

TOWN&COUNTRY

A luxury guide to St Moritz

Navigate the sophisticated ski town – and birthplace of Alpine tourism – in style

by BONNIE CULBERTSON 06/03/20



If you find yourself lucky enough to go on holiday in St Moritz – rubbing shoulders with Russian oligarchs and skiing alongside Swedish royalty – you’ll want to at least appear as though you’ve been there before. Locals are far too discreet to suggest the best après parties for spotting celebs, and even enquiring along these lines will expose you as an outsider. Instead, grab some designer ski duds and bookmark these spots to experience St Moritz like any of its most stylish and in-the-know patrons...

1

How to get there



Many a St Moritz holiday begins with a private jet touching down in nearby Samaden/Engadin airport, a 10-minute drive from downtown St Moritz. If that's beyond your means, or if you're looking for a more sustainable alternative, there are trains from Zurich airport: by rail, the slow, winding ascent into the upper valleys of the Swiss Alps affords some of the most beautiful views in Europe. You'll pass glittering Alpine lakes, streams meandering through dense pine forests and a patchwork of picturesque mountain villages.

2

Where to stay: Kulm Hotel



Step back in time at St Moritz' oldest hotel, the [Kulm](#), which opened in 1856 and is credited with hosting the first winter tourists in Europe; today, guests will recognise the glamour of its gilded-age origins in the ornately carved pine ceilings adorned with massive chandeliers. The property – which recently served as the backdrop to the star-studded wedding of the Greek billionaire Stavros Niarchos to Russian heiress Dasha Zhukova – occupies prime real estate in St Moritz. Expect unobstructed views of the town's eponymous lake and the surrounding Alps from nearly anywhere on the property, whether you're sipping champagne in the lobby, reclining on the balcony of your private suite or wallowing in the heated outdoor infinity pool – part of a recent \$10 million renovation. Feeling peckish after a day on the slopes? There's no need to risk ruining your new designer heels in the snow. The Michelin-starred restaurant [the K](#), by famed Berlin chef Tim Raue, is located on-site; alternatively, for a more casual evening, head across the hall to [Sunny Bar's pop-up Peruvian restaurant](#), now in its third year at the Kulm and helmed by award-winning chef Claudia Cannessa.

3

Where to stay: the Grand Hotel Kronenhof



Those seeking a bit more privacy might opt for a stay at the [Grand Hotel Kronenhof](#) in nearby Pontresina, only six kilometres from St Moritz. It opened its doors in 1848 and the building's rich history permeates every detail of its neo-baroque architecture and decor. The lobby and many of the hotel's social areas maintain nearly the same layout that existed over a century ago, and in some cases the same furniture. Gazing at these remarkable antiques, you begin to imagine the society scandals or political discourse that played out among the Kronenhof's most powerful patrons. Flamboyant, turn-of-the-century ceiling frescoes throughout the building are well-preserved and add to the hotel's grandeur. Downstairs, the spa's pool is framed by dramatic, two-storey windows in a semi-circle overlooking the Swiss Alps (it's no surprise the spot is among the most popular for a Pontresina Instagram post). For dinner, the Kronenhof's well-heeled guests gather at the on-site restaurant [Kronenstübli](#) to indulge in the popular *canard à la presse*, prepared tableside and paired with superb wines from the [hotel's historic cellar](#).

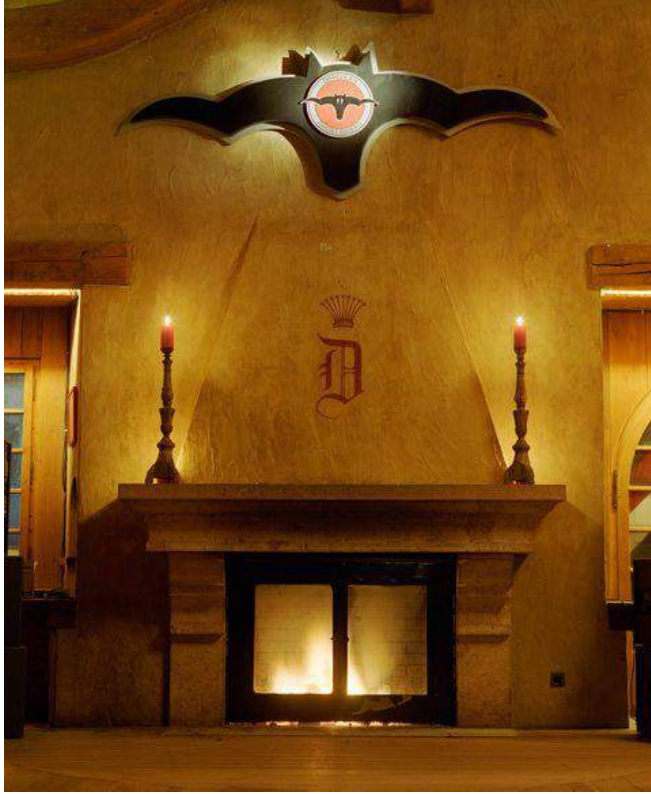
4

Where to dine: CheCha



When it comes to dining on the storied slopes of St Moritz, [CheCha](#) claims favour among discerning ski enthusiasts. The chef, Reto Mathis, will make all your champagne and caviar dreams come true with a menu of classics jazzed up with just the right amount of decadence – try his famously mouthwatering truffle pizza or Caesar salad

with lobster and truffles. You can easily spend as many hours making your way through the menu as you did on the slopes, if not more. When you've finished sampling the cheesecakes, tarts and strudels from CheCha's Alpine patisserie, enjoy a digestif on the sun-drenched terrace overlooking the Engadin mountains and valley. A short and gentle slope will get you from the restaurant back to the gondola into town – a journey intentionally easy enough for even the most over-served to manage.



5 Where to drink: Dracula

For a quintessential taste of St Moritz nightlife, you'll need the help of an insider. In keeping with the town's reputation for old-world elitism, one of the best places in St Moritz for a proper party is also a members-only club. What began as an old, secret society for a group of British bobsledders has evolved into *the* place to be for a night of dancing and drinks with Swiss

hedge-fund managers, billionaire playboys and a smattering of European royalty. Those who make it through the ice tunnel, pass the guest list and are admitted to its restrictive upper floors will find a smoke-filled bar coloured by refractions from a disco ball shaped like garlic (a nod to the name of the club). Don't bother trying to share the night with your online followers: no phones are allowed here and bouncers will be quick to remove you should one so much as emerge from your clutch. If these walls could talk...

6 What to do: watch a 'skijoring' event



For an experience you won't find anywhere else, time your visit for the annual [White Turf](#) horse-racing event. Taking place at the foothills of the Engadin mountains on a frozen lake in St Moritz, the multi-week celebration features as much pomp and pageantry as the Kentucky Derby, only with more fur. When not cheering on the world-class horse races held every half hour, guests keep warm in catered tents, sipping champagne and listening to live music, or strolling through nearby art exhibitions. Racing horses on ice may sound unusual, but it's not even the most noteworthy event on the schedule. One of the most popular races at White Turf is the skijoring race, where jockeys are pulled along on skis behind their galloping stallions.

7

What to do: visit Nomad Circle



Interior designers, architects and in-the-know art collectors descend on the fairy-tale town of Samaden, just outside St Moritz, for this [annual private art exhibition](#). For three years, top galleries from across the globe hand-pick their finest pieces to showcase against the backdrop of a traditional Engadin home and museum dating back to 1595. The intimate setting and strikingly divergent context gives new perceived life to each contemporary piece, making it easy to envision how a [Georg Ohr](#) tea set might appear on your own coffee table, for instance, or to imagine reading by the light of a Kebab Lamp by Committee x [Established & Sons](#). The education in what's au courant in today's art world is worth the few hundreds of Swiss francs it costs to get in, but don't expect to bring anything home without paying the five-figure price tag.

<https://www.townandcountrymag.com/uk/travel/g31260975/luxury-travel-guide-st-moritz/>