**Cervinia**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Après ski

Summer skiing

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

20

**Intermediate Runs**

41

**Advanced Runs**

11

**Total Runs**

72

**Lifts**

25

**Chairs**

12

**Drags**

8

**Gondola Cable Cars**

5

**Parks**

3

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

10m (33ft).

**Overview**

Cervinia is a resort with many claims to fame. It sits on the Italian side of the infamous Matterhorn, and is one of only two remaining Italian areas to offer summer skiing.

It’s also one of Italy's most important resorts and has carved a niche as a rather upmarket enclave, perhaps in part because of its cross-border link to Zermatt in Switzerland. The resort is named after Monte Cervino, the Italian name for the Matterhorn, which casts a shadow from overhead.

Known fully as Breuil-Cervinia, the village is also significant in ski history because it was one of the first purpose-built (more or less from scratch) resorts in the 1930s. It also remains one of Europe's highest resorts, and with the ski lifts linking up to 3,899m (12,792ft) – Europe's highest lift-served point – Cervinia offers virtually guaranteed snow.

Cervinia is open for winter sports through the summer months with access to Zermatt's glacier skiing, which stretches over both sides of the border. The summer vertical is usually the biggest available anywhere – just as the huge winter one is – providing an 11km-long (6 miles) run.

**Location**

Cervinia is at the head of the Aosta Valley, part of the Alps in northwest Italy. The resort lies on the border with Switzerland, close to the Swiss resort of Zermatt.

**Website**

http://www.cervinia.it

**Piste Map**

http://www.cervinia.it/pages/SKIRAMA\_i\_en/443?#ixMainSection

**Hit The Slopes**

Cervinia's skiing is spread over wide, treeless slopes, climbing up to the Swiss border. The high altitude and glaciers allow Cervinia’s season to start in October and last until the beginning of May. Snow sports then begin again in late June and continue through to early September for summer skiing.

Most of the remaining old drag lifts have been replaced in recent seasons by state-of the-art chairs and, most recently, the main cable car up to the Swiss border had its cabins upgraded to provide full panoramic views.

Beginners have a snowsure nursery area right next to the resort to enjoy. Cervinia's high altitude means that this should be snow-covered all winter, whereas in many traditional resorts at lower altitude, nursery slopes may only be open a month or two in midwinter.

Intermediates have the most slopes to explore, with some of the world's longest reds, including a 15km (9 mile) run back down to the resort from Plateau Rosà.

Thanks to the lift link with Zermatt, advanced skiers and boarders have enough exciting steep terrain on and off piste to keep them happy all season; but there are relatively limited options for experts in Cervinia compared to its Swiss neighbour.

Heli-skiing is also popular here, with vertical descents of around 3,000m (10,000ft) possible in good conditions – the largest in the Alps.

**Cervinia**

**Resort**

2050

**Base**

1524

**Top**

3480

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Cervinia has a good range of activities besides skiing and boarding, both on and off the slopes.

Within the village there's a sports centre, cinema, bowling alley and an ice skating rink. For something a little different, visit an ice grotto on the Klein Matterhorn, have a go at ice karting, or view the scenery from above with an awe-inspiring paragliding trip. Car drivers also have the chance to test their skills on a 1.5km-long (0.9-mile) ice circuit.

Back on the slopes, among the numerous options are: snowmobiling, snowshoeing, ski kiting, snow biking and tobogganing. Visitors who are feeling truly energetic can have a go at ski mountaineering, which opens up lesser-ventured and harder to reach spots – courses are run by trained guides from the Cervino Mountain Guides Society (tel: +39 0166 948 169).

**Family Fun**

In what is a rather rare Italian non-ski nursery facility, Biancaneve (tel: +39 0166 940 201) – located near the ticket office and cable car station – accepts children from birth to age 10. And there are four ski schools, including the Cervino Ski School (tel: +39 0166 948 744; [www.scuolacervino.com](http://www.scuolacervino.com)), which also operates a ski kindergarten for children aged five and older.

The Far West Baby Ski Park was recently extended and offers carpet lifts and child-friendly ski lifts, as well as tubing runs, inflatable obstacles and a family picnic area. Once confident on their skis, the little ones can explore Cervinia's wide and generally easy pistes via easy-access chair and cabin lifts.

**Retail Therapy**

Cervinia's shopping opportunities are more plentiful than the ski resort norm, with around 70 shops in town; including some stylish fashion outlets and jewellers for well-heeled clientele.

For a wide range of wines, head to Bottiglieria Cappana Alpina (Via J.A. Carrel; tel: +39 0166 948 710); or for a special gift, try the jewellers Re Mida Gioielli (Via J.A. Carrel; tel: +39 0166 940 090).

Beyond these options, there is the usual selection of ski and souvenir stores, grocery shops, bakeries and a laundry service.

**Splashing Out**

Fans de Sport (tel: +39 335 457 155; [www.fansdesport.it](http://www.fansdesport.it)) organises all sorts of snow sports for visitors who fancy something a bit out of the ordinary. Snow kiting involves being towed along the snow on your skis or board pulled by a giant kite; while those opting for zorbing will be strapped inside a giant, transparent ball and rolled down the snowy slopes. Other alternatives include dog sledding, snowmobiling and paragliding.

**Apres Ski**

Cervinia can be lively at weekends and during holiday periods when the in-crowd from Turin and Milan are in town, but equally it can be very quiet in the week. There are 30 or so après-ski bars from which to choose.

Lo Yeti (tel: +39 0166 949 196; [www.yeticervinia.it](http://www.yeticervinia.it)) is one of the more popular après-ski bars in Cervinia, while the Dragon Bar (tel: +39 0166 940 255; [www.hoteldragon.it](http://www.hoteldragon.it)) tends to attract North Europeans, particularly for its satellite TV coverage of big sports events. Max Club Cervinia (tel: 335 841 9481) is one of two clubs in the resort, and becomes livelier after midnight.

**Eating Out**

Cervinia is something of an Italian foodies paradise with everything from a quick home made pizza and espresso – all of high quality – up to the gourmet standards demanded by the well heeled Italians who enjoy frequenting the eateries here. In either case the ethos is for authentic cuisine, local ingredients and creating a happy atmosphere.

There are now more than 50 restaurants in Cervinia and its surrounds, so there's plenty of choice. La Chandelle (tel: +39 0166 948 998; [www.hotelhermitage.com](http://www.hotelhermitage.com)) in Hotel Hermitage is an great choice for a gourmet meal offering local and international haute cuisine and an excellent wine list.

La Taverna di Gargantua (tel: +39 0166 940 167) is a good mid-range choice; while for the Italian staples, head to Falcone (Via Meynet 8) with its mouth-wateringly good pizza. Metzelet (tel: +39 0339 139 0005), likewise, does great local cuisine alongside alpine favourites such as fondue.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airports: Turin Airport (TRN); Milan Malpensa Airport (MXP).

Distances to resort: 118km (74 miles); 180km (111 miles).

Driving times: 1 hour 30 minutes; 2 hours.

Nearest railway station: Chatillon St Vincent.

Distance to resort: 25km (16 miles).

Driving time: 30 minutes.

**Getting Around**

Central Cervinia is relatively compact and bus services are banned in the village – it's possible to walk to and from the ski lifts from most accommodation, but if you arrive on a tour bus you may have to carry your luggage to your accommodation. Some outlying hotels organise their own shuttle services to the slopes.

**Hotels**

The resort has a good selection of all kinds of accommodation, including a large selection of apartments to rent. There is also an increasingly wide range of hotels in Cervinia, ranging from simple pensions to luxurious establishments, with the choice, particularly at the higher quality end, increasing year on year.

**The Dragon Hotel**

A small hotel with friendly staff in the centre of the village, The Dragon Hotel houses a popular bar on-site and offers great views of the Matterhorn.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Via Jean Baptiste Bich 3

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Breuil-Cervinia

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

11021 CountryIta

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

http://www.hoteldragon.it

**Website**

This cosy 2-star hotel is just 80m (87 yards) from the ski lifts, and provides a warm and friendly atmosphere in a central location.

**Hotel Hermitage**

This luxurious Relais & Chateaux hotel, 300m (328 yards) from the town centre, boasts 34 elegant rooms, the gourmet La Chandelle restaurant, and a spa area reserved for guests.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Via Piolet

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Breuil-Cervinia

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

11021

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

+39 0166 948 998.

**Website**

http://www.hotelhermitage.com