

### Best off-piste

**The Death Couloir** is the Holy Grail of couloirs for me - totally amazing when the snow conditions are right. There is also a great couloir, easy enough, from the top of the *Becca* chairlift. Hike 30 metres up to your right then drop over the back to *Mottaret*. Take a guide with you to get the best out of it.

### Best black run

**La Masse**, a whole mountain of good skiing with the Lac de Lou itinerary off the back or take itinerary down to *Bettex*. Otherwise if you like your bumps, try **Bartavelle** on *Mont de la Challe*.

### Best red run

**Allamands**, very popular but good pitch. If not, go up *Mont du Vallon* and shoot down the *Combe Vallon* or *Campagnol* down. Both are steep at the top and get mogully, and both are normally pretty quiet.

### Best blue/green

**Grand Lac**, blue run from 3 *Marches* down to the new *Les Granges* chair then continue all the way to *San Martin de Belleville*. **The Blanchot** green coming down through the trees near the *Altiport* is one of the best beginner runs you'll find.

The only regular negative criticism you'll often hear is that **Méribel** is low down so it's prone to a lack of snow, particularly early season and in spring. True but think about how easy it is to get on a lift and get anywhere in the *Trois Vallées* where there definitely will be snow!

So cast aside the stereotypical crap you've heard spouted about **Méribel** and come and see it for yourself. Rarely is anyone dissatisfied with the decision to visit!

Starting up the mountains, *Méribel* is just as good as its neighbour *Courchevel* at charging stupid prices for average food. However, there are one or two spots which are bearable and even good!

The most famous of them all, and a great party spot is **Le Rond Point**, where you'll find large-scale partying from lunchtime onwards. Try the well-known **Les Castors** at the bottom of the green *Truite* run on *Mont de la Challe*. For traditional Savoyarde mountain food, ambience on the balcony go to **Le Chardonnet** at *Pas du Lac* cable car, **Chalet Togniat** at *Combe* chairlift. For real budget, go to **Fast Food** in *Mottaret*.

In town, if it's pizza you like then head to **Pizzeria du Mottaret** or for pizza with a 'covered-in-lager, vodka-shot, chalet-girl' type of ambience, **Pizza Express** above the old favourite party venue of choice, **Dicks Tea Bar**, and even more of the same at **Le Plantin**. **La Chrismamara** in *Mottaret* is good for light lunch, sarnies etc. Also **Zig Zag** for a good value lunch with nice staff to boot. There's a nice little tapas bar on the way to *Chaudane* called **Bar Le S** and many of the locals swear by the bar at the **Lodge du Village**.

**Les Enfants Terribles** is a good wine bar, and the locally-known **The Tav (La Taverna)** is another good apres ski spot. **Rastro's** at *Platières* lift station is excellent.

For beers/clubbing, try the big one - **The Pub, Le Loft** for a cool smokey club scene and **The Ice Café**. Many of the trendies head for **Jack's Bar** straight off the piste at *Chaudane* for early evening shots and happy hour, or if you want something a bit more chilled, **Scott's Bar** or **Chez Kiki**.

