



It's very queer on the piste! Gay ski events are plentiful, each with a very unique offering. QX presents a guide to the best to help you make your own mind up!



there's no business like SNOW business!



Alternative Holidays 12th Annual Gay Ski Event

ALTERNATIVE has more experience with gay ski events than anyone else! It began in 1995, and was purchased by the current owners (part of the Man Around travel group that includes Sensations Holidays) in 2002.

As the longest established ski week, Alternative's event is unique; they take over an entire resort allowing only their guests the use of facilities without concern of families and children sharing them.

One of the advantages with Alternative is that there is just one cost for the whole week's activities, so you don't need to worry about any extras. The cost is from £890 per person for the event. This includes everything other than flights and transfers to the resort. Everything is included - all meals, drinks (a free bar all week), five hours of ski lessons every day, ski passes to the world's largest ski domain, fabulous international entertainment which surpasses any other event similar around the globe, nightclubs and DJs from across Europe plus many other extras. With straight to slope skiing, currently it is one of the only ski resorts 100% open for both ski and snowboarding.

The resort is sensational too and perfect for gay folk. It's on the 10th-17th March at the peak of the skiing season in Val Thorens which, at 2,300m, is Europe's highest resort. Skiing this year in Europe requires any resort to be over 2,000m for good skiing conditions. The Club Med resort is one of their highest rating hotels geared towards adults with outside BBQs during the afternoon, a nightclub and auditorium. Each of the 280 bedrooms is very well furnished and the chef was last year voted one of the top in the region.

The Alternative week pulls in a wide range of gay guys, from the experienced snowboarder to the virgin skier,

from all over the globe! As the event is advertised and promoted across Europe, the US and Australia in many gay magazines and newspapers, the event crosses many barriers. This year we expect around 30 nationalities to attend and have a network of gay travel companies who support us.

And when you're done skiing... what's on offer by night?

This really will be Red Carpet Cabaret. Those boogie woogie angels, the Puppini Sisters will pour their blend of 'forties swing and Smith's heartache over you like liquid gold. The enchanting and award winning French jazz and blues singer, Caroline Nin, will torch the night with her unique fusion of Dietrich, Piaf and Minelli. Quick change genius Ennio Marchetto will add his magic to the mix and for One Night Only the resort staff will get to strut their riotous talents. The Ballet Star Gallactica, Madam Galina, who reduced Joanna Lumley to a quivering wreck and entertained the Queen, will showcase her prodigious talents. Kandi Kane will be back to entertain and the annual fancy dress Masquerade Ball theme is 'A Snowball Fantasy' hosted by the White Party. Club's Crash and Nightingale are also back with their best DJs.

And if you've never skied or snowboarded before, then fret not! Ski and Snowboard Lessons are included for everyone - from beginners through to experts in small private groups. Tobogganning, paragliding, snowmobiles plus many other activities are included on the snow. For apres ski, the south facing terrace provides a perfect place for sunbathing in the spring Alpine sun.

To book, call 020 8902 7177 and mention QX for the latest deals.
For further information, check out www.alternative-holidays.com

ManMountain

By Peter Broome



GETTING a quick fix of fresh mountain air, stunning views and downhill thrills has never before been easier, more accommodating or as sexy as it is now with **ManMountain**.

ManMountain is a joint venture between the Pure Organisation, famed for putting together some of London's most successful circuit parties (Famous Five) and the UK's leading lifestyle gay website GAY.COM. For one week only from 24th – 31st March they'll be taking over the picturesque Alpine Ski World Cup Venue resort which is nestled in the Otztal valley in the heart of the Austrian Tirol to host Austria's unmissable Gay Ski Week in Sölden.

For the last seven years hundreds of gay men from across Europe have headed to Sölden, but now Brits are coming to paint the town red and complete this truly Pan European Gay Ski and Party Week!

So what makes ManMountain scale different heights over and above other ski packages?

Sölden offers peerless skiing pleasure and is Austria's only ski area with three mountains higher than 3,000 metres. We all know that size matters, but this also means guaranteed snow!

During the day you'll be able to join the ManMountain Gay Ski and Snow Boarding lessons or join the ManMountain guests on tours of the slopes around Sölden. A week's tuition (four hours a day for five days) AND equipment hire will only set you back €232 which is approximately £153. Now that's what I call good value for money! Alternatively, you can liberate the daredevil in you and go it alone.

The event is truly international with people coming in from all over Europe and beyond. For example gay travel company Tom On Tour (tomontour.com), who also stage the very successful more chilled gay ski week in Gastein every January, have been promoting the event for years, bringing in lots of sexy German guys! With GAY.COM's international reach, expect a wide range of hot queers heading for the snow!

ManMountain recognises that while there's no business like snow business, after scaling such exhilarating heights, you're going to want to unwind. What's on offer?

Crash, DTPM, Salvation, Trade and Manchester's Essential alongside indie boys Rebel Rebel are already waxing their poles and getting ready to ensure your soundtrack to the week is as sublime and stimulating as the surrounding scenery. The Barcode boys and Fiction will also be on hand with their après ski bars.

Flexibility's the name of the game, both on and off the slopes, and remembering that it's a holiday it's up to you how much or how little ski-ing you do. Each package includes 7 nights accommodation and a ManMountain Event Pass which provides an amazing range of benefits including discounts on lift passes, ski and snowboard lessons, equipment hire plus free welcome drinks and admission to daily special events including all UK clubs.



Panorama Felssteg

The choice of accommodation suits every budget and it's reassuring to know that if you plump for the more bargain end of the market you won't be disappointed. From five star luxury to great value apartments starting at £229, there's something to suit everyone. There's also the official ManMountain Hotel, the four star Bergland.

So, what else does Sölden have to offer? Well, there's Austria's brand new 80 million euro thermal spa resort, The Aqua Dome, where you can luxuriate in an outdoor spa surrounded by snow capped mountains.

At 3,309 metres above sea level, the Panorama Felssteg enjoys breathtaking panoramic views of the Wildspitze and Pitztal Valley guaranteeing an emotional high altitude experience.

If you prefer dinner to disco, fine wine to hard trance, Sölden has some top restaurants and bars where you can relax after a hard day on the mountain. Try the Weinerschnitzel (veal) or Otztaler Kasespatzle (macaroni) with Germknodel (sweet dumplings with butter or vanilla sauce) to follow!

So whether it is sleep or gravity you choose to abuse, look no further, plant your pole deep into ManMountain and experience a gay man's piste de resistance!

Getting there is cheap and easy! British Airways franchise partner GB Airways operates eight flights a week to Innsbruck from London Gatwick with one-way fares starting from £34 including taxes. For more details visit www.gbairways.com.

To book call the Skiworld events team on 020 8600 1797 and mention OX for latest deals. Check out www.manmountain.co.uk for further details.





HappyGaySkiWeek

HAPPYGAYSKIWEEK is one of the newer gay ski weeks and holds its 3rd event this year. It's a truly European gay ski event gathering 150 people from all over Europe and the US. It all takes place from the 17th–24th March 2007 in the magic village of Avoriaz and its resort of Portes du Soleil, one of the biggest and most beautiful ski resorts in the world with over 650km of slopes (28 black, 110 red, 109 blue and 41 green) on both sides of the French and Swiss Alps.

After a day of skiing, there's a rich programme (included in the package) of après-ski (that's the social activities taking place after skiing to you) in a chalet on the slopes. Parties are courtesy

of two of Europe's most popular gay organisers ('Crazyvores' from Paris and 'La Demence' from Brussels), offering many opportunities for participants to relax, socialise and have fun. The international organisation team (speaking English, French, German, Spanish and Italian) will be there

to ensure that everybody feels comfortable. Of course, participation to all or part of the proposed programme and activities is not mandatory so that everybody feels free to join the group or stay apart when he so desires. This freedom also contributes to make the price of the stay very affordable, since our formula is deliberately not an "all inclusive" one.

The evening entertainment ranges from relaxed drinks to club events. Each après-ski will be fired up by the Crazyvores team, with a different show each day. The after dinner programme, consists of four parties: 'You've got a mail' (message party), 'Show Time' (where everybody is the star), Crazyvores fancy dress club event (dress code: super heroes) with the Crazyvores Team from Paris and last but not least, 'Angels & Evils' party (dress code: Angels in white and Evils in red) with La Demence and DJ Steven Redant.

Meals don't take place at just one restaurant either. Dinners (with supplement) will be proposed each evening at different restaurants of the resort, an excellent opportunity to enjoy the French gastronomic cuisine or local Savoy specialities like the famous Raclette and Tartiflette. Since studios and apartments are equipped with a kitchen, participants will also be free to organise private dinners between themselves in a smaller and more intimate groups.

Accommodation is in studios or 2 room apartments both with balcony in a 3*/4 "suns" (accommodation provider classification) renovated residence with the most**



wonderful panoramic views of the Morzine valley. At

the entrance to the resort, near the car parks, the residence is easily accessible and well-placed for the bars, restaurants, mini-market and bakery. The mechanical ski lifts are only 100m away.

So what does it all

cost? The proposed package, that includes the accommodation, the 6 day ski Pass 'Portes du Soleil', welcome cocktail and buffet, access with one drink to all après-ski and DJ parties organised throughout the week costs 780 euros (£530) per person (2 people in a studio apartment) or 850 euros (£575) per person (2 persons in a 2 room apartment).



To book call HappyGayHolidays on +33 (0) 1 42 74 66 44 and mention OX for latest deals. Check out www.happygayholidays.com for further details.

QUEERER STILL...

...even more gay ski weeks!

HERE'S just some of the Gay and Lesbian ski and snowboarding events for 2007 and some to look out for in 2008 taken from a bulging Gay Ski Calendar. From the world's most famous ski resort, Aspen's Gay & Lesbian Ski Week attracting the rich and glamorous, to OutBoard, the largest gay and lesbian snowboarding event in the world, there's something for the novice skier right through to the seasoned ski-bunny. Most events include coaching and instructors, themed party nights with top DJs, comedy nights and fine dining.

3rd-10th March: **Switzerland Gay Ski Week, Lenzerheide/Valbella, Switzerland.** www.swing-on.ch

4th-11th March: **WinterFest, Lake Tahoe, California, USA.** www.laketahowinterfest.com

14th-18th March: **Elevation 2007, Mammoth, California, USA.** www.mammothgayskiweek.com

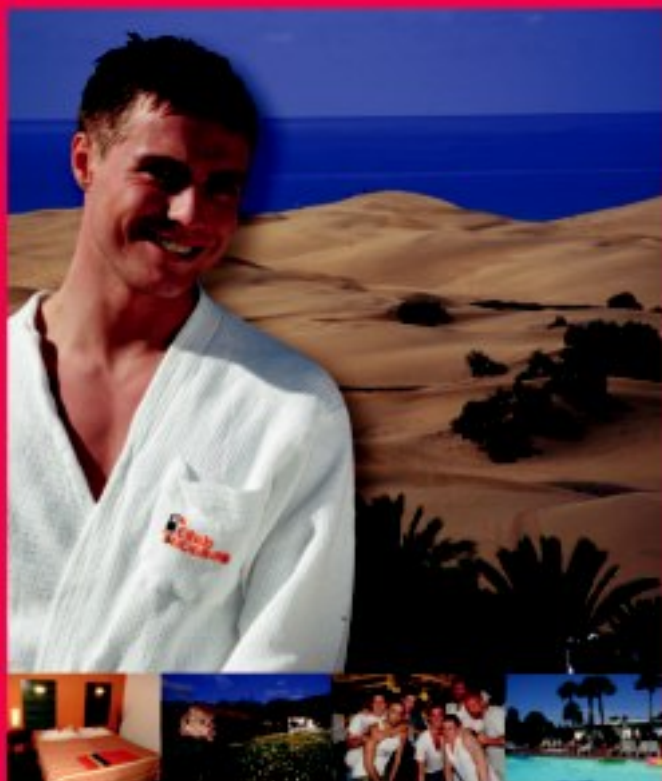
28th March-1st Apr: **Outboard 2007, Steamboat Springs, Colorado, USA.** www.outboard.org

1st-8th September: **Gay Ski Week, Queenstown, New Zealand.** www.gayskiweeknz.com

13th-20th January 2008: **Aspen Gay & Lesbian Ski Week.** www.gayskiweek.com

January 2008: **Gay Ski Week (Gastein, Austria).** www.tomontour.com





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Club Tucanes

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www.clubtucanes.com



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