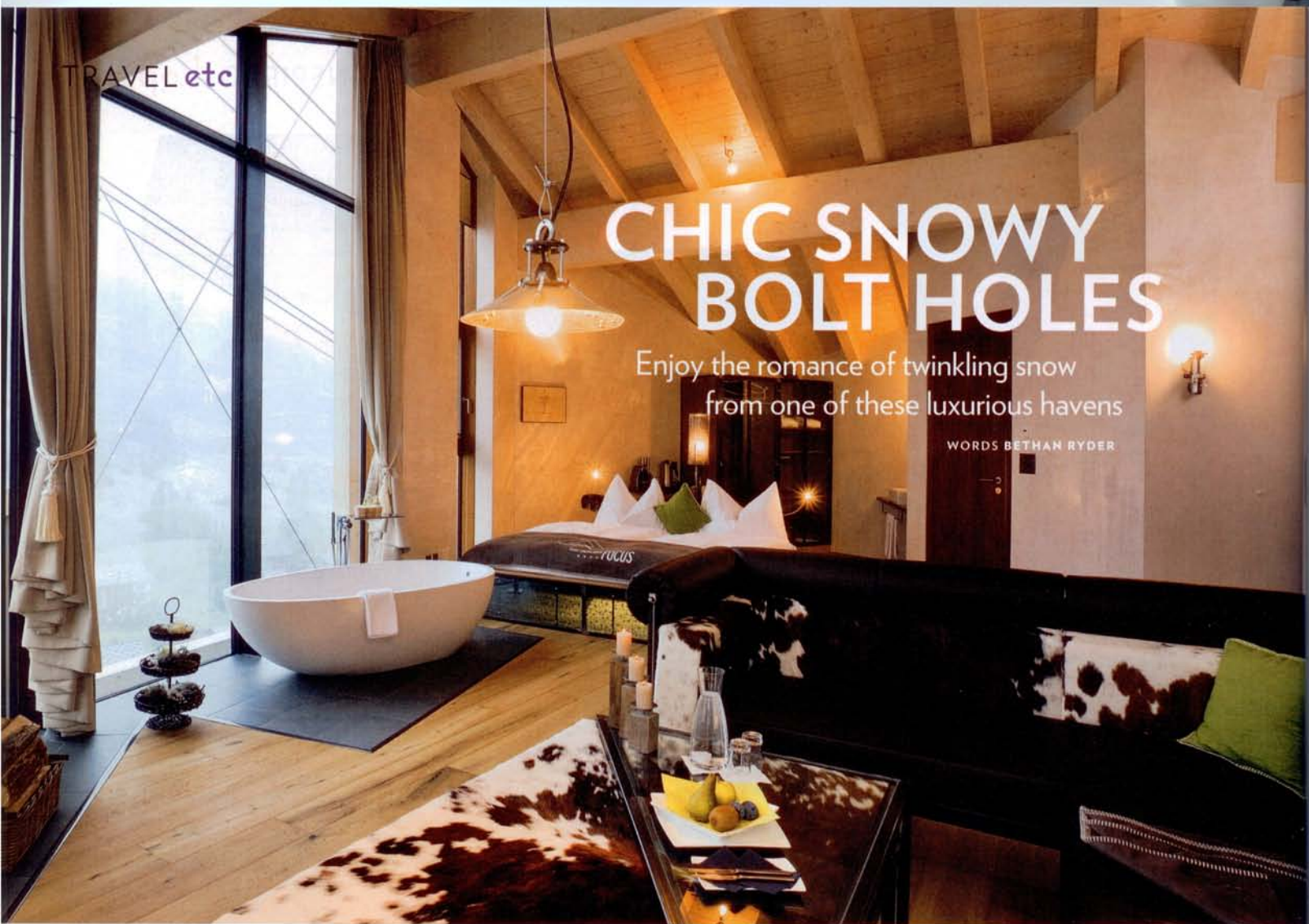


# CHIC SNOWY BOLT HOLES

Enjoy the romance of twinkling snow  
from one of these luxurious havens

WORDS BETHAN RYDER



## MATTERHORN FOCUS ZERMATT, SWITZERLAND

**BEST FOR...** a thrilling alpine adventure

**WHY?** Forget kitsch Heidi and her pine-clad chalet – this modernist take on the vernacular alpine architecture, by local architect-artist Heinz Julen, is all glass walls, playing to the spectacular mountain views.

**WHERE?** In a tranquil spot at the foot of the distinctive Matterhorn mountain. It's a 15-minute walk into the car-free village of Zermatt, which is the highest ski resort in the Alps, offering world-class sporting action.

**STAYING IN** Floor-to-ceiling glazing makes it impossible to escape the lure of the mountain wild outside. But if you must, relax in loft-like, double-height rooms (or on your balcony) and gaze out at the breathtaking snowy landscape. Cosiness comes from underfloor heating and ponyskin seating, plus, in the suites, roaring fires. Rest your weary limbs on a heated couch in the Wellness Oasis and rejuvenate with a massage. Only breakfast is served, so take lunch on the slopes and head into Zermatt for dinner.

**STYLE STEAL** Achieve the open-plan, loft-living look without compromising on privacy by combining glass-wall partitions with floor-to-ceiling curtains to separate bathing, sleeping and lounging areas.

**OUT AND ABOUT** Tackle the 313km of runs

between Switzerland and Italy, with plenty of off-piste for advanced skiers. There's a whole host of other winter sports on offer, too, from tobogganing to ice-climbing to moonlight skiing. Lunch, gourmet style, at local classic Zum See in the hamlet of Furi, which is also good for early après-ski. For fabulous fondue, Whympfer-Stube is unrivalled. Sip cocktails with the cool crowd at the Heinz Julen-designed Vernissage bar above the cinema.

**MORE INFO** Travel to Zermatt by plane to Geneva or Zurich, and then by train via Visp. Double rooms from £180 per night in peak season (+41 27 966 24 24, matterhornfocus.ch).

