

When is the best snow?

This is very much a matter of personal preference, but from our experience and knowledge we suggest that:

- Snow-wise, early December can be fantastic or a flop. If you can book last-minute then come when, and if, the snow falls. (Keep checking our snow report and last-minute deals.) Empty pistes are guaranteed and bargains can be easily snapped up - even the lift pass is cheaper.
- Christmas and New Year are very popular so the resort and pistes will be busy, and prices much higher. Christmas in the snow can be magical.
- January is much underrated. The French tend not to take their holidays at this time of year, and the pistes are virtually empty with no lift queues. The weather can be very cold, but often the Alps enjoy blue skies and sunshine as well as low temperatures for much of the month. The snow can be excellent in January.
- February is the month the French school holidays start - check dates below. The resort is always extremely busy and children's ski school places are booked up months in advance. Avoid if you don't like being out-skied by 7 year olds.
- March is when the sun starts to shine for longer and longer each day, and temperatures are usually kinder to lurching out-of-doors. The snow quality may start to decline - hard in the morning and slushy in the afternoons. A popular month with the British and other nationalities.
- April is often the snowiest month of the season as April showers land as fresh snow in the mountains. In fine weather it is perfect for lazy long lunches in the sun, and the pistes are once again quiet. Perhaps time for a last-minute break?
- The resort will go quiet for the beginning weeks of May but towards the end of the month and the beginning of June there are lots of bank holidays and the village starts to get busy again. Be warned though, it can be rainy in May too!
- June, July and August are the busiest summer months whilst there are loads of activities particularly outdoors to do including golf, tennis and mountain biking. The climate during the daytime will be much as for the rest of France but the evenings will be cooler - so you can sleep well after the day's exploits. Glacier skiing is still possible at the top of the Grande Motte during August.
- Late September and during October things cool down again, and life is much calmer. These are generally the months when many places close and take a holiday or are setting up for winter, so the village is quieter than usual. Depending on what you want to do this is probably the time to get up the mountain for serious events, as you won't be missing much in town! Come November everything starts gearing up towards the winter again.