

OUT OF MY WAY, FRITZ!

They may not know much about military fair play, but the fact remains that Johnny European is better at skiing than us. Fight back with our guide to the top resorts, the best gear and the wildest chalet girls

IT'S EASY TO GO SKIING. JUST WALK INTO A TRAVEL AGENT'S, give them some money, and you're there. But the real trick is to make it through your holiday without looking like a sad Third World loser to other skiers from mainland Europe. Making the right fashion statement on the slopes is your first important step, though a notoriously tricky one. While it's true that you need to distance yourself from the mass of gormless Brits in their cheap Millet's anoraks, if you go out and blow £400 on a flashy top-of-the-range jacket and salopettes, you're going to look a real jerk falling on your arse all the time. The best option for first-week skiers is probably to borrow some mate's relatively well worn gear, which says you recognise the importance of wearing the best kit, but you're not stupid enough to blow loads of cash on a brand-new version when you don't even know if you actually *like* skiing yet. If you don't have a mate who's

suitably endowed with ski clobber, then check out the ski sales and look for classic kit in block colours, not trendy patterns which look hideous and date like a Manchester United away kit.

When you go to the ski rental shop on arrival, you will quickly find yourself in a war situation, as the staff will want to process you and extract your cash as quickly as possible so they can get back to their dubbed *George And Mildred* on telly. Your position must be an insistence on quality and comfort. Don't allow yourself to be rushed or you'll pay for it with blisters all week. If your boots aren't 100 per cent comfortable, don't take them. If you kick up enough fuss, they will fit you out properly.

Once on the slopes, you will be faced with the problem of the ski lift. This is a really tricky place to maintain your image as it is impossible not to fall over on your first few trips on a drag lift. One practice idea is to slap on some rollerskates then stick ▶