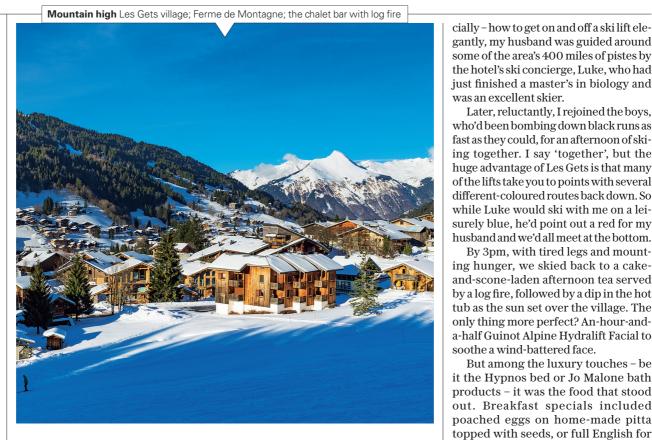
The Cut // Travel

Jessica Salter



Les Alps of luxury

Fall in love with skiing at a five-star restored farmhouse

I THOUGHT I WAS through with snow holidays. When first trying to master snowboarding, I concluded there was little joy in paying to fall over repeatedly. A few years later, on an alpine spa break, my husband spent hours trying to teach me. We agreed to shelve it.

And yet, I really did want to master the slopes. So in a make-or-break holiday - and our first away from our oneyear-old - I decided to try again. After a reassuring email from Ferme de Montagne, a ski-in, ski-out boutique hotel in a beautifully restored Savoyard farmhouse in Les Gets in the French Alps ('How firm do you like your pillows? What factor sunscreen do you use?') we hopped on an 8am flight, were picked up at Geneva, and hit the beautifully groomed slopes by 2pm.

While my ski instructor, Emmanuel, taught me to parallel turn and - cru-



ing with dishes ranging from a beetroot-cured salmon appetiser to delicately seared beef fillet, all finished with a flourish.

cially - how to get on and off a ski lift ele-

Later, reluctantly, I rejoined the boys, who'd been bombing down black runs as fast as they could, for an afternoon of skiing together. I say 'together', but the

of the lifts take you to points with several different-coloured routes back down. So while Luke would ski with me on a lei-

surely blue, he'd point out a red for my

By 3pm, with tired legs and mounting hunger, we skied back to a cakeand-scone-laden afternoon tea served by a log fire, followed by a dip in the hot tub as the sun set over the village. The only thing more perfect? An-hour-and-

But among the luxury touches - be

hungrier types; and ever-evolving four-course tasting menus each even-

was an excellent skier.

After a year of the micro-managing that comes with a newborn baby, the greatest luxury was to have highly trained staff anticipate our every whim: why yes, I would like a chilled thermos of milk in my room for my morning tea, and OK, I will have a glass of champagne.

It turns out, I've fallen in love with skiing. It just took a bit of unbridled luxury to seduce me.

FERME DE MONTAGNE.

LES GETS, FRANCE A three-day stay for two

sharing a luxury double

room including dinner,

and full ski concierge

breakfast, afternoon tea, one

services and transfers costs

£1,990. Or a luxury double room with dinner, breakfast

and afternoon tea as well as

champagne on arrival costs

a complimentary glass of

from £550 a night for two

complimentary treatment

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