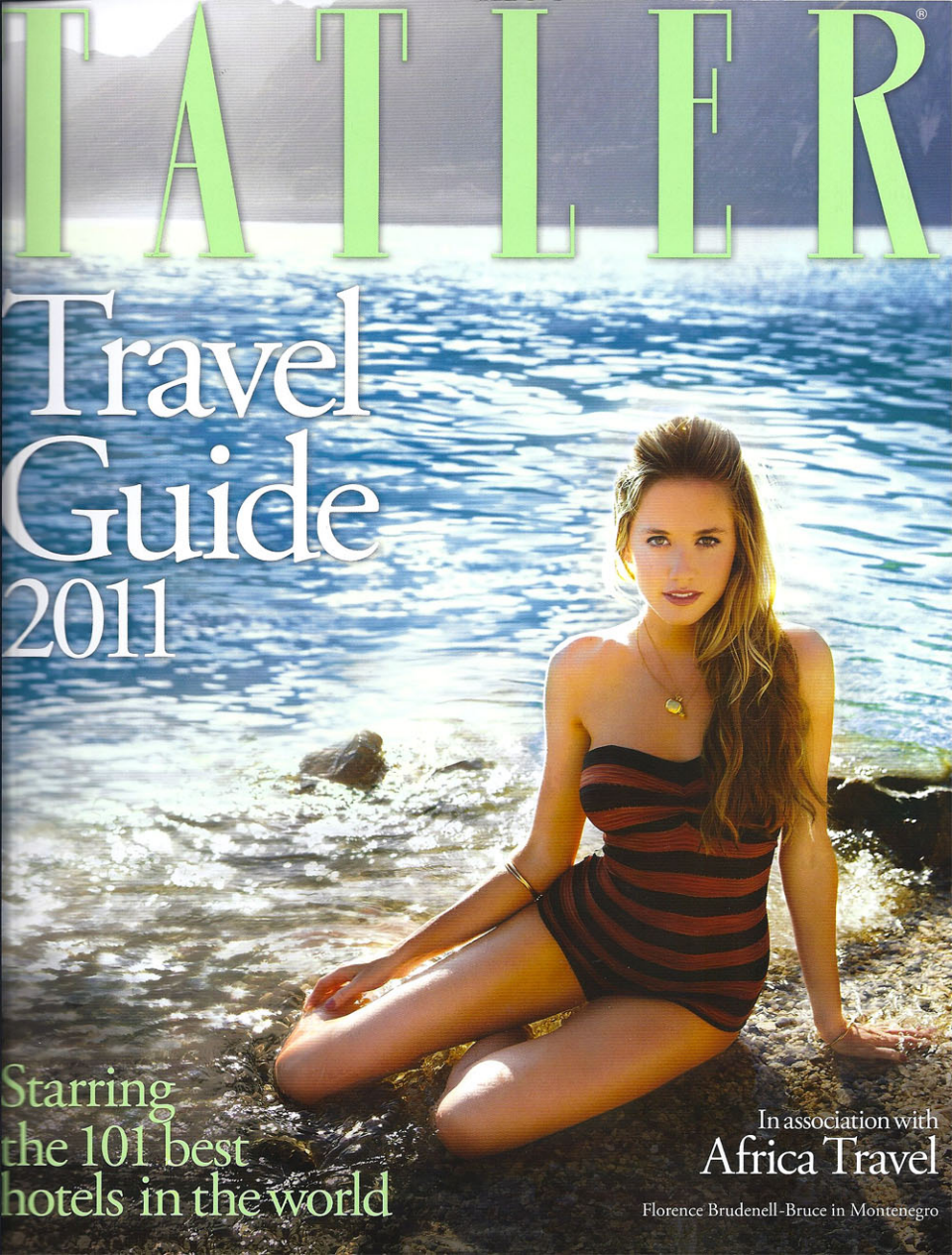


TATTLER[®]

A young woman with long, wavy blonde hair is sitting on a rocky shore. She is wearing a black and red horizontally striped one-piece swimsuit. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a body of blue water with gentle ripples. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

Travel Guide 2011

Starring
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Florence Brudenell-Bruce in Montenegro

Best of the Alps



DAVOS, Tivoli

More boutique hotel than chic chalet, Tivoli is a fattypuff yet intensely discreet. It's a big-hitter. All the bedrooms are wonderfully different – one tartan, one fleur-de-lys. And the indoor pool and spa, instead of typically sunk below ground, are in a converted barn with two huge glass walls – filled with cameras so parents can keep an eye on pesky kids. **Sleeps** 12 + 6 children **Website** tivoli.lodge.co.uk **Book It** Mountain Luxury (tel: 020 7193 1364) **Rates** From £27,565 a week.

HIGH-FLYERS

Bliss for city boys. There's a new British Airways flight from London City to Chambéry, where you can hop on to Megève, the Trois Vallées and even Val d'Isère. Otherwise, an excellent service to know about is Snow Jet (snowjet.co.uk). But the ultimate zippy trip is undoubtedly by chopper. For shared helicopter transfers across the Alps, try WhiteTracks (whitetracks.co.uk).

LECH, Aurelio Clubhouse

Clever people ski in Austria, and Lech is Austria's smartest resort. Traditionally, it's been famous for its hotels, not its chalets. Fittingly, the Clubhouse is a bit of both; a self-contained nine-bedroom chalet linked to a hotel, so it can be used either way. There's a huge master bedroom, beautiful limestone-clad indoor pool and extraordinary double-storey living area. It's all wonderful OTT, from leopardskin chairs to camouflage-print sofas. Big, bold, bombastic – and right on the side of the piste. **Sleeps** 16 + 2 children **Website** aurelio.lech.com **Book It** Oxford Ski Company (tel: 01865 398130) **Rates** From £64,290 a week.



Goat-fur earmuffs, £225, by Maison Michel, at Browns

Fox-fur jacket, £7,200, by Lanvin, at Browns

Ski boot, £685, by Surefoot

GSTAAD

Everything you need to know but were too afraid to ask...

No one skis. Well, Geoffrey Moore, son of Roger, skis. And the girl with the curly hair who wins all the competitions, she skis. No one else. Wear ski stuff though – the smart kind. Gstaad has more fur per head than hair per head. Fur on head, fur on hands, fur on inside of fur. Wear jewels. Jewels in the shape of leopards, or spiders, or the size of a dining room table for eight. Go to the Eagle Club. Are you sure this is it? Yup, it may look like a boarding-school restaurant for old people in tight pants – really tight pants, with unfeasibly high bottoms – but this is it. Greet Pino and order bullshots and vodka penne. Or just accept what Pino hands you on a plate without asking. Feast on the sight of deposed royals. Go shopping – only in Lorenz Bach. Swarm the place like a cashmere-incensed hornet. Don't have time to try it on? Buy it anyway, in every colour. Mooch about on the cobble streets. Say hi to Valentino. Say hi to Claudia Schiffer, watching her children ice-skate. Say hi to an Austro-Hungarian princeling. Say hi to the evil creature who ran the Madoff European feeder fund. Go back to chalet: swim, steam, massage, sleep. Wake up, exhausted. Put on something shiny. Have big vodka. Apologise to house guests again: 'It's only a very small party. Do make yourself at home. I'm sorry we have to go. It's just we said yes so long ago. The whole thing is actually a bit of a bore.' Inside, think to self, 'It's all very A-list. You're simply not invited. I'm so excited I want to eat my own hand.'

SLOPESIDE

Who goes where



Clockwise from top, Claudia Schiffer, Valentino, Elle Macpherson

KING OF THE MOUNTAIN

The man who'll put a spring in your skis. Based in Verbier, Warren Smith (warrensmith-skiacademy.com) is a hero in the British ski scene – his academy gives intermediates the skills they need to get a flipping move on. Smith teaches skiing as a performance sport rather than a recreational activity. Disciples include Lawrence Dallaglio, James Blunt and Matthew Vaughn.