

Romantik Newsletter

Romantik Regions

Hot on ice

Since not a single flake of snow has yet fallen in many parts of Europe, lots of local authorities are having to turn to snow machines to kick off the season. One more reason to this year put runners rather than skis - and so more 'ice' than 'snow' - at the heart of a winter report. So let us 'lead you onto the ice'...



Are your friends who love diving always telling you about unforgettable dive experiences around the Maldives, off the coast of Mexico or in the Red Sea? Then get them back with **ice diving**. Unique in Switzerland: in **Les Mosses**, right on the 1,455 m high pass in the canton of Waadt, you can dive beneath the ice of Lake Lioson. The total of three access holes are kept open right throughout the winter.

From here, it's 32 km over the canton border to Saanenmöser, where the [Romantik Hotel Hornberg](#) awaits. The chalet style hotel develops its own unique charm in the wintertime. There is an excellent infrastructure for winter sports fans: direct access to the largest continuous ski area of Gstaad and a cross-country skiing run plus well signposted winter hiking trails. The rustic bar with its cosy corner fireplace invites you to warm up afterwards.

Spectacular fun on skates is promised on the world's fastest hiking route: the **Skateline** which leads through snowy woodland. This natural skating rink, which leads from **Alvaneu** along the Albula to **Surava** (canton of Grisons) is 3 km long and 3 m wide. A shuttle bus takes you to the start; helmets must be worn although the route is also suitable for families with children. The season starts on 23 December 2011.



15 km away is one of Switzerland's major winter sports locations: Lenzerheide. Here, the [Romantik Maiensässhotel Guarda Val](#) awaits. It consists of 11 old huts and barns dating back up to 300 years which blend in perfect harmony with the landscape. Ski pistes, cross-country ski routes and trails for winter walkers and Nordic walkers spell paradise for active visitors. Relaxing massages with essential oils and good food ensure you will be fighting fit again the next day.



Ice skating with a view of **Lake Zurich**, aperitifs in cosy corners, mulled wine below lighted trees: the **skating rink** in the garden of the [Romantik Seehotel Sonne](#) in Küsnacht has it all since 11 November 2011. Lighting artist Gerry Hofstetter has also 'packed' the hotel in a fitting dress of light so that it is resplendent in blue and full of stars. The hotel has various packages available around the event, including the option of exclusive use of the skating rink for five minutes to propose marriage. If you need a little fortification in the meantime – whether solid

or liquid – there is plenty on offer and the hotel's two restaurants will tempt you with the season's finest such as 'Pink roast venison medaillons on a cranberry sauce with potato cakes and broccoli' and 'Stuffed baked apples with cinnamon sabayon'.

Virtually the embodiment of winter sports and winter fun is the Swiss town of **St. Moritz**, which is also seen as the 'birth place' of winter tourism. One of the most unusual events of the year has to be '**Cricket on Ice**' which this winter will take place from 16 to 18 February 2012. Originating in 1988 when a group of British cricket players challenged students at the international boarding school Lyceum Alpinum Zuoz, the event has now become a regular fixture. And exceptionally – especially for St. Moritz: it's free to watch!



It's a good thing to do if you're spending your holidays in nearby Bever (approximately 9 km away) in the [Romantik Hotel Chesa Salis](#). The only reminder of the farmhouse that was built in 1590 is the building's basic structure, not least due to the renovation at the end of the 18th century to form a stately residence. Today, the guest rooms impress with panelling made from Arven pine and countless loving details. The restaurant menu features specialities from Bünd and the fortification you need following a day in the fresh mountain air.



The **Jungfrau region** of Switzerland with its countless waterfalls is a real **Eldorado for ice climbers**. Ice formations from 20 up to 400 metres invite you to stick your ice axe in, whether on a taster day for beginners or on demanding ice tours for professionals. Grindelwald, which is at the same time the region's largest ski resort, is of course a good place to start from. Just a three minute walk from the heart of the village is the [Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof](#) which is located in the middle of beautiful gardens. The view over the Eiger, Mönch and

Jungfrau mountains is impressive and offers an almost magnetic incentive for sporty (and not so sporty) activity in the clear, cold air. And at the end of a long day, you can then relax in the rose petal bath or during a Hot Stone treatment.

The **toboggan runs** are often just as fast as it gets on the ice. The ADAC motoring organisation recently put 30 toboggan runs in Germany, Italy, Austria and Switzerland under the spotlight and assessed them in terms of safety and service.



The **Hornbahn** in **Bad Hindelang** was among those rated as 'very good'. This is a pure tobogganing area with three runs for each level of difficulty and the ADAC commended the good safety levels, the clear warnings before danger spots and the good signposting of distinctive points along the route. Nearest Romantik Hotel: [Romantik Hotel Sonne](#) in Bad Hindelang.

Also rated as 'very good' was the top Italian track in **Sterzing**. The toboggan run from **Roskopf to Telfes** is a very long, varied route, however with two short, flat sections. The ADAC commended the safety at danger spots with fences and crash protection and the numerous notices with rules of behaviour and emergency telephone numbers. Nearest Romantik Hotel: [Romantik Hotel Stafler](#) in Maults, approximately 13 km away.

The **Hainzenberg** in **Zell am Ziller** was rated as 'good', making it the best toboggan run in Austria. It is the longest toboggan run in the Ziller valley, offering great variety and several inns where you can stop along the way. The ADAC commends the large selection of premium quality sledges for hire and the clear warning before danger points. Nearest Romantik Hotel: [Romantik Hotel Alpenblick](#) in Hippach, approximately 4 km away.



The best Swiss toboggan run was also rated 'good' and is located in **St. Moritz** on the **Muottas Muragl**. The course is highly diverse and well maintained. The ADAC commends the perfect condition of the safety rails and the frequent and clear signposting of emergency telephone numbers. Nearest Romantik Hotel at 2,456 m above sea level: [Romantik Hotel Muottas Muragl](#).



We hope we've helped you look forward to winter a little bit, to cold, clear air, to delightful white snow and to everything that helps you keep warm on the inside and on the outside. [Here](#) you will find suitable winter packages from Romantik Hotels.