

The Best Snow I've Ever Seen in Europe!

by "Horst" John Binder

The flight from Newark to Geneva was a quick 6 ½ hours flying time. Then we had a 3 hour bus ride bringing us to Club Med La Plagne. We were greeted at Club Med with the usual cheers and a welcome drink. After a short orientation, we enjoyed a sumptuous lunch. Our luggage was quickly and efficiently transported to our rooms.

The rooms, although a little small by our standards, were newly remodeled with plenty of closet space and a beautifully tiled much larger than usual bathroom. Each room has a flat panel TV where we could get CNN, CNBC and several other English speaking channels.

We had a personal safe in the room where we could safely leave our money because ***everything is included in the price....room, all meals & snacks, open bar, lift tickets, instructor guides, evening entertainment, tips etc. You can leave your wallet at home!***

It was a beautiful sunny day when we arrived. There was about 10 or 12 inches of fresh snow and, although I was very tired, I thought I'd try a few runs. To my surprise, it was the best snow I ever experienced in Europe, and being a native of Austria, I have skied in Europe a lot. The snow was equal to Steamboat's legendary champagne powder....fluffy and light!

The French Alps are higher and wider than the Alps in Austria or Switzerland and most skiing takes place from 2,000 to 3,000 meters...about 400 to 500 meters higher than the rest of the Alps or the Dolomites.

There are many rolling blue and red runs. It was my wife Dottie's favorite kind of terrain. She just loved it when I took her for an excursion to the Bellecote Glacier.

There were periods of fog for the 1st two days. It was like skiing in a milk bottle and when I pushed off, I had the feeling that I was skiing into a huge "snowy" TV screen. It was impossible to ski without the Club Med guide.

But then it cleared up and we had a breathtaking view of the French Alps, including a view of Mt Blanc, the highest mountain in Europe at 4,800 meters. The average daily temperature was 25 degrees.

The Club Med package includes an instructor guide at every level of skiing ability for 5 days. My guide took us on an excursion to Les Arcs, a two hour trip on skis and lifts. Once there we took a 20 minute hike to seriously difficult terrain and beautiful untracked powder runs. We skied down to a Tyrolean style farmhouse where we ate and drank and relaxed for a while. We didn't get back to La Plagne until after 5pm.

The food and drink at Club Med is excellent and plentiful. My favorites were the French cheeses and their dark and crusty breads. Everyone loved the seafood evening. We had oysters, large shrimp, mussels and many kind of fish including haddock and trout.

Breakfast was made to order eggs and omelets, cheeses, cold cuts, croissants, brioches, fresh fruits, yogurt, cereals and more items than anyone could or should eat.

It was enjoyable to meet people after skiing at the bar or in the large comfortable lounge next to the bar. They had live music and more refreshments there after skiing.

There was also a hot tub at the hotel, which is the first one that I have ever seen in Europe.

Would I go there again? Absolutely in a New York minute!

30th Anniversary Party Rescheduled!

Hold this date! ***Saturday, April 18 from 7pm to 11pm.*** Come join us for a gala celebration (at a bargain price) at the West Long Branch Community Center.

Our own Pete Brown and his buddies are catering a fantastic dinner including hors d'oeuvres, buffet dinner, dessert, beer and wine! We'll have a fabulous DJ for music and dancing.

The cost is only \$25 per person. Bring your memorable photos from past trip to share our past good times. (Don't forget to mark them with your name so you can get them back.) Fill out and return the party reservation on page 2. ***We need the exact count by April 3 to order the food!***

Last Meeting of the Year is March 10

Please try to attend this meeting, if you live anywhere near West Long Branch. We need to have a serious discussion about next year's trips.

The economy has really battered all of us so we need to decide whether to do 5 trips next season. Should we consider an Eastern ski trip to Vermont or Canada? Should we cut down to 4 trips again? What do you think?

The meeting will be at the WLB Community Center, as usual, at 8pm. The address is Locust Ave at Parker Rd.

Election of Club Officers on Mar 10

The election of officers will take place at the March 10 meeting. The proposed slate of officers for the next two years is:

President: Audra Greene
Vice President - Jolie Nadler
Secretary - Mary Mangold
Treasurer - Jerry Warner

We will take nominations from the floor if anyone else is interested in running for an office. This is an important meeting. Please try to attend!

You and your friends are invited to join us for the

West Long Branch Ski Club 30th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, April 18, 7pm to 11pm

West Long Branch Community Center
Locust Ave at Parker Rd, West Long Branch

Price: \$25 per person

**Includes: Hors d'oeuvres, Dinner, Desert & Coffee, Wine & Beer
DJ for dancing!**

Please return with full payment *no later than April 3*

(Checks payable to WLB Ski Club)

NAMES(s) _____

I would like to attend the 30th Anniversary Dinner Party. _____

I'm enclosing \$25 per person for _____ participants. Total enclosed \$ _____

Send check to: Jerry Warner, 535 Rosecliff Ct., Somerset NJ 08873

