**Sestriere**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

8

**Intermediate Runs**

173

**Advanced Runs**

42

**Total Runs**

223

**Lifts**

79

**Chairs**

36

**Drags**

36

**Gondola Cable Cars**

7

**Parks**

4

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

5m (16ft).

**Overview**

Sestriere ski resort was the world’s original purpose-built high-altitude resort, having been built by the Agnelli family that owned the Fiat car company – it remained in their possession for more than 70 years until it was finally sold a few years ago.

One of Europe's highest resorts, Sestriere was a pioneer in snowmaking facilities. This led to it building an arsenal of nearly 1,000 snow guns during the 1970s and 80s – long before most of Europe began even thinking about snowmaking. Today, the combination of altitude and this technology makes Sestriere one of the world's most snowsure resorts.

The Italian village is the main resort on the giant Via Lattea (Milky Way) pass, which links it to near neighbour Sauze d'Oulx and to Montgenèvre in France (via Sansicario, Cesana and the border-village of Claviere). Thanks to this link, skiers based in Sestriere have access to 440km (273 miles) of lift-linked ski runs, including those around Claviere and Sauze d’Oulx, which are two of Italy’s oldest ski areas having both offered winter sports holidays for just over a century.

Sestriere’s worldwide fame has been strengthened from hosting the World Alpine Ski Championships in 1997 and alpine events in the 2006 Turin Winter Olympics.

**Location**

Sestriere is made up of four villages: Sestriere Colle, Sestriere Borgata, Champlas du Col and Champlas Janvier. The resort is located in the Susa Valley within the Piedmont region of the northwestern Italian Alps, very close to the border with France.

**Website**

http://www.vialattea.it

http://www.comune.sestriere.to.it

**Piste Map**

http://www.vialattea.it/viewobj.asp?id=27

**Hit The Slopes**

As with its settlements, Sestriere's skiing is also split in four; with the local areas of Banchetta, Fraiteve, Sises and Rio Nero each providing some good options. But there are also hundreds of kilometres of lift-linked terrain beyond, towards neighbouring Sansicario and Sauze d'Oulx, and on to Cesana, Claviere and the French resort of Montgenèvre. Skiers and boarders who venture over to France by ski or board should allow a full day and set off early to be sure to make all the connections back.

Sestriere itself lies in an area of gentle meadows, so there are excellent nursery slopes around the resort and, thanks to its altitude and snow-making, these remain open throughout the season (early December to late April). As beginners progress, easy blues can be found leading down to the Borgata area, mid-mountain above the resort.

There is plenty on offer for more accomplished skiers, particularly at the Motta area with its glut of red runs, while Sises nearer the village also has a wealth of options. Experts should not miss the Kandahar Slalom Giovanni Alberto Agnelli run, which has hosted countless Alpine Skiing World Cups as well as the slalom races run during the Winter Olympics in Turin. The Col de Sises black is also a must-ski, having been host to giant slalom races in the same Games.

**Sestriere**

**Resort**

2035

**Base**

1357

**Top**

2840

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Sestriere is very much a skier and boarder's resort with limited public facilities off the slopes. There are, however, a games room, cinema, sports centre and ice rink within the village to enjoy. Those who like to be pampered have a host of spa facilities, including sauna, massage, Turkish bath and Jacuzzis in various hotels around the resort.

Outdoors, the usual ski resort offerings of snowmobiling, sleigh rides, dog sledding and paragliding are not neglected, while there’s also the chance to have a go at mountain biking on snow.

**Family Fun**

The resort's Neve e Sole (Piazzale Kandahar) day care facility accepts children from age two to five, after which they can move on to ski school lessons with the Scuola Nazionale Sci Sestriere (tel: 0122 77060; [www.scuolascisestriere.com](http://www.scuolascisestriere.com/)). The school gathers at the meeting point by the nursery slopes and employs a good number of multilingual instructors. Once on the slopes, children need not pay for lift tickets until age eight, one of the most generous child ticketing deals in the Alps.

Off the slopes, Sestriere has limited facilities for families aside from the sports centre; although the large amount of affordable pizza and pasta restaurants means family meals out are possible even on a small budget.

**Retail Therapy**

Sestriere is a good choice for shoppers, with more than 100 stores in and around the resort. Being located in Northern Italy, and within 240km (150 miles) of fashion centre Milan, allows the stylish boutiques to offer a choice of the latest designer items.

There is also a good selection of souvenir shops in Sestriere offering a range of trinkets and handmade items, as well as delicatessens for local products, in particular regional wines - these can also be picked up at the regular market in Piazza Agnelli.

**Splashing Out**

Heli-skiing, which banned over the border in France (as well as in another leading European ski nation, Austria), is unsurprisingly therefore a popular activity here. Pure Ski Company (tel: 0122 76346; [www.pureski-company.com](http://www.pureski-company.com/)) can organise trips, with a single lift giving access to magnificent long descents.

**Apres Ski**

Often animated come nightfall, Sestriere attracts snow sports fans from all over Europe and further afield, which creates an international party atmosphere in the 20 or so bars and nightspots.

La Caverna (Via Louset 6C) and the Brahms Pub in the central square are good choices for lively après-ski in Sestriere during the evening. The only disco, Tabata (Via Monterotta 1; tel: 0348 443 6681; [www.discotecatabata.it](http://www.discotecatabata.it)), is usually very crowded come the small hours.

**Eating Out**

There are 30 restaurants in Sestriere that, with a more international and cosmopolitan feel than most Italian ski resorts, offer a better selection than the usual collection of pizza and pasta places – although there are plenty of these too.

At the gourmet end of the scale, Vineria del Colle in the Grand Hotel Sestriere (tel: 0122 76476; [www.grandhotelsestriere.it](http://www.grandhotelsestriere.it/)) offers both classic Italian dishes and Piemontesi specialities, with a huge variety of wines. Du Grand Père (Via Forte Seguin 14; tel: 0122 755 970; [www.ristorantedugrandpere.it](http://www.ristorantedugrandpere.it/)) has a pleasant ambience and rustic décor and serves flavoursome regional dishes.

Amongst the many pizza outlets, Pinky (Piazza Fraiteve 5N) is fast and friendly and Zio Popy (Via Monterotta 1C) is known for its speedy service and tasty fare.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airports: Turin Airport (TRN); Chambéry Airport (CMF).

Distance to resort: 93km (58 miles); 160km (100 miles).

Driving time: 1 hour 40 minutes; 2 hours.

**Getting Around**

A free ski bus service circulates around the resort approximately every 30 minutes, with extra services at peak times.

**Hotels**

The Alps' first purpose-built resort isn't the prettiest but the rows of square apartment blocks serve their purpose of allowing access to the slopes. In fact, most of the accommodation in Sestriere is in the form of apartments, with some good-value options. But there are also a dozen hotels in Sestriere, mostly 3-star or 4-star rated.

**Hotel Cristallo**

In the resort centre and with easy access to the lifts, the 4-star Hotel Cristallo boasts a top-quality spa and a restaurant with mountain views.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Via Pinerolo 5

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Sestriere

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

0122 750 190.

**Website**

http://www.hotelcristallosestriere.com

**Hotel Lago Losetta**

This friendly and affordable 3-star features a bar, restaurant, solarium and free Wi-Fi internet. Handily located just 200m (219 yards) from nearest lift and the resort centre, the hotel is accessible to disabled guests.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Strada Azzurri d'Italia 4

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Sestriere

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

0122 754 041.

**Website**

http://www.hotellagolosetta.it

**Duchi D'Aosta**

This 194-room slopeside hotel dominates the Sestriere skyline with its iconic round tower architecture. Inside, guests can choose from a range of leisure facilities, including a mini-cinema.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Via Vincenzo Possetto 5

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Sestriere

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

(081) 598 0570.

**Website**

http://www.aurumhotels.it