**La Rosiere**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

33

**Intermediate Runs**

32

**Advanced Runs**

15

**Total Runs**

80

**Lifts**

38

**Chairs**

18

**Drags**

19

**Gondola Cable Cars**

1

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

5m (16.7ft).

**Overview**

La Rosière ski resort is a family-friendly resort that offers skiing in both France and Italy. Its large ski area is one of only two in France that’s shared with an Italian ski area – in this case, La Thuile in the Aosta Valley.

This Italian connection adds plenty of interest to La Rosière, with the added dimension of Italian skiing, culture and cuisine all accessible by slope to skiers of intermediate standard and above. It also means heli-skiing – which is banned in France – is possible from here.

La Rosière village itself is divided into a number of linked sectors. The newest of these is Les Eucherts, one of the best in which to be based as it has the most attractive traditional chalet-style architecture and great facilities, such as an ice rink, bowling alley, tourist office, nursery and direct access to the ski runs from most accommodation. Having developed this district, the resort authorities are now increasingly focused on redeveloping the original village.

**Location**

La Rosière is located in the Savoie region of the French Alps. The resort lies high above the mountain town of Bourg-Saint-Maurice, across the valley from Les Arcs, and is close to the Vanoise National Park and Mont Blanc.

**Website**

http://www.larosiere.net

**Piste Map**

http://www.skilarosiere1850.com/plan-des-pistes-station-ski-la-rosiere.html

**Hit The Slopes**

The size of the Espace San Bernardo, which links the ski areas of La Rosière in France and La Thuile in Italy, is such that it offers plenty of skiing for all ability levels. The season here lasts from mid-December to mid-April and the resort has a good snow record.

Intermediates will want to take the long Bellecombe drag lifts across the border plateau to access the vertical down to La Thuile. The runs on the Italian side offer some contrast to those in France, with the resort lower and somewhat older, meaning there are some narrow runs cut through the forest here; whereas in La Rosière, almost all trails are wide, open and above the treeline.

Advanced skiers have more than a dozen black runs to enjoy on each side of the border, including the 3.6km-long (2.3 miles) Franco Berthod piste, regarded as one of the toughest at the resort. Heli-skiing with a high mountain guide – reputed to be some of the world’s most exciting and affordable – will be a temptation with popular routes down from Miravidi and Mont Ouille (both providing vertical descents) or from Ruitor, which offers a huge vertical of virgin powder snow.

La Rosière has fully embraced new snow sports and operates a snow park with various lines for different ability levels, as well as offering activities such as snow kiting. There are also ski cross and boardercross courses and a speed-riding school here.

**La Rosière**

**Resort**

1850

**Base**

1200

**Top**

2650

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

There’s a good choice of off-slope activities in La Rosière, with a sizable share of facilities in the newer Les Eucherts sector. These include a modern bowling alley, two-screen cinema, games room and indoor ice rink complex. There's also fitness centre with a sauna, hammam, hot tub, gym and weight training room in Chalet le Tyrol (tel: 04 7906 8055; [www.letyrol.fr](http://www.letyrol.fr)).

Back outdoors, opportunities include paragliding, dog sledding, helicopter tours, snowshoeing, winter hiking, and the relatively new sport of kite-surfing up on the plateau.

**Family Fun**

La Rosière makes a special effort for families and has been awarded the Family Plus award by the French government – the highest category of official certification for resorts in the country.

On a practical level, this means families will find the resort centred around them rather than groups of young adults. Examples of this include unintimidating wide, gentle slopes by the resort and family-friendly accommodation and facilities in the village itself.

Among the child-only facilities is the excellent Galopins kindergarten (tel: 04 7906 8126) in the Les Eucherts development, which is open Monday to Friday (and some Saturdays). It provides indoor and outdoor play for children aged 18 months and older. Childcare can be integrated within ski school classes from age four and is run to the standard French system. The ski school has great facilities, including snow gardens with conveyor lifts.

**Retail Therapy**

There are around 40 shops in La Rosière giving a moderate choice for dedicated shoppers but enough to supply all likely needs for holidaymakers. More than a quarter of the outlets are ski shops, but amongst the others are purveyors of holiday essentials; including three small supermarkets, several souvenir shops, two bakers, a post office and a photographic store.

For a wider choice, it's worth taking the 20-minute bus journey down to the town of Bourg-Saint-Maurice, the major commercial and retail centre for the region.

**Splashing Out**

La Rosière is the only resort in France to offer heli-skiing trips, which take place a few minutes away over the border in Italy. The breathtaking descents can be booked through the resort's ski schools, including Evolution 2 (tel: 04 7940 1980, [www.evolution2.com](http://www.evolution2.com)).

**Apres Ski**

La Rosière has a family onus, so it’s not the best choice for those in search of hedonistic nightlife. There are about a dozen bars spread around the resort, including a wine bar and pub with late-night dancing. However, many guests stay in their apartments or spend the evening enjoying a leisurely meal or an après-ski activity such as bowling or ice skating.

The main venues for après-ski in La Rosière are at their busiest straight after the lifts close in the afternoon. Le Petit Danois (Le Valaisan II; tel: 04 7906 8317; [www.lepetitdanois.com](http://www.lepetitdanois.com)) has a sunny terrace and is one of the most popular for the crowds arriving off the slopes. For a more lively night out, Arpin's Bar (Le Valaisan II; tel: 04 7906 8139) offers karaoke, while Le Pub (Le Valaisan II; tel: 04 7940 1924) is open late and is the place to let your hair down on the dance floor.

**Eating Out**

Despite being a purpose-built resort that closes down through much of spring and autumn, La Rosière has built up a reputation for having some first-rate restaurants providing quality French regional cuisine in atmospheric chalet-style surrounds. It’s in these charming establishments that you’ll find Savoyard dishes using ingredients such as the region’s hams and Beaufort cheeses. The cosy Le Genépi (Le Centre; tel: 04 7907 5209) is known for such high-quality Savoyard specialities.

For an affordable meal, there are several choices for crêpes or pizza; the latter of which can also be found by popping over the border for lunch.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airports: Chambéry Airport (CMF); Geneva International Airport (GVA); Lyon-Saint Exupéry Airport (LYN).

Distances to resort: 135km (84 miles); 165km (103 miles); 210km (132 miles).

Driving times: 1 hour 40 minutes; 2 hours 15 minutes; 2 hours 30 minutes.

**Getting Around**

La Rosière is designed to be pedestrian-friendly and most areas can be easily reached on foot, with walkways linking all sectors. However, the resort's growth over the years means it can be quite a walk between the older and newer areas, particularly in ski boots carrying skis – so a regular shuttle bus service circulates.

Skiers of intermediate standard or above can ski to La Thuile in Italy, but they should leave enough time for the return trip and make sure their ticket is valid. All passes valid for three days or longer include La Thuile's lifts; for shorter periods an additional supplementary cost is required. It’s also possible to ski at other resorts in the region, with La Plagne, Les Arcs, St Foy, Tignes and Val d'Isère all within an hour's journey.

**Hotels**

The attractive resort is built in a chalet style with the prettiest base being Les Eucherts, which boasts direct access to the slopes from most of the accommodation. There is an increasing choice of chalets offering both catered and self-catering accommodation in the village. A few apartments and moderate hotels can also be found in La Rosière and the surrounding valley.

**Chalet Le Tyrol**

Nestled amid the original village’s centre, close to shops and just 250m (273 yards) from the lifts, the mid-priced chalet boasts an indoor pool, spa, hammam and sauna that are perfect for some post-ski relaxation.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Le Valaisan II

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

La Rosière

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 7906 8055.

**Website**

http://www.letyrol.fr

**Les Balcons de la Rosière**

Located in the Les Eucherts sector of the resort, this 4-star development has high-spec apartments in an excellent location; each with great character and easy access to the complex’s Le Grange Savoyard-style restaurant.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

La Rosière

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

03 8486 1551.

**Website**

http://www.les-balcons.com

**Relais du Petit-St-Bernard**

This traditional 2-star family hotel is a good choice for those who want to stay slopeside or be close to the ski school. Relais du Petit-St-Bernard has a well-regarded traditional restaurant that serves regional specialities in cosy surrounds.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

La Rosière

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 7906 8048.

**Website**

http://www.petit-saint-bernard.com

**Les Cimes Blanches**

A luxury residence at the foot of the slopes, Les Cimes Blanches offers spacious apartments with a welcoming atmosphere. Among the facilities is a spa and beauty centre with a swimming-pool, sauna, steam room and Jacuzzi.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

L’Averne 73700

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

La Rosière

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 7923 1290.

**Website**

http://www.cgh-residences.com

**Le Christiania**

Owners of Le Christiania, Yvette and Perrine, always give guests a warm, family welcome to this traditional, south-facing chalet complex with fabulous view of the valley. Rooms are available for four to 11 people and guests here can make use of the free Wi-Fi internet access.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Malatret 73700

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

La Rosière

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 7906 8288.

**Website**

http://www.chalet-le-christiania.com