

Tim's Gastronomic Tour of the pistes of Megeve

I have fine tuned this over the past 6 seasons based on mine, my wife's and various friends who are also Megeve regular's opinion.

Day 1 – Sunday – if you arrive in time!

I have chosen the day one selection to account for people who are not familiar with the lay out of the pistes or who, like my family, have children.

At the top of the Chamois/Caboche bubble, there is the Super Megeve. (As you go up the lift, you can see the building to the right, get off the lift and walk along the ridge).

Although not the most attractive of buildings, the restaurant is rather good. Do not, however, try the self service part, found to the right as you enter. Instead, go to the left and ask for a table.

If you get to Megeve early enough though, treat yourself and go to the Alpette. If you are really pushed for time walk up to the main lift area & try Le Matou at the bottom of Petit Rochbrune.

Day 2 – Monday

This is the first day of ski guiding, and is based around Rochebrune. You therefore have 3 options, below.

1) Go with the guiding group and depending on time you can either try the Radaz , half way up Cote 2000. The Radaz is quite basic Savoyarde food – very good Tartiflette and for the ladies a very hunky waiter who always wears very tight t shirts!

2) Do not under any circumstances go to the Auberge du Cote 2000, situated at the bottom of the runs – the Maitre hates us brits (even ones who speak French) and makes us hang around for ages for a table while his chums walk straight in. Its actually a shame as this is a Rothchild establishment with good food.

3) The other option – by far better in my view - is La Babotch. It's at the bottom of the Rosiere green run. This is also a good day 1 option, is easy to get to, serves food all day and is reasonably priced.

Day 3 – Tuesday

Guiding will take you to Mont D'Arbois, the second (and biggest) ski area of Megeve.

It also takes you to what is probably one of the best mountain restaurants in Megeve, and therefore the world – L'Idéal, situated just below the top of the Ideal Chair lift. Its got a big green awning so its hard to miss! Fantastic sun terrace looking over the big ski bowl, plus waiters in Lederhosen!

This restaurant used to be very expensive and had a Michelin Star, but lost it about 3 seasons ago. It subsequently changed owners and the new ones seem to be making every effort to get it back!

It vies with the Alpette and Auberge De Christomet for the title of best mountain restaurant in the world, please, please try all 3 – budget permitting – and let us know which you prefer.

Wednesday

If you go with guiding on Wednesday, it usually goes to Mont D'Arbois again. This gives you the perfect excuse to go to what has to be the most unique restaurant in any resort – La Raviere, also known as Madame's. The lady that runs it is about 70, is an ex downhill racer who skies there every day – don't try to keep up with her if she skies past you! Her husband, about the same age, drives the skidoo there with the provisions.

Finding it is a task in itself – its off piste, hidden in a wood. Looking at the piste map, find La Croix chair lift. On the right, near the bottom is a restaurant sign – that's it. At the top of that lift, to the right is a big restaurant called Chez Ma Tante. Ski past behind the restaurant and follow the green track which goes into the bowl below you. The track turns into a run, after about a ½ mile of run there is a small gap on the left in the trees – you will hopefully see ski marks leading into it follow it for about 200 metres and the restaurant will appear as if by magic in front of you.

It is like a little wooden house with a cuckoo clock and a great view of Mont Blanc. It is really cheap, and at the end they serve shot glasses of the local fire water – you must drink it!

Be aware – the restaurant does not take credit cards and you must book in advance.

Another good restaurant in that area is at the bottom of Les Communailles. It's a great red /blue run down from the top of La Croix, wide and gentle for about 2 miles. When you get right to the bottom, there is a small hamlet with a road in front of you. Across the road is a small restaurant with a blue awning, the Auberge de something – that's it. Very pleasant and away from the crowds.

The restaurant immediately adjacent to the drag lift is also quite good, but sitting outside is marred by the noise of the lift.

Thursday - Jaillet

This is the 3rd ski area of Megeve, and the least accessible, but must be skied – its all gentle blues and greens through trees. To get there from the Rond go to the bus station and get the ski bus – easy!

From Sylvana, get the two chair lifts upto the Terrasse, then get the bubble down to the town centre. Then get a horse drawn taxi to take you to Jaillet – great for kids! We once did it with 24 people in a fleet of horse drawn taxis – it was a magnificent sight!

The best restaurant in Jaillet -and my personal favourite in Megeve - Le Auberge De Christomet can be found at the bottom of Le Pres chair. Go up the bubble to the top of Jaillet, take a left turn down the Le Pres run. At the bottom, the restaurant is on your left, about 200m. You can either walk/pole to it (not recommended) or take the drag lift in front of you to the top, take a left turn onto the blue run (not the black!) and as you ski down the restaurant is on the right of the piste near the bottom.

This restaurant is well known for the waitress with Le Derriere Fantastique! They also do very good Canard.

There is also a quite good restaurant – basic and cheap but quite good – at I think Le Pres. It has restaurant written in big letters on the roof! .

Friday

No trip to Megeve is complete without a visit to the Alpette, situated at the top of the hill of the same name.

This restaurant is so smart it has its own piste basher complete with a passenger cabin to get non skiers there!

It also has a fantastic wine list - starts with the most expensive at 2,000euros.

The pastry chef stands outside all year round so his pastries don't collapse.

Its debatable whether its better outside or in – on a cold day, one can lunch in style and then take coffee and cognac on the sofas in front of a roaring fire, on a sunny day retire to the deck chairs for the same.

Saturday & others worthy of a mention

Les Mandarins, just below the top of the Mont D'arbois bubble. Has a cute man that drives a skidoo for non skiers. Very good service and very pleasant food.

An area that must be skied is St Nicolas – long empty runs! At the little hamlet of Le Gouet is a little wooden shack type restaurant that does great hot chocolate on a cold morning! The food there I am told is also quite good, but I've not yet sampled it.

I hope you enjoy any you try from my list, If you find any new ones that are good, please let me know so I can add them!!

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