



WINTER-SPRING 2025-2026

CHÂTEL

PRESS PACK



CHÂTEL

Portes du Soleil

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CHÂTEL, INTENSE NATURE...



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2025-2026

DIARY DATES

**Saturday 20th December 2025
to Sunday 4th January 2026**

FAIRYTALE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Enjoy a festive Christmas in the mountains: Father Christmas arrives to share sweets with the children, torchlight descents light up the slopes for everyone to enjoy, and New Year's Eve is celebrated outdoors with music and fireworks, - the perfect way to welcome the year ahead.



Fairytale christmas and new year

Saturday 7th February 2026

THIRD UCI SNOWBIKE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

As the second edition, the third edition will take place on one day, the 7th February at Linga, first with the super-G then the dual slalom. Riders must have a licence issued by a National Federation affiliated to the UCI (Union Cycliste International).



Fairytale Christmas and New Year



Third UCI Snowbike World Championship

Agricultural Fair



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Mardi Gras

Tuesday 10th February 2026**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 – Abundance 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.

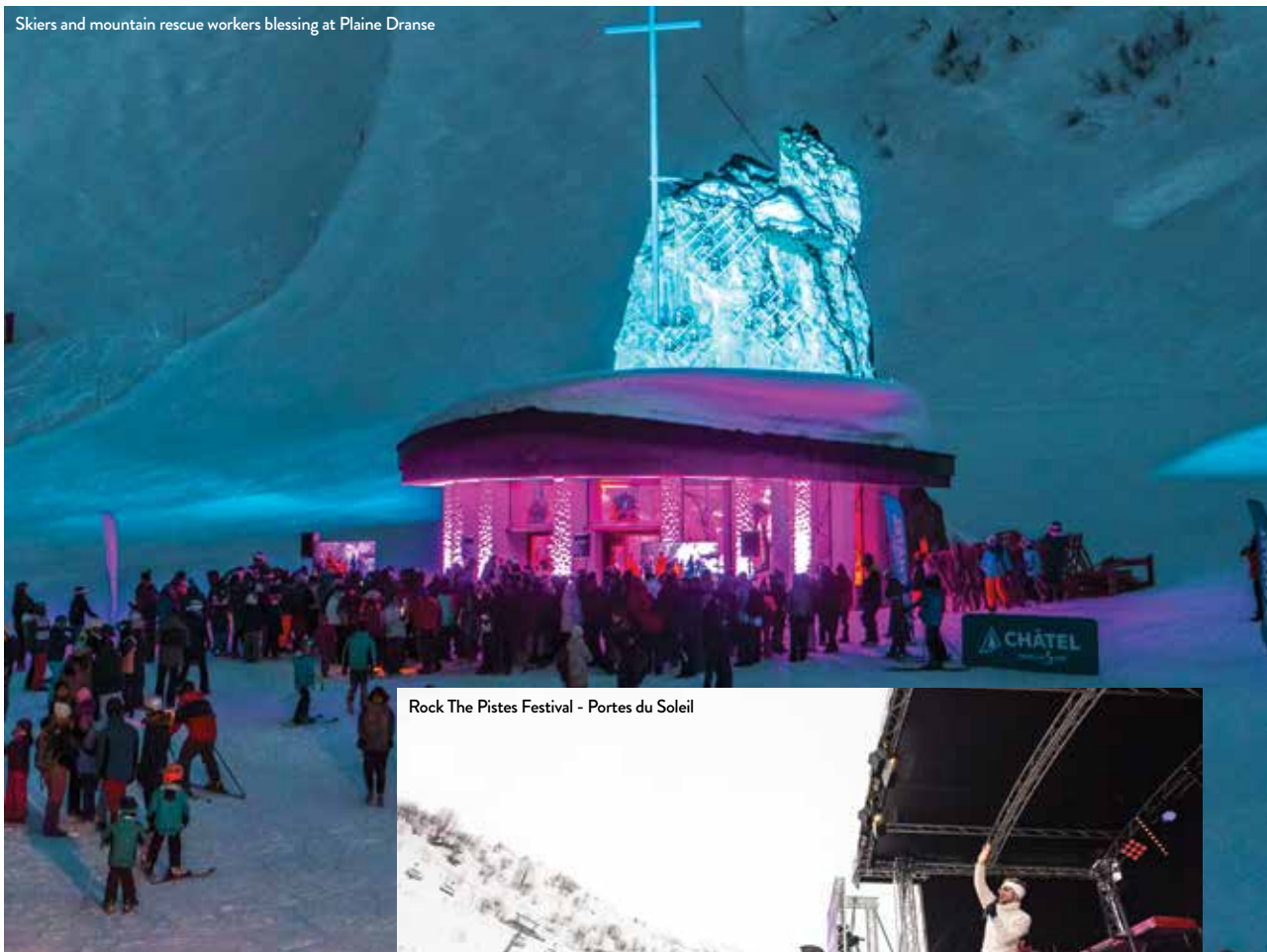
Tuesday 17th February 2026**SKIERS AND MOUNTAIN RESCUE WORKERS BLESSING AT PLAINE DRANSE**

For the 7th year, skiers, walkers and mountain rescue workers are welcomed to the Notre-Dame chapel for a special, dedicated blessing service.

Tuesday 24th February 2026**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 and mountain rescue workers blessing at Plaine Dranse



Rock The Pistes Festival - Portes du Soleil



**Sunday 15th to Saturday
21st March 2026**

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 15th to Saturday
21st March 2026**

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!



Châtel Bands Camp



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 lists 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 and ZoéTim Kid'Aventure (large indoor play areas for children from 2-12 yrs and 1-12 yrs), a carousel for little children, Abondance cheese-making explanations, 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, sewing workshops, street entertainers...



«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.

The Cave d'Azélie, in the village centre, shares 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: €2,50.

«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 is entitled “Everything to declare!”.
- **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.

New: Eric Dresco’s book: “Châtel, à chaque pas une histoire” (“Châtel, a story at each step”), following his two-part book: “Châtel, sur les pas des pionniers...” (“Châtel, in the steps of the pioneers...”).

SKI AREA

NEW THIS WINTER:

Replacement of the Linga telecabine with a 6-seat detachable chairlift.

The 10 place Linga telecabine, built in 1986 had a debit of 2,230 people p/h. The new chairlift will carry 3,000 people p/h.

The environmental impact will be reduced as the new lift requires just 13 pylons as opposed to the 21 required by the old one. In addition, the new pylons will be lower than those of the old telecabine lift.

The new motorised cable will be silent and powered by clean energy, two criteria complying with current eco-responsible policy ensuring:

- Lower energy use
- No hydrocarbon use
- Reduced noise pollution
- Increased security for the teams responsible for operation and maintenance.

Upper station with a picnic room and panoramic view over the valley and Châtel village.

A SHORT HISTORY of ski area development and the Châtel, Portes du Soleil, Avoriaz link

In 1967, development of the Linga Sector began with construction of the first stage of the Linga telecabine (finishing at 1720m altitude). A year later, in 1968, the second stage—Linga 2—was added, allowing skiers to ascend to 2,080m and enjoy an uninterrupted 1,000m descent! The top of the first stage and start of the second stage were linked by the same station, negating the requirement to change lifts to reach the summit. This new lift became the start point for the Châtel-Avoriaz liaison project.

This project has been developed over the years, culminating in the construction of the Rochassons chairlift in 1981 establishing a link to Avoriaz and the Portes du Soleil on the Aulps valley side.

Further modernisation continued; in 1983, the Linga 2 telecabine was replaced by a 3-place chairlift, which was further updated in 2009, to become the Echo Alpin 6-place detachable chairlift.

In 1986, the original 4-place Linga telecabine was replaced by a 10-place telecabine which will in turn be replaced this winter by a modern 6-place detachable chairlift.



The «Châtel Liberté» ski area includes 56 ski lifts and 69 slopes, prepared daily by piste professionals, ensuring visitors can ski with confidence and pleasure.

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

CHÂTEL SKI AREA OPENING AND CLOSING DATES:

- **Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December 2025:** Pré la Joux and the link to Avoriaz open.
- **Saturday 13th to Friday 19th December 2025:** Part opening of the Linga/ Pré la Joux sectors.
- **Saturday 20th December 2025:** Full ski area open.
- **Sunday 19th April 2026:** Resort close date.



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 timing system** and a **fun boardercross** 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 (EXAMPLES)

Individual prices

Espace Liberté (at ticket office)

- 1-day adult: €56
- 6-day adult: €295

Portes du Soleil (at ticket office)

- 1-day adult: €72
- 6-day adult: €366



RAN DO 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 mantle 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 5 defined circuits of varying difficulty, close to the ski area, where beginners can learn and perfect this new technique.

SUPER CHÂTEL – BARBOSSINE SECTOR

The Franco-Suisse (easy)

- Start: Super Châtel (telecabine arrival)
- Length: 4.5kms
- Climb: 226m
- Time: 2 hours
- Highest altitude: 1,840m

The perfect circuit to learn ski-touring.

Barbossine (fairly difficult)

- Start: Barbossine (arrival of Petit Châtel chairlift)
- Length: 3.6kms
- Climb: 485m
- Time: 3 hours
- Highest altitude: 1,962m

Morclan (fairly difficult)

- Start: Super Châtel (telecabine arrival)
- Length: 3.8kms
- Climb: 305m
- Time: 2 hours
- Highest altitude: 1,948m

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



PRÉ LA JOUX - PLAINE DRANSE SECTOR

Happy Valley (easy)

- Start: Pré la Joux (finish at the chairlift of the same name)
- Length: 4kms
- Climb: 400m
- Time: 2 hours
- Final altitude: 2,000m.

La Serpentine (fairly difficult)

- Start: Pré la Joux (on the right of the piste groomers' garage)
- Length: 6kms
- Climb: 341m
- Time: 3 hours
- Highest altitude: 1,640m.



The following ski pass prices are for the ski lifts required to access the start of each route; Pierre Longue chairlift (at Pré la Joux), Super Châtel telecabine, Petit Châtel chairlift.

3 and 5 ascent ski passes are valid throughout the 2025-2026 winter season:

- 1 Rando Park ascent: €9,30
- 3 Rando Park ascents: €23,50
- 5 Rando Park ascents: €37



CHÂTEL STATISTICS

RESORT

- **1 168** full time residents • **24 578** tourist beds • **17** hotels (1 hotel****, 9 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**
 - **39** restaurants

CHÂTEL LIBERTÉ SKI AREA

- **56** ski lifts (2 telecabine lifts, 19 chair lifts, 32 drag lifts, 3 rope tows and 2 carpets)
- **69** pistes/**120kms** (5 black runs/8 kms, 22 red runs/43,5kms, 26 blue runs/47 kms, 15 green runs/18 kms), 1 itinerary
 - Hourly flow: **69 709** people
- Facilities: **1** snowpark, **2** boardercross and **1** funpark, **300** snow cannons, **16** piste groomers, **44** piste maintenance/first aiders
 - Minimum altitude: **1100m**
 - Maximum altitude: **2200m**
 - Maximum height difference: **1000m**

PORTES DU SOLEIL SKI AREA

- **600km** of ski runs
- **208** ski lifts (3 cable cars, 10 telecabine lifts, 78 chair lifts, 95 drag lifts, 22 rope tows and carpets)
- **306** pistes (41 black runs, 103 red runs, 129 blue runs, 31 green runs)
 - Hourly flow: **266 717** people
- Facilities: **10** snowparks, **10** boardercross, **84** piste groomers, **1 548** snow cannons, **191** piste maintenance/first aiders
 - Minimum altitude: **950m**
 - Maximum altitude: **2 400m**
 - Maximum height difference: **1 500m**

LET THE MOUNTAIN WIN YOU OVER!



SPECIAL OFFERS

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EARLY BOOKING

Before 15th October 2025

10% off accommodation rental in Châtel and **15% off** the Châtel Liberté and Portes du Soleil ski passes!

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 with the same duration... From 28th March 2026... 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 €2499 based on 4 people sharing a 2-room apartment, from 7th to 14th February 2026.





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