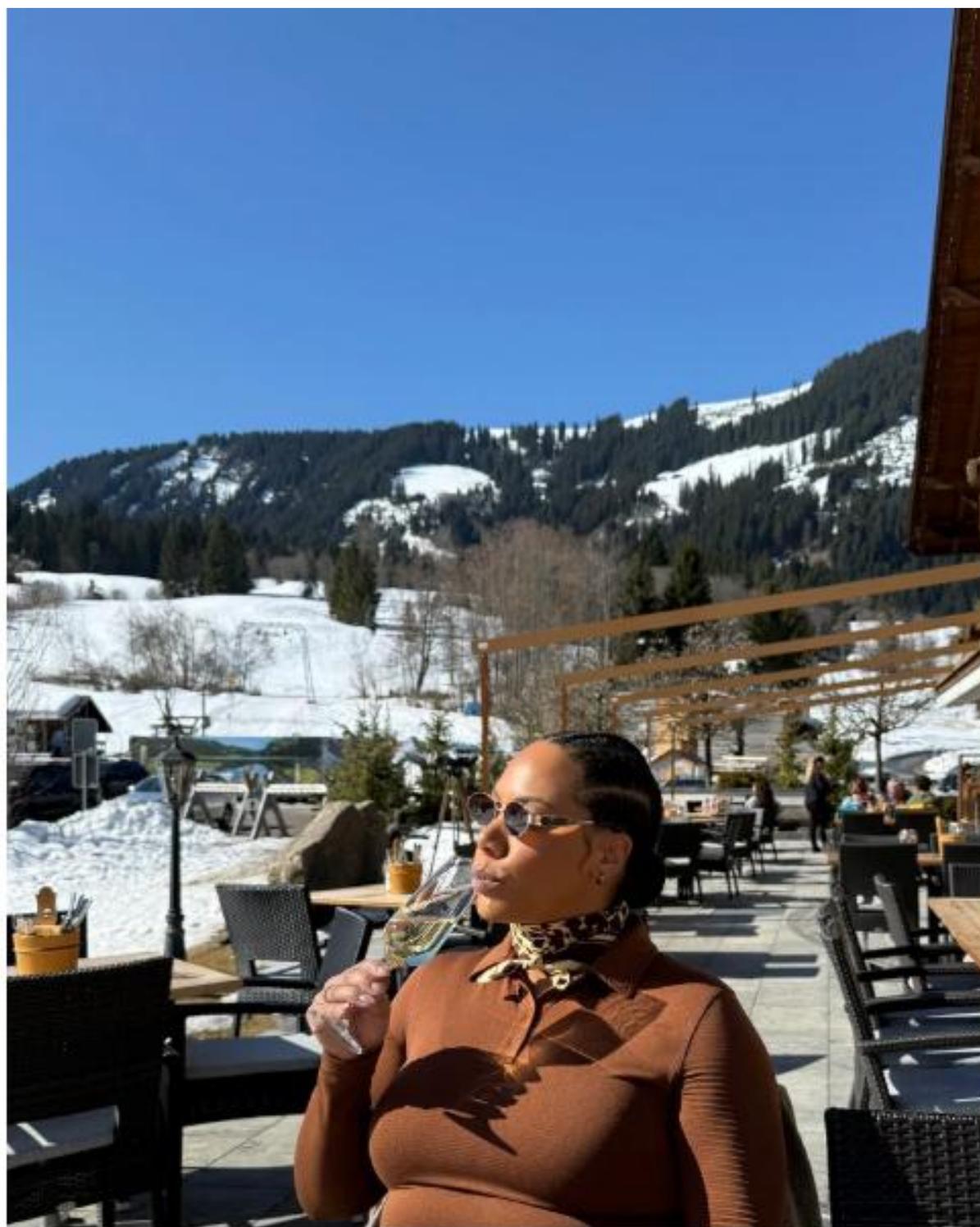


ELLE

ALPINE CHARM AND QUIET LUXURY IN GSTAAD



I have to admit that I have a soft spot for alpine villages. There's something about the combination of crisp mountain air, wooden chalets and really good comfort food that always puts me in a good mood. And Gstaad? It really is that kind of place.



The trip to Gstaad was also an experience in itself. From Geneva airport we took the train to Montreux where [the GoldenPass line](#) begins, and from there on up through the Alps towards Gstaad. It's quite a long journey, but honestly – the views make you barely notice the time. Small alpine villages, green valleys and dramatic mountains pass outside the window the whole way. I love when the transport itself becomes part of the journey, and GoldenPass is truly such a train.



When I arrived, I was immediately struck by how picturesque everything is. The classic chalet houses with carved balconies, small streets lined with wooden facades and the mountains that rise up all around the valley. It's almost too beautiful to be true – like a perfect alpine idyll designed by someone with very good taste.

I stayed at [Le Grand Bellevue](#), a hotel that really set the tone for the entire stay. The building was built back in 1912 as a cure house and spa, and is actually one of Gstaad's oldest hotels. The exterior is classically Swiss and almost fairytale-like – a bright building located in the middle of the village, surrounded by parkland and old trees.

But what makes the hotel so special is the contrast between the historic shell and the interior. After a major renovation, the hotel reopened in 2014 with a completely new design vision where classic Alpine elegance meets something much more playful and modern. Think warm woods and soft textiles, but also bold colors, patterns and furniture that almost feels more like a London townhouse than a traditional Alpine chalet. It makes the hotel feel both sophisticated and very personal at the same time!







But one of the things I liked most about Gstaad was actually how cozy the village itself is to just... be in. The sun was shining almost all the time when we were there and I loved walking around the center without any particular plan. Small shops, cafes, hotels and restaurants are located side by side and everything feels very welcoming. It's exclusive, absolutely, but in a relaxed way. Nothing feels stiff or showy.

One of my absolute highlights was lunch at the hotel's restaurant [LEONARD's](#). There's something about alpine food after fresh air that just hits the spot. I ordered goulash soup served in a loaf of bread – a rustic classic that's both warm and spicy – and a perfectly crispy schnitzel. Yum yum really. I sat there in the sun overlooking the valley and thought that this is exactly the kind of lunch you want on an alpine trip.









In the evening, another Gstaad classic awaited: dinner at [Le Petit Chalet](#) . The restaurant is tucked away in the trees by the hotel and feels like a small alpine chalet straight out of a winter movie. We ordered fondue, of course, and it was one of those dinners where you sit for a long time, talking, laughing and dipping bread in melted cheese while the wine bottles are slowly emptied. Wow, really!



It's almost hard not to fall a little in love with Gstaad. The combination of nature, architecture, food and that understated luxury makes it all feel very harmonious. It's not a destination that tries to impress you – it's just very, very good at being itself.

And honestly? I'm already looking forward to going back.





Travel Notes

- **Stay:** [Le Grand Bellevue](#) – One of Gstaad's most iconic hotels, opened back in 1912. The interior is a fantastic mix of classic alpine chalet and modern design, with elegant salons, lots of color and textiles, and a spa that is truly worth a visit.
- **Eat:** [Le Petit Chalet](#) – A true Gstaad classic. Rustic alpine chalet, candlelight and fantastic fondue. Exactly that cozy alpine atmosphere you hope for when you're in Switzerland.
- **Don't miss:** [the GoldenPass train](#) between Montreux and Gstaad. One of Switzerland's most beautiful train journeys, with the landscape alternating between vineyards, alpine meadows and dramatic mountain views. Slow travel at its best – and an experience in itself, not just transportation.