

THE HELI-RAISER

Chalet Bighorn, Revelstoke

USP: Private helipad. **FOOTPRINT:** A bear's paw of 1,400 square metres.

SLEEPS: 16 (the eight bedrooms are twice the size of any in the French Alps). The apex of chalet luxury in North America at the pinnacle of heli-skiing, Revelstoke is where it all began in 1970—heli-skiing from one of the snowiest towns on earth, with an annual fall of between 12 and 18 metres (Zermatt has four), where in the pub called the Village

Idiot the seats are made out of old skis. Now add extreme luxury: Chalet Bighorn ticks all boxes, but the indoor pool and outdoor hot tub, the sexy ski room, the spa, the private cine-

ma, the teppanyaki grill and the starched staff are a mere bagatelle compared to the helipad. Just as you are delving into a delicately boiled breakfast egg, a Bell 205 12-seater swoops across the Columbia River and descends outside the drawing-room window. Within minutes you're off with your rockers—super-wide skis for surfing the great white tide through the snow ghosts (conifers hunched under sparkling capes). This thrashes the finest bespoke skiing in the world. The champagne powder is waist-high: a metre of the gossamer lightness of sitting on a base twice as deep. And if the conditions are too cloudy, Bighorn has a big advantage over every other heli-skiing gig: your chauffeur can drive you down to the gondola that will whisk you 1,750 verts (vertical metres, but use the lingo) up Mount Mackenzie to the longest runs

in North America. Brits Michael and Chris Kirkland, thirtysomething heirs to the Bowmer &



Chalet Bighorn



Private heli-skiing from Bighorn Revelstoke.

SUPERCHALETs

By VICTORIA MATHER

Kirkland construction business, have spared no expense making Bighorn a super-deluxe Alpine/Scottish hunting lodge. Balmoral meets Courchevel decadence.

THE SPECIALIST: James Orr Heliski (heliski.co.uk; 01799 516 964).

THE DEAL: From £40,000 a week, including all food, wine, champagne and staff for 16 people but not heli-skiing, which can be arranged with Selkirk Tangiers or Eagle Pass. The price is approximately £10,000 per person for 10 people with two guides for five heli-days.

TRAVEL

TOP OF THE WORLD!
A *Vogue* model,
photographed by Toni
Frissell, 1941.

PHOTOGRAPH: TONI FRISSELL/CONDÉ NAST ARCHIVE

THE BEST...

Winter snow and winter sun.
By Victoria Mather, p. 192

SUPERCHALETs

Alpine-cabin fever.
By Victoria Mather, p. 196

BODRUM

Turkey, on a roll.
By Christa D'Souza, p. 200

SHANGHAI

The shock of the old.
By Steve King, p. 204

PRIVATE ISLANDS

Palm trees, yes. Riff-raff, no.
By Alice B-B, p. 209