



GET THE PARTY STARTED

GOOD LUCK TRYING TO SQUEEZE ANY SLOPE TIME IN THIS WINTER – THERE'S A GROWING LIST OF EVENTS IN RESORTS DETERMINED TO HAVE US DANCING IN OUR BOOTS UNTIL DAWN



Left to right: Free fun at the Show Love Tour; Bouncing at the Brits; And at the Boss des Bosses

Partying in the Alps is always so much sweeter than at home. It's something to do with the endorphins rushing through your body from a day of action, the higher altitude, the fresher air and the possibility of the unknown coming together in a heady thrill that grabs you by the gut and demands attention.

With the summer festival circuit pretty crowded, it's little surprise event organisers are looking to winter and the mountains, they're a natural playground after all. A case in point is Snowside, a new venture from the people behind summer's chic Secret Garden Party, to be held in Nassfeld, Austria.

Snowside may be the new kid on the scene but the old hands in the business aren't resting on their laurels – the Brits and Snowbombing celebrate their 20th and 10th birthdays respectively this year and have rock-solid line-ups to help.

Make sure you don't miss out on a minute of fun – read on for our pick of the places to shake your booty at this winter. For more events, check out our listings on p56.

* Show Love Tour

The cheapest way to celebrate the winter is at one of the Natives Show Love Tour parties across the Alps. Why the cheapest? Because they cost you

nada to enter, and in return you get the chance to win a boatload of goodies. It's called the Show Love Tour because it shows love (ie free stuff) to many venues – geddit? Stopping at only the finest bars in the all the major resorts, it's a dead cert belter of a night out.

When: 13 December – 01 April

Where: Across the Alps

How: www.natives.co.uk/showlove

* The Brits

What else could the dress code for the 20th birthday bash of the Brits be but B? Raising the awareness and prestige of our growing crop of home-grown talent for the past two decades, the Brits has plenty to shout about, and we can think of no better way of doing it than with a host of Bonds, Borats, Bilbo Baggins and ballerinas rocking the rafters of Laax. The week of comps is nicely complemented by the Home Run (a mass-start top of the mountain race), an Airbag, and party nights to suit every taste – be that raw rock or pure cheese, Funk Royale or the Barry Peters Show aka the Cuban Brothers. Best of all, it's all inclusive for anyone with a Brits 09 wristband.

When: 28 March – 4 April

Where: Laax, Switzerland

How: www.brits09.com

* Boss des Bosses

When the gauntlet was thrown down in a bar late at night 20 years ago as to which was better, Chamonix or Val d'Isère, there was only one way to settle the dispute, and that was with a good ol' head to head challenge down the resorts' craziest bump runs. What started as a group of freestyle ski-bums from the pioneering late-80s throwing themselves down a mogul field (*des bosses*) on Chamonix's Grand Montets to the sounds of a ghetto-blasters and loudhailer is now a similar group of freestyle ski-bums but from more resorts and entertained by a multitude of sound systems, mountain barbecues and fancy PA systems. Then the party continues in town, into the night, regardless of who's been crowned the Boss.

When: 18 March (TBC)

Where: Chamonix, France

How: www.bossdesbosses.co.uk

* Snowbombing

Everyday's a fun day in the Alps; at Snowbombing in Mayrhofen, everyday's a fancy dress, snowball fight, street party then dance till dawn type of fun day, and we're all the more grateful for it. To celebrate Snowbombing reaching ►



Left to right: Anything goes at Snowbombing; Nassfeld – the scene of Snowside

double figures this year, Fatboy Slim will be hitting the decks, alongside a hip-shakingly huge line-up, including Dizzee Rascal, Grandmaster Flash and Horse Meat Disco. Start stocking up on sleep now – there's not a minute of Snowbombing to be missed, with raving in the Arctic Disco at 2000ft, entering the Lumberjack Olympics and gawping at the pros in the Highway to Hell comp, not to mention maybe doing a run or two with your mates. Just smile and stick on a 'tash, you'll love it.
When: 29 March – 04 April
Where: Mayrhofen, Austria
How: www.snowbombing.com

Snowside

If the idea of partying in a former WWI military border crossing lookout post, complete with DJ in turret, appeals, then say hello to Snowside, the new winter festival from two of the UK's freshest festival and clubbing communities, Secret Garden Party and Eddy Temple Morris' The Remix. Keeping it small – numbers are limited to 1000 – it promises to be an intimate affair full of moonlit lakeside jaunts, midnight skiing and secret border-crossing


parties. The line-up currently includes, among others, Infadels and Kissy Sell Out – more are promised.
When: 23 – 29 March
Where: Nassfeld, Austria
How: www.snowside.co.uk

Altitude

How do snowmen travel around? By icicle! What's an ig? An Eskimo's home without a loo! Combining snow and comedy far better than this, the Altitude Festival is the antithesis to cheesy DJ nights and too much raclette in resort. Not that there's anything wrong with these as such, it's just good to try something new once in a while, so that's what comedians Marcus Brigstocke and Andrew Maxwell, and ex-pat businessman Richard Lett did last year, and are planning to do again this year. Signing up 25 comedians, the

trio took Méribel by storm, hosting over 100 comedy gigs, staging a huge snowball fight, a comedians-in-bikinis pool party and music from the Dub Pistols and Norman Jay. The plan is to do it again this year, only bigger and better.
When: 28 March – 03 April
Where: Méribel, France
How: www.altitudefestival.com

BUSC Main Event

Alpe d'Huez becomes party central for seven nights of non-stop student shenanigans from 28 March for the BUSC Main Event. Kicking off with an opening ceremony that's been tipped to have the Vancouver 2010 organisers shaking in their snow boots, the floodlit pro big air demo will be followed by a mahoesive fireworks display and an outdoor party that the whole resort is invited to. Expect an eclectic mix of bands and DJs and gratuitous amounts of vin chaud. And the odd Jägerbomb might pass a few lips too...This sets the standard for a week of competitions and parties, from the more serious Super G to the more surreal Splash comp, all served up with a healthy dose of fancy dress tomfoolery.
When: 28 March – 04 April
Where: Alpe d'Huez, France
How: www.busccevents.com 



Left to right: Merry mirth in Méribel; Big fireworks at BUSC's Main Event