

METRO travel

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Top way to ski and see

SENSORY OVERLOAD: VISIT ONE OF THE MANY SKI RESORTS WITH SPECTACULAR SETTINGS BY FRASER WILKIN, FOUNDER OF ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST SITE WWW.WEATHERTOSKI.CO.UK



CORBIS

JACKSON HOLE, WYOMING, US

Many US resorts lack the high mountain scenery offered by their Alpine counterparts. Not so Jackson Hole, where the mountains rise abruptly from the valley floor and the views are spectacular. From the top, you look out across a wide, flat plain that stretches away into the horizon. From the bottom, the view is entirely different but just as memorable. From the moment you land at tiny



Jackson airport, it's difficult not to be captivated by the wild beauty of the Teton mountains. The remoteness of the resort adds to the atmosphere and it's not uncommon to spot herds of elk or even the odd moose.

MÜRREN, SWITZERLAND

It's more than 100 years since Sir Henry Lunn brought the first winter package tour to Mürren – and not much has changed since. Still only accessible by cable car or mountain railway, the journey is spectacular in itself. And no other village is set quite as dramatically as Mürren. Perched on a high shelf



CHAMONIX, FRANCE

Chamonix may not be the most convenient resort in the Alps – its five main sectors are a bus ride from the centre of town – but when it comes to spectacular settings, it has few rivals. Nestled below the 4,810m summit of Mont Blanc, Chamonix is surrounded by the highest mountains in the Alps. Everywhere you look, soaring peaks jut into the sky, including the Aiguille du Midi (3,840m), starting point of the 24km Vallée Blanche off-piste route. Here even intermediates can enjoy some of the most dramatic glacial scenery in Europe but the descent is riddled with crevasses, so a guide is vital.

800metres above the valley floor, it overlooks the famously beautiful trio of the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau mountains. The ski area itself is no less inspiring, culminating in the 2,970m Schilthorn, which offers a 360-degree panorama of the Swiss Alps from its spectacular revolving restaurant (the one immortalised in the James Bond film *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*).

ZERMATT, SWITZERLAND

Even without the Matterhorn, the scenery in Zermatt would be pretty special. Not only does the area contain the highest concentration of 4,000m peaks in the Alps, it is also home to some of its most spectacular glaciers. You can't escape the presence of the world's most photographed mountain, the shape of which changes depending on which ski areas you view it from. From Sunnegga you see the classic Matterhorn but move to the Gornergrat area and it takes on a more angular appearance.

CORTINA, ITALY

The Dolomites are known for their jaw-dropping scenery but Cortina has perhaps the finest setting of all the resorts in this corner of the Alps.

As the location for several Hollywood movies, including *Cliffhanger*, the town is surrounded by dramatic pink-tinged cliffs and peaks that look spectacular at sunset.

But despite some of the world's most scenic skiing, less than half of Cortina's visitors bother hitting the



slopes. This is Italy's most upmarket resort and long lunches in one of the resort's splendid mountain restaurants, many of which are accessible to pedestrians, is a popular pastime.

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