**Cortina**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Families

Non-skiers

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

9

**Intermediate Runs**

23

**Advanced Runs**

10

**Total Runs**

62

**Lifts**

37

**Chairs**

26

**Drags**

6

**Gondola Cable Cars**

5

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

1

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

3.3m (11ft).

**Overview**

Cortina ski resort is one of the world's classic ski areas and is part of an exclusive club of a dozen resorts in five countries branding themselves the ‘Best in the Alps’, of which Cortina is the only Italian member.

The 1956 Winter Olympics host, Cortina was also one of the locations used in filming for the James Bond movie franchise during the Roger Moore years, when scenes from the 1981 classic *For Your Eyes Only* were shot here.

Cortina d’Ampezzo, to give the resort its full title, is an attractive old mountain town beneath truly beautiful mountains. Many come here just to be seen, so those serious about their skiing should get in plenty of ski time on the often empty slopes.

That said, some believe Cortina has rested on its laurels through recent decades and that the on-piste options are limited for better skiers. There's no doubt, however, that for beginners and intermediates it's a wonderful resort; and scenically there are few in the world to compare – especially at sunset when the peaks turn every shade of mauve, pink and purple.

Unfortunately, most of Cortina's ski areas are linked only by bus, which can be a slow and frustrating way of getting to the slopes – especially in ski boots. But the resort does give skiers access to the mighty Dolomiti Superski area, which covers more than 1,200km (750 miles) of pistes and around 450 lifts.

**Location**

Cortina is situated in the Dolomite Mountains in the Veneto region of northeastern Italy, and is part of the Dolomiti Superski region.

**Website**

http://www.cortina.dolomiti.org

**Piste Map**

http://www.dolomiti.org/ita/Cortina/skipass/cimaps/index.html

**Hit The Slopes**

Cortina is marvellous for beginners, with the Socrepes area being especially user-friendly, while intermediate skiers who don't mind repeating the same runs will enjoy the Tofana and Faloria sectors. Lifts are generally fast and efficient, but at peak season queues may be a minor problem.

Advanced and expert skiers may find their on-piste options limited, although the steep black at Tofana is ejoyable and Staunies from the top of Cristallo is challenging. It is, however, well worth hiring a local guide to check out some of the off-piste descents, for which the region is famous.

Apart from complete beginners, all skiers can enjoy the lovely ‘Hidden Valley’ run through magnificent mountain scenery finishing with a horse-drawn lift ride. The fun (but busy) Sella Ronda circuit is also accessible from here by taking a bus to the Fassa Valley.

Snow conditions have not been that reliable in Cortina in the past, but 95% of the area is now covered by snow machines. In fact, over the last few seasons Cortina has been widely regarded as having been one of the most snowsure resorts in the region. As such, the season is relatively long, generally running from mid-November to early May.

There are four ski schools in Cortina, which have received mixed reports and can at times have a feeling of insouciance about them.

**Cortina**

**Resort**

1225

**Base**

1225

**Top**

2930

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Outdoor activities in Cortina include snowshoeing, very good cross-country trails, an annual polo festival in February/March and, of course, the popular Italian pastime of people-watching with a coffee in hand. But for something more unique to Cortina, tour the sites of the 1956 Winter Olympic Games, including the ski jump, bobsleigh run and ice skating rink.

Indoor options within the resort range from a swimming pool, fitness centre and ice stadium to an art gallery, cinema and various museums; including one with a focus on modern art. Many of Cortina’s hotels have wellness areas that are perfect places to relax after a day’s skiing. Among them is the Rosapetra Spa Resort (tel: 0436 869 062; [www.rosapetracortina.it](http://www.rosapetracortina.it)), which offers a range of spa packages, a relaxing pool and a sauna.

**Family Fun**

Children are extremely well catered for in Cortina, especially on the Socrepes slopes – the place is crawling with kids at times, all very adequately administered by friendly and enthusiastic instructors.

Activities are available for children at the Olympic Ice Stadium, and an insight into astronomy is available from the planetarium (tel: 0436 862 372; [www.cortinastelle.it](http://www.cortinastelle.it)). Gulliver Park, close to the slopes in Pocol, runs a babysitting service in addition to inflatable games, slides and other facilities.

**Retail Therapy**

Visitors can buy everything from jewellery and artwork to an ocean-going yacht in the boutiques and shops in Cortina, with furs in particular a big favourite. Keep up-to-date with Italian fashion by browsing the fashion boutiques along Corso Italia; or for less expensive retail therapy, the Co-operativa di Cortina department store on Corso Italia is well stocked with good value items.

**Splashing Out**

Cortina is made for splashing out. Its shops are a great place to flex the plastic to purchase a special item or two – whether it’s trendy new Patagonia or Arc’teryx ski gear or a luxury watch from Bulgari or Giulio Veronesi. If ski conditions are poor, take a day trip to Venice, where plenty more shopping opportunities await around two hours away.

**Apres Ski**

When the lifts stop, a popular rendezvous for après-ski in Cortina is Clipper Bar (Largo Poste; tel: 0436 867 999), which tends to get busier as the night draws on. For something more refined, try the Hotel de la Poste (Piazza Roma 14; tel: 0436 4271; [www.delaposte.it](http://www.delaposte.it)) or Enoteca wine bar (Via del Mercato 5; tel: 0436 862 040; [www.enotecacortina.com](http://www.enotecacortina.com)); the latter offering a sensational range of wines.

**Eating Out**

There's a wide range of options for eating out in Cortina, from great pizzas at Pizzeria Al Passetto (Via Marconi 8; tel: 0436 2254; [www.alpassettoghedina.it](http://www.alpassettoghedina.it)) and good ambience in the Grill de la Poste (Piazza Roma 14; 0436 4271; [www.delaposte.it](http://www.delaposte.it)) to high-end dining at the Michelin-starred Tivoli (tel: 0436 866 400; [www.ristorantetivolicortina.it](http://www.ristorantetivolicortina.it)) below the Lacedel ski area.

Despite the aforementioned options, the resort is more about mountain dining with few local restaurants in Cortina failing to provide superb fare. Don't miss the Rifugio Averau (tel: 0436 4660) above Cinque Torri for its fantastic views and great pasta and wine, or the charming Rifugio Duca d'Aosta (tel: 0436 2780) in the Tofana/Socrepes area.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airports: Treviso Airport (TSF); Venice Marco Polo Airport (VCE).

Distance to resort: 132km (82 miles); 160km (100 miles).

Driving time: 2 hours; 2 hours 30 minutes.

**Getting Around**

Free ski buses transport skiers between the different ski areas regularly throughout the day and into early evening. There are regular bus services to the major airports and to Venice. Hire cars are available within the resort, and there are nine parking areas within the centre.

**Hotels**

Italy's most fashionable resort has its fair share of luxury lodgings that boast their own spas and exclusive restaurants; however, there are also many moderately priced apartments, chalets and hotels in Cortina. Many of the cheaper chalets and apartments are situated outside the town centre.

**Hotel Montana**

The simple Hotel Montana provides superb value accommodation in the heart of Cortina, nestled amongst the bars and shops of the fashionable Corso Italia.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Corso Italia 94

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Cortina d'Ampezzo

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

0436 862 126.

**Website**

XXX

**Hotel Villa Argentina**

This family-run hotel is in an out-of-town location with good slope access and great views. Guests here can relax after a ski day in the on-site games room, bar and sauna.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Via R. Menardi 42

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Cortina d'Ampezzo

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

0436 5641.

**Website**

http://www.hotelargentinacortina.it

**Cristallo**

One of the world’s great ski resort hotels and the only 5-star in the Dolomites, Cristallo offers elegance and service to an exceptional standard.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Via R. Menardi 42

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Cortina d'Ampezzo

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

0436 881 111.

**Website**

http://www.cristallo.it

**Hotel de la Poste**

This elegant old coaching inn can be found in the centre of town and boasts a stylish restaurant and bar.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Piazza Roma 14

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Cortina d'Ampezzo

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

0436 4271.

**Website**

http://www.delaposte.it