



LA ROSIÈRE TO OPEN NEW MOUNTAIN

The French ski resort of La Rosière has announced it is opening a new mountain face for the coming winter, meaning it will have more slopes with more vertical drops.

Two new six-seater chairlifts and resulting new terrain will have a significant impact on the Espace San Bernardo ski area that the resort shares with La Thuile on the Italian side of the border.

Firstly, it will take the height of the resort's highest lift up from around 2,640m to 2,800m, increasing the skiable vertical by 160 metres to around 1,350 vertical metres. Secondly, the five new red runs that will be created will increase the amount of skiable terrain by nearly 40km to just under 200km. There will also be access to lots of freeriding terrain.

The news of the "new mountainside" was first announced in the UK by tour operator Peak Retreats. "With a limit on beds, the plans will expand La Rosière while maintaining its family-friendly atmosphere that brings loyal families back time and time again," said a spokesperson. peakretreats.co.uk



ANOTHER 8KM OF PISTE IN THE PYRENEES

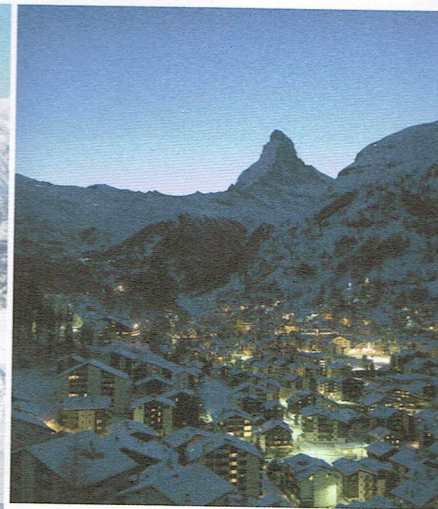
Baqueira Beret ski resort in the Spanish Pyrenees will reach a total of 160km of piste with the opening of a new area to skiers and boarders this winter.

The new runs, covering around 2.27 hectares, will be created in the resort's os Baciver area, close to the Saumets zone.

A new mile-long surface lift with a capacity of 800 people per hour will provide access to the new area. The new lift will take the resort's hourly uplift capacity to 61,024 people.

"It really is a beautiful area where the freeriding will be the main draw with lots of off-piste areas to enjoy easy and safe free skiing," said Commercial Director Xavi Ubeira.

Baqueira is also improving its snowmaking system and adding two new grooming machines to its fleet. One of the biggest international events at the resort this winter will be a Snowboard Cross World Cup on 1-2 March, with the best riders from around the world competing.



WORLD'S HIGHEST 3S LIFT TO BE ONE OF T

The new Matterhorn glacier ride lift, which opens at the end of September, is just the first phase of a multi-year cross-border lift-link between Italy and Switzerland. Work on the new lift, which has 25 cabins, each with 28 seats, including four "Crystal glide" cabins encrusted with Swarovski crystals, has involved three 100-day delays due to the weather conditions at "Europe's highest building site". Now the lift company is keen to start work on the second lift, instead of dismantling the cranes that have been built at around 3,800m which will be new. "The construction of the world's highest 3S cabin is just the first stage in the realisation of a multi-year far-reaching vision: to create a continuous corridor between Zermatt and Italy, the so-called Alpine Crossing," a spokesperson said.

The crossing will be completed via a lift between Klein Matterhorn and Testa Grigia (3,479m), a mountain prominence on the Swiss/Italian border above the town of Zermatt. Some reports in the Italian media have suggested the second new lift could be completed by 2020.



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