

THE LES ARCS LIFT

TRAVEL GUIDES

Words Rowan Sorrell
Photos Andy Lloyd

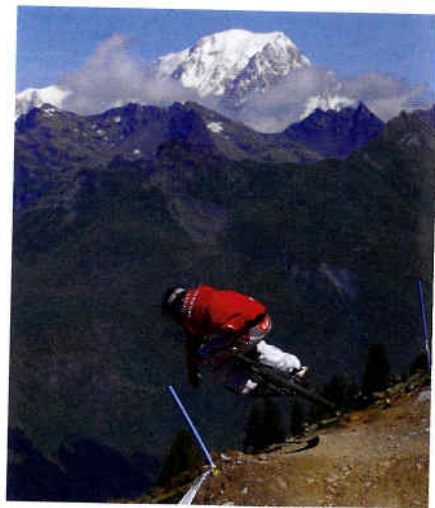
A good few years back I had worked in Les Gets for a company called Velo City. Now if I was to be perfectly honest with you (and I hope my boss at the time won't mind me saying this now), we were super slack, definitely at the budget end of the market, and perhaps the least professional outfit in the area when it came to fancy banners and PR ramblings. That aside, we got a few things right, everyone who came, without exception, had one hell of a good time, as we hooked them up with the best trails, didn't have any strict rules and the party was always on back at the chalet when the bars and club had shut! In fact one guest ended up staying the whole summer he loved it so much. Good times and fond memories.

So I remember feeling a little surprised at the time when Rob (who had set it all up) said to me he was going

to be leaving Les Gets and running from Les Arcs the next year. This was about five years ago and I knew nothing about the place then, I was a little blinkered and couldn't see why anyone would want to go anywhere else other than Les Gets. After plenty of harassing emails and stories of how great the trails were, I cracked under interrogation and stopped off for a couple of days last summer. I soon understood... this teaser had left a pleasant taste in my

mouth, and I had so much more to see. When it came to picking resorts for this year with the best trails, Les Arcs was always going to be right up there. We had a great offer from Trail Addiction to stay with them in their Edelweiss Chalet and sample some of the routes they have spent the past number of years exploring.

What followed was a week of some of the best resort-based all-mountain riding to be found in the Alps.



(top) The Europekey himself, James McKnight gets his groove on, high up on the Lakes trail above Arcs 2000.

(bottom left to right) Scrubbin with Mont Blanc in full view: The campest lift in Europe? The lobster pots from Pelsey, ooh matron! High up on the flat-out Cachette DH.