

SWISS INTERNATIONAL CITY SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

The City Ski Championships have been organised by Momentum Ski and held annually in Courmayeur in Italy's Aosta valley since 2000. Among their attractions is the array of former skiing and sporting stars who turn up. British downhill stars of the 1980s and 90s Konrad Bartelski and Graham Bell are regulars. They were joined in 2007 by Olympic athlete Colin Jackson and racing driver Damon Hill – both are expected back this season, along with other sporting legends. Around 200 skiers from 40 City firms take part in the event.

The Saturday GS race is the main event but only part of the attraction of this weekend. Three other races are held on the Friday: the Accenture parallel slalom (a relay race with four in each team), the Radar Trap (speed skiing) and a boarder-cross. On the Friday evening there's a welcome drinks party, dinner at various restaurants and late-night drinks in the Bar Roma; on the Saturday, there's a race-side buffet sponsored by Cheviot, a Mumm champagne reception in the evening, followed by a gala presentation dinner and then ... clubbing till dawn. On Sunday the hard core either take advantage of Courmayeur's off-piste terrain on the Toula Glacier or heli-ski; others just enjoy Momentum's complimentary Bloody Marys at Christiania's on the slopes.

The 2008 event, from 13 to 16 March, promises to be better than ever. Konrad Bartelski will again be running the Snow+Rock pre-race ski clinics, which are really popular with the competitors, and Graham Bell and Matt Chilton from the BBC will be doing the commentary. For more details contact Momentum on 020 7371 9111 or City Championships on 020 7863 8813 – or see www.cityskichampionships.com. The City Ski Championships are part of the City Championships Calendar.

WHERE TO GO AND WHAT KIND OF ACCOMMODATION?

How easy it is to settle on a resort for a corporate trip depends hugely on the nature of your project. If it's a group spread around the world that you want to get together, you could consider North American resorts as well as the Alps. But if the group is UK or European based, the Alps would be best. Because corporate trips tend to be short, you'll want to keep the travel time to the minimum so that it doesn't dominate the proceedings. Transfer times from airports to resorts generally range from one to four hours, and you'll probably want to operate at the lower end of that range if you can. On the other hand, you may want your choice of resort to carry a message to your 'delegates'. Choosing Courchevel or St Moritz is effectively saying, 'No expense spared – nothing but the best for you.'

Whatever you do, choose a resort with a good snow record and/or extensive snowmaking. You don't want to invite people on a skiing break to find that there's no snow. Avoid early season for the same reason. A March trip to a high resort will mean good snow, and it should mean strong sunshine, too. Don't get hung up on size – with only a couple of days to spend on the slopes, almost any resort has plenty of terrain, especially with good local guides to help you make the most of it. It's likely that not everyone in the group will want

Some of the City Ski Championships competitors after the end of the 2007 race
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