**Sauze d'Oulx**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Après ski

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

8

**Intermediate Runs**

173

**Advanced Runs**

42

**Total Runs**

223

**Lifts**

79

**Chairs**

36

**Drags**

36

**Gondola Cable Cars**

7

**Parks**

4

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

5m (16.4ft).

**Overview**

Sauze d'Oulx ski resort is a quaint village with an ancient history that in recent years has shrugged off its reputation as being the ‘Ibiza’ of the ski world, a moniker bestowed upon it due to its lively nightlife.

The resort has a long winter sports history going back over a century, with the arrival of the first skiers from Switzerland in the 1890s. In fact, several famous Italian racers have come from the village, and this sporting reputation was recognised when the resort hosted events at the 2006 Turin Winter Olympics.

One of Sauze d'Oulx ski resort’s main attractions is its location on the Via Lattea (Milky Way) lift pass, which links the village to its neighbours Pragelato, Sestriere, Cesana, Claviere, Sansicario and the French resort of Montgenèvre. Sauze d'Oulx is at one end of this ski area chain, but it’s perfectly possible for average-ability skiers and boarders to reach Montgenèvre and return during the ski day, making for an exciting excursion.

**Location**

Sauze d'Oulx ski resort is located in the Susa Valley, within the Piedmont region of the northwestern Italian Alps, very close to the border with France.

**Website**

http://www.vialattea.it

http://www.comune.sauzedoulx.to.it

**Piste Map**

http://www.vialattea.it/viewobj.asp?id=27

**Hit The Slopes**

Most snow sports ethusiasts will begin their ski day with a journey up the hill on foot or by ski bus to catch one of the lifts up to the usually snowsure Sportinia Plateau, from which ski lifts and runs radiate in all directions.

Beginners are likely to find their first lessons are staged at the nursery slopes on the Sportinia Plateau, while those with a bit more experience and confidence can head back down to the base where there is a slightly more challenging run to explore. Overall, however, the resort is more suited to intermediate and experts skiers.

Intermediates will be tempted to head over to the massive snowy bowl around neighbouring Sestriere, or take the exciting long blues and reds back down to Sauze d'Oulx. The trip to Montgenèvre has been made easier with better connections and faster, more comfortable chairlifts replacing rickety old drags; but it's still a good idea to set off as early as possible and leave plenty of time for the return journey to be able to ski down to the village.

Amongst the more exciting runs for intermediate and advanced skiers is the Gran Pista to Prariond, which descends 650m (1,950ft) and has hosted downhill races in the past. The same applies to run 29, which leads down from the Capanna Mollino, winding its way between forests of ancient pines and larch trees. Another notable run, the Canale Colò, is named after famous Italian racer Zeno Colò, who won many international races in the 1940s and 50s.

The ski season in Sauze d’Oulx generally runs from early December until late April.

**Sauze d'Oulx**

**Resort**

1382

**Base**

1357

**Top**

2840

**Milky Way**

**Resort**

1382

**Base**

1357

**Top**

2840

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Sauze d'Oulx is a traditional ski resort with a limited selection of things to do besides skiing and snowboarding. Off-slope activities here include a cinema, ice rink, sports centre and games room. Saunas, massage and other wellness facilities are available in the resort’s larger hotels.

Easy access to the other resorts in the Via Lattea opens up a range of additional activities, from ice driving in Pragelato to tobogganing in Montgenèvre.

**Family Fun**

The Dumbo Kindergarten (Via Cristina Odiard), located close to the resort centre, accepts young children from toddlers to age six. Children must be booked in by at least 1700 the day before they are due to attend.

Older children can join lessons offered by the Scuola Sci & Snowboard Sauze Sportinia (Via Clotes 26; tel: 0122 850 218; [www.scuolascisauzesportinia.com](http://www.scuolascisauzesportinia.com)) from age four. There's a beginners' nursery slope at the base of the Clotes chairlift, but most teaching takes place at the Sportinia Plateau.

Off the pistes, Sauze d'Oulx has more limited attractions, but there is a sports centre with a number of family-friendly activities.

**Retail Therapy**

The 30 or so shops in Sauze d'Oulx's are composed of around half sports retailers, a quarter grocers and the remainder a collection of outlets for photography, furniture, gifts and newspapers. Among these, Arnica Erboristeria Profumeria (Via Assietta 16) sells perfume and local products, while EI Roet Merceria (Via Monfol 6) is one of the better gift shops.

Foodies will love exploring Gourmandise Gally (Via Assietta 5) and L’Argurensie(Via Della Chiesa 24), both of which display a wide range of regional specialities. There is also a weekly market selling locally produced goods.

**Splashing Out**

Book in for a full day of spa treatments in the wellness centre of the Grand Hotel La Torre (tel: 0122 859 812; [www.grandhotellatorre.it](http://www.grandhotellatorre.it)). This might include hydro massage or spells in the tepidarium and hammam, all of which should ease any post-ski niggles.

**Apres Ski**

Although the reputation for excessive rowdiness is long gone, Sauze d'Oulx does maintain its status as one of the livelier resorts in the Alps once the lifts close, with around 25 animated après-ski bars.

As much of the resort is built on quite a steep hillside, it's worth planning the route between these and accommodation carefully, particularly after a few hours of partying.

The vaulted Wine Bar Gran Trun (Via Assietta 37; tel: 0122 858 585; [www.hotelgrantrun.com](http://www.hotelgrantrun.com)) has a wide selection and convivial atmosphere, whilst Paddy McGinty's Irish pub (Via Clotes 18; tel: 0122 858 119) is a resort institution that’s invariably crammed with revellers. There are also three places for late-night dancing, including the hedonistic Il Bandito (Miramonti 9) – please note that some nights here are dedicated to pole dancing.

**Eating Out**

There are 30 restaurants in Sauze d’Oulx, almost all serving Italian or international food, normally with healthy portions at reasonable prices.

Of the Italian eateries serving good quality but inexpensive fare, L’Ortiché (Via Assietta 4; tel: 0122 850 329) has a good selection and regular specials using local ingredients, while La Griglia (Via Colle Bourget 24) is one of the best pizzerias.

For fine dining, the intimate Naskira Restaurant in the Il Capricorno Chalet Hotel (Via Case Sparse 21; tel: 0122 850 273; [www.chaletilcapricorno.it](http://www.chaletilcapricorno.it)) seats 30 in front of an open fire and cooks imaginative, modern dishes using seasonal produce.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

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

Distance to resort: 95km (59 miles); 145km (90 miles); 220km (136 miles).

Driving time: 1 hour 20 minutes; 1 hour 40 minutes; 2 hours 25 minutes.

**Getting Around**

A ski bus service circulates around the resort area, linking the various lift base stations. A small charge is made for this service.

**Hotels**

Although the village has an attractive centre with narrow, winding streets, the accommodation in Sauze d’Oulx is mostly made up of block-like hotels and the occasional chalet. The hotels in Sauze d’Oulx tend to be more on the basic side, with the majority either 2- or 3-star rated. There are also a couple of 4-star options for those looking for a touch more luxury.

**Grand Hotel La Torre**

A well-located 4-star hotel with distinctive round-tower architecture, Grand Hotel La Torre boasts a highly regarded wellness centre, nursery and restaurant.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Via della Torre 4

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Sauze d'Oulx

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

0122 859 812.

**Website**

http://www.grandhotellatorre.it

**Hotel Stella Alpina**

This family-run, 3-star accommodation is located at the foot of the Clotes ski slopes, just 100m (330ft) from the ski lift. This mid-range hotel houses a basic restaurant and bar.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Via Miramonti 22/24

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Sauze d'Oulx

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

0122 858 731.

**Website**

http://www.stellalpinahotel.it

**Orso Bianco**

Stay on the mountain at the top of the quad lift and be first on the slopes each morning when staying at this 12-room hotel. The on-site restaurant here serves nightly three-course meals with a choice of dishes.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Località Sportinia 2000

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Sauze d'Oulx

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

0122 850 226.

**Website**

http://www.sportinia.it