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More comfort
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Bernhard Russi. The tremendous experience of the world champion and Olympic victor has also been incorporated into every Raichle boot.

Andre Arnold. Three times professional world champion (1978 - 79 - 90) swears by Raichle... and Raichle carries him to victory!

Three reasonably-priced ski boot models with features otherwise only found in higher price brackets. For enthusiastic young skiers with a limited budget. With the guarantee and service facilities of Switzerland's only ski boot manufacturer behind them. Change to Raichle NOW for easier, better and more comfortable skiing.



DAVOS 39-50 A smash-hit with young skiers. Modelled on the BERNHARD RUSSEI racing model. Light polyurethane precision-shaped shell with heel spoiler. RM Micro-Buckles, shock-absorbers. Helanca inner boot with soft safety collar.

PARSENN The new super boot based on the BERNHARD RUSSEI racing model. Light, solid polyurethane shell. The four prominent RM Micro-Buckles ensure perfect fit. Helanca Luxury inner boot with ideal heat insulation.

DAVOS A particularly light, comfortably shaped model for the beginner who is hard to please. Good forward-lean movement. Inner boot with soft collar-top and extra-warm cushioning.



Raichle
of Switzerland
far above the average!

Send for brochure and list of dealers to:
 Peter Webb, Skiing Imports (GB) Ltd., Moray Lane, Esher, Surrey

★ There are some truly wonderful ski runs in the world, ranging from long-distance tours like the 25-mile Sella Ronda in the Dolomites and the Trois Vallées tour in France, to the long 12-km Valsée Blanche descent at Chamonix. Former Daily Mail reporter David Pyke is 95, and a grandad, yet he did the 25-km circuit of the Four Vallées in Switzerland and was first home to Verbier.

The world's great ski runs



Milo Fellay the grizzled, bearded professeur de ski, gave me a wince with his gold teeth, and his instant opinion of my abilities: "For you monsieur, too difficult, I think".

But what Milo didn't know, is that my frail frame may lack style and technique and I may be well over 50 but I do have stamina... I run 10 miles daily to train for my marathon races.

So, I felt justified in giving as snappy a reply as I could muster as the moisture froze on my moustache: "I'll be OK".

Over the edge we went—to Lac de Vaux, one of the favourite runs because the snow is always good.

Going up on that freezing chair to Chassouré: I vow I never want to ski in January again. At the top there are a few steps trudging to the lip of the beautiful Tortin valley that leads to Super Nendaz.

Truly one of the most lovely, tranquil and spectacular valleys ever to be met. To get there it's a 4km black run.

A bit of side slipping on the near-perpendicular face, then off on a huge traverse before summoning up the courage to take that turn. Others take a tumble, but not this guy. I zoom past where the avalanche took away the Tortin cable-lift stanchion which cut the Four-Vallées into two.

Then through the pines, the sun now warming my old bones. This is bliss. Super Nendaz comes much too soon.

We make our way to the edge of Greppon Blanc. A bottle of white wine appears magically from grinning Milo's rucksack. The bottle goes from mouth to mouth to take our minds off the challenge below us—and over the lip we go.

After an 11 SF assiette de skier its up the Veysonnaz cable car to Greppon Blanc, Super Nendaz, and the long button lifts of Siviez and Plan-du-Fou, to be scared by a large four-language sign. Here we were at the top of the world, at the same level as the Dinosaur-backed peaks and they were telling us in effect: "He who goes over the top is crazy".

Out comes another bottle of wine and I follow Milo into the rock-studded Plan-du-fou basin.

We get out of that valley, into a cosy narrow place edged with pines. The sun must be direct here. The snow has gone wet and salty. I'm making a real hash of this.

The trouble is, I've got an international technique. The left leg has a combination of



World's Great Ski Runs...

The world's great ski runs concentrated on Verbier, which still holds the title as a mean and nasty runs resort.



Photographs by Salomon

There is in fact a correct way to fall. If you lose your balance and cannot avoid a fall, then only backwards and downwards into the air. Catch your back righty and keep your legs down straight so that your knees don't dig into the snow—and cause an injury.



...and the great ski falls

the worst Spanish-Austrian schools: the right leg follows the Italian-Swiss disciplines. PRANG. Face first. A real cropper, but my new Salomon 226 bindings stand the test and I'm back on my feet.

Through Prarion, the trees, down long paths, seldom any noise except the hiss of edges, and we are poing to Isarables.

Bus to Tzoumaz, cable to Savoyleyes, and down to Le Rouge at Verbier, to the most wonderful, refreshing, best esmed, pint of beer I've ever had. Thanks Milo for several hours of magic. I'd follow you anywhere.

IT TAKES your breath away when you round the last bend on the road and catch your first glimpse of Thyon 2000,

which this year opens to British package skiers for the first time - from £69 with Neilson. The architecture takes a bit of getting used to, all dark brown and brooding—even sinister.

This is no "Sound of Music" style village where you could expect upstairs windows to be flung open and blonde ladies burst into song.

This is where you'd expect James Bond to be in deep intrigue, or grappling with a lush lady in the luxury of the apart-hotel room's fold-down double bed.

Thyon is neatly linked to the Four Valées and its 160 miles of skiing by the short 88 Thyon drag lift. It has its own complex of nine drag lifts, two chairs, and for the coming season a new cable car from between Veysonnaz and Colkins to bring skiers back from the lovely Piste de Les L'Ours run.

I bashed the slopes to near 5pm, then wound my way up to the 110 Piccola "babyift" which provides the easy run down to the Panorama, a restaurant that dominates one end of the complex. Through the double doors into the garage, off with the skis, then a few minutes walk past the underground supermarket to the garage-level entrance of the Greppon block.

Thyon is admirable for the family group. It is easy to keep in touch. There is the economic advantage of being able to buy your own drinks in the supermarket, and make tea, coffee and snacks in the apartment, while still enjoying the freedom of eating out at a "package" price.

How often people with families complain about all the spending money slipping away on tea, coffees and cows.

The Plat du jour at lunch-time will cost only £2.50 to £2.75.

Thyon has plenty of room for everyone from the beginner, to the unambitious intermediate, and the "downhill racers" who can disappear all day on the superb Four Valées runs and never bash the same bit of snow twice. David Pryke

Thyon 2000 occupies a natural platform position looking out from a height of 6,900 feet over the grandiose Four Valées ski region. The height gives us powder snow six months a year. We have 10 hours of sun daily and we are only a few hours away from the big European capitals.

We keep the road open throughout the year so that you drive right into our covered garage and walk straight into the bars and restaurant complex, our car to ski resort has a cinema, night club, supermarket, sports shop, boutiques, hairdresser, bank, sauna - almost than. And you leave your children in the safe centre.

For skiing you have 120 miles of runs served by a super lift system, and of course the Swiss Ski School to give you lessons. When you are not skiing you can take part in the following sports: swimming, tennis, riding, trail walking, tennis, gymnastics. And if that's all strenuous you can enjoy bright contents and relaxing evenings.



THYON 2000
A Magic Ski Complex

Accommodation (Fully equipped apartments)

Weekly Rent

Studio (2 persons)	235 Swiss Francs	85,000 Swiss Francs
Studio (3 persons)	307 Swiss Francs	-
Studio (4 persons)	390 Swiss Francs	-
2 Room apt. (4 persons)	422 Swiss Francs	160,000 Swiss Francs
3 Room apt. (5 persons)	483 Swiss Francs	315,000 Swiss Francs

Plus tax and charges

Graduation in lifts for 20 rooms.

We're a Special Club Offer - full board accommodation, Ski Pass, Ski Lessons etc from just 2 Swiss Francs.

For information contact:

Thyon 2000
Switzerland
Tel. 027-111608
Telex 38 263

More great runs and falls – and amazingly low Swiss prices – such as 85,000 Swiss Francs for a 2-room pad in Thyon.

...and the Great
Ski Falls!