

in the backcountry... SOMETHING TO MULL OVER TILL NEXT TIME

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE PEOPLE

Want to know a secret? It doesn't matter which resort you do your first season in – big or small, Austrian, French or Swiss, the name of the resort won't affect your enjoyment of December to April. Want to know why? Because it's the people you do your season with that make it what it is, not the name on the piste map.

We're not saying that one mountain is the same as another – we know our Mont Blancs from our Matterhorns. But we are advising you to let go of your preconceived ideas about only doing a season in resorts which appeal to the snob inside you; the inner snob that screams, "I can't go there, I've never heard of it". It's the same with wanting to be placed with your friends or only wanting to work in a bar – open your mind to other possibilities and get out there, you'll surprise yourself.

Yet despite all our sound advice, there are still people that only want to do their season in a resort with a big reputation. But remember – bigger isn't always better. There are other resorts besides the big players (who shall remain nameless because, let's face it, we're likely to have already heard of them), who offer a different league of charm, authenticity and individuality.

We love the big players as much as the next person – they have outstanding terrain, varied nightlife and some host our on the mountain events, The Workers

Challenge series. They're popular for a reason, but it's worth bearing in mind that these are also some of the busiest resorts in the world, often the slopes can be crowded and you can't get to the bar for love or hard-earned tips.

If it's your first season and you only want to go to the places you've been to on holiday, you're not only limiting your chances of employment but you're also restricting your opportunities for exploring untracked powder bowls and the lesser known peaks of the world. When you go on holiday, you pick a resort and find a holiday to suit, but it doesn't really work like that when you do a season. You need to be open-minded and flexible (words we all used at interview), as some of the best parties can be had in the most unlikely of places.


Besides, where's hot this season might not be hot next. Mayrhofen and Morzine were the lesser well-known cousins until a few years ago; now they're on the lips of every diehard season worker. Fashion comes and goes – whoever thought mullets would make a comeback, apart from Meatloaf? The cliques dominating the park and the

scenester kids only hanging out in one or two acceptable bars will move on to a new resort next winter.

It might be a cliché (hey, they're clichés for a reason!) but you only ever get back what you put in, so it really doesn't matter where you go, it's what you do there that counts.

Venture off the beaten track to find your own powder stash, remote mountain bar and individual experience. Work out what's important to you and what you want from your season. By all means listen to what people are saying about a resort but keep an open mind. It's not going to be the end of the world if you don't get a job in the resort you know already or where your mates are. We promise you'll meet new friends and have the time of your life. Just don't be a snob about it – look beyond

the resort name and go out and enjoy yourself. Some of Natives' best times while working seasons were spent in a tiny mountain resto in Serre Chevalier, a resort that some would say is far from fashionable. But surrounded by great friends, food and glowing from all the fresh powder, times were never better and bonds were made for life.

Get out there and meet people and wherever you end up, you'll have the time of your life. 



"I'll be there for yoooooou, when the rain starts to pour..."