**Pragelato**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Intermediates

Snowboarders

Families

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

3

**Intermediate Runs**

3

**Advanced Runs**

2

**Total Runs**

8

**Lifts**

7

**Chairs**

2

**Drags**

4

**Gondola Cable Cars**

1

**Parks**

0

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

5m (16.4ft).

**Overview**

At first glance, despite some stunning scenery, Pragelato ski resort seems a fairly standard, traditional Italian mountain village with a mid-sized ski area, just like several hundred others across the country. But Pragelato has a handful of aces up its sleeve that the others don’t possess; and that’s why it’s been attracting skiers and boarders from far and wide for decades.

Firstly, a modern cable car was built linking the fairly limited local ski area to one of the world’s biggest ski resorts, the Via Lattea (Milky Way), with its 400km (250 miles) of linked pistes stretching over the French border to Montgenèvre ski resort.

Then, there is the fact that Pragelato, which was a major venue during the 2006 Turin Winter Olympics, has tapped into attracting weekend skiers from the local Turin/Piedmont catchment area, and has moved more upmarket as a result.

Add luxurious accommodation such as the new Club Med Pragelato Vialattea into the mix, and it’s easy to justify its popularity. In fact, with all the facilities and high service standards for which Club Med is famous, for many guests Club Med Pragelato *is* Pragelato – most never really finding the need to leave the development.

Another key attraction is that, in most respects, Pragelato has stuck to the high-value attributes of other mid-sized Italian ski area; and despite these luxury elements, it has still managed to carve out a reputation as one of the more affordable resorts in the Via Lattea.

**Location**

Pragelato is a small village next to Val Troncea National Park in Italy’s northwestern Piedmont region. The settlement has more than 20 surrounding hamlets and is 60km (37 miles) west of Turin, close to the French border.

**Website**

http://www.pragelatoturismo.it

http://www.vialattea.it

**Piste Map**

http://www.vialattea.it/skimap/skimap2012-2013.pdf

**Hit The Slopes**

There are two very different experiences in Pragelato ski resort, based on whether skiers and boarders stay within the local area or explore the Via Lattea as a whole. But the ski season generally runs from mid-December to mid-April in both areas.

The local area has 50km (31 miles) of runs, but there are fairly limited options for intermediate or advanced skiers who can arguably do everything on piste within a day. That said, there’s a healthy 1,050m (3,444ft) of vertical beginning at a relatively snowsure 1,535m (5,036ft) above sea level; and Pragelato does have the reputation as a hidden gem for guided off-piste skiing when powder conditions are good.

The second option is to make use of the gondola access to the various resorts of the Via Lattea, one of the world’s biggest ski areas, with its hundreds of kilometres of predominantly intermediate terrain. The Via Lattea pass does not cover the lifts in the separate Pragelato area, so visitors must choose one or the other, or buy a combination of passes.

First-timers can learn at the resort’s Scuola Sci Pragelato (tel: 0122 78960; [asp.demaria.to.it/scuolascipragelato](http://asp.demaria.to.it/scuolascipragelato)), which gains mixed reviews. Alternatively, beginners can head to the more extensive ski school facilities of nearby Sestriere.

Boarders and freestylers will not find a terrain park or pipe on the local slopes, and with just a couple of chairlifts, getting around isn’t the easiest either. Most will therefore want to use the village as a base to reach the much more extensive terrain of the Via Lattea, where there are parks in Sansicario, Sauze d’Oulx and Sestriere.

Unsurprisingly, given its selection as the site for ski jumping and Nordic events at the 2006 Winter Olympics, facilities for these sports are excellent. Among the 30km (18 miles) of cross-country tracks is the 10km-long (6 miles) Olympic route, while there’s also a dedicated cross-country ski school for beginners. Pragelato also offers Italy’s best ski jumping facilities, with five hills.

Ski rentals are available from half a dozen shops in the village, including a facility in the Club Med resort.

**Pragelato**

**Resort**

1535

**Base**

1535

**Top**

2700

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Off the slopes, Pragelato ski resort has a moderate choice of things to do. Options include an ice driving circuit (Via Trieste 8; tel: 0122 78922; [www.icepragelato.it](http://www.icepragelato.it)), snowmobiling excursions, snowshoeing and winter hiking routes. Additionally, the local cinema often shows films in English.

Pragelato has a rich cultural history, which the local population endeavour to keep alive. Although the bulk of the festivities, services and facilities are more accessible in the summer months, there are several small museums (one featuring local traditional mountain costume and the other related to sundials) with limited opening hours, but which may be opened on request at the local tourist office.

There’s an excellent spa with a heated pool, sauna and Turkish baths In the Club Med village that are available on an all-inclusive basis for those with holiday packages in the resort.

**Family Fun**

Pragelato has mixed appeal for families, depending on where they are staying and the ages and needs of their children. In the village itself, there are few special facilities, while the ski area is relatively family friendly.

In contrast to the village, the Club Med resort is designed for families. Babysitting is available, while childcare is grouped in different age bands. The youngest children (aged two to four) are cared for in Petit Club Med; four to 11 year-olds are entertained in Mini Club Med; while Junior Club Med (peak periods only) is suited to teenagers. Each group includes activities and entertainment suitable to the age range, as well as special ski tuition and equipment hire. The care for children aged four and over is generally included in the holiday package.

**Retail Therapy**

There is very limited shopping in Pragelato composed of around half a dozen shops in the main village, including a newsagent and several food stores. The most noteworthy is food shop Albergian (Via National, 13; tel: 0121 374 503; [www.albergian.it](http://www.albergian.it)), which was established in 1908 and sells its own popular range of natural preserves. Nearby Sestriere has a greater selection of gift shops and boutiques.

**Splashing Out**

Team Lacroce (tel: 0347 651 6020; [www.teamlacroce.it/noleggio.php](http://www.teamlacroce.it/noleggio.php) - Italian only) is one of Italy’s original snowmobiling companies and offers hour-long tours from Pragelato between 1200 and 1700 daily. Between January and March, the company allows visitors the chance to drive a snowmobile to a mountain restaurant. These excursions, which are available to adults with driving licences, begin at 1900 and last up to four hours. Over-12s can ride as passengers.

**Apres Ski**

Après-ski in Pragelato is distinctly low-key and the resort will appeal to those looking for laid-back nightlife, definitely not to those in search of a full-on bar or clubbing scene.

In the village, there are a handful of bar/restaurants, mostly in small family-run hotels. Bazar de la Placette (Via Roma on the corner of via dei Cacciatori; tel: 0122 78423) is popular with mountain sports types, while Borgo Antico (Via Albergian, 28; 0122 78405) is a local’s favourite.

In the Club Med resort (tel: 08453 670 670 from UK; [www.clubmed.co.uk](http://www.clubmed.co.uk)), most drinks (including cocktails, spirits and wine) are inclusive for guests at the various bars throughout the complex.

**Eating Out**

Dining out options in Pragelato are limited to a handful of cafés and restaurants, along with three international-style eateries in the Club Med resort. Among the local specialities served in Pragelato's restaurants are *tourta 'd carotta roùia* (a pie incorporating cabbage, carrots, beets, potatoes, onion and thick cut bacon) and *gla rë 'd rrufa* (a potato pudding).

In the village, the atmospheric Ristorante Cantina degli Amici (Via Nazionale 52; tel: 0122 78321; [www.ristorantecantinadegliamici.com](http://www.ristorantecantinadegliamici.com)) has been operating for more than a century and is located in a stone cellar with a vaulted ceiling. The restaurant has a strong reputation for good, traditional local cuisine.

Of the Club Med offerings, The Taverna serves Alpine favourites, including fondue and raclette; while La Trattoria produces pizza at lunch and more sophisticated regional cuisine in the evenings.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Turin Airport (TRN); Chambéry Airport (CMF); Grenoble-Isère Airport (GNB).

Distance to resort: 100km (73 miles); 170km (105 miles); 245km (152 miles).

Driving time: 1 hour 30 minutes; 2 hours 10 minutes; 2 hours 50 minutes.

Nearest station: Oulx Station.

Distance to resort: 31km (19 miles).

Driving time: 40 minutes.

**Getting Around**

There’s limited public transport available in Pragelato – a bus service operates in the daytime to Sestriere, but can be crowded and unreliable. The alternative is a taxi service, which can be expensive: it is advised to agree the total price before getting in the taxi.

For visitors staying in the Club Med village, all facilities are within a few minutes walk of each other. A cable car links the Club Med village to the Via Lattea ski slopes near Sestriere.

**Hotels**

There are a number of guest houses and hotels in Pragelato, as well as some apartment and bed and breakfast accommodation. These options are generally in the form traditional, family-run establishments of varying levels of convenience for the slopes. The new Club Med Pragelato Vialattea resort, which has easy access to the slopes, offers accommodation up to a 4-star standard.

**Casa San Giuseppe**

Run by a non-profit organisation, this well-located hotel specialises in local cuisine and has two public rooms with satellite TV, Wi-Fi internet access and a small solarium.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Via Roma 36

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Pragelato 10060

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

0122 78996.

**Website**

http://www.casasangiuseppe.org

**Casa Del Re**

Casa Del Re offers five affordable but spacious modern apartments for up to six people, a short walk from the slopes. Public car parking is available nearby.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Via Nazionale 16

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Pragelato 10060

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

0335 677 1453.

**Website**

http://www.casadelre.it

**Albergo Passet**

This character-filled 3-star family run hotel offers comfortable accommodation along with a vaulted multi-purpose room in a renovated stone barn.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Via Nazionale 5

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Pragelato 10060

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

0122 78948.

**Website**

http://www.albergopasset.com

**Club Med Pragelato Vialattea Club Rooms**

Club Med’s Club Rooms are graded 4-trident (Club Med's star rating) and are furnished to a very high specification, albeit a little less spacious than the resort’s suites. Located slopeside, guests have access to all of Club Med’s great dining and leisure facilities, all just a few steps from the cable car to the Via Lattea. Under-fours stay free.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Via Rohrbach

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Pragelato 10060

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

08453 670 670 from UK.

**Website**

http://www.clubmed.co.uk

**Club Med Pragelato Vialattea Suites**

Club Med Pragelato Vialattea has three levels of accommodation, the best of which are the 4-trident suites that feature whirlpool baths, two bedrooms and a lounge.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Via Rohrbach

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Pragelato 10060

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

08453 670 670 from UK.

**Website**

http://www.clubmed.co.uk

**Casa Del Grande**

A traditional house turned apartment complex, each room is equipped with a fridge freezer, television and free Wi-Fi internet access. Equipment for babies is also available if required.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Via Grande 6

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Pragelato 10060

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

0122 78470.

**Website**

http://www.casagrandepragelato.com