

Montgenèvre, France

Montgenèvre is a small roadside resort, located in the Southern Alps on a high pass (1850m) leading to the Italian border. The shops, bars and restaurants that line the busy main road are slightly shabby which initially spoils the appeal. But as you leave the main road you will see that the resort is in essence an old traditional village with friendly alpine charm. The village is compact so most of the accommodation is both close to the slopes and huddled around the old village centre. The fact that the village is covered in snow for most of the winter season and that there are wooded mountains either side add to the charm.

For restaurants there is plenty of choice though you may find Montgenèvre is more expensive than neighbouring Italian resorts. The nearby resort Clavière has some very good quality restaurants. For cafes and bars the choice in Montgenèvre is restricted but as you might expect the ambiance in the few bars that exist is cheerful and friendly. There are few other non-ski activities.

Montgenèvre has an excellent snow record. It forms part of what is known as the "Milky Way" a cluster of resorts giving access to 400 km of varied terrain and expanding into neighbouring Italy. Buy daily extensions for access to this collection of runs. There are not many challenging pistes in the local Montgenèvre area. Many pistes marked as blacks would be better described as tough reds. Take advantage of the possibilities of off-piste excursions, if you are driving visit Sestriere or, for the experts try heli-skiing on the Italian side. Montgenèvre's local slopes are well suited to intermediates who appreciate easy cruising, The over graded blacks may suit the more adventurous intermediates. If driving, Serre-Chevalier and Puy-St-Vincent are worth a visit or further afield (in Italy) Sestriere and Sauze d'Oulx. The resort is good for beginners who want gradual progression to longer more testing runs. Many lifts are drags, but aside from this, snowboarders are well catered for with a snow park and two open bowls on the "Milky Way".