

# Snow-finder France

## The ultimate ski and snowboard guide to the French Alps.

*Snow-Finder France* is the first of a new breed of ski and snowboard guidebooks. Pocket-sized yet comprehensive, *Snow-Finder France* features in-depth reviews of every resort in the French Alps, written by some of skiing and snowboarding's biggest names.

## Invaluable on and off the mountain.

*Snow-Finder France* is structured geographically, with an overview of each ski region and the resorts within it. Then every resort is reviewed in greater detail by writers with particular knowledge of the area.

*Snow-Finder* is the only guidebook which features piste maps for every ski area in every resort. What's more, each run is individually reviewed so there won't be any unpleasant surprises halfway down the mountain.

**Over 1200 pistes individually reviewed by world champion authors.**



## Champion authors.

The incredibly experienced editorial team have each written sections on the resorts they know best. Writers include: Luc Alphand, Edgar Grospron, Graham Bell, Martin Bell, Patricia Chauvet, Alain Baxter, Lesley McKenna, Pat Sharples, Becci Malthouse and more.

## Insider's tips.

*Snow-Finder France's* team of writers have picked their favourite runs and off-piste areas for each resort. Plus there are details of the best bars, restaurants and clubs - both on and off the mountain - as well as tips on planning a trip to the Alps or working a season.

**Meribel By Pat Sharples**

Top British freeskier  
Head coach of the British Freeski camp.  
Former English freestyle captain.

Meribel has always been very special to me as it is been right on my door step for the last 12 years. My favourite spot for freeskiers is playing on the couloirs from the top of Sautin which joins Courchevel and Meribel.

There are four main areas to the resort Meribel Village (1550 metres) up the valley from Brides-les-Bains. This is a traditional town centre for the many chalets and the place to go for apres ski and nightlife and Meribel Mottaret up the mountain (1750 metres), sandwiched between the Savoie mountains and the French-Italian border to the north east and the long ridges of Tignes and Meribel Mottaret and the Thorens to the south. Meribel Mottaret is a ski-in ski-out collection of chalet complexes, with all the snow access so it is a bit lacking on the late night party action here!

Meribel has traditionally been seen as an upmarket chalet resort for most of South West London to debut for winter holidays, it has always had so much more to offer than this little stereotype suggests.

For example: it is the nearest to the Trois Vallées full of skiers: it is the best skiable resort in the Trois Vallées to access all of the extensive ski area. It is very easy to get up to the off-piste heavy zones of Sautin and the Thorens. And Meribel good bars and clubs have the best holiday parks in the region! They are well maintained and have a great selection of James' and the rest of the cafes. If playing in the park is your thing, then you should check it out!

www.snowfinder.co.uk

**81 unique Piste-Finder™ Maps covering over 6000 km of pistes.**

## Over 1200 pistes.

81 unique Piste-Finder™ Maps give you an instant view of each ski area within the resort (see opposite). A brief text review of every piste comprises concise notes on typical snow conditions, terrain, steepness, and proficiency level.

## Pocket-sized format.

At only 12 x 8.5 cm *Snow-Finder France* is slightly larger than an iPod or mobile phone, fitting easily into a jacket pocket or backpack. The pocket-sized guide condenses the entire French Alps into 416 pages - all the information you need on the mountain.

**Meribel 1450**

**Meribel & Mottaret**

4. **Mercassin**: Very nice cruising red for intermediates.  
5. **Moutard**: Long well-groomed red from the top of La Salette to La Chaudron. Perfect for intermediates.  
6. **Chamolle**: Slightly ruggedly at the top but nevertheless an easy red - recommended for improving just taking the step up from blue.  
7. **Alpin**: Great run back from the Pas du Lac 2 although gets busy.  
8. **Chaudron**: A very flat and easy piste for beginners linking Mottaret to Meribel. Also covered especially at the end of the day.  
9. **Bruno**: Great run for intermediates with fantastic views over the valley. Beautiful scenery and nice icy runs. Excellent!  
10. **Orval**: Sweet and easy for beginners. Joins up to **Meribel**.  
11. **Bessard**: Off-piste red - quite steep. A challenge for any intermediate and it's one of those runs that advanced skis/boarders will love.  
12. **Leif**: Good long run but for intermediates when the snow is good - get your DS head on and tank it down!  
13. **Leif**: A well-groomed red great for practicing those carving turns.  
14. **Mottaret**: Good run for beginners/intermediates taking you right back into Meribel. Great for those of you that can't quite get it.  
15. **Sautin**: Short linking run to Rhodan green.  
16. **Rhodan**: Easy green for beginners to practice turns although it can be surprisingly steep for a green in places. And what you need!  
17. **Sautin**: The best place in Meribel for beginners. Along with easy piste to best first time review. Top place to take the kids too.  
18. **Leif**: A nice green going away from the Alpin although pretty flat and narrow in places, so be prepared to advance or go!.  
19. **Meribel**: The run to lead directly back to Mottaret down past the airport. Doesn't often get too busy though.  
20. **Lain**: The only run to lead directly back to Meribel Village.  
21. **Green**: The only run back to La Chaudron on the Savoie side for very confident beginners. Can be narrow and busy in places.

**Sautin & Alpin**

1. **Nivard**: The beginning of this run is quite flat but don't be deceived as it soon steepens into a pretty exciting quality red run.  
2. **Grande Rhodan**: A run to test your ability - steep fast and sometimes icy. Good advanced standard plus.  
3. **Banglier**: A very steep and challenging run - good for getting the adrenaline pumping. One of the best in Meribel in our book.

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**Vital Statistics: 416 pages • Over 1200 piste reviews • 81 Piste-Finder™ Maps •**

**Size: 12 x 8.5 cm • RRP: £12.95/€19.95 • On sale at good ski, snowboard and outdoor shops, amazon.co.uk, Waterstones, Ottakars • Available: Now • ISBN No.: 0-9581726-9-2**

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