

# APRESSKI

Issue 8 Winter 2013/4

Priceless

## AUSTRIA

the definitive guide for skiers  
& snowboarders on the piste

### EXPLORE...

**KITZBÜHEL**  
**ST. ANTON AM ARLBERG**  
**MAYRHOFEN**

### MEET...

**THE ZILLERTAL BIRDMAN**

### CELEBRATE...

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**Krazy  
Kanguruh**

by Mario  
Mab



Welcome / Willkommen / Servus !

Another warm as Glüwein welcome to the eighth winter of Après Ski Austria . The free magazine with its glossy finger on the powdery pulse of the piste.

In this first issue of the 2013/14 Ski Season, we'll be exploring some of the most treasured resorts in the Austrian Alps.

Join us for an enjoyable excursion to everyone's favourite Medieval alpine town, Kitzbühel, the superlative St Anton am Arlberg and the 'party capital of the alps', Mayrhofen in the ever-popular Ziller valley, where we catch up with the double World paragliding champion Jurgen Stock, explore the culinary delights of the ski region and discover a revolutionary new sauna.

We believe that Austrian Après Ski is special and for many people is an integral part of their alpine holiday. So let's celebrate that end-of-afternoon feeling, with aching legs and rosy cheeks and tall tales told at the bar of wipe-outs, white-outs and beautiful bluebird moments high above normality.

Here's to schnapps, songs, laughter and life in the mountains!

David Hall.



David Hall  
Publisher

A Big thanks to James and Lucie at Redhead Design and Kirk Field.

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David Hall.

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# Stamperl

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# GLITZ IN KITZ

**Kitzbühel may be in the valley... but it's looking at the stars.**



visitors flock to Kitzbühel to watch ski history in the making. Yet the Streif is so fearsome that Swiss skier Didier Cuche, who won a record-equalling fifth title in 2012, admits that when he first looked out of the starting hut he was so terrified he wanted to throw off his skis and exit through the back door.

After dark, the 700-year-old "Old Town" with its traditional après ski bars and pubs becomes the social hub of the world. Kitzbühel has the highest concentration of Gault Millau gourmet restaurants and the most luxurious hotels in Tyrol. With a range of international designer boutiques and Kitzbühel fashion addresses, traditional Tyrolean handicrafts and souvenir shops, shopaholics are utterly spoiled for choice.

## KITZBÜHEL PISTE PLAN

With 51 cable cars and lifts, connecting 170 kilometres of ski slopes, Bergbahn AG Kitzbühel is one of the largest cable car companies in Austria. In addition to the spectacular 'Streif', Kitzbühel possesses a variety of ski runs suiting all sizes and ski styles. In fact, this vast and snow-reliable ski resort boasts an above-average number of family runs (69 km easy, 77 km intermediate, 24 km difficult). The flagship run is, of course, the Family Streif, which elegantly snakes its way around the extremely steep part of the downhill course, before returning to the original racing track at the Seidlalm, dodging the 'Hausbergkante'

ridge on the incline Ganslernhang and ends up back at the usual finish. Anyone looking for a real test of fitness should head to the KitzSki Extended run. It takes you from the Steinbergkogel at 1,972 metres, down

1,100 vertical metres to the bottom lift station of the Fleckalmbahn: 8.3 kilometres on the legs to the finish. Carvers head to Kirchberg, as the lower section of the Kaser run has been extended to its full turning radius. But the widest carving slopes in Kitzbühel can be found, however, at the "Kasereck" chairlift on the Pengelstein and the "Zweitausender" chairlift on the Resterhöhe. Situated between the two is what many ski fans consider the most spectacular lift in the world: the 3S-Umlaufbahn (tri-cable gondola).

It spans the 2.5-kilometre wide and 400-meter deep Saukaser Valley between the mountains Pengelstein and the Wurzhöhe. Snowboarders will also find their perfect playground on the Resterhöhe. The experienced QParks team lead by Franz Lechner is responsible for the setup of the Hanglalm Park as well as for the park on the Kitzbüheler Horn, including all kicker, rail, jib and tree lines, picnic tables and chill-out areas. Skiers and boarders keen to head off-piste will love Kitzbühel's 230 km<sup>2</sup> backcountry. Around the 32 kilometres of ski routes there are endless opportunities to ride through perfect deep powder snow. And if the 170 kilometres of slopes in Kitzbühel is not enough, the AllStarCard offers over 1,000 kilometres across all ten ski resorts in the Kitzbühel Alps: between the SkiWelt Wilder Kaiser-Brixental, Kitzbühel and the Skicircus Saalbach Hinterglemm Leogang, true piste professionals can cover a huge number of kilometres in one day without ever taking the same run twice. TransKITZalp is the name for this, the longest ski tour between Itter in the Tyrolean Lowlands and Mittersill in the Salzburg Pinzgau region.

**Big names, ski pioneers and the high-rolling high society alongside Tyrolean down-to-earth warmth, Gemütlichkeit and hospitality: contrasts make Kitzbühel one of the greatest ski resorts in the Alps.**

**Between the mountains Kitzbühel Horn and the Hahnenkamm, winter sports enthusiasts can notch up 170 kilometers on world famous ski runs: on slopes that have witnessed the talents of legends such as Toni Sailer, Anderl Molterer, Ernst and Hansi Hinterseer. The Hahnenkamm Races with the famous Streif descent, are as ever the sporting-social highpoint on the international World Cup calendar.**

## GOING DOWNHILL FAST...

A victory here is, in fact, the dream of every Alpine skier - the equivalent of a tennis player winning Wimbledon or a golfer winning the U.S. Masters. During the third week in January 80,000

## GETTING THERE

The 'town of the chamois', as Kitzbühel is affectionately known, is easily accessible by road and by rail. From the airport cities Munich, Salzburg, and Innsbruck, it takes a maximum of one and a half hours by car. The ski lift company, Bergbahn AG Kitzbühel, together with the ÖBB (Austrian Federal Railway), offers the "ÖBB winter sports combo ticket" with discounted return rail travel and vouchers for a discounted ski pass. South German ski fans from Munich, Holzkirchen, and Rosenheim can commute daily to Kitzbühel on the daily direct shuttle bus.

## MORE STARS THAN A 'CARRY ON' FILM (AND MORE CHEF HATS THAN 'MASTERCHEF!')

In Kitzbühel, the stars aren't just found on the slopes: with six five-star hotels, three four-star "superior" hotels and a total of 22 four-star hotels, they are in abundance down in the valley too. Kitzbühel and its holiday villages of Jochberg, Aurach and Reith, lay claim to the most luxury hotels in all of Tyrol for their 13,000 inhabitants. What's more, Kitzbühel is proud to boast the highest concentration of award-winning restaurants in Tyrol: Experts in their fields, such as Andreas Senn, Stefan Hofer, Christian Winkler, Lois Stern, Stefan Lenz, Jürgen Bartl, Andreas Wahrstätter and Anton Aufschneider, bring a superior culinary quality to the region formerly known for its simple dishes like Grouse and sauerkraut. In

the current Gault Millau 2013 restaurant guide, Kitzbühel is represented by eight award-winning establishments with a total of 12 toques (chef's hats). Current leaders are "Heimatliebe" at A-ROSA Kitzbühel (3 toques), Neuwirt in the Hotel Schwarzer Adler (2 toques), and Restaurant Schwedenkapelle (2 toques). Typical Kitzbühel hospitality and first-class dining is also on the daily menu at the many rustic Tyrolean inns and guesthouses, likewise in the traditional Austrian coffee houses.

### AWESOME APRÈS

Despite its international and often celebrity clientele, the row of Après ski

bars between the Hahnenkamm and the town centre is well known for its unpretentious Tyrolean atmosphere.

The party scene at the Londoner, Stamperl and Jimmy's Bar has even gained a cult status with many famous faces finding themselves pouring drinks behind the bar amidst full-on post race celebrations (anyone remember Graham Bell doing this on 'Ski Sunday' last year?).

In addition, Kitzbühel and its holiday villages offer undoubtedly the most beautiful "outdoor shopping centre" in Tyrol.

Fashionistas will be in their element hopping between international designer addresses, from Bogner and Boss, Gucci, D&G and Max Shoe's to Prada and Louis Vuitton. And between them, classic Kitzbühel "fashion originals", such as Sportalm, Frauenschuh, Franz Prader and Helmut Eder, add a traditional element to the vibrant collection.

This parallel procession of the upmarket alpinists alongside traditional Tyrolean culture has seen Kitzbühel reach out to all and has perfectly positioned the resort in the hearts and minds of snow lovers of all tastes, budgets and abilities. And that's some feat.

More: [www.kitzbuehel.com](http://www.kitzbuehel.com)

## KITZ CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

**JANUARY**  
16<sup>TH</sup> - 19<sup>TH</sup> 2014

Valartis Bank Snow Polo World Cup. The world's largest polo tournament on snow, gleaming with action-packed equestrian skill and elegance. Polo is a team sport in which there are four players per team, riding on horses, chasing a small ball. The aim is to try to hit the ball with a long wooden stick and score in the opponent's goal.

Thomas Winter, Germany's best-known polo player, reckons Kitz's polo tournament is one of the highlights of the Year.

**AS says:** *stunning steamy-breathed glamour (and that's just the stable girls) - best of all it's free to get in...giddy up!!!*

**JANUARY**  
24<sup>TH</sup> - 26<sup>TH</sup> 2014

Trouble'n' Streif! FIS Mens Downhill. The entire ski world gets Hahnenkamm fever. The best ski athletes in the world will gather in Kitzbühel to celebrate the highlight of the World Cup calendar. The Streif is considered the most spectacular ski run in the world and will require the participants to tackle almost everything.

**AS says:** *Bethlehem with beer! An unmissable sporting, cultural and social event which is the highlight of the downhill calendar. Unmissable!*

**More:**  
[www.kitzbuehel.com/en](http://www.kitzbuehel.com/en)

**DECEMBER**  
27<sup>TH</sup> 2013 - MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup> 2014

'Mind Benzing' Motoring! For several years now Kitzbühel has also played host to the stars of car manufacturer Mercedes-Benz. The "Kitzbühel Off-road Experience" invites interested parties to put the complete range of SUV models from Mercedes-Benz to the test in the Hartsteinwerk Kitzbühel. In this vast quarry, you can get a feel for the handling and performance of each model. The best option for those wanting to "jump in" is to be picked up from your hotel by a Mercedes-Benz shuttle and be guided by an instructor on a self-driving course in the quarry. However, the

more extreme sections are best experienced as a co-pilot. The steep drives on gravel and ice, some with gradients of 80% and braking on slippery surfaces demand the highest concentration.

**For more information and booking call**  
+43 699 1120 2103.

**AS says:** *'Top Gear' fans, look no further. Your perfect alpine holiday now comes with wheel spins, handbrake turns and more skid-marks than your granddad's Y-fronts.*

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## WORLD SKI AWARDS: KITZBÜHEL VICTORIOUS

Kitzbühel has had over 80 years of experience when it comes to nominations, awards, stars and podium finishes. Leading website [www.skiresort.de](http://www.skiresort.de), the world's largest ski resort test portal, recently recognised Kitzbühel as the "Best Ski Resort in the World" for 2013.

So it was little surprise that the 1st ever World Ski Awards which took place last November (coincidentally in Kitzbühel), awarded the marvellous medieval Tyrolean town not one or two, but THREE gongs: Austria's Best Ski Resort in addition to Austria's Best Ski Hotel the fab A-ROSA

while CEO of Bergbahn AG Kitzbühel, Dr Josef Burger scooped the award for Outstanding Contribution to Tourism.

The new, global awards programme, which is set become a key driver in the winter sports calendar, was launched to mark the historic 20th anniversary of the World Travel Awards - "the Oscars of the travel industry".

The World Ski Awards - the sister event of the World Travel Awards - will celebrate the burgeoning contribution that ski and mountain tourism contributes to the travel economy.

"Ski and mountain tourism is a key driver in some 80 countries internationally with other 2,000 resorts sharing the success of an estimated 400 million visitors," explained Tony Prince, commercial director, World Ski Awards.

(Après Ski Magazine welcomes the event and is confident that the selection of Kitzbühel, A-ROSA and Dr. Burger is a reflection of each nominee's excellence, rather than an acknowledgment of the support given to these inaugural awards, as could be interpreted by cynical observers).

## SKI-RENT MICHAEL



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# Jimmy's



Jimmy's is the meeting place par excellence - locals, visitors and guest mingle together to celebrate the days skiing into to the early hours.

Hannes and his team offer a warm welcome to everybody. The day starts at 10 am and you are served anything you desire - from different flavours of coffee, to cocktails - champagne and beers - come in and find out - you'll like it!

## JIMMY'S

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Telephone 05356 64409

Großglockner 3798 m

Großvenediger 3674 m

Gr. Rietztstein 2365 m





Das Pavillon bietet Euch die größte Apre's Ski Party in ganz Kitzbühel, gelegen am Fuße der Hahnenkammbahn! Während DJ Pietro die Hütte einheizt, wird mit Sicherheit auf den Stühlen getanzt. In rauen Mengen fließt dazu Bier, Glühwein, Champagner...  
Wir haben für Euch täglich von 14 bis 22 Uhr geöffnet. Privatfeiern ab 20 Uhr auf Anfrage möglich!  
Auf Euren Besuch freut sich das Pavillon Team!



Hahnenkamm-Kitzbühel  
**Pavillon**  
après ski & nightlife  
[www.pavillon-kitz.at](http://www.pavillon-kitz.at)

Located at the bottom of the Hahnenkamm Gondola, The Pavillon brings you the biggest Apres-Ski party in Kitzbühel. The Champagne and Glühwein is flowing while DJ Pietro gets the party going with party classics that are guaranteed to get you dancing on the chairs in your ski gear! Open everyday from 2pm till 10pm for drinks, light snacks and lots of fun!  
Also available for private hire from 8pm.





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# THE NIGHT CLUB IN ST. ANTON

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**DORFSTRASSE 11**  
**6580 ST. ANTON ARLBERG**

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# 7 MAGNIFICENT SIDES OF ST. ANTON

## 1 LIFE BEYOND DOWNHILL...

Winter sports enthusiasts and snow lovers are also well catered for away from the pistes in St. Anton am Arlberg. Cross country skiers can enjoy a 40 km network of cross country trails and walkers have 70 kilometres of well prepared winter trails at their disposal. A natural toboggan run and the ice skating rink at ARLBERG-well.com all enhance the choice of winter sports activities. Wellness in all shapes and sizes can be found in numerous local hotels, at ARLBERG-well.com in St. Anton am Arlberg as well as in the Arlberg Stanzertal Wellnesspark in Pettneu.

## 2 ST ANTON ROCKS!

Tennis, volleyball, squash, bowling, indoor soccer, climbing, bouldering, ice climbing... you will find „Active“ fun all year round at the „arl.rock“ Sport and Climbing Centre in St. Anton am Arlberg. The distinguishing feature of arl.rock, however, is the extensive climbing facilities. Up to 25 varied outdoor routes in all levels of difficulty, 130 square metres of indoor bouldering facilities and 60 climbing routes in grades 3 to 9 are all waiting to be conquered.

## 3 TAKE THE KIDS!

Children born from 2006 onwards pay only €10 for the „Snowman Card“ season lift pass, enabling them to take advantage of all that St. Anton am Arlberg ski resort has to offer.

## 4 SAFER CHAIRLIFTS FOR LITTLE 'UNS

The Tanzböden draglift on Galzig has been replaced by a new, detachable 6-seater chairlift with the proven CS10 system by Doppelmayr. A special design feature prevents users from slipping out of the chairlift, ensuring safe and comfortable mountain ascents and descents. Up to five children with a minimum height of 90 centimetres can now use the lift with only one accompanying adult. This new addition was implemented specifically for beginners and children to provide a comfortable descent, instead of having to tackle the challenging downhill valley run which some novices may not be ready for. The new lift also diffuses a previously tricky intersection between the former tow track and the Schwarze Wand piste.

## 5 EAT WELL...VERY WELL INDEED!

Four St. Anton restaurants have again been recognized by Gault Millau: Die Stube at the Hotel Alte Post, the Verwallstube at Galzig, the Restaurant at the Hotel Arlberg Hospiz as well as the Hopiz Alm in St. Christoph am Arlberg.

## 6 LEAVE YOUR CAR AT HOME

A relaxing holiday begins with a relaxing journey. Why not leave your car at home for once? St. Anton am Arlberg's railway station is right in the centre of town and all main international express trains stop here. You don't actually need a car in the entire St. Anton am Arlberg holiday region: There are regular shuttle buses through the villages of St. Anton as well as throughout the entire holiday region. Those staying directly in St. Anton am Arlberg can make the most of the convenient location and access everything on foot.

## 7 ATLANTIC CROSSING?

„St Anton's brilliant best of both Worlds collaboration with Vale Resorts means the usual pre-season debate {„USA or Europe - where do we go this winter?“}, could be a thing of the past. SEE... YOU CAN HAVE YOUR CAKE AND EAT IT!!!





SKI ARLBERG



# LUNCH APRESKI DISCO

Foto: Gettyimages/Bruce Tolbott

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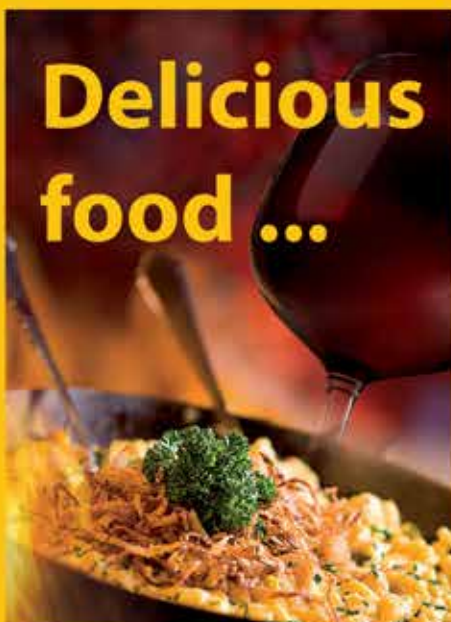


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# SAINT OR SINNER?

## WHAT TO EXPECT FROM ST. ANTON

### WHERE IS IT?

The "Kaiser of Austrian ski areas" is a mere snowball's throw from the German border, sitting at the bottom of the Arlberg Pass.

### CHOCOLATE BOX OR CONCRETE BOX?

Stretched out along a narrow valley and hemmed in by major road and rail routes, the resort is more pick 'n' mix than chocolate box. But since the 2001 World Championships, the railway has been moved to the outskirts and the town centre is pedestrianised.

### WHAT'S THE SNOW LIKE?

The snow record for the Arlberg is always exceptional. January is particularly dumptastic and the area often claims to have the deepest base in Austria.

### IS THERE ROOM TO PLAY?

Oh yes! St Anton shares its 85 lifts - known as Ski Arlberg - with St. Christoph, Stuben, Lech and Zürs.

### ANY GOOD FOR NUBIES?

Beginners can try the improved nursery area near the Fang lift and there are some gentle blues for those finding their snowfeet.

### ANY CRECHES?

The Arlberg Ski School runs kids' club Kinderwelt (00 43 5446 2526), which takes in children aged from 30 months and teaches them to ski when they are four.



**ANY GRAVITY-ABUSE OR OFF-PISTE POSSIBILITIES?**

Well there's a pretty decent terrain park on Rendl, with pipes, jumps and slides. But stay out of the forests, as they are protected or you risk having your pass confiscated and if you tackle the Valluga, you'll need a guide or they won't let you on the chair.

**I FEEL THE NEED FOR SPEED...**

Then tighten your helmet and head for Nasserein, Black 25 which brings you out in the World Championship arena where you can pull a crowd-pulling 'downhiller' stop before raising your left ski to the camera for your sponsor.

**AND HOW ABOUT MOGULS?**

Take Schindlergrat chair, turn right onto Skiroute 15 and bobs your uncle (or knee-brace, depending on your fitness!).

**HOW ABOUT PAMPERING?**

The Arlberg-well.com centre (00 43 5446 4001) houses all the treatments you could want.

**AND TOBOGGANING?**

The toboggan run at Grampen opens on on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

**WHERE CAN I GRAB GASTRO-GRUB?**

The museum (00 43 5446 2475) on the ground floor of the ski and heritage museum has traditional dishes.

**HOW DO I GET THERE?**

From Innsbruck it's a 100km drive. The resort also has Europe's highest international train station...alight here for powder, pleasure and pistes a-plenty!

**ANY APRÈS-SKI ACTION?**

Taps Coyotes, Crazy Kanguruh, Heustadl, Senn Huette,Cafe Alibi and the Insider Night Club all await!

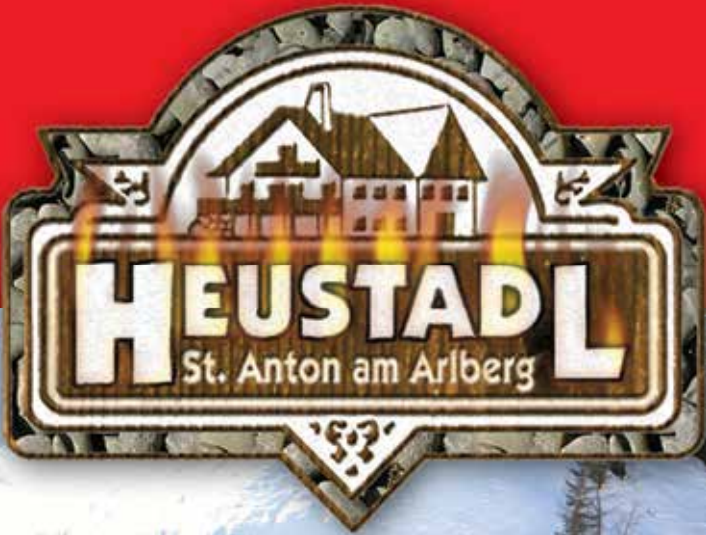
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# MAYRHOFEN

**PARTIAL TO PARTYING? EAR OPEN TO ELECTRONIC MUSIC? LOVE LAUGHING AT STAND-UP IN THE SNOW? MAYRHOFEN BOASTS THE BIGGEST GATHERINGS IN THE ALPS. KIRK FIELD THINKS HE MIGHT KNOW WHY...**

**Wilkommen to Mayrhofen. AKA 'Der hoff', 'party capital of the Austrian alps' 'The BIG M' or as thousands of people dressed as carrots regard it, the home of Snowbombing.**

This is a place of snow, sausages, schnitzels and superlatives; Mayrhofen boasts the largest erection in the mountains- the huge 160 person Ahorn cable car. Then there's the nearby Tux Glacier: Austria's highest lifted point where you can take the cable car past the blue ice wall to the summit, nearly 10,000 feet above sea level and gaze awestruck over three countries (Austria, Italy & Germany), before visiting the largest Alpine cave system in Europe and standing within the very heart of the Earth.

## **ALPINE AXIS OF ENERGY**

Anyone who's spent any time here will agree that Mayrhofen possesses a special energy. You don't have to believe in ley lines to feel spirit of place. Spirit of place is what estate agents can't sell. It's the warm feeling of a family house or the coldness of the condemned prison cell; no longer occupied, yet strangely resonant and 'alive'. Across the planet there are places considered sacred, spiritual, or somehow special by those who live nearby (Dudley, for instance). The reason for this special energy may be Mayrhofen's position; she sits at the convergence of four valleys (Zillertal, Stillaupl, Tuxertal & Floitental). Each of these valleys cradles a river which cuts a swathe from the glacier and surrounding mountains, along the vast Inntal to the vast Bavarian plain. Many believe that energy flows along the same channels as water - unseen streams of life, which race down from the high ground, swirling and tumbling, swelling

and shrinking, as melting snow converges and continues waters eternal cycle. Rivers merge at Mayrhofen; currents collide and energy spirals.

This is the point at which energy convenes... there is simply no better place to go to feel alive.

Whether or not you believe in geomancy and the mystical, or think it's a load of claptrap, it is an undisputable fact that Mayrhofen is well known for its energetic partying down the years. From daily bouts of après ski celebration in the Ice bar and Bruck'n'Stadl, to the unique late season gatherings which now include Altitude and Snowbombing. Mayrhofen is a resort which attracts a snowlover who is also a comedy or music lover.

Where else could you bump into John Bishop or Eddie Izzard walking down the high street, or share a cable car with Liam from the Prodigy on the way to see Mr Motivator?

## **MORE AT:**

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# FEELING THE HEAT!

AS A REVOLUTIONARY NEW SAUNA IS OPENED IN THE HEART OF MAYRHOFEN, KIRK FIELD KEEPS HIS SWIMMING SHORTS ON AND INVESTIGATES...



In terms of big news for alpine holidays, it's up there with the introduction of parabolic ski's and covered chairlifts with seats. It's revolutionary and for now at least, unique in the Ziller valley. They said it wasn't possible and would never happen...especially in Austria. It's controversial and causing purists to shake their head in dismay but will doubtlessly be welcomed by an entire nation of holidaying Brits, who for decades have swerved the offer of a myriad of subterranean spa's and pamper possibilities because participation involved nakedness and the dubious display of dangly bits.

## REVOLUTION!

Amongst the awesome new additions to The Strass Hotel's already superb spa area is a revolutionary sauna which families (or groups of friends) can enjoy whilst keeping their swimsuits on. For those who would be tempted by a steamy sauna session but who don't like displaying their dangly bits with strangers, this is big news indeed. Naturism and sauna culture are well engrained in European culture; it's recognized that these hot, dry environments open up your pores, relax your limbs and unleash a cleansing wash of perspiration all over your body. Much like Native American sweat lodges, there's also a mental or even spiritual side to a sauna's soothing qualities.

What separates the sauna from many other steam baths is the type of heat. Steam rooms feature a moist heat, and tend to operate at temperatures of around 40 degrees C). To heat it up any further, you have to add more steam (a steam room's heat source), which can quickly create a scalding environment. Moist heat also feels hotter because the moisture-rich air prevents your sweat from evaporating and cooling your body.

Saunas, however, use dry heat. With less moisture in the atmosphere, you can safely sweat it out in these hot boxes at temperatures of about 80 degrees C).

## BASHFUL BRITS

By comparison, British folk are generally rather more reticent when it comes to getting their kit off and walking around "as God intended". A fact not unnoticed by Strass supremo Erich Roscher: "We welcome a lot of English and Scottish guests and when we ask them why they never enjoyed our spa facilities the answer is always that they don't feel comfortable taking all their clothes off in the presence of strangers. So we've installed a special type of sauna which allows the user to keep their swimming clothes on.

## SO WHAT'S THE SECRET?

Erich, "By operating at a lower temperature - no more than 60 degrees C, we can still offer an effective sauna experience, whilst

avoiding altogether the possibility of users getting burned or scalded by wearing clothes in a sauna. We've noticed that families are using the sauna and we think its going to be very popular indeed."

## STRASS-TASTIC!

This awareness is what drove the Strass's former ground-breaking developments. In the early 'nineties, after witnessing first hand the clubbing revolution in London, the 1500 person capacity Arena venue was opened and was the first alpine club venue to programme top international DJ's. Then came the rise of après ski - and sensing their guests preferred to party earlier, the Ice Bar was launched and is one of the busiest post piste party hotspots anywhere in the alps.

Also new for 2013 is a brand new state-of-the-art, panoramic penthouse gym which sits atop the (also re-equipped) swimming pool. By offering their guests running machines exposed to stunning alpine views through floor-to-ceiling glass walls AND an opportunity to experience a sauna without exposing themselves shows that once again, the Strass is still leading the way after all these years.

The Strass Hotel Wellness Area is open from 2pm to 10pm.

More [www.hotelstrass.com](http://www.hotelstrass.com)

# BIRDMAN!

**THE PURPLE PARAGLIDER OF JURGEN 'STOCKYAIR' STOCK IS PART OF THE MAYRHOFEN PANORAMA. KIRK FIELD CHASED SOME THERMALS WITH THE DOUBLE WORLD CHAMPION.**

STOCKY AIR WAS FOUNDED IN 1994 BY DAVID JÜRGEN STOCK. AFTER BEING FLOWN FOR FIVE YEARS SUCCESSFUL NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS, WAS THE PASSIONATE PARAGLIDERS "STOCKY" TO TURN HIS HOBBY INTO A CAREER AND SET UP HIS OWN AIRLINE. WITH OVER 15,000 FLIGHTS BENEATH HIS BELT, TWO WORLD RECORDS AND A MEMORABLE APPEARANCE ON GERMAN 'BIG BROTHER', JURGEN STOCK IS A LEGEND AND FOR HIS CHAT WITH AS, THE MAN ARRIVES LOOKING LEAN AND HEALTHY. HIS BLUE EYES PERFECTLY MATCH THE SUMMER MORNING SKY OUTSIDE, WHICH IN EARLY AUGUST IS AS BENIGN AS IT GETS; CALM, WARM AND CLOUDLESS - A PRETTY IMPRESSIVE OFFICE, IN FACT. SO TO WORK:

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Passion, challenge and nature.

**HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO TRAIN?**  
To learn to fly solo it will take a few weeks of training from scratch, which equates to around forty flights. This sounds like a lot, but believe me, you will still be at beginner level. Keep flying and keep learning, and hopefully a good pilot will gradually appear after many years!

**WHO'S BEEN YOUR YOUNGEST AND OLDEST PASSENGERS?**


My three-year-old son and a grandmother who was celebrating her eighty-second birthday. Both enjoyed their flight which I think shows that anyone can experience the feeling of flying no matter what age they are.

**WHILST SETTING YOUR DISTANCE WORLD RECORD, DID ERM, NATURE CALL?**

Yes! This is natural. I was in the air for over eight hours so I was prepared, by taking urinal condoms with a long string.




**WHAT ABOUT "NUMBER TWO'S"?**

Well luckily that's never happened, but if it the record was in sight, and it was a choice of landing and losing the record,



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### HOW DID YOUR APPEARANCE ON THE GERMAN 'BIG BROTHER' TV SHOW COME ABOUT?

It was a really bad weather and we were sat in the Taverne drinking PG tips and watching Big Brother. They made the claim that it was impossible to get in and impossible to get out of the compound. I muttered under my breath that I could get in. It was heard by a colleague, and a bar room bet was made. Next morning I located a take-off point and worked out I could fly in and land on the roof. So I contacted a rival TV station and they issued me with a helmet cam and went live as I approached and broadcast the whole thing! This probably saved me from being roughed up by the security, who weren't very happy at my arrival!

### YOU MUST HAVE BEEN ALL OVER THE GEMAN MEDIA...

Yes, even years later I'm approached most weeks by someone who saw it and wants to fly with the 'Big Brother paraglider.'

### HAVE YOU FLOWN WITH ANYONE FAMOUS?

Before becoming a pilot I was a keen ski jumper, and was chuffed to fly Eddie 'The Eagle' Edwards last year. He was a good sport and even made a video clip, which we use to promote Stockyair.

### TEST PILOT FOR PARAGLIDERS...DO YOU HAVE A PARACHUTE?

Yes, sometimes two safety systems just to make sure.

### FLYING WING SUITS HAVE GROWN IN POPULARITY IN RECENT YEARS. EVER BEEN TEMPTED?

Yes - but I'm a skydiver and if I try a wingsuit flight, it will be from an airplane not a cliff, which I think is really dangerous and prompts the question, it's not a case of when you die, just where you die...

### HAVE YOU EVER CRASHED OR HAD ANY INJURIES?

Since becoming a pilot in 1987 I've never had a single crash...but I think I'm the only one!

### DO EAGLES EVER FLY ALONGSIDE?

Yes. Sometimes we fly with them in the same thermals (we are their guests). They really are the kings of the air.

### FINALLY JURGEN, DO YOU EVER LISTEN TO MUSIC WHILE FLYING? WHAT'S ON YOUR IPOD?

Once I did, but I found it very distracting and almost ended up in the trees, so no more....but I can confess I do sing, but not when flying tandem, I should add!

### WHAT DO YOU SING?

"I Believe I Can Fly", of course!

or going in your pants and breaking the record, I think I know what most paragliders would do!

### AS YOUR LIVELIHOOD (AND SAFETY) IS GOVERNED BY THE WEATHER, YOU MUST BE PARTICULARLY UP-TO-DATE WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING METEOROLOGICALLY. ANY TIPS?

The first thing you should do is simply look out of your window or walk out on your balcony. That will tell you how settled it is and where the wind is coming from. Then check a few websites, as each forecast will be slightly different, we use [www.flugwetter.at](http://www.flugwetter.at), which is particularly orientated for alpine paragliders.

A more general forecast is available from [www.orf.at/wetter/tirol](http://www.orf.at/wetter/tirol) with an English version available. For long-term forecasts we ask the farmers. They always have an opinion!

### AS SOMEONE WHO SPENDS A LOT OF TIME AMONGST THEM, WHICH TYPE OF CLOUD IS YOUR FAVOURITE?

Alto cumulus lenticularis (lenticular clouds), which are known as the 'lens', which is created by the Fohn wind. They're otherworldly and always uniquely beautiful - but no good for flying as it will be too windy

### HAS ANY PASSENGER EVER FAINTED OR BEEN SPECTACULARLY AIR SICK?

No one has fainted; flying is far too exhilarating. But there have been some cases of mid-air vomiting. But it's no problem as we have a special procedure to follow.

### WE'RE INTRIGUED, PLEASE GO ON...

The passenger leans forward and puts their head to the right, whilst we gently turn left. This avoids either of us getting messy.

### WHAT ABOUT THE POOR PEOPLE BELOW?

Well that's out of our hand - blame gravity!

### HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANYTHING STRANGE FROM UP THERE?

Oh we see a lot from up there...! Naked sunbathing and people enjoying each other's company in where they think is a private place. We will fly directly over them and scream - they look around confused, and very rarely think to look up - it's very funny!

### FLYING TO ITALY FOR A PIZZA

It's not far - it only takes one hour from Mayrhofen to get to Italy as the Eagle flies. Wind changed and we came home!



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Kirk Field is feeling peckish on the Penken... investigates...

# MOUNTAINS OF FOOD!

Ok so we all know that Austrian alpine cuisine is not regarded as threatening to be concerned about by the snooty French, but over the last few years there's been a quiet revolution going on at mountain restaurants across Zillertal (this is most unusual for as anyone who knows this most energised of valley's will testify, nothing that ever happens in Zillertal is quiet!).

And word is out - no less a title than The Times recently stated, "Forget about the miles of fantastic skiing, the slopes of the Zillertal Valley offer visitors a gastronomic feast".

One of their favourite foodie pitstops is the Kristallhütte. Although this isn't strictly speaking in Mayrhofen (perched perfectly at the top of Kaltenbach ski area giving commanding views of the surrounding alps from a height of 2147 metres), Hochzillertals finest fine dining destination is the real deal.

Dripping in alpine glamour and comfort-inducing touches like ample fires, a fully glass wind-screened terrace and even warm water beds! The menu has been put together with more thought than Stephen Hawkins playing chess and is as tempting as Katy Perry in PVC (and probably just as tasty...).

Even higher is the Schneekarhütte which sits atop of the schapkopf mountain where Red 7 starts. Better known as 'the pyramid', Sepp and Aloise Bair's iconic creation has taken eating on the mountain in Mayrhofen to new heights (2225m, to be exact!). Attention to detail is everywhere - from the marble finish of the bar to the specially commissioned

curtains tablecloths. Two terraces serve diners on differing budgets, while the new self service restaurant offers a varying selection of regional dishes all freshly made. The wine cellar is impressive - rumoured to be the largest in the valley... but not as impressive as the homemade jagartee. Sep's own (secret) recipe gives birth to a steaming ruby red life-affirming elixir, which both banishes the winter cold and infuses your limbs with a magical prowess; after a jagartee you are at one with the mountain (but after two you'll be in it!). Notable nibbles include the Pumpkin soup, the flammkuchl (Tyrolean pizza) and the freshly-made pasta dishes.

Near the bottom of Red 7 on the right you'll find the Eisberghütte (also known as the Reggae Shack during Snowbombing). In Spring this restaurant is the place to be for late afternoon sun and some honest hearty mountain fayre like spare ribs followed by a plate of the delicious house speciality, Kaiserschmarrn (sweet pancake with apple sauce)...bliss!

Ride the Tappenalm chair (Blue 14) and drop down to the restaurant Below to the right (keeping the t-bar on your right), and you'll arrive at the graphittied Grillalm in need of sustenance. Look no further, Christian's Pizza oven awaits!

Being the eaterie of choice for board park users, the menu here is more energy-giving carbo-loading than subtle haute cuisine, but the pizzas ARE mouth-watering and the atmosphere always warm and welcoming.

Ride the Larchwald 6 man chair back up to the Penkente (pausing for a quick Marillen schnapps), before joining in the

fun at the Pilz Bar - whose umbrella bar is the only place to start your après ski. Great bar staff and a top sound system fuel the fun which sadly has to finish at 5pm.

Inside the restaurant Martin and family are cleaning up after another busy day, but there's still time to grab a huge Currywurst and chips (the Chicken Tikka Masala of the mountains) and cool Zillertal Beer.

But before we arrive at the top station of the Penkenbahn, there's still time to pop into Bergrast to see Tomas and Lizzy T who kindly offer us a plate of Grotstle, which is accompanied by the inevitable glass of award winning Meisturwurz.

Time flies and we cheerily wave back at the man from the lift company who keeps appearing outside the window. Despite our beckoning he walks away, shaking his head. Eventually we walk outside to find the lift station closed as darkness descends and a long alpine night descends.

...wonder if Martin does supper at the Pilz Bar?



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# THE GREATEST SHOW ON SNOW... NOW CELEBRATING ITS 15TH YEAR!

SNOWBOMBING BEGAN LIFE AS AN APRIL GETAWAY FOR A GAGGLE OF LIKE-MINDED SKI ENTHUSIASTS WHO WERE ALSO PARTIAL TO A PARTY TO GET AWAY TOGETHER FOR A WEEK AT THE END OF THE EUROPEAN SKI SEASON.

This mystical mission to the mountains changed shape and location in the first few years, growing from 500 to over two thousand and hopping around one or two alpine resorts before the village of Mayrhofen was discovered in 2004, nestling in the Zillertal Valley. Instantly the people of ze 'hoff took the madcap British 'bombers to their hearts, sharing similar enthusiasm for skiing, drinking and alpine antics! With the range of accommodation on offer, the 500km of piste available and a veritable smorgasbord of cracking late night venues in which to host the music, the chocolate box resort of Mayrhofen was tailor made for Snowbombing. The event ballooned rapidly, swelling from 2000 customers to over 5000 in just a couple of years, taking over the entire resort for a week and firmly making itself at home.

Despite the growth of the event, the original magic that made Snowbombing more than just a music festival or a ski holiday has remained constant over the years. The sense of adventure and fun and the conviviality of legions of like minded souls coming together for a week of escapism in one of the most beautiful settings possible. Perhaps its biggest success is that even at its current sizeable scale, it still feels cosy, more like an extended holiday camp than a faceless festival packed to the rafters. Bumping into familiar faces on the mountain the night after meeting at the back of the Racket Club, making new mates on a cable car and swapping bits of clothing before the Street Party are just experiences you can't have at other events. The inherent sense of silliness and fun is in evidence across the festival, from the outrageous fancy dress themes that are observed religiously to the

rather interesting ski suit ensembles (or lack thereof) that can be seen being sported on the mountain, Snowbombing seems to attract a very particular type of raver: adventurous, friendly, music-mad and eccentric in a very British way...

Musical, magical...without equal!

The sizeable numbers of Snowbombers who spend the entire week in resort without strapping on a ski or shaking on the salopettes displays its standing as a fully fledged music festival in it's own right. Far more than a cluster of snowboard-bad DJs playing in a random ski bar like so many other alpine festivals, even since the early days Snowbombing was always positioned as an incredible week of music with a ski holiday built in around the gigs, raves and general musical mayhem. Always hitting the spot across the board with a multi-faceted musical melting pot of styles, Snowbombing has long championed Drum and Bass, Rock and Indie, Dubstep, Pop and Ska and of course Breaks...the de-facto music choice of hard-core boarders!

Dextrous deck wizards have always been the main order of the day at Snowbombing, with the festival trailblazing an attitude towards Electro, House and bashy Dance Music that has since been adopted by



events across the world. 2ManyDJs, Simian Mobile Disco, and a very young Justice (doing the gig for £500) were among the names cropping up across Snowbombing's salad days, whilst the festival also served as the first European adventures for legendary UK acts such as Skream, Chase and Status and Subfocus, these festival friendships have strengthened over the years, meaning that Snowbombing is the first request in the diary for DJs each year! More than just an opportunity to play a great gig alongside a cheeky ski holiday (though many of them never cash in their ski pass...) the artists, both from and the UK and worldwide know that they'll be hard pressed to come across a party like the one they find at Snowbombing. As Skream himself said: "I have a good relationship with Snowbombers...I'll be here every year until I'm dead if I had my way."

Never one to limit itself in any way, Snowbombing has never just been about the cutting edge DJs and 6am rave-ups. The strong leaning towards indie-rock, pop and just great live music has provided the festival with access to a whole new crowd and pushed the event as a fully fledged premier European festival that can battle with the biggest. From live Hip-Hop from De La Soul, grimy greatness from Dizzee Rascal (including the world premiere of "Bonkers") and a mental master class from Madness proved the perfect antidote to headline in front of 5000 nutty 'bombers. The Racket Club saw an injection of fantastic indie in 2010 as Editors and Doves headlined and won the coveted Best European Festival gong in that years Festival Awards, whilst 2012 showed off the eclecticism and panache at the heart of Snowbombing with a Racket Club that featured The Vaccines, Booka Shade, The Jungle Brothers, DJ Shadow and a phenomenal performance from Chase and Status Live.

One of the most enduring friendships the festival has enjoyed is with the Rockafella Skank himself, Fatboy Slim. From his first appearance in 2010 as Forest Party headliner, to playing the Street Party in 2012, doing a secret Arctic Disco show and rocking out in his own boxing ring inside the Racket Club, Fatboy has been part of some of the festival's best and brightest moments, playing almost every awesome stage we have to offer.

Which brings us onto perhaps the greatest part of Snowbombing: it's resort and music venues...

The best resort in the Alps...fact!

Perhaps the thing that truly sets Snowbombing apart from every other festival on the market is it's sheer abundance of world-beating rave locations, gig spots bursting with personality, character and general alpine awesomeness. Without doubt the coolest venue in the world has to be the Arctic Disco, our sub-zero sub-bass bash at 3000 feet! Located nestled into the ice-face up the Ahorn lift, ravers party away in a specially made igloo to some of the world's greatest DJs doing a special extra-curricular set, and each year they're queuing up for a slice of the ice action! 2013 saw the Arctic Disco series taken to a whole new dimension with the addition of a live set from Kasabian, who played to a select crowd of just 300 at dusk on the mountain..."it was a very spiritual experience", said Serge from Kasabian. "We can't wait for next year".

The Europahaus, Snowbombing's info and logistics hub, is changing face into a fully-fledged immersive festival venue! This will be able to hold 2500 'bombers across three floors

Each year the Forest Party forms the book-end of the week at Snowbombing, as the whole festival comes together in exhausted but elated fashion to see off the event in

style with an almighty affair inside the Waldfestplatz forest, located just a hop, skip and jump from the Mayrhofen town centre. ... Everyone dons scarves and hats as we turn the surrounding traditional Austrian shacks into bars and sausage factories and turn the old wooden stage (usually reserved for lederhosen-slapping dance troops and local weddings) into a pine-cradled platform for what The forest has seen the likes of Kasabian, Disclosure, Rudimental, Example, Dizzee Rascal, Labrinth, Fatboy Slim, De la Soul, Krafty Kuts, Madness, 2ManyDJ's and The Prodigy, who loved it so much in 2011 that they've decided to come back for another pop in 2014!

Serving up a storm... During Snowbombing, a vast underground tennis centre is completely transformed to create a 2500 capacity festival super club. With a killer sound system and subterranean vibe which is unmatched across the mountains, going underground has never been as much fun (well not since the great Circle Line party of 2008)! Handily located in the middle of town, our headline venue has witnessed some electrifying live sets over the last few years: Rudimental, Disclosure, DJ Shadow, Groove Armada, The Vaccines, Above and Beyond, Booka Shade, Sub Focus, Chase & Status, Example, DJ Yoda, Magnetic Man, Pendulum, Grandmaster Flash, DJ Shadow and Carl Cox to name a few.





Production values at the Racket Club are second to none... Sound is crystal clear and lighting is state-of-the-art. As every Snowbomber knows, there's nothing like a bit of Racquet to make a party swing!

Our Street Party creates an annual Road-block inside the 'hoff with what is officially Europe's biggest fancy dress bash, whilst Snowbombers can also be whisked off to a 200 year old shack in the middle of the Floiental valley, entitled The Backcountry Party. With hot gluwein, wood chopping and block-rocking beats, what's not to love? Not forgetting the main venues that make up the hubs for Snowbombing's DJ line-up, or Bruck N Stradl is a classic alpine hut forged from thousand year old oak that has seen the likes of Seth Troxler, Eats Everything, Julio Bashmore and Maceo Plex. As Example himself once put it, "it's like bringing a rave from Fabric into the scenery from The Sound of Music!"

From 5\* palaces to pocket friendly pensions, we've got different options to suit every wallet

Snowbombing offer's a way in for every wallet. We boast rooftop pools, over 80 spas, 5 star havens and penthouses on the piste to really spend your week with us in true style.

However for those that are looking for a simpler experience there is plenty of options available. So if you want to act like Hugh Hefner in the 'hoff or just need a bed to crash in, Snowbombing has the perfect pillow for you...

Prices start from just £219 for 5 nights accommodation AND the full festival wristband, whilst the booking system means that adding extras onto your booking is clear and easy to process. With ski passes and gear hire to Arctic Disco tickets and airport transfers, you can build your whole holiday on your own unique booking page whilst keeping easy track of the cost. It's a foolproof way to build your dream holiday!

There is also a handful of ways that you can tackle your mission to the mountains, as alongside the variety of excellently priced flights to local airports Munich, Innsbruck and Salzburg, Snowbombing offers coach travel from locations around the UK which whisk off hundreds of eager 'bombers for on the 16 hour party buses each year. The more adventurous and hardy of you may gravitate towards The Snowbombing Road Trip powered by Lucozade Energy if you really want to accelerate your SB experience! It's not a race or a rally; it's more a leisurely European



adventure all the way to the Hof... As any agony aunt will tell you, 'it's not about the winning, it's the taking part that counts!'... So think camaraderie rather than competition, we enjoyed the view out of all the windows, not just the front one... After all, you know what they say, 'half the fun is getting there!'

SB14...why haven't you booked yet?

Now in it's 15th year, Snowbombing is showing no signs of losing it's title as "the greatest show on snow." It's magical mix of incredible music, superb piste, an unbeatable crowd and a fantastic spirit all wrapped up inside an idyllic chocolate box Alpine resort means that it's a festival that just can't be beaten. With 2014 seeing a heroes return from The Prodigy, a debut appearance DJ Set from The Chemical Brothers, Chase and Status Live, appearances from Rudimental, Four Tet, Subfocus and The Martinez Brothers to name just a few, plus two forest parties, an incredible Street bash on the horizon and more Ski-based shenanigans then you can shake a ski-pole at, Snowbombing is gearing up for the biggest, boldest and best event in it's history. As MTV said, "put yourself in training now, because you may think you're hard enough, but this party never stops!"

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# SNOWBOMBING

MAYRHOFEN AUSTRIA 7-12 APRIL 2014

*The Greatest Show on Snow*

## THE PRODIGY

The **chemical brothers** DJ SET

**CHASE AND STATUS**

**RUDIMENTAL**

DJ SET

**carl cox**

LIVE

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GROOVE ARMADA

DJ SET

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER:

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 BEN PEARCE . BICEP . BREACH . BREAKAGE . CITIZEN . DAPHNI . DANIEL AVERY  
 DAVID RODIGAN MBE . DENSE & PIKA LIVE . DISMANTLE . DUB PISTOLS LIVE . DUSKY  
 DJ EZ . FOUR TET LIVE . GEORGE FITZGERALD . GORGON CITY  
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