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Peter and Felice Hardy



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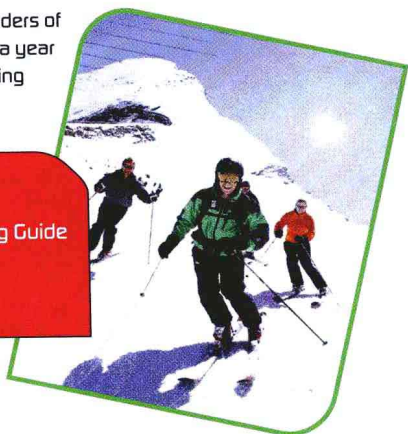
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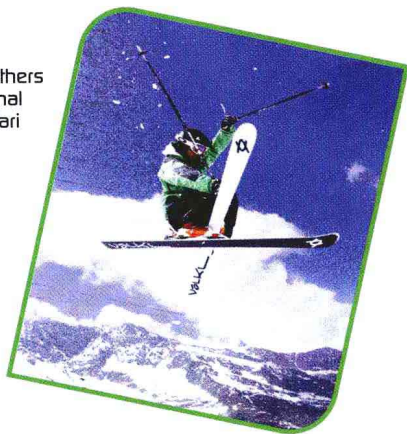
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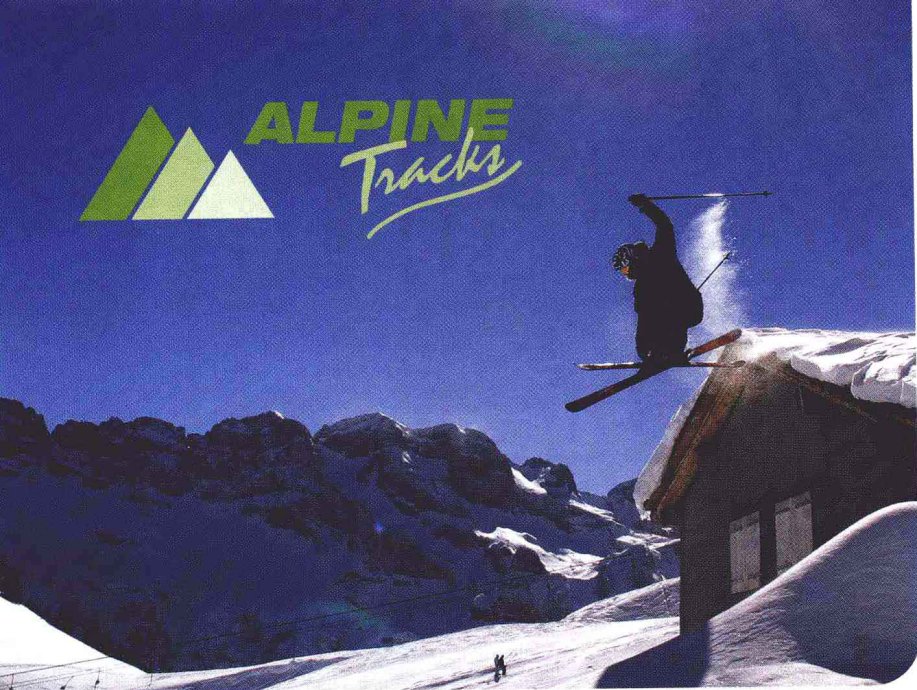
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WHAT THE ACADEMY OFFERS

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 INTRODUCTION TO OFF-PISTE / MOGULS / STEEPS
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 ISIA + ISTD INSTRUCTOR TRAINING
 SKI BIOMECHANICS ANALYSIS / VIDEO ANALYSIS
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WHY CHOOSE THE ACADEMY

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2. The courses offer guaranteed skier improvement because they combine:
Ski Technique / Ski Biomechanics / Ski Physiology / Video Analysis
3. What the students themselves have to say about the course:
www.warrensmith-skiacademy.com/gap/gap-program_08.htm

ACADEMY LOCATIONS

WINTER

Verbier, Switzerland
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 Niseko, Japan

SPRING

Chill Factor, Manchester
 SNO'zone, Castleford
 SNO'zone, Milton Keynes
 SNO'zone, Braehead

SUMMER

Saas-Fee, Switzerland
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AUTUMN

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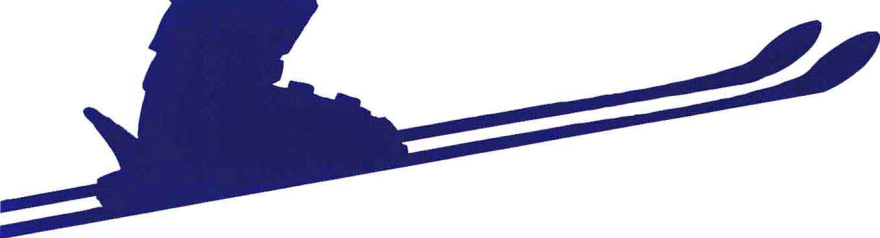


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ski property, airlines and
useful travel details,
specialist travel agents,
retailers, artificial ski slopes
and insurance

About the authors



Peter and Felice Hardy are both full-time travel writers and are acknowledged worldwide as the two most authoritative experts on ski resorts and the ski industry. They have spent many years skiing in some 500 resorts around the globe. In an average 18-week winter, Peter alone commutes from Britain to some 45 resorts on both sides of the Atlantic. When they are not up to their knees in fresh powder somewhere in the Alps, the Rockies or the Andes, they can be found at their rural home in Hampshire with their three children and three dogs, all of whom are expert skiers and accomplished snowboarders (not the dogs).



Peter and Felice are the joint authors of some 20 travel books and co-editors of the ski information website www.welove2ski.com. Peter is the ski correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Daily Mail*. Felice writes regularly in the London *Evening Standard* and for an enormous number of lifestyle and travel magazines, including *Harper's Bazaar*, *Vanity Fair*, *BA High Life*, *Condé Nast Traveller*, *Country Life* and *Tatler*.

Introduction

It doesn't get much better than this. Just when the pundits were telling us that skiing as we know it was finished in Europe because of global warming, Nature struck back with a vengeance. By early November 2007 much of Austria was positively buried in the white stuff. Kitzbühel, a resort often criticized by this guide because of its low altitude and consequent questionable snow record, was digging out its lifts a full month before its normal starting date. By the time we got to the Tyrol in the middle of November, the whole of Austria was being buffeted by a blizzard that got the season off to the kind of start of which you can only dream. And then it got better.

The only downside – if you can call it that – was a long period of mid-winter sunshine. In Europe the sun refused to hide during the whole month of February, with one blue-sky day following another. But finally the snow returned and kept on returning until long after the final lifts shut down for the summer. The only true exception was Andorra, which suffered by far its worst winter in recent years – it had the sunshine, but without the snow. Indeed, there were times when a Flymo would have produced more off-piste entertainment than a pair of Völkl's. But it is a tribute to Andorra's snowmaking that almost all runs remained open – even if there were at times little more than stubborn ribbons of white stamped on an otherwise green mountainside. Even here, it came right in the end. The picture on the far side of the Atlantic was equally – if not more – rosy, with regular top-ups throughout a hugely productive winter. Jackson Hole and Fernie broke all records. Whistler had a ball, positioning itself nicely for the upcoming Olympics in 2010.

So, where do we go from here? The answer, weather-wise, is forwards with extreme caution. Let's not kid ourselves. Global warming hasn't gone away, it's just played truant (or hookey, if you come from North America) for a single season.

At the time of writing, we cannot say that conditions in the coming season will even begin to match those of last winter; hopefully it will also be good. But the spectre of climate change has not gone away.

If you are planning to buy property you would be wise to look at 1750m or above – not that many people are rushing to buy ski chalets and apartments in Europe at present. The strength of the euro also means that the cost of a chalet, along with the average ski holiday this winter, rises by at least 15 per cent on last year. But skiers and snowboarders are a resilient lot. We're not going to let price get in the way, although rising fuel costs may have considerable influence on where we choose to go.

North America seems the obvious choice this winter. Check out Revelstoke Mountain Resort, which we consider to be the most exciting development on either side of the Atlantic in the past 20 years. Avoid Europe over half-term: for the first time in at least five years, the Government has squeezed almost every school in the country into one February week. Prices are ridiculously high and overcrowding on the slopes in big name French resorts will be nothing short of dangerous.

Ski safely, have fun, and for up-to-the-minute snow reports and further news on resorts and holidays, check out our ski information website at www.welove2ski.com

Hardy's Skiing & Snowboarding Awards 2009

Hardy's Skiing & Snowboarding Awards are judged by a panel of experts, including the authors of the guide, and take into account nominations supplied by readers. These prestigious awards go to the resorts, hotels and restaurants that demonstrate particular merit. One winner has been selected for each category, one in Europe and one in North America.

Readers are invited to submit their nominations for Hardy's Skiing & Snowboarding 2010 Awards. Please send them by email to pictures@skishoot.co.uk

BEST SKI RESORT

Europe: Verbier, Switzerland

North America: Banff-Lake Louise, Alberta

BEST SMALL RESORT

Europe: Samoëns, France

North America: Jasper, Alberta

BEST FAMILY RESORT

Europe: Courchevel 1650

North America: Snowmass, Colorado

MOST PROMISING RESORT

Europe: Grimentz, Switzerland

North America: Revelstoke, BC

BEST SKI HOTEL

Europe: Hotel Bella Tola, St Luc, Switzerland, and Hotel Manali, Courchevel 1650, France

North America: Fox Hotel & Suites, Banff, Alberta

BEST SKI SPA

Europe: Hotel Tschuggen, Arosa

North America: Red Earth Spa, Banff, Alberta

BEST MOUNTAIN RESTAURANT

Europe: L'Olympic, Verbier, Switzerland

Japan: Northern Resort, Niseko

BEST RESORT RESTAURANT

Europe: Hotel Neige et Roc, Samoëns, France

North America: Maple Leaf Grille, Banff, Alberta

BEST APRÈS-SKI VENUE

Europe: Le Farinet, Verbier, Switzerland

North America: Garibaldi Lift Company, Whistler, BC

BEST SKI SCHOOL

Europe: Oxygène, Val d'Isère and La Plagne, France

North America: Jackson Hole Mountain Sports School, Wyoming

BEST SKI SHOP

Europe: Francis Sport, Courchevel 1650 and Snowberry, Val d'Isère, France

North America: Ski Hub, Banff

The Best

These are the resorts or ski areas we consider to be the best in a variety of categories. The 10 entries in each are listed alphabetically rather than in order of merit.

First-timers

Bansko
Beaver Creek
Big White
Flaine
Livigno
Mayrhofen
Pal-Arinsal/Vallnord
Poiana Brasov
Saas-Fee
Westendorf

Intermediates

Banff-Lake Louise
Courchevel
La Plagne
Park City Resort
Sauze d'Oulx
Serre Chevalier
Soldeu/Grandvalira
Söll/SkiWelt
Vail
Wengen

Challenge-hunters

Aspen
Chamonix
Jackson Hole
St Anton
Snowbird and Alta
Taos
Telluride
Val d'Isère
Verbier
Zermatt

Mixed groups

Les Arcs/Paradiski
Aspen
Banff-Lake Louise
Courchevel
Flaine
Lech and Zürs
Morzine
Park City
Vail
Whistler

Snowboarders

Avoriaz
Axamer Lizum
Breckenridge
Chamonix
Davos
Mammoth
St Anton
Serre Chevalier
Verbier
Whistler

Steep and deep

Alagna
Chamonix
Jackson Hole
Kicking Horse
La Grave
Revelstoke
Snowbird and Alta
Val d'Isère
Verbier
Whistler

Mogul-hoppers

Avoriaz
Breckenridge
Killington
Klosters
Mürren
Red Resort

St Anton
Taos
Telluride
Verbier

Ski to lunch

Cortina d'Ampezzo
Courchevel
Courmayeur
Kicking Horse
Klosters
Megève
St Anton
St Moritz
The Canyons
Zermatt

Luxury

Aspen
Beaver Creek
Courchevel 1850
Deer Valley
Gstaad
Jackson Hole
Lech and Zürs
Méribel
St Moritz
Zermatt

Après-ski gourmets

Aspen
Banff
Courchevel
Courmayeur
Kitzbühel
Megève
Park City
St Anton
Telluride
Zermatt

Party-goers

Banff
Baqueira-Beret