

OZ CLARKE'S PICK OF THE BEST FRENCH WINES

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FRANCE

Britain's best-selling magazine about France December 2007 Issue 111

Cosy Christmas

Ten lovely lodges to
escape to this winter

16
pages of French
Christmas food
and drink

Heaven scent

Behind the scenes at Paris's
most stylish perfumery

CITY BREAK

Fancy Nancy?

Discover the city of art nouveau

9 DELICIOUS RECIPES from France's finest chefs

Jean-Christophe Novelli, Raymond Blanc,
Franck Raymond and Richard Bertinet

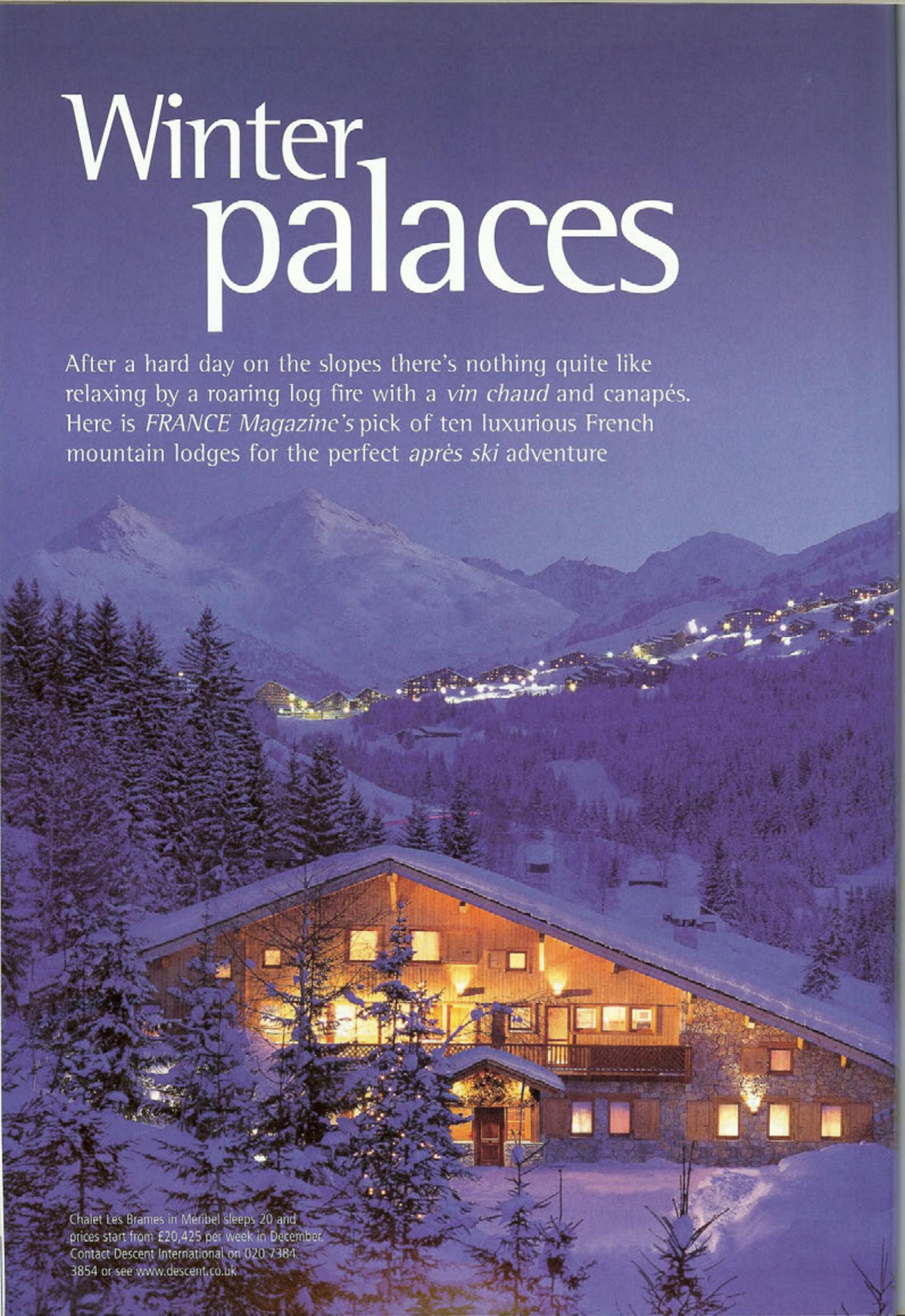
PLUS

William the Conqueror's Normandy, château chic in the Gers, family skiing,
France's future ballet stars, walking in Alsace, French cinema, language tips



Winter palaces

After a hard day on the slopes there's nothing quite like relaxing by a roaring log fire with a *vin chaud* and canapés. Here is *FRANCE Magazine's* pick of ten luxurious French mountain lodges for the perfect *après ski* adventure



Chalet Les Brames in Meribel sleeps 20 and prices start from £20,425 per week in December. Contact Descent International on 020 7384 3854 or see www.descent.co.uk

Chalet Zenith

Ideally located in the elevated south-facing Moussoux area of Chamonix, the Chalet Zenith has breathtaking panoramic views across to the Mont Blanc Massif and Chamonix town. It is 400 metres from the Brevent lift station and a seven-minute walk from the centre of the resort. Aimed at large families, groups of friends and the corporate market, the chalet is a classic example of a traditional Chamonix chalet that has been tastefully re-decorated to a luxurious standard.

The chalet has a large living area and sleeps up to 14 guests. There is an outdoor panoramic Jacuzzi for six, a sauna, a children's playroom, a home cinema system, a large sun terrace and your own private garden – plenty to keep you occupied throughout your stay.

With prices reaching £27,030 a week in peak season, visitors can expect five-star service including afternoon tea and cakes, a champagne reception, luxury bath and body products, fluffy dressing gowns, five-course dinners with wine and a chauffeur.

Prices start at £12,960 based on full chalet takeover. The week-long stay is fully gourmet catered with return airport transfers. The chalet can also be booked for three- or four-night stays. Chalet Zenith is marketed by Ski In Luxury, visit www.skiinluxury.com or call 01202 313693.



All the apartments have a fully equipped kitchenette with oven, dishwasher, fridge, hob and microwave. All apartments have satellite TV, a telephone and a balcony or terrace. A two-bedroom apartment sleeping up to seven people costs from £1,233 per person. See www.skicollection.co.uk or call 0870 770 0407.

Les Balcons du Savoy

With spectacular views over Mont-Blanc, Les Balcons du Savoy is a self-catering residence located 300 metres from the centre of the picturesque resort of Chamonix. Ideally set on the slopes and offering ski in/ski out access to the Bévent/Flégère ski areas, it has a 24-hour reception, a private heated indoor swimming pool and fitness room, and also offers a selection of treatments including Hammam/Turkish baths.

Chamonix is set at the foot of Mont Blanc, Europe's highest mountain at 16,000 feet, and has been a major Alpine centre since the 19th century. A fascinating traditional ski resort with a bustling atmosphere, the centre of the resort is car free and has cobbled streets, beautiful buildings and a good range of shops, bars and restaurants as well as a large sports complex, a swimming pool, and an ice rink.

The skiing is divided into five main areas, some a short bus ride away. The domain has an excellent range of testing and high-altitude glacier runs, in addition to which Chamonix boasts unbeatable snow and remains the undisputed off-piste capital of Europe. Although highly recommended for expert skiers, beginners will also enjoy the gentle nursery slopes of Les Planards and with a Ski Pass Mont Blanc you can access up to 700 kilometres of ski runs. 