



SIMPLY TRAVEL



Snow globe magic Majestic winter retreats

We take it upon ourselves to reveal the finest of hidden mountain gems and inevitably see the potential of having it all – from unrivalled ski slopes, to deluxe spas and sumptuous gastronomy, all within the finest of luxury hotels.

Pine-scented Arosa

It goes without saying, the best places are hidden and coveted by those in the know and this surely is true for the tiny, pine scented, mountain town of Arosa, the latest craze of outdoor winter fun. Those who have heard its name whispered amongst the privileged try to keep it amongst their inner crew, whilst others might never reveal where they venture to for their best ski of the year. A direct flight from Dubai to Zurich and then a three-hour train ride—Swiss trains run like their famous clockworks—or a private chauffeur and luxury transport can be arranged.

This alpine town in the Schanfigg Valley, a cul-de-sac of mountain terrain, offers skiers the very best of slopes and weather conditions. The wind factor is close to non-existent due to Arosa's prime geographical positioning. Cornered by mountain peaks on one side and flanked by pine tree slopes on the other. Furthermore, Arosa is located 1,800 metres above sea level, a great starting point to head even higher up the slopes to enjoy the sun-covered plateaus and 225km network of perfectly groomed pistes catering to every level of proficiency. For those who like to mix things up, the 60km of unspoilt hiking routes and over 25km of cross-country trails through stunning natural surroundings are sure to delight.

Here, in this darling little town of beautiful boutiques and cosy cafes—where local produce and friendly smiles are considered a given—the lines blur between tradition and residential cool. On the edge of town, off the slopes, lies the Tschuggen Grand Hotel. With its grand location at the foot of the slopes and with striking vistas all round, the hotel has become the place to be during ski season, whilst the latest spa extension Tschuggen Bergoasa, literally meaning 'Mountain Oasis', is true to its word and receives high acclaim from around the world.

Design and beauty in one

The internationally renowned Swiss architects, Mario Botta, and interior designer, Carlo Rampazzi—known for his striking colour combinations—went for a minimalistic approach in materials in the spa's design. Glass, maple wood and granite, as if the chosen materials determine the relationship of the existing hotel and the surrounding mountain peaks. Fine lines and characteristic glass domes peak out and cut through the landscape, their shapes referring to the trees in the landscape and lighting up the calmest of colours at night with their green, blue and yellow hues, all of which are those of the Arosa flag. The menu of spa offerings is extensive, and the staff are sophisticated in their approach. Relax rooms are available around every corner and the set up of the three levels of this mountain oasis is so grand, you feel as if you are spending the day in a private retreat.

Private mountain retreat

The Tschuggen Grand Hotel, part of the Tschuggen Group, took its Romanish name from the nearby Tschuggen mountaintop—the locally spoken dialect. It is the only hotel in the region offering its own ski express, a private mountain railway offering guests an exclusive 'ski in-ski out' service, which takes guests either halfway up the mountain from where they can meet the brightest of sunrays, or opt for lunch on the terrace of the Tschuggen Hutte. Alternatively, guests can venture higher still to the source of some of Switzerland's first-class ski, snowboard and carving routes.



Carlton Hotel St. Moritz and Tschuggen Grand Hotel are part of the privately owned Tschuggen Hotel Group. The Group offers wellness experiences, heart-warming service, gastronomic excellence, picture-perfect outdoor settings, all with breathtaking views at Switzerland's premier locations: Arosa, St. Moritz and Ascona.



At night, guests can enjoy dinner in one of the many restaurants within the hotel. Burgers and salads are served in the casually cool Basement where after 9pm the bowling alley lights up or La Collina where fresh, informal and local fare are the main elements for the evening. For fine dining, the Michelin starred restaurant, La Vetta, an elegant restaurant where the finest of flavours blend with local produce to create culinary masterpieces throughout the ever-changing menu, entice hotel guests with continuous gastronomic surprises.

The rooms are mesmerising with stunning views of the mountaintops and are all interconnected, offering the option of taking over the entire floor to have family together. The luxury suites flank the lower floors and are beautiful abodes in the midst of elegance and nature, which the resident interior designer makes plenty of reference to within his choices of materials and colours.

Saintly St. Moritz

Another one of Rampazzi's interior masterpieces is displayed at The Carlton Hotel, St. Moritz. Here, all 60 suites are south facing, offering the very best of views across the luxury mountain resort of Sankt Moritz, as the locals call it. Each suite identifies itself with striking colour combinations, elevating the surrounding alpine scenery. The beautiful setting of the lake in front of the hotel offers not only the most pristine of views, but also seasonal highlights including winter polo in the last week of January to winter walks over the snow-covered ice. For those seeking personalised activities, the hotel offers spa services spread over three floors with ladies only areas and the option to book private spa chambers. Furthermore, the concierge arranges private ski instructors for those who are keen to explore further. They even have the unique services of an outdoor butler who knows every detail of the Upper Engadin region—from snowshoeing, bobsledding and mountain tours in sheepskin-covered carriages pulled by graceful horses. A perfect day out of the ordinary, if that is even possible in a setting like St. Moritz.



Former summer residence in winter

Contradictory to its former allusion as 'summer residence' to the Russian tsar, the Carlton Hotel only opens its arched doors in the cooler climates, starting from December. Winter is the exclusive time to be part of the history of this cosy yet striking castle-like hotel, where open fires warm guests on the bel-etage and the sun terrace invites the art of relaxation with a view. Restaurant Da Vittorios' Michelin-star team attract guests and local residents with sumptuous gastronomic delights of the highest level, whereas Romanoff offers beautiful and delicious dishes in the grandeur of the hotel's principal floor.

Palatial privacy

The suites come with excellent amenities and can be all inter-connected to create the larger-than-life feeling of a 'home away from home' during your stay. The hotel is enviably lucky with its location, just off the main street, yet with a scenery and magnificence of a residence of its time. Noticeable are interior elements referring to previous owners with majestic stairways and a stately ballroom for special occasions. For those who would think this is an understatement, the Carlton Hotel can be privately booked for those unique moments, such as winter weddings, birthday celebrations and even corporate outings. The highlight, quite literally, would be the penthouse located on the top floor of the hotel. Its wooden beams, fireplace and balcony with a picture perfect alpine view surely create a feeling of your secluded chalet in the sky. Add in the private butler and you'll never want to leave until the season is over and the hotel closes, if ever.

With this in mind, leaving would be most difficult; with its picturesque scenery outdoors and the warm welcome inside, the Carlton Hotel St. Moritz is an inimitable combination of history, charm and service—one to cherish and return to when the first snowflakes descend from the skies to colour this town white.

Hotels:
Tschuggen Grand Hotel, Arosa, Switzerland
tschuggen.ch

Carlton Hotel, St. Moritz, Switzerland
carlton-stmoritz.ch

