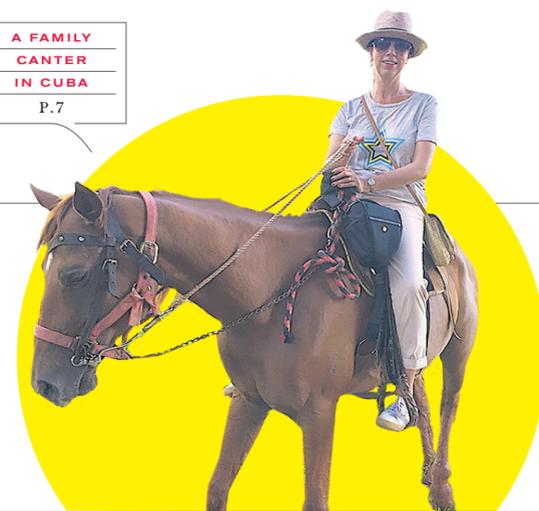


TRAVEL

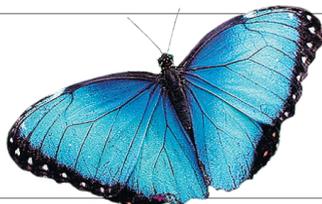
on Sunday

A FAMILY
CANTER
IN CUBA
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JOSS STONE
'In Costa Rica, I obsessed
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▼ In pole position: there is going to be a lot of pent up demand for ski trips in 2022 so get planning now



GRANT GUNDERSON

The greatest snow on Earth

With this winter a write-off, make next season's ski holiday the best you've ever had, says Leslie Woit

The past 12 months have been a skier's imperfect storm: the early end to last season, virtually no skiing for Britons thus far this winter and new Covid restrictions piling up like snowdrifts. It's therefore almost inevitable that, with pent-up demand high as a mountain and uncertainty set to run and run, people will want to make the most of every possible turn (and tumble) in the seasons to come.

There's no doubt skiers are keen to

return to the slopes at the first opportunity. "Our guests very much want to ski," says Ceri Tinley, owner of luxury chalet operator Consensio, who explains skiers are transferring bookings to hold their place in the lift queue, rather than cancelling entirely.

Ski holidays, whether later this winter or (much more likely) next, will be a welcome escape for many and a chance to clear the cobwebs of lockdown with a healthy dose of mountain air.

Encouragingly, with operators adopting a limber approach to booking arrangements, there is little downside to circling a date in the calendar. "Clients can book with flexible Covid terms, meaning they can book risk free while giving them something to look forward to," says Tinley.

While some experts predict there could be an end-of-season surge if restrictions are lifted, many operators have put trips for next season on early

sale, to encourage those who are uncertain to commit to longer-term plans, and so far bookings are booming.

To get you primed, and to make sure your future memories on the slopes last a lifetime, we've curated 20 of the finest blowout ski experiences available. So when the magical moment does arrive – and it will – you'll be poised for the first lifts, first tracks, and first après ski.

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