

Ultimate ski destinations

Mention some of these resorts to your skiing friends and they'll be green with envy, writes **Rachael Oakes Ash**

THE world of skiing provides serious bragging rights for the boastful traveller. There's nothing like dropping Aspen, St Anton, Whistler and Courchevel into the Friday-night dinner party conversation to watch your friends go green.

If you really want to impress with your ski destinations, it's time to start dropping names further afield. It's all about being the first one there so you can say, "Been there, done that, got the T-shirt" before your friends have even booked their flight.

Add these to your ski wish list and start writing the postcards.

Gulmarg, India

The Himalayan town of Gulmarg in Kashmir is *the* hot destination. The rebel-infested border of Pakistan only 5km away certainly gives Gulmarg an element of danger but the slopes cater to both intermediate and advanced skiers.

The 36-seat gondola is the highest in the world, peaking at 3980m above sea level.

Expect luxury in Gulmarg and you'll be disappointed; look for adventure and you'll be well rewarded. Take a guide off-piste, as it's serious terrain with matching vertical.



HOT ski action in Chile ... Portillo, the oldest ski resort in South America.

Need to know

Just a 90-minute drive from Christ-

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There are 60km of on-piste terrain.

