

Snow sports: ski resorts

Roger Gfrörer “collects” ski resorts across the globe. The 48-year-old economist has already visited hundreds of winter sports resorts around the world, clocking up thousands of kilometres on the pistes. MySwitzerland accompanies him to ski resort no. 569: Les Diablerets.

Interview: Christian Sidow
Photos: Pascal Gertschen

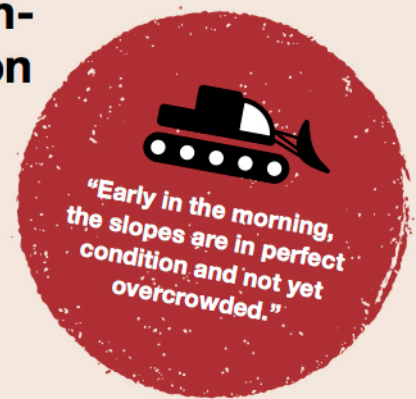


Roger Gfrörer, have you always been crazy about skiing? **Yes, you could say that. As a child, I always shed a few tears when it came to the end of a skiing holiday, and then I started to count down the seconds until I could next go out on my skis.**

Why do you find skiing so fascinating? **It's the combination of that indescribable feeling of gliding, and of being outdoors in nature. The Swiss mountains offer the perfect conditions for both of these aspects.**

How did you come up with the idea of "collecting" ski resorts? **Skiing trips are a great way of getting to know the world. As soon as I had a few resorts under my belt, my sporting ambition started to grow and grow.**

How do you evaluate a ski resort? **I've prepared my own formula to use: the higher the proportion of interesting slopes in relation to the number of slopes overall, the more attractive the resort is to me. It is completely subjective, but it helps to compare resorts of different sizes.**





Whenever **Roger Gfrörer** is not providing career advice to students at the University of Zurich, he is out and about on his skis. His goal is to travel to every ski resort in the world and use each ski lift at least once. Since 2006, he has visited 569 ski resorts in 21 countries on 4 continents. And he still has a long way to go.

What in particular do you like about ski resort no. 569? **I found Les Diablerets – or the Glacier 3000 ski resort – very relaxed, even on a Saturday in high season. And the views of nearly every 4,000-metre peak in Switzerland are simply breathtaking.**

Have you discovered the perfect spot here yet? **Personally, I think the heart-racing black slope “Combe d’Audon” deserves this accolade. Anyone who prefers to take things a little easier will like the terrace at “Refuge l’Espace”, with its view of Valais and the Bernese Alps.**

How do Swiss ski resorts compare to their international counterparts? **We definitely have the most beautiful mountains – even if they are not all equally good for skiing. I am also always struck by the cultural diversity of the resorts.**

What is next on your itinerary? **I’d like to show my wife, who is from North America, just how beautiful the Swiss mountains are. Of course, my list of ski resorts that I am yet to visit will always be in the back of my mind.**

Roger Gfrörer’s international ski resort collection: grandeboucle.blogspot.com

GFRÖRER'S TOP 4



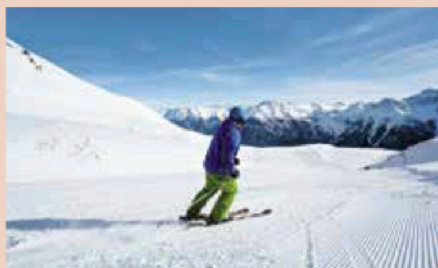
SKI RESORT

FAVOURITE SLOPE

1 ENGADIN SCUOL

Home is where the heart is

A compact resort on tree-free terrain, the slopes are perfectly arranged with many great down-hill sections. This is where my love for skiing began.



PISTA DA SÖMMI

The dream slope ("sömmi" is Romanche for dream) leads from Salaniva to Sent.

2 LES QUATRES VALLÉES

Global in every dimension

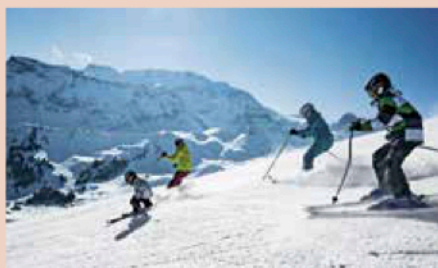
A large, diverse high-alpine resort featuring Bec des Rosses, which draws visitors from all over the globe and, at least once a year, the world elite.



3 FRUTIGEN-ADELBODEN

Something for everyone

A varied family ski resort consisting of seven different sub-resorts, all covered by one ski pass.



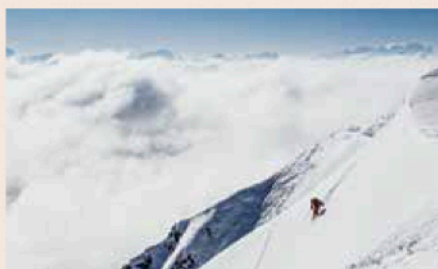
World Cup slope on Chuenisbärgli: even the smallest skiers can feel like the biggest stars here.



4 MOLÉSON, LA GRUYÈRE

A jewel among the small resorts

This compact resort has only a few cableways and lifts but offers breathtaking views, a great steep slope and a lot of charm.



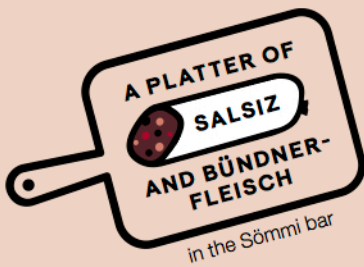
MOLÉSON - GROS PLANÉ

From Moléson to Les Joux: steep at first,

more gentle towards the end.

GROS PLANÉ - LES JOUX

BEST FOOD

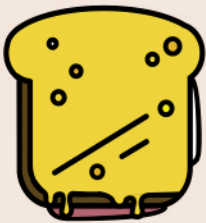


SELFIE SPOT

MOTTANALUNS

with the idyllic Lower Engadine Dolomites in the background.

SPECIALS



"Croûte au fromage" in Le Mayentzet

A classy take on cheese on toast, with rye bread, ham and cheese from Verbier.

3,330M



Stylish bars and cool live music create an appealing après-ski atmosphere.

RESTAURANT AEBI:
CORDON BLEU FILLED WITH HAM & MOUNTAIN CHEESE FROM THE REGION



High five on the Bühlberg fun slope

The longest fun slope in Switzerland, with snow waves, steep-wall bends and obstacles.



MERINGUES

In Le Sommet restaurant at the summit. With a generous serving of Gruyère double cream and "vin cuit" (pear syrup).

At the summit:
The Swiss Plateau to the north



The Alpine region to the south



A "MOITIÉ-MOITIÉ" FONDUE ROUNDS A DAY OF SKIING OFF NICELY.





"If you buy your ski pass online at home, you get to skip the queue at the valley station."