

the personal touch



The last time I went skiing and stayed in a chalet was some time ago, so when the offer to visit one of my favourite ski resorts came up and stay in a **luxury** catered chalet with my family, I quite literally jumped at the opportunity. Words by Andie Jones Images by Consensio

*consensio
the ultimate
holiday experience*



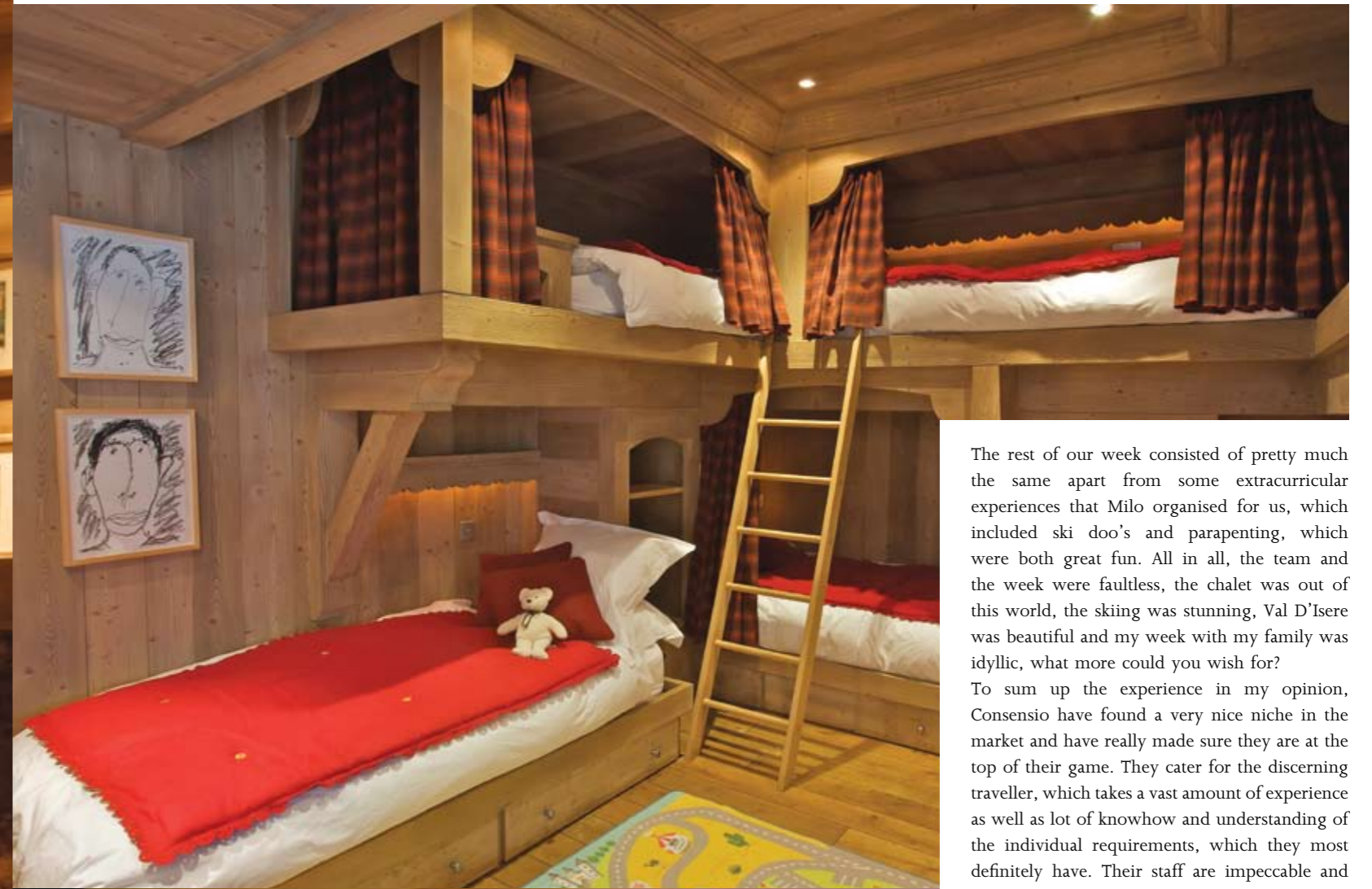
A SHORT flight to Lyon in France, then a very comfortable two hour chauffeur driven drive up to the alpine resort of Val D'Isere and you've arrived! There are other alternative options to get you to the many Consensio properties dotted around the south of France, including the snow train from Paris and London or a drive down in you favourite car, however, in our case it was a simple choice as time was of the essence, so we chose the plane.

Our personal chauffeur, Alex, met us at the airport and drove us right to the chalet door, where we met our house team who would be looking after our every whim for the week. The lovely Anne Marie, the incredible chef Liam and Mr Ever Attentive chalet manager Milo, were all there to greet us with a glass of champagne and a warm up in front of the log fire. You see when you book a luxury chalet or villa with Consensio you get the staff to go with it. Your chef, house maid, chauffeur and butler/chalet manager are all part of the deal. So is the food, the champagne,



in fact everything apart from the obvious like ski passes and ski hire, and even then Consensio organise for the local companies to deliver them to you as well as come and fit your gear in the privacy of your chalet. In fact there isn't much you have to worry about at all, as everything is immaculately taken care of for you. Consensio have handpicked the finest properties throughout Europe, with Lodges and Villas set in the most desirable destinations. Every property is completely unique, brimming with features and brought to life by the amazing professional team, who create the ultimate bespoke holiday experience for you, your family and or friends. Their Winter Ski collection provides you with the most stunning chalets in the premier resorts, along with very private retreats, which are extremely spacious and very secluded. This year they are also launching their Summer Villa collection, which features some of the finest properties in St Tropez and works on the same basis as the winter chalets.

THE first morning at chalet Montana was incredible. Chef Liam was busy making us breakfast, with my young son trying to test his culinary talents with some amazing choices, whilst I managed to quickly catch up on some emails and my wife had a swim in the indoor pool. Our guide and ski instructor Ken Smith was due to meet us after breakfast, which had also been arranged by our hosts and we had been informed our private massages were booked for 6.30pm that evening. Having filled our faces and Ken arrived, we headed off for our first day on the slopes. Ken took our son for a couple of hours' tuition on the nursery slopes and we headed higher up to test the legs out. We all met at lunchtime for a well deserved rest and some equally deserved alcoholic refreshment at one of the many piste bars dotted around the fabulous resort of Val D'Isere. Later that afternoon, we had Alex collect us from the bottom of the slopes and drive us back to the waiting Anne Marie who had prepared afternoon tea for us at the chalet. After our massages we had an amazing dinner cooked up by chef Liam, with wines chosen by Milo, which we had chosen with them both earlier that morning. The team are there to look after you up to a reasonable hour, however, they don't seem to mind the odd late night if you have invited some friends back, providing you don't expect them back at 6am the following morning to cook your breakfast. In our case, it was early to bed as the fresh mountain air and exercise regime, combined with the amazing culinary skills of Liam and the perfect wine choices from Milo, had all taken their toll on us.



The rest of our week consisted of pretty much the same apart from some extracurricular experiences that Milo organised for us, which included ski doo's and parapenting, which were both great fun. All in all, the team and the week were faultless, the chalet was out of this world, the skiing was stunning, Val D'Isere was beautiful and my week with my family was idyllic, what more could you wish for? To sum up the experience in my opinion, Consensio have found a very nice niche in the market and have really made sure they are at the top of their game. They cater for the discerning traveller, which takes a vast amount of experience as well as lot of knowhow and understanding of the individual requirements, which they most definitely have. Their staff are impeccable and their attention to detail immaculate. They are quite simply, the ultimate holiday experience!

