**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 is perhaps the best place to stay in the Via Lattea (Milky Way) ski region, a vast region with more than 400km (250 miles) of inter-connecting pistes, which continue across the Italian border into France.

While other Italian villages, like Cesana and Claviere, may be more centrally located, they’re smaller with far fewer facilities. There are also bigger, higher resorts like Montgenevre on the French side and Sestriere on the Italian, which are more snowsure and have lots of amenities, but they lack the character and ambience of Sauze d’Oulx.

So Sauze d’Oulx offers the best compromise between character and a good-sized resort. Chosen as a venue for the 2006 Winter Olympics, the resort benefited enormously from improved access and infrastructure on the slopes, which continue to pay off to this day.

Once seen in British tabloids as the ‘Ibiza’ of the ski world, mainly due to its lively (and allegedly excessive) nightlife, it’s calmed down since. It still has a strong British contingent, though, and a better than average après ski scene.

**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**

www.visitsauzedoulx.it

**Piste Map**

www.sauzeonline.com/wp-content/uploads/Pistemap.pdf

**Hit The Slopes**

Most snow sports enthusiasts will begin their day on one of the lifts 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 mroe 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 1950s.

The ski season generally runs from early December until late April.

**Milky Way**

**Resort**

1382

**Base**

1357

**Top**

2840

**Sauze d'Oulx**

**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, an ice rink and a sports centre. There’s also a games room if you really get stuck. 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 (tel: +39 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**

Around half the shops in Sauze d'Oulx are sports retailers, a quarter are grocers and the remainder sell photography, furniture, gifts and newspapers. Among these, Arnica Erboristeria Profumeria (tel: +39 0122 858 596) sells perfume and local products, while EI Roet Merceria (tel: +39 0122 858 045) is one of the better gift shops.

Foodies should explore the regional specialities sold at Pasticceria Gally (tel: +39 0122 858 028) and L’Argurensie (tel: +39 0122 859 740). 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: +39 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**

Its reputation for rowdiness may be long gone, but Sauze d'Oulx is still one of the livelier resorts in the Alps.

At the base of the slopes, Ghost (tel: +39 329 292 6904) is usually busy as the lifts close and stays that way due to happy hour. Max Bar Di Gorlier Massimo (tel: +39 0122 859 751) also has a happy hour and offers free Wi-Fi.

The vaulted Wine Bar Gran Trun (tel: +39 0122 858 585; [www.hotelgrantrun.com](http://www.hotelgrantrun.com)) has a wide selection of plonk, whilst Paddy McGinty's Irish pub (tel: +39 0122 858 119) is an institution that’s invariably rammed. There are also three places for late-night dancing, including the hedonistic Il Bandito (tel: +39 339 127 6929) - but note that it dedicates certain nights to pole dancing.

**Eating Out**

Sauze d’Oulx has a lively, foody reputation with the three dozen or so restaurants constantly trying to outdo each other on service and food quality. Most family-run and prices are generally reasonable too.

Of the Italian eateries, L’Ortiché (tel: +39 0122 850 329; [www.ortiche.com](http://www.ortiche.com)) has a good selection and regular specials, including a great truffle risotto. British-run Del Falco (tel: +39 0122 850580; [www.delfalco.com/en](http://www.delfalco.com/en)) also scores highly in all respects.

La Griglia (Via Colle Bourget 24) is one of the best pizzerias, but for homemade pasta Sugo's (tel: +39 0122 850 344) is hard to beat.

For fine dining, the intimate Naskira Restaurant (tel: +39 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 tend to be more on the basic side, with the majority rated either 2- or 3-stars. There are also a couple of 4-star options for those looking for a touch more luxury.

**Orso Bianco**

Guests at this 12 room hotel are often first on the slopes each morning thanks to its position at the top of the quad lift. The on-site restaurant 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**

10050

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

+39 0122 850 226.

**Website**

www.sportinia.it

**Hotel Stella Alpina**

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

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Via Miramonti 22/24

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Sauze d'Oulx

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

10050

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

+39 0122 858 731.

**Website**

www.stellalpinahotel.it

**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**

10050

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

+39 0122 859 812.

**Website**

www.grandhotellatorre.it

**Park Hotel Gran Bosco**

This small, friendly 3-star hotel is famed for its good food and superb service. It also offers a free shuttle service to/from the town centre and the slopes.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Via Monfol 48,

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Sauze d'Oulx

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

10050

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

+39 0122 881 571.

**Website**

XXX

**Grand Hotel Besson**

This popular 4–star option has a good spa, great service and lip-smacking food, and is just five minutes from the old village centre and a short shuttle bus ride to the slopes.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Via del Rio 15

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Sauze d'Oulx

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

10050

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

+39 0122 859 785.

**Website**

www.grandhotelbesson.it

**Case Vacanza Perron**

This apartment complex in the hamlet of Jouvenceaux is 10 minutes from the resort centre and just five minutes from the nearest ski lift. The apartments are spacious and well-equipped and the management are friendly and helpful.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Fraz. Jouvenceaux 85

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Sauze d'Oulx

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

10050

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

+39 338 572 0661.

**Website**

www.casevacanzaperron.it