

## AIR FRANCE CITY SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

This season will see the 10th annual City Ski Championships held in Courmayeur in Italy's Aosta valley and organised by Momentum Ski. Among their attractions is the array of celebrities who turn up. British downhill stars of the 1980s and 90s Konrad Bartelski and Graham Bell, Olympic athlete Colin Jackson and racing driver Damon Hill are regulars. In 2008, stand-up comic Marcus Brigstocke had the audience creased up with laughter at the prize-giving dinner. He is returning in 2009, and it is hoped that former Olympic downhill champion Tommy Moe, chefs Heston Blumenthal and Ainsley Harriott and TV presenters Fiona Bruce and Claire Balding will also attend. Around 200 skiers from 40 City firms take part in the event.

The Saturday GS race is the main event. But three other races are held on the Friday: the Accenture parallel slalom, the Radar Trap (speed skiing) and a Super-G snowboard race. On both days there's a race-side buffet sponsored by GAM and a Michelob ice bar. On the Friday evening there's a Cheviot welcome drinks party and on the Saturday a Mumm champagne reception followed by a gala presentation dinner, and then ... clubbing till dawn. Sunday is free for skiing or sleeping.

The 2009 event, from 19 to 22 March, promises to be extra special to celebrate the event's 10th anniversary. Konrad Bartelski will again be running the Snow+Rock pre-race ski clinics, 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](http://www.cityskichampionships.com).

corporate groups who are looking to exploit the joys of a 100-minute transfer time from Geneva to Verbier, combined with world-class skiing and a very lively nightlife. Our two boutique hotels (15 rooms each) cater perfectly for groups that want a property exclusively to themselves, combining chalet-style accommodation with a five-star service. And our flexible booking policy allows groups to go for long weekends or midweek breaks.'

Amin Momen of Momentum Ski says, 'Where to go depends entirely on what the client wants to do: hold a conference or training session, or just have a jolly, say. Each year we take a group out for Ford, combining the trip with the Geneva Motor Show; last year they were testing Mondeos, so we organised a suitable route from Geneva to Courmayeur, returning after a couple of days via Megève, with lunch at a Michelin-starred restaurant. This season they'll be testing the 4x4 Kuga on the ice driving circuit at Flaine.'

A lot of groups include non-skiers, and Angus Kinloch of Ski Line says, 'For them we may suggest hotels with good spa facilities. And we've had a couple of big groups with a lot of non-skiers and set them up in Bad Hofgastein, an Austrian spa resort with both good skiing and excellent spa facilities. They loved it.'

For a really big group Kinloch says, 'You can even take over the whole village of Brand, in Austria. They will let us book all the hotel rooms and brand the whole place however you like, put banners in the streets, even change the names of hotels and streets.' At the other extreme, for smaller groups, he says, 'Chalets can be ideal. Some companies like to take over a top-class chalet for a week and invite different groups out for three or four nights each. For us it is fiddly because it

The Royal Bank of Scotland team (plus supporters) who won the 2008 City Ski Championships men's team prize ↓

