wednesday 1st to Saturday 4th
February 2023**

9TH NEIGES ETOILÉES: INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL

An international mountain gastronomy festival bringing together professionals and amateurs around a specific foodie theme. There will be competitions, workshops and demonstrations and the public will get the chance to meet some of the big names in international cuisine.

**Tuesday 7th February 2023
FARMERS' FAIR**

With 30 active farms in Châtel, a dozen of which make Abondance (AOP) cheese every day, the fair is the highlight of this agriculture-themed week.

Adults and children are invited to spend a uniquely colourful evening with the traditional Charivari! Farmers tour the village on a brightly decorated farm-cart to the accompaniment of cow bells. In the village hall, Abondance cheese will be the star of the show. There will be a 'best cheese' competition with the public (old and young) as jury, cheese-making demonstrations, cheese for sale, a mini farm, wooden games, music and a prize-giving ceremony.

**Tuesday 21st February 2023
MARDI GRAS**

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



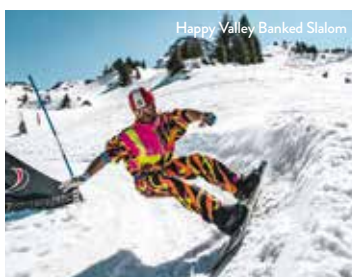
Skiers Blessing at Plaine-Dranse



11th Rock the Pistes Festival – Portes du Soleil



Snowbowl,



Happy Valley Banked Slalom



Châtel Bands Camp

Thursday 2nd March 2023

SKIERS BLESSING AT PLAINE-DRANSE

Each winter, for the last four years, Plaine Dranse chapel has welcomed visitors to a specially dedicated evening blessing.

Plaine Dranse is steeped in history and is also the site of the annual “Fête de la Belle Dimanche” held on the third Sunday in August during which farmers bring their cattle to the area to be blessed by a priest. This popular summer fair is one of the largest in the region.

**From Sunday 12th to Saturday 18th
March 2023**

11TH ROCK THE PISTES FESTIVAL – PORTES DU SOLEIL

Big-name International and Franco-Swiss rock and pop performers have once again been invited to perform on the concert stages around the Portes du Soleil. Concerts are performed on the pistes in the ski area at an average altitude of 1800m and start in the early afternoon to ensure skiers can return home on the lift network. **The concert in Châtel takes place at Plaine Dranse on Friday 17th March. Access to the festival is free with valid lift pass.**

**From Sunday 12th
to Saturday 18th March 2023**

CHATEL BANDS CAMP

After-ski concerts in the village, and the opportunity for musical members of the public to perform on stage.

DON'T MISS...

Snowbowl, Châtelem (telemark event), a week of events for Dutch speakers in April, Happy Valley Banked Slalom (fancy dress on snow)...

FLOCON VERT ACCREDITATION

AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM

Having returned to the village from the summer pastures with the arrival of the first snow, farmers and their cattle spend winter in their village farms (some with carved wooden balconies, typical of the Abondance valley and over 100 years old...). When spring arrives and the great white blanket melts, they return to the mountain pastures for summer. Chatel has 30 active farms, a dozen of which makes Abondance (AOP) cheese every day. This cheese is used to prepare the delicious Berthoud (which has the French 'Guaranteed Traditional Speciality' label).

The average age of these farmers is between 35 and 40 years old, evidence that farming still passes through generations of the same family.



During winter, some mountain chalets are accessible on snowshoes, the distance varying depending on their location. Chalet Mouët is one of these, at 1800m altitude and Chalet de Théo is another, at 1450m altitude.

During the day both are accessible from the bend at Tenne with snowshoes. Alternatively, part of the distance is covered by the Petit Châtel chairlift (buy a pedestrian ticket or use a valid ski pass). At the top of the chairlift, turn left and follow the signs to the chalets.

This route offers beautiful views of the surrounding countryside and mountain summits of the Abondance valley and indeed, the whole region.





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ART AND HISTORY ACCREDITATION



This label has been accorded to the Abondance valley in recognition of its architecture, heritage, countryside and agro-pastoralism. Each of the 6 villages in the valley – 3 of which are ski resorts, 1 of which is Châtel – has promoted and developed the art and history theme. The Old Customs house in Châtel, which this year celebrates 10 years since its restoration, is a case in point.



THE **10 YEARS** OF THE OLD CUSTOMS HOUSE

In 2012 Châtel's old customs house was converted into a mountain contraband and smuggling information centre. It has welcomed many visitors and introduced them to an important, and relatively unknown, aspect of this frontier land.

Old and young can go back in time to learn about life before the advent of winter sports, when smugglers and "Gabelous" (customs officers), played cat and mouse in the mountains of Châtel, the Abondance Valley and the Portes du Soleil. This secretive business is the subject of many fascinating anecdotes revealed to visitors during their visit.

THE OLD CUSTOMS HOUSE, 10 YEARS ALREADY!

To celebrate this important 10-year anniversary, an innovative update of the two floors housing the permanent exhibition was carried out this summer, making the visitor experience more immersive and engaging. Increased comfort, new, updated pictures and activities will all enthral visitors. Visitors can now weigh their bag of salt, load their packs of contraband and try to identify various smugglers' merchandise. The more adventurous can close their eyes, put their hands into secret hiding places and guess the identity of vital smugglers' tools or even, experience the excitement of a night-time smuggling expedition!

The new temporary exhibition entitled "Everything to declare! From Customs Post to Smuggling Information Centre" goes back nearly a century in time, showing the history of the building from its construction in the 1920s to the departure of the last "gabelous" in 2009 and the arrival of the first visitors to the interpretation centre.

A wide variety of activities are planned for the tourist season: An investigation game for children, secret operations to undertake with the family, guided visits ...

The Old Customs house still has secrets to reveal ...

THE SKI AREA...





In addition to the «Châtel Liberté» ski area, with 130 km of skiing prepared daily by piste professionals, ensuring visitors can ski with confidence and pleasure, Châtel has activity equipment 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
- Chermillon, a fun, interesting ski piste (with a mountain flora and fauna theme including figurines and information boards)
- Speed track with a timing zone at Chalet Neuf
- DVA Park (Avalanche victim detection)

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PORTRAIT: A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SNOWPARK SHAPER

Opening, maintenance, activities
and closing the Smoothpark.



NEW:

SUPER CHÂTEL, CONCHE CHAIRLIFT ... A NEW 6 PERSON DETACHABLE CHAIRLIFT !

Skiers can now use the new, updated Conche ski lift ... a 6-person detachable POMA chairlift. The start is at le Cret and top at Chermillon.

It replaces the 3-person fixed chairlift built in 1981. Extensive landscaping has been required to enhance the start and arrival points. Skiers will now be able to access pistes and lifts on the Massif more quickly and easily. It is now easier to link with the Chalet Neuf and Chermieu sectors, simply enjoy the Boud and Combe pistes or access the Snowpark for a fun Franco-Swiss experience!

The route of the lift has changed and, with ingenuity and technological expertise, the 8th pylon is the also the 3rd of the Morclan chairlift built in 2019.

Thanks to this new installation, the fluidity of the Super Châtel sector has increased, to the great benefit of skiers.

LINGA – PRÉ LA JOUX – PLAINE DRANSE SECTOR:

- The 'Great White' version of the Fantasticable at Pre la Joux (at the top of the Rochassons chairlift)
- Belette Information Piste (showing the history of Abondance cheese from its birth in the 12th century)
- Night skiing at Linga (7.30pm-9.30pm at the stadium with flood lights and music)
- New snow activities: supervised by professionals, fans of snakegliss, airboard, yooner and other snowracer will love this final run before the Pierre Longue chairlift closes for the day.

THE 12 PORTES DU SOLEIL RESORTS:

In France: Châtel, La Chapelle d'Abondance, Abondance en Vallée d'Abondance, et Avoriaz, Morzine, Montriond, Saint Jean d'Aulps, Les Gets in Vallée d'Aulps.

In Switzerland: Morgins, Torgon, Champoussin-Les Crosets and Champéry.
The Portes du Soleil ski pass gives access to all resorts.

SKI PASS PRICES (SAMPLES)

INDIVIDUAL PRICES

Châtel Liberté (at ticket office)

- 1-day adult:..... €48
- 6-day adult:..... €228

Portes du Soleil (at ticket office)

- 1-day adult:..... €62
- 6-day adult:..... €310

Informations : www.chatel.com



**LET THE MOUNTAIN
WIN YOU OVER!**



CHATEL STATISTICS



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RESORT

- **1247** full time residents • **24 745** tourist beds • **19** hotels (1****NN, 8****NN, 10****NN) • **3** holiday rental complexes****NN
- **2** holiday rental complexes****NN • **1** holiday rental complex with hotel facilities****NN • **9** group holiday centres
- **1** camping/winter caravan site**** • Other accommodation: **1** holiday and stopover gite **3** épis, **5** chambres d'hôtes/B&Bs, **1** youth hostel, **1** holiday village** • **60** restaurants (including hôtel restaurants) • All shops

CHÂTEL LIBERTE SKI AREA

- **61** ski lifts (3 bubble lifts, 19 chair lifts, 35 drag lifts, 3 rope tows et 1 carpet)
 - **73** pistes (77 black runs, 23 red runs, 29 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 (4 cable cars, 9 bubble lifts, 78 chair lifts, 91 draglifts, 25 tow ropes 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, **1300** snow cannons, **174** piste maintenance/first-aiders
- Minimum altitude: **950 m**
 - Maximum altitude: **2400 m**
 - Maximum height difference: **1100 m**

SPECIAL OFFERS

EARLY BOOKING

Before 15th October 2022, 10% off accommodation rental in Châtel!

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

Information: www.chatel.com

THE GREAT ESCAPE OFFER: FOR EXPERIENCED ADULT SKIERS

Outside school holidays, with a ESF ski instructor, adults from class levels 1 – 4 can explore the fabulous Portes du Soleil ski area each day.

A promotional price is applied to Portes du Soleil ski passes and 6 ski lessons.

Information and reservation: www.esf-chatel.com

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

One week stay in a family apartment for 2 adults and 2 children (under 12yrs) with 4X6-day Châtel Liberté ski passes valid on 130 kms of pistes, ski equipment rental for 4 people and half-day ski lessons for the week for the children.

From €1920 based on 4 people sharing a studio from 4th – 11th February 2023.

Information: www.chatelreservation.com



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SPRING IN THE MOUNTAINS

TRY EVERYTHING SKI TE PLAÎT !

Spring in the Mountains means family and friends, skiing, special offers on accommodation, new activities, gastronomy, festivals, well-being and March and April mountain nature in Châtel.

Enjoy the sun, the longer days and take time to (re)discover the mountains in springtime.

Information: www.skiingintospring.com and www.chatelreservation.com



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