# Crans-Montana, Switzerland

Crans-Montana is a chic and stylish ski resort located in the French speaking Valais canton of Switzerland, around two hours by train from Geneva Airport.

Originally founded in 1893 by two friends from the valley below, Louis Antille and Michel Zufferey, who opened the first hotel, Le Parc, that year, the exceptional air quality and south facing aspect gave rise to sanatoriums from 1896 onwards.

Then in 1906 the golf course was opened, shortly to be followed by the skiing area in 1911, when famous British skier Sir Arnold Lunn visited the resort and launched one of the world’s first downhill ski races, the Roberts of Kandahar Cup. The name Kandahar is still used today in professional ski racing and one of the longest ski runs in Crans-Montana is named the Kandahar, after this famous race.

Crans-Montana sits on a high plateau above the Rhone Valley and faces south and the views are spectacular, especially from higher altitudes where it’s possible to see Mont Blanc in the west, through to the Matterhorn to the east. During the winter, the skiing is well suited for intermediates, with a wide range of blue and red runs, but there’s excellent beginners areas as well as some more challenging slopes for experts, including some interesting off-piste and ski touring terrain, including Europe’s largest marked ski touring park.

Accommodation is of a high standard, but there’s something for everyone, with a strong luxury element including several 5\* hotels and a spread of 3\* and 4\* options as well as self-catering apartments, B&B’s and budget options including a youth hostel.

**This winter, 2021-22**

**Bella Lui Family Festival, December 2, 2021 until January 9, 2022**

Running up to Christmas and beyond over the New Year, the Bella Lui festival is a major attraction for families and based on a fairy tale of “The Shepherd and the Bella Lui Star”. With a market place in the town centre including a large Ferris wheel and a special path light along the way with lanterns, Crans-Montana is transformed into a true winter wonderland. For food lovers, the snowy streets of the village offers the delicious flavour of local produce, its taste enhanced by the resorts exceptional chefs, bakers, cheesemakers and winemakers. A central gastronomy area invites guests to share an aperitif together.

**Audi FIS Ski World Cup – Women, February 26-27, 2022**

Generally regarded as the blue ribbon event on the women’s World Cup downhill ski racing circuit, once again Crans-Montana will host the best racers in the world for this exciting competition that takes place on the challenging Mont Lachaux piste.

**Caprices Festival, April 8-10 and 15-17, 2022**

A double weekend of electronic music from the world’s best DJ’s at the dream setting, 2,200 metres above sea level in the heart of the ski area. Caprices Festival has been elected the best international electro festival in the world – it’s a must attend event for any electronic music lovers.

**Key resort stats:**

* Ski area 140 km of ski runs
* 1500 to 3,000 metres
* 24 ski lifts
* 2nd largest snowpark in Switzerland with Olympic size halfpipe
* 15 marked ski touring trails, 40km of marked paths, totally unique
* 16 km cross country slopes

**Top tips and must do’s:**

* Visit Alaïa Chalet – indoor action sports centre and one of the top facilities of its kind in Europe. Great for freestyle skiers and snowboarders that want to learn new tricks and practice their old ones. Also linked with the brand new Alaïa Bay, a wave surf centre park in nearby Sion.
* Ride the cable cars up the Plaine Morte Glacier – even non-skiers can take the cable car to 3,000 metres and witness the incredible views across southern Switzerland and into France and Italy.
* Learn to ski tour – the 15 marked ski touring trails are designed for all ability levels and are patrolled and set within the ski area. Skiers can then choose to descend by the piste depending on their level.
* Take the famous Mont Lachaux piste that’s used for the women’s World Cup downhill ski races. Good intermediate skiers will be able to manage even the trickiest sections of this run, although at much slower speeds than the professionals. A sense of achievement is always guaranteed.
* Experience the world class snowpark, the second largest in Switzerland and try some freestyle skiing or snowboarding. There’s a beginners snow park that is very gentle, so you can work your way up to the huge jumps available, or just sit back and watch with a coffee on the terrace at Cry d’Er.

**Hotels:**

New accommodation:

**Colorado Riders Lodge** – B&B, great value stylish accommodation for skiers and snowboarders looking for comfort and style at a good price.

**Hotel Aïda & SPA** –the Bestenheider family open their 3rd luxury hotel in the resort. This new one is a 17 suites at a very high standard. This hotel is targeting Adults only looking to pamper themselves. The spa and massage service is designed to please the most demanding clients. Star Michelin Chef Franck Reynaud in the kitchen is the promise of creative and delightful cuisine. Opening for 1st of December 21 (no pictures available yet)

**Alaïa Lodge** – 142 rooms in town centre -modern, cool, après terrace, families, groups and singles from the people that brought us Alaïa Chalet.

Luxury hotels:

**Hostellerie du Pas de L’Ours** has a true mountain chalet feeling. Interior design includes a lot stone and old wood. With only 15 rooms it is very cosy. They use the spa and pool of the connecting 4\* Hotel Etrier. The Chef Frank Reynaud is the first one to have a star Michelin in Crans Montana. There are 2 restaurants available; the gastronomic “L’Ours” and the more casual “Bistro de L’Ours”.

**Guarda Golf Hotel and Residences** Celebrating 10 yearsof excellencein 2020, this Leading Hotels of the world property is a true enchantment for the visitor. The incredible view of the Valaisan Alps, the proximity to the centre and the quality of the service make it an unbeatable place to stay in Crans-Montana. The Guarda golf hotel offers 25 rooms and 7 flats of 200m2 and three rooms with en-suite bathrooms. Its new restaurant FiVE delights the palate with Levantine flavours.

Luxury self catered chalets

**Ultima Crans-Montana** is composed of two ultra luxurious chalets. Completey private for an absolute intimacy. The Ultima chalets are the perfect placements for a luxury retreat in the Swiss alps.

Chalet 1 has 8 master bedrooms and 2 children sleepover suites.

Chalet 2 has 6 master bedrooms

1000sqm to indulge yourself in a luxury massage or treatment with world class expert therapists.

<https://www.ultimacollection.com/en/collections/ultima-crans-montana>

**One luxury apartments and chalets**. The new company ONE offers a large choice of flats and chalets with luxury mountain design. For families or groups of friends who are looking for the comfort of a house with all the services to make the most of a stay in the mountains. www. <https://www.onecransmontana.ch/en>