

Travel challenge **New year celebrations in the French Alps**

Every week, we invite competing companies to give us their best deal for a specific holiday. Today: a festive holiday over New Year's Eve at a French ski resort. Prices are per person, based on two departing together on 26 December for one week. Lift passes and ski equipment hire are not included in the prices quoted.

SkiWeekends.com

£499: Brides-les-Bains, Trois Vallées

Includes luxury overnight coach travel from London Victoria, Thurrock, Maidstone or Folkestone, six nights' half board at the three-star Club Hotel Verseau in Brides-les-Bains and a New Year's Eve gala dinner. "This has to be the

best deal going. You can maximise your time on the slopes and use your whole holiday, plus we offer great food and atmosphere and going by coach takes all the hassle out of the trip and avoids the airport madness at new year," says Dan Fox, managing director of SkiWeekends.com (08444 06 0600; skiweekends.com).

Flexiski

£2,015: Courchevel 1850

Includes flights from Gatwick to Geneva, car hire and seven nights' half board at the four-star Hotel Saint Louis. "Courchevel organises a New Year's Eve party at the snow front with DJs and a spectacular firework display at midnight. As a special treat, a magnum of bubbles on ice will be awaiting the guests in their room on



High resolutions: see in the new year in Meribel DARREN STRANGE

arrival and a complimentary house cocktail per night for the duration of their stay will

be served," says Natalie Batchelor, at Flexiski (020-8939 0861; flexiski.com).

Meriski

£1,600: Meribel

Includes seven nights' chalet-board accommodation (full breakfast, afternoon tea, champagne with canapés and four-course dinner with wine, beer and soft drinks) in a twin room at Chalet Virage. A 10 per cent discount is being offered to *Independent* readers who book before 30 November (bringing the price to £1,440 per person). Flights and transfers not included. "Chalet Virage is just a short walk from the centre of Meribel, so if you are looking for a sociable new year in a luxury chalet with delicious food and wine and professional service then this is the perfect chalet for you," says Ruth Gallop, of Meriski (01285 648518; meriski.co.uk).