

CHALET DRAGON
ST JEAN D'AULPS
- PORTES DU SOLIEL -



CHALET DRAGON | La Vuarnerie | St Jean d'Aulps | 74430 | FRANCE

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INTRODUCTION

In the small Alpine town of St Jean d'Aulps in the exclusive La Vuarnerie development, Chalet Dragon sits with a crisp alpine façade, double driveway and expansive views of the surrounding mountains. To the front sits the imposing Mont Evian, the Valleys of Morzine and Montriond to the right (picture) and the town of St Jean d'Aulps with its 12th Century Cistercian Monastery to the left. The development has 9 chalets in total, eight of which were built in 2006.



Chalet Dragon has not been bought to be run as a business; it is our second home and as such, has been equipped to a very high standard to be a comfortable home-from-home.



LES PORTES DU SOLEIL:

The Portes du Soleil is one of the largest inter-linked ski areas in the world. The network incorporates 14 French and Swiss resorts with 650 km of pistes. Morzine, which sits some 8-10 minutes away, is the biggest town in the Portes Du Soleil ski area - it has a substantial shopping area and a plethora of restaurants and bars on the main street for perfect Apres Ski.

Above Morzine, at 1800 metres above sea level, sits Avoriaz. The most effective way of getting there is by gondola from Ardent, which again is only 12-14 minutes drive from Chalet Dragon through Montriond. This approach gives access to one of the most exhilarating circuits in the area to Chatel and Morgins (Switzerland). Starting in Avoriaz and dropping down over the Swiss border into Morgins, is the infamous Swiss wall, regarded as one of the 10 most terrifying black pistes in the world. Every year, the moguls that swarm it reach the size of Volkswagen Beetles.

If you prefer cross-country skiing to hurtling down mountains, a leisurely circuit of the Lac de Montriond (8 minutes by car) will take a couple of hours. You will also find *ski de fond* at Morzine and Avoriaz.

Les Gets, which is 5 minutes past Morzine, sits at a slightly higher altitude so holds onto the snow in the village longer than does Morzine. The town of Les Gets is smaller than Morzine and has a more warm and homely feel with its Christmas lights and flower pots lining the street year round. On the Chavannes side of Les Gets, you have direct access to the magnificent suntrap of the Ranfoilly bowl with long sweeping red runs, forest trails and stunning views of Mont Blanc, the Dents Blanches and the Dents du Midi.

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INSIDE:

When you first enter Chalet Dragon, on the ground floor, you will be in an entrance hall with a tiled floor and pine clad walls. To your right you will find two double bedrooms with rich carpeted floors and a king-sized bed in each. These beds can also be easy split to make two single beds. Each of these two bedrooms have built in shelves and hangers for clothes and cases. Outside the bedrooms, off the hallway, is a large bath/shower room and a separate toilet.



Up the stairs, to the right, you will enter the main living area through a solid pine door. Immediately in front of you is the living room area with a 32" LCD television, DVD player, Sky digital box and two 3 seat sofas which can be pulled out into beds if needs be. There are two footstools and two easy chairs providing comfortable seating for 10 people. There is also a large coffee table. There is a telephone/fax installed so that you can take incoming calls free of charge plus there is broadband set up for Wi-Fi

Off the living room, is a large storage cupboard for shoes and coats and back through the door is a toilet and another storage cupboard for coats. Next to the living room is the dining area with a large oak table which can comfortably seat 10 people, this can be seen in the above photograph and so can the living room area.

Adjacent to the dining area is the kitchen. Within the kitchen is a large built-in fridge-freezer unit and built-in dishwasher. Two double doors look out onto the balcony and the views to the front. To complement the above mentioned appliances, the kitchen has a microwave oven, 4 ring halogen hob, fan oven, toaster and extractor fan. There is also a 20 piece Wedgewood bone china crockery set to ensure that when the dishwasher is full – there are still plenty of plates! The washing machine and tumble dryer are located on the ground floor in a room off the car port.



All of the middle floor is tiled and has under-floor heating with a thermostat control to ensure that the living area is comfortable and the tiles are warm beneath your feet.



The hardwood stairs from the middle floor to the top floor curve and have two windows to allow lots of light in during the day. At the top of these stairs is a tiled bath/shower room with toilet and large opening skylight providing lots of natural intake of light.

Off the landing area are two further double bedrooms, both of which have king-sized beds that can be split into two singles if needs be. These two bedrooms also have built in shelves and hangers for clothes. A large feature window sits on the front wall and provides breathtaking views of Mont Evian, especially first thing in the morning. The landing and two upstairs bedrooms are carpeted and have wall mounted heaters.

TRAVEL:

The two main options for travelling to Chalet Dragon are by plane to Geneva Airport or driving. The flights are very easily available from Bristol, Luton, Liverpool and Nottingham East Midlands with Easyjet and can be booked reasonably cheap if arranged in advance. There are several national car-hire desks within the airport. Geneva airport is approximately 75 minutes drive from Chalet Dragon. If you plan to travel in February, thus, the peak skiing weeks, flights become a lot more expensive and driving becomes a more financially sensible option. It will take 8-10 hours from Calais depending on what speed you travel and how often you stop - it is 580 miles. The route is very easy to follow and includes around 55 Euros of tolls each way.



INSIDER TIPS:

St Jean d'Aulps is the one town in the Portes Du Soleil which is a full time, all year town. Whereas Morzine and Les Gets are bustling in the skiing season and the summer for mountain biking, out of season, they become ghost towns. Because of this, St Jean d'Aulps has a big supermarket which the locals use. This means that it does not have inflated prices for tourists and will pretty much always be stocked with food, something which cannot be said of the supermarkets in Morzine and Les Gets, especially on the main changeover days.

The ski passes for the Portes Du Soleil are sold by individual resort or as a whole. Most people when they come on their holiday buy an all area pass on the first day for the whole holiday. This is not necessary and buying passes each day for the resort being skied works out far more sensible. Les Gets has a special offer on the weekend for the whole Les Gets and Morzine area at a much reduced price and this works out a lot cheaper than the other resorts as well as Les Gets being what we consider the best family resort in the area.

To complement the previous point, most people flock around the same, obvious lifts at the main resorts. After skiing the Portes Du Soleil for a few seasons we have realised that if you are more than 250m away from a lift, you tend to drive to it. The fact that you have already defrosted the car means it makes little difference if you drive for 2 minutes or 10 minutes. Les Gets has had a new chair lift installed fairly recently which has a ticket counter and a very large, free car park. This means that you can get straight onto the pistes after buying your ticket and ski almost all of the way back down to your car at the end of the day.

The Ardent lift at Montriond is another example of this albeit a cabin lift and not a chair with a free car park. From the Ardent, you can cross into 7 of the 14 different resorts providing you have a full pass. If not, the Avoriaz ski area has 64 pistes and 36 lifts, which should be enough for most.

We have lots more insider tips available if required, also, please feel free to ask us any questions you may have

LOCAL AREA PICTURES:



Mont Blanc as seen from the Aguille Du Midi, Chamonix about 75 minutes from Chalet Dragon.

'La bray' piste at **La Grande Terche** as seen from the top of the lift with Roc d'Enfer in the background



Mont Blanc as seen from the top of **Mont Chery, Les Gets**.

Avoriaz village with the **Dents Du Midi** in the background



USEFUL LINKS:

www.nicheskiing.co.uk

www.portesdusoleil.com

www.stjeandaulps.com

www.lesgets.com

www.morzine-avoriaz.com

www.snow-forecast.com

Chalet Dragon information online

Information on the whole Portes du Soleil ski area

The website for our village and local ski station

Information on what we consider to be the best resort in the area

Information on the biggest resort in the Portes du Soleil

A very comprehensive website which gives weather forecasts for the whole area.



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