

2025

Press Kit

A SUMMER OF ALPINE ADVENTURES



les Vallées

INFINITE
MOUNTAIN
EXPERIENCES

- VAL THORENS 2 300 m
- LES MENUIRES 1 850 m
- SAINT-MARTIN-DE-BELLEVILLE 1 450 m

Vallée DES Belleville

From 600 to 3,200 metres in altitude,

from flower-filled pastures to snow-covered peaks, the Vallée des Belleville offers a world of possibilities for those eager to experience the many facets of the Alps. From the charming village of Saint-Martin-de-Belleville to the ridgelines of Val Thorens, passing by the mountain lakes of Les Menuires, this all-in-one destination is a treasure trove of natural beauty, heritage, and sporting adventures at every level!





NEW

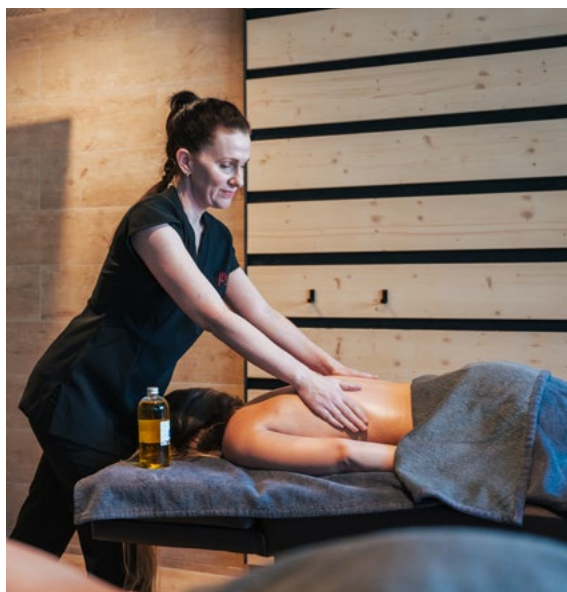
Ô La Belle Vie...

SAINT-MARTIN-DE-BELLEVILLE

A name that speaks for itself – "La Belle Vie," the good life! This panoramic water and wellness centre, perfectly in tune with nature, features three pools: a 16-metre outdoor pool for a refreshing dip while soaking up the views and sunshine (the only outdoor pool in the Vallée des Belleville), a heated indoor-outdoor pool at 33°C, and a relaxation pool with waterfalls and massage jets. On the wellness side, themed experiences inspired by Nordic – and Alpine! – traditions await: a hammam, three saunas (a salt sauna, an essential oil-infused sauna, and a fully glazed Finnish sauna offering breathtaking mountain views), massage rooms, a relaxation lounge, and a cosy bar. A definite favourite: the cold plunge pool and the panoramic terrace with an unbeatable view!

TOP TIP: Enjoy one hour of complimentary access to the wellness area before any booked treatment.

ECO-FRIENDLY BONUS: 80% of the heating needs are met through biomass, with sustainable construction and equipment, including wood heating, enhanced thermal insulation, and heat recovery from wastewater.



PRICES: €9 for pool access, €28 for wellness access. Open 7 days a week: Wellness area: 11:30 am - 7:30 pm / Pool: 11:30 am - 7:00 pm

MORE INFO: st-martin-belleville.com
+33 4 79 55 35 51

SPORTING AGENDA

5TH JULY 2025

• FSGT National Championships

The 2025 FSGT National Cycling Championships will take place from 4 to 6 July in Savoie, offering cyclists of all levels and cycling schools the chance to compete on demanding courses. The event kicks off with a time trial starting in Saint-Jean-de-Belleville and finishing in Les Menuires.

MORE INFO: fsgt73.com/evenement/championnat_national_cyclisme_fsgt_2025/

20TH JULY 2025

• Belleville Enduro Kid MTB Challenge

Four stages across different spots in the Vallée des Belleville, giving young riders the chance to tackle fun yet technical courses. The routes are adapted to various age categories, from 9 to 14 years old.

MORE INFO: sportsnconnect.com/calendrier-evenements/view/29662/challenge-enduro-kid-aura-les-menuires

14TH JULY 2025

• La Montée des Belleville



2,000 metres of elevation gain over 33 km, with an average gradient of 5.5%—a true challenge on Europe's longest paved climb, tackled by legendary cyclists like Vincenzo Nibali during the 2019 Tour de France. Is this your chance to take on the challenge and reach the highest ski resort in Europe at 2,365 metres?

MORE INFO: valthorens.com/temps-fort/montee-des-belleville/

**21ST JUNE - 14TH JULY
6TH AUGUST 2025**

• Soapbox Derby Races

The Sports Clubs of Val Thorens and Les Menuires are hosting a three-stage soapbox derby championship! Three races, three locations, three dates, with individual race rankings and an overall championship ranking. Riders aged 10-13 also get their own dedicated race—just like the grown-ups!

RACE DATES & LOCATIONS:

21 June: Saint-Martin-de-Belleville

14 July: aux Menuires

6 August: Val Thorens

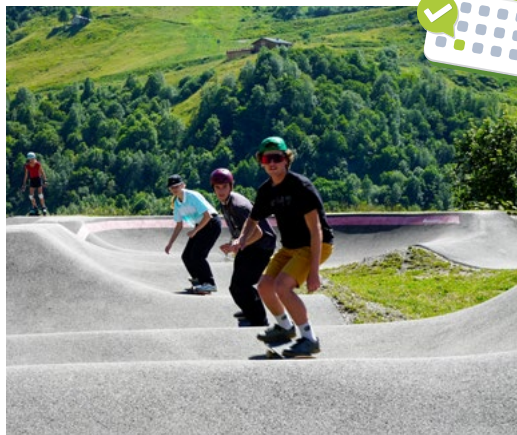
ENTRY FEE: from €6

MORE INFO: Sports Clubs of Val Thorens and Les Menuires

NEW

2ND & 3RD AUGUST 2025

• Freestyle Tour: Rolling into Action!



Les Menuires goes full freestyle for two days with the ultimate summer riding event in the mountains! This stage of the Freestyle Tour brings together top riders on the resort's latest skatepark and pump track, with three adrenaline-fuelled competitions in skateboarding, rollerblading, and scootering.

8TH-10TH AUGUST 2025

• VT Summit Games



Get ready for the 10th edition of the Val Thois Summit Games! Trail-running enthusiasts can take on a packed programme featuring a Vertical Kilometre, 10 km, 20 km, and even a 42 km marathon. There's something for everyone, including little ones with a dedicated kids' race. Families can also join the Family Fun Walk, a fun and tasty hike with entertainment along the way.

ENTRY FEE: from €6

MORE INFO & REGISTRATION:

valthosummitgames.com



NEW

22ND-24TH AUGUST 2025

• Coupe de France MTB The Road to the World Cup...

Head to Les Menuires for the only double event of the Coupe de France MTB (XCO and DH1), now part of the Continental Series. The stakes are high: the best riders will secure their spot in the World Cup.

MORE INFO: lesmenuires.com

ALONG THE WATER...

From crystal-clear mountain lakes to rushing torrents, water shapes some of the most stunning landscapes in the valley. Whether you're looking to cool off, enjoy a spot of fishing, or simply take in the scenery, these natural wonders offer unforgettable moments of relaxation.



TOP 3

must visit

WATER SPOTS

1

FOR EVERYONE

Plan d'eau des Bruyères
1,850 m

Located in Les Menuires, this lake is fully accessible to wheelchair users and off-road strollers, making it the perfect place for a rejuvenating stroll. Picnic areas and barbecues are available..

2

FOR AN OVERNIGHT STAY

Lac du Lou
2,035 m

One of the valley's most iconic lakes, accessible via a scenic 1h15 hike from Les Menuires through alpine meadows and peaks. Ideal for a picnic, quiet contemplation, or even an overnight stay at the charming Refuge du Lac du Lou.

Lakeside loop: 30 min.

3

FOR FAMILIES

Lac des Grenouilles
2,380 m

Just a 15-minute walk from Val Thorens, this lake boasts breathtaking views of the Aiguille de Péclet. Equipped with picnic tables, it is also home to the Montagne Aventure treetop course, featuring rope bridges, suspended walkways, and ziplines—perfect for a fun family day out!

NEW

Sunset Hike & Alpine Dinner



Meet at 3:00 pm with a mountain guide for an unforgettable exploration of two of the valley's most spectacular lakes. The adventure starts at Lac du Lou (2,051 m), the largest lake in the Belleville Valley, before climbing 400 metres higher to Lac de Pierre Blanche. The descent takes you off the beaten track, at the magical hour when wildlife emerges in the peace and cool of the evening.

After the effort, the reward: a dinner on the panoramic terrace of Refuge du Lac du Lou, where Coralie, Marie, and Jonathan—three passionate hosts—prepare delicious organic and locally sourced dishes. Enjoy the meal, soak up the surroundings, and listen to stories about this exceptional landscape. And of course, the meal wouldn't be complete without their homemade wild blueberry tart!

PRICES: €60/adult, €40/child (including dinner)

Ages: 8+

Difficulty: Easy

10 km round trip, 550 m elevation gain

MORE INFO: +33 4 69 96 55 15

guides-belleville.com



ALONG THE WATER...

• Nature Workshops Water in All Its Forms

Glacier Discovery: Learn about the life of a glacier, its different forms, and the unique landscapes it creates. Meet at Lac de Tête Ronde in Val Thorens. Duration: 2 hours.

Wetlands & the Water Cycle: Explore fragile yet essential ecosystems that play a vital role in biodiversity conservation. Meet at Plan d'Eau des Bruyères in Les Menuires. Free sessions (30 minutes each, multiple sessions daily).

MORE INFO: lesbelleville.fr

• Yoga by the Water

Every week, Axelle invites you to a morning yoga session by the water, near the river at the Plan d'Eau des Menuires—an idyllic setting to reconnect with nature. A special moment to wake up your body amid the elements, your mat facing the mountains. Barefoot or in shoes, the choice is yours!

PRICE: €15 per session
Mondays & Wednesdays at 9:00 am
Meeting point: lake entrance.

MORE INFO: yoga-axelle.com

NEW

• Discover the Power of Water! “Au fil du Doron” Cycling Route

How does water shape our daily lives? How is it harnessed sustainably for energy production? How do torrents like the Doron River sustain the valley and its human activities?

Find all the answers along this new 25.9 km round-trip cycling route, which offers a fascinating insight into the natural and human role of water in the Alps.

*Distance: 25.9 km round trip
Elevation gain: 740 m. Duration: Approx. 3 hours*



Gone Fishing!

With 100 km of riverbanks, rushing torrents, and 16 natural lakes, the Vallée des Belleville is a true paradise for fishing enthusiasts. Native brown trout and Arctic char thrive in these pristine waters, carefully managed by the Belleville Fishing Society, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this summer!

THE NUMBER: 30,000

fry are released annually into the valley's rivers and lakes to maintain fish populations.



• From the Torrent...

Parent & Child Fishing Day

Join Jean-Christophe, an experienced guide, for a fun and educational day learning different fishing techniques, from fly fishing to bait casting and more—whether in a lake or a rushing torrent!

PRICE: €200/day for 1 parent + 1 child (includes fishing permit & equipment rental).

MORE INFO: savoiefishing.com

Fishing & Barbecue Experience

Families can learn to fish and enjoy a lakeside barbecue at Lac de Tête Ronde (2,453m), with expert guidance from the Belleville Fishing Association. Once you've made your catch, grill it fresh on the barbecue!

MORE INFO: Office de Tourisme de Val Thorens +33 4 79 00 08 08

• ...To the restaurant!

Trout with Summer Beaufort A "Meilleur" Recipe



©La Bouitte

Fresh from the natural fishpond at La Bouitte—the Michelin-starred restaurant run by René and Maxime Meilleur in Saint-Martin-de-Belleville—this wild brown trout is carefully prepared with lemon butter and topped with summer Beaufort cheese, resting on a delicate foie gras base, as if "sleeping on the stream." A must-try this summer at La Bouitte!

MORE INFO: la-bouitte.com

FIRST-TIME EXPERIENCES...



• My First Glacier Hike

As the saying goes, "The mountains belong to those who rise early!" And for glacier hiking, that's certainly true. At dawn, equipped with crampons, a helmet, an ice axe, and a rope, adventurers set off towards Col du Bouchet (2,995m), tackling the renowned "Three Cols Route" with expert high-mountain guides.

After a short approach walk, the first ascent rewards hikers with panoramic views from Col de Thorens (3,105m). The route then crosses to Col Pierre Lory (3,132m) before descending via Col du Bouchet (2,995m), with a return to the valley in the early afternoon.

PRICE: €75

MORE INFO: +33 4 69 96 55 15
guides-belleville.com



NEW

• My First Via Cordata

Halfway between rock climbing and via ferrata, via cordata is a non-vertical, beginner-friendly alpine route over rocky terrain. Over the course of half a day, small roped teams take on easy climbing sections and rappels, all under the expert guidance of a high-mountain guide from the Vallée des Belleville. A perfect introduction to mountaineering, while finding your way along the Levassaux rock formations.

PRICE: €50 per person (half-day)

Ages: 10+. Equipment provided.

MORE INFO: +33 4 69 96 55 15

guides-belleville.com

• "Kids survivor" at 1,800 m

Explore, Learn, Survive!

Designed for young adventurers aged 8 and up, this one-day mountain survival course in the heart of nature near Les Menuires teaches essential skills to become true wilderness experts!

Program:

- › Learning to navigate
- › Building a shelter
- › Starting a fire
- › Identifying edible plants
- › Basic first aid

PRICE: €40 per child

MORE INFO: +33 4 69 96 55 15

guides-belleville.com

FIRST-TIME EXPERIENCES...



My first trek *the grand tour of Tarentaise*

Setting off from Les Menuires, this trek is ideal for first-time long-distance hikers. With stunning yet accessible trails, breathtaking landscapes, and welcoming mountain refuges, it's the perfect introduction to multi-day trekking in the Alps.

Expect moderate ascents (under 1,000 m elevation gain per day), varied terrain (single tracks, wide trails, and high-mountain passes), and a mix of mineral landscapes, lush valleys, and alpine meadows. This journey through the Vallée des Belleville and beyond is an unforgettable adventure!

1 LES MENUIRES (PREYERAND) > REFUGE DU LAC DU LOU

5h walk

11km - +700m elevation gain

Refuge du Lac du Lou (2,045 m): Nestled in a pristine valley between Les Menuires and Val Thorens, this 33-bed refuge offers private rooms and dormitories. Run by Marie, Coralie, and Jonathan, hikers are welcomed with warm hospitality and delicious, locally sourced meals. In the evening, far from light pollution, the Milky Way lights up the sky, making for a magical stargazing experience.

2 LAC DU LOU > GITTAMELON

5h walk

14km - +660 m / -1,020 m



Refuge de Gittamelon (Valley of Les Encombres): Located in the heart of the remote Gittamelon hamlet, this 18-bed mountain refuge offers a true back-to-nature experience, far from phone signals and modern distractions. Surrounded by the dramatic Aiguilles de la Moendaz peaks, hikers enjoy homemade local cuisine in a warm and authentic atmosphere.

3 GITTAMELON > REFUGE DU PLAN DE LOMBARDIE (NANT BRUN VALLEY)

6h walk

18km - D+ 960m / D- 880m

Refuge du Plan Lombardie (Foot of Le Cheval Noir): This charming refuge sits at the base of the Cheval Noir mountain, overlooking the Nant Brun stream. Here, hikers can observe diverse alpine wildlife and experience traditional mountain life. Emmanuel, the guardian, serves up hearty, homemade meals, making this the perfect spot to rest in a peaceful setting, far from noise and light pollution.

4 RETURNING TO SAINT-MARTIN DE-BELLEVILLE

6h10 walk

17,2km - +940 m / -1,320 m

(For those returning to Les Menuires, add +2h and +400m elevation gain)

The final day begins with a gentle climb via Plan des Queux, leading to the Daillat and Villarenger hamlet. Here, hikers can explore cultural landmarks like the ancient cup-marked stones and the famous Roman bridge before heading towards Le Châtelard.

For those looking for a celebratory drink, the path passes close to the "Brava Vela" Microbrewery before reaching Saint-Martin-de-Belleville.

Return options:

- Free shuttle to Les Menuires
- Scenic riverside hiking trail for experienced trekkers

A trek for first-timers, but an experience to remember forever!

High-altitude TRAINING

• Val Thorens, Oxygenation & Peak Performance

For years, elite athletes have chosen Val Thorens as their high-altitude training ground to prepare for major competitions—including the French and European Championships, World Cups, and even the Olympic Games. With its exceptional altitude (ranging from 2,300m to 3,200m) and state-of-the-art facilities, Val Thorens provides the ideal environment for performance and focus. No matter the discipline, the benefits of training at altitude are undeniable, making Val Thorens a premier destination for elite sports preparation.

• A Winning Partnership with Chambéry Savoie Mont Blanc Handball

The Chambéry Savoie Mont Blanc Handball club, a top-tier professional team for over 20 years, has chosen Val Thorens as its official altitude training centre.

Following a four-day training camp last summer, both players and staff will return this year to fine-tune their performance and prepare for the challenges of the upcoming season.



6TH JULY - 3RD AUGUST 2025

• Performance Camp

For 12-17 Year-Olds
in Val Thorens



For the past two years, Team Chambé has been hosting its "Performance Camps" in Val Thorens for young handball players aged 12 to 17.

From 6th July to 3rd August 2025, 220 licensed players from French clubs will enjoy a week-long intensive training experience in this exceptional setting. **Program Highlights:** advanced technical training, exclusive meet-and-greet sessions with professional players, exploration of the mountain environment. This high-performance camp is designed in collaboration with the Val Thorens central booking office.

PRICE: from €655 per week

MORE INFO: reserver@valthorens.com

Pushing THE LIMITS

Live the Legendary Tour de France 2019 Stage:

Albertville to Val Thorens

On 27 July 2019, the 20th stage of the Tour de France saw riders tackle one of the most grueling ascents in race history, from Albertville to Val Thorens. The final 33.4km climb to Val Thorens, with an average gradient of 5.5%, leading to one of the highest finishes in Tour history at 2,365m. The ascent begins via the narrow, winding roads of Saint-Laurent-de-la-Côte, where sharp switchbacks force cyclists to push hard after every turn. Riders then pass through Saint-Martin-de-Belleville and Les Menuires, iconic ski resorts acting as a transition zone before the final push. The last 7 km take cyclists through the Reberty district, following the famous Via 3 Vallées, a newly resurfaced and well-maintained road that contrasts sharply with the rugged start of the climb. This legendary route remains an open challenge for amateur cyclists looking to test their endurance and relive one of the most epic ascents in Tour de France history.

Julien Chorier : Ultra-Trail Legend & Val Thorens Ambassador



At 44 years old, Julien Chorier is a household name in the world of ultra-trail running. A two-time Diagonale des Fous champion and winner of ultra-trail races across the globe (Mont Fuji, Portugal, USA, Mexico...), he has spent nearly 20 years pushing the boundaries of physical and mental endurance.

Val Thorens is his ultimate training ground—an ideal blend of high altitude, world-class facilities, and a diverse range of trails, from smooth rolling paths to highly technical terrain.

Aware of the challenges of altitude, he follows a gradual adaptation approach, easing into training with a few days of light acclimatisation before increasing intensity. Proper hydration and nutrition are also key elements of his high-altitude strategy.

His Favourite Route?

A stunning loop passing through the Col de la Masse and Grand Perron des Encombres with a return via Vallée Étroite and Lac du Lou

Now serving as Sports Director for UTMB Group and a certified mountain guide, Julien shares his expertise by leading performance training camps in Val Thorens.

The VT Boost Camp offers a comprehensive programme focused on skill development, physical & mental preparation, exploring Val Thorens' iconic trails. A unique opportunity to train in the footsteps of an ultra-trail legend!



Welcome TO THE VANOISE NATIONAL PARK

• For early risers and nature lovers

With a 5 am departure, watching the sunrise amid a diverse alpine flora becomes a rare privilege. Following the Crêtes trail, this 10 km route through the Vallée des Encombres is only accessible with a mountain guide, who shares expert insights and captivating anecdotes along the way.

With 600 metres of elevation gain, this steadily ascending hike follows marked trails and off-the-beaten-path routes, making it ideal for intermediate to advanced hikers. Venturing through these little-travelled landscapes increases the chances of spotting chamois, ibex, and other alpine wildlife.

A highlight of the ascent is the climb towards Col du Chenu via the Cariots, which reveals spectacular 360° panoramic views, including an uninterrupted vista of Mont Blanc.

MORE INFO: +33 4 69 96 55 15
guides-belleville.com

• An evening under the stars

2,045 m



At dusk, the Belleville mountain guides organise an overnight experience in a mountain refuge. The evening begins at 5 pm with a gentle walk to the refuge, followed by a warm and convivial meal.

Once night falls, a guided introduction to astronomy invites participants to explore the night sky, following the same celestial navigation principles used for centuries. The experience concludes with a descent under the stars, illuminated by moonlight or headlamps, depending on weather conditions.

PRICES: €48 per adult – €44 per child (headlamps provided)

MORE INFO: +33 4 69 96 55 15
guides-belleville.com

• Respecting the mountains

The Vanoise National Park has launched two awareness campaigns to encourage responsible outdoor practices among hikers and visitors: “For a bivouac without a hitch” provides guidance on minimising environmental impact when camping. The “Zero Waste Picnic Initiative” promotes sustainable outdoor dining. To support these initiatives, reusable aluminium picnic boxes are available for purchase throughout the summer at the tourist offices of the Vallée des Belleville and local mountain refuges.

MORE INFO: Tourist Offices
Saint-Martin-de-Belleville: +33 4 79 00 20 00
Les Menuires: +33 4 79 00 73 00
Val Thorens: +33 4 79 00 08 08

• A mountain retreat

The Chalet du Fruit Commun (2,365 m) and the Refuge communal de Lachat (1,543 m) have one key feature in common: both are unmanned municipal cabins, renovated two years ago, and freely available for hikers to spend the night.

These secluded mountain shelters offer an authentic and immersive experience, providing a peaceful retreat in the heart of nature, away from everyday distractions. A true micro-adventure, perfect for a getaway with family or friends.

MORE INFO: Chalet du Fruit Commun
Maximum 8 people / Refuge communal de Lachat
Maximum 10 people



THE UNTOUCHED VALLEY

NEW

• e-MTB route

“Pastoralism in the Vallée des Encombres”

This route winds through picturesque mountain hamlets, alpine pastures, and charming chalets, offering an authentic insight into traditional mountain farming. Along the way, cyclists can observe herds of cows, goats, and sheep, as well as a local beekeeping site. Dominated by the Grand Perron (2,800m) and Montagne des Coins (2,700m), the route boasts spectacular panoramic views. The Refuge de Gittamelon, located midway, provides an inviting stop. With a steady, gentle ascent and little technical difficulty, this quiet trail is ideal for those looking to enjoy the scenery at a relaxed pace.

23km (10km on road – 13km on forest track)
2h30 | Elevation gain: 600m

NEW

• Vineyards at 1,950 m

Chez Pépé Nicolas

In partnership with Paul Baroudel, a dedicated winemaker, and Thibaut Toix, sommelier and founder of Tast'émoi, Chez Pépé Nicolas is set to plant fifty vines in May 2025. The goal is to study how vines adapt to this exceptional altitude and gain a better understanding of how the mountain climate influences vine growth.

“We have always strived to make Chez Pépé Nicolas a place of experimentation,” explains Valentin Suchet, alpine farmer.

More than just a restaurant, Chez Pépé Nicolas is a working mountain farm, home to a cheese dairy, artisanal ice cream maker, and a sustainable alpine garden with aromatic herbs, edible flowers, and vegetables. It offers a unique gourmet and educational experience, deeply rooted in tradition and innovation.



21ST JUNE 2025

• The seasonal transhumance to Chez Pépé Nicolas

a pastoral tradition

Each year, this ancestral ritual marks the start of summer in the Alps. Beginning in Saint-Martin-de-Belleville, a herd of cows and goats makes its way through the villages of the Vallée des Belleville, climbing 6 km to reach the summer pastures of Chez Pépé Nicolas. The event concludes with a festive lunch and entertainment.

PRICES: Set menu lunch
€28/adult, €13/child (under 12)

MORE INFO: chezpepenicolas.com



The Black Bee & Nature house

Honey and pollinators
in the spotlight

In the heart of the Vallée des Encombres, a different kind of alpine resident is at the centre of attention: *Apis Mellifera Mellifera*, more commonly known as the European dark bee. Over time, this native species has seen its genetic heritage threatened, despite its remarkable adaptability to extreme winter conditions and the exceptional longevity of its worker bees.

The Black Bee & Nature Centre, housed in a renovated mountain chalet near the Plan d'Eau des Bruyères, offers visitors the chance to learn about the history of this species and its role in the ecosystem. Combining education and conservation, it follows the daily life of the European dark bee and the local beekeepers working to protect it.

PRICES: €5/adult (€3 with the Ascension Passport), free for children under 16

MORE INFO: Les Menuires Tourist Office
+33 4 79 00 73 00 - lesmenuires.com

Portrait Kelly Duqueine, queen breeder and guardian of the black bee

Driven by enthusiasm and deep conviction, Kelly Duqueine has dedicated herself to beekeeping and the preservation of *Apis Mellifera Mellifera*. After spending 12 years working in industrial-scale beekeeping in Canada, this mountain-loving beekeeper chose to return to a more traditional practice in France.

In close collaboration with the Conservatory for the Protection of the Black Bee, Kelly is committed to restoring and safeguarding the genetic heritage of this species within the Vallée des Belleville. From late April to late September, she is fully immersed in her work, tending to her colonies in the Vallée des Encombres breeding apiary, where each summer, between 500 and 600 queen bees are raised. The site, which includes 300 mating "nucleus hives", provides a carefully controlled environment in which each queen is cared for by around 1,000 worker bees.

Guided tours and discovery workshops take place every Friday, offering visitors the chance to meet a true expert dedicated to protecting one of the valley's most vital species.

BREWING AT HIGH ALTITUDE



25TH & 26TH JULY 2025

• **10th Craft Beer Festival:**

A frothy night
with Laurent Wolf
Saint-Martin-de-Belleville

For its 10th anniversary, the Craft Beer Festival is once again set to bring life to the streets of Saint-Martin-de-Belleville, culminating in a high-energy DJ set by Laurent Wolf on Saturday 26 July.

With live brewing demonstrations, a competition for the "Best Beer of the 2025 Craft Beer Festival" led by beer expert Emmanuel Gillard, interactive workshops on the brewing process, tastings, and discussions with regional brewers, this festival is a chance to discover and embrace—if it hasn't already been done—100% local beers.

MORE INFO: belleville.beer

• *Portrait* **Emmanuel Gillard** beer expert

A true connoisseur in the world of brewing, Emmanuel Gillard brings both expertise and passion to the Craft Beer Festival. As an international beer judge, he oversees the festival's beer competition and hosts tasting workshops. His impressive credentials include: recognised expert on the French beer market, founder of the Association for the Promotion of Belgian Craft Beer, collector of beer mats (tégestophile), a staggering 20,100 tastings, including 8,213 French beers to date. Author of the 2025 edition of "Beer in France", he is currently working on two new books exploring beer styles and flavour profiles. For his third participation in the festival, he will offer advice and insights to both exhibitors and visitors, sharing his knowledge with the next generation of brewers and beer enthusiasts. A true beer aficionado with an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, Emmanuel Gillard certainly knows how to make a name for himself in the brewing world.



• Brava Vela

A 100% Belleville
microbrewery

Nestled in the village of Le Châtelard, in the heart of the Belleville Valley, the region's first microbrewery has come to life. Housed in a former goat farm, Julien and Sophie brew their beers with a commitment to authenticity, sustainability, and local craftsmanship.

Each beer in their range is inspired by the surrounding mountains and the three ski areas: "La Masse", a bold and robust dark ale, "La Belleville", a light, golden blonde, "La Thorens", a crisp white beer with citrus notes. What sets Brava Vela apart is its dedication to local sourcing. An impressive 97% of ingredients are sourced from the region, from malted barley and hops to the pure alpine water flowing through nearby streams.

And what does Brava Vela mean? Quite simply, it's a Savoyard patois translation of "Belleville", reflecting the brewery's deep-rooted connection to the valley.



• Portrait of a brewing duo in the valley

For Julien and Sophie, launching a microbrewery was a long-held dream. With a background in the restaurant industry, Julien developed a deep passion for brewing, while Sophie, with her scientific training and analytical mind, continues to work in the medical field. Together, they combined their expertise and shared enthusiasm to bring their vision to life.

Julien has been brewing his own beers for over 10 years, starting with DIY kits in his cellar, then moving on to his mother's old stockpot. Having lived in the Vallée des Belleville for four years, they finally turned their passion into a reality, completing two professional training courses and investing in high-quality brewing equipment. Their ambition is clear: to merge artistry and science to craft exceptional beers. With Brava Vela, brewed at 1,400m altitude, their goal has been achieved—one carefully crafted pint at a time.

MORE INFO: bravavela.fr

FLAVOURS OF THE LAND

NEW

• The girls take over the family farm

Saint-Martin-de-Belleville



©David André

After founding their farm in 2010 in Le Châtelard, a picturesque hamlet perched at 1,350m, Susan and Serge, a couple of dedicated farmers, are now passing the torch to their two most cherished "sheep"—their daughters.

Jennifer (37) and Samantha (35), have chosen to reconnect with their family's pastoral heritage. Taking over the farm and its 80-strong sheep flock, they welcome hikers—both seasoned and casual—who stop by to pet the animals, meet the farmers, and sample their homemade tomme cheese and yoghurts. A must-try is the farm's signature speciality, "La Trantsa", a traditional dish made with sérac cheese (a light, fresh cheese) and rye bread. Nearby, their children play among the lambs, creating memories that might one day inspire them to continue this timeless tradition.

MORE INFO: +33 6 64 25 38 58. Open for independent visits or guided tours with the Belleville Mountain Guides.

NEW

• Gault&Millau d'Or for René Meilleur!

Saint-Martin-de-Belleville



A new honour has been awarded to René Meilleur and his restaurant La Bouitte. "This award is the result of 25 years of hard work and knowledge-sharing," explains the celebrated chef, who has just received the Gault&Millau d'Or 2025 for the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region.

Since opening in 1976, when it first served simple mountain cuisine, this self-taught chef with a passion for gastronomy has continuously evolved his cooking. The arrival of his son Maxime in 1996 marked a turning point, but the legacy continues today, with Oscar and Calixte, his grandchildren, now joining the family adventure. Together, they remain dedicated to elevating local flavours, driven by their love for the region and a deep sense of culinary heritage and sharing.

MORE INFO: la-bouitte.com

Save the date
DINNER CONCERT
31ST JULY 2025



Featuring Héloïse Gaillard, renowned baroque oboist, flautist, and conductor.

PRICE: €420 per person

BOOKING: +33 4 79 08 96 77
info@la-bouitte.com.

NEW

Chalet Alpain: the valley's new daily bread

Saint-Martin-de-Belleville



Axel and Léa Botta, a brother-sister duo born and raised in Saint-Martin-de-Belleville, have joined forces with Vincent Richard, former baker at La Bouitte and winner of France's Best Young Baker 2018, to create a unique concept in the valley—the first combined bakery, pastry shop, and tearoom.

This energetic team (aged 27, 24, and 25) is dedicated to crafting 100% homemade sourdough bread, including a daily special that showcases Vincent's creativity and expertise.

The tearoom offers a cosy atmosphere and a tempting selection of hot drinks, Alain Milliat juices, pastries, and viennoiseries. A must-try is the Croix de Savoie, a local speciality that has quickly become an essential treat.

A STANDOUT FEATURE: Axel personally delivers fresh bread, pastries, juices, and homemade jams to hamlets across the valley, ensuring a warm, fresh breakfast upon waking.

MORE INFO: boulangeriechaletalpain.com
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SUNDAY 29TH JUNE 2025

4th Annual Mill & Sustainable Energy Festival

The water wheel keeps turning in Saint-Martin-de-Belleville

As part of France's National Mills Day, Saint-Martin-de-Belleville is opening the doors of the 17th-century Burdin Mill, which provided the Belleville Valley with flour from wheat, barley, and oats for nearly 200 years.

This event offers a journey into the valley's agro-pastoral history, while also showcasing modern sustainable energy solutions.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: Guided tours, live demonstrations of the mill in action, traditional wheat grinding.

To promote eco-friendly transport, visitors can reach the site on foot, by mountain bike, or even by horse-drawn carriage. Alongside the mill's festivities, a "Sustainable Energy Trail" features seven interactive stations, where visitors can power a miniature cable car using a micro-turbine or reconstruct a traditional mountain chalet with geothermal heating.

This educational circuit highlights the Vallée des Belleville's commitment to environmental initiatives, including solar panels, a micro-hydroelectric plant, and biomass heating systems.

In a few figures

From 600m
to 3,200m

4

LEISURE
CENTRES

321 KM
OF MOUNTAIN
BIKE TRAILS

2

VIA
FERRATA



16

LAKES

4

MOUNTAIN REFUGES

300 KM
OF FOOTPATHS

33

HAMLETS

3

ICONIC BIRD SPECIES:

ptarmigan, black grouse
and eagles

200

IBEX

17,50 M

DEPTH
OF "LAC DU LOU"

422

REGISTERED
WETLAND AREA



BY TRAIN

- TGV station Moûtiers Salins Brides-les-Bains
20 km - 25 min
- Shuttles link the bus station in Moûtiers
and the Vallée des Belleville.

BY PLANE

- Geneva (GVA) 180 km - 2h00
- Lyon (LYS) 180 km - 2h00
- Chambéry (CMF) 100 km - 1h20

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Vallée ^{DES}
Belleville