

14th January 2014



## Somewhere for the weekend: Verbier

**VERBIER** I'm staying at the Nevai ([www.hotelnevai.com](http://www.hotelnevai.com); doubles from about £120), a 35-room property with grey walls, huge linen sofas and a photograph of a polar bear in reception. It's a youthful place, refurbished in recent years to include a sushi bar off the lobby, and the bright rooms have balconies facing the sunset. As night falls, so does the snow, gliding in thick flurries that turn the asphalt white in seconds, spreading across pitch-roofed chalets. Powder.

Toby Mallock, my chatty guide from Performance Verbier ([www.performanceverbier.com](http://www.performanceverbier.com)), is determined to teach me how to master the stuff. I'm merely determined not to break anything. We spend the morning taking small turns off the piste, carving into waist-high, whipped-cream snow, white peaks framed by a denim-blue sky. 'Other resorts might be better for skiing, or food or partying,' says Mallock, 'but Verbier has a bit of everything: tons of skiing, tons of off-piste, good food, great après and it's easy to get up the mountain. It's got a special vibe.' It's hard to argue as the sun catches a spray of snow, glittering like a fine net of diamonds.

*Pictured: Hotel Nevai's bar*