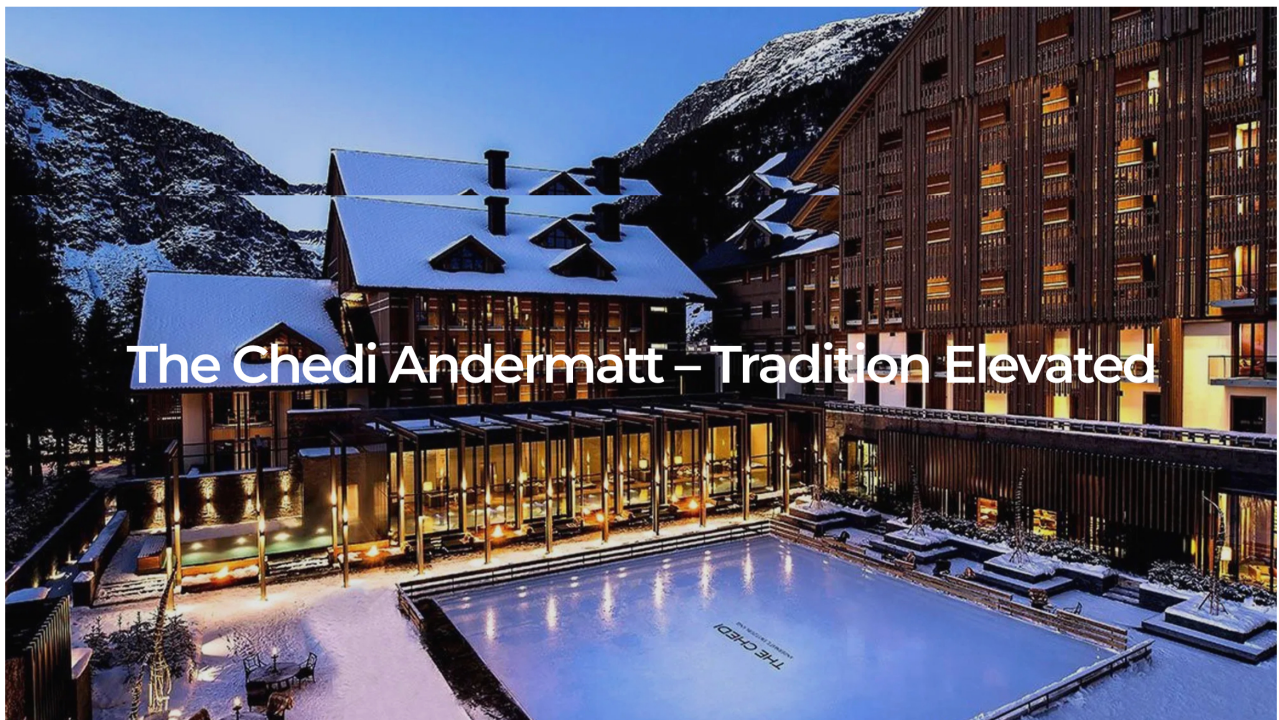




## The Chedi Andermatt – Tradition Elevated



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Towering mountains. Bottomless chasms. Idyllic valleys. Everything about Andermatt, Switzerland is dramatic. Maybe that's why they filmed the James Bond movie, including a windy car chase

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through the Alps, here in the Sixties.

Inspired by the local beauty and the long-standing Swiss chalet culture yet also modern and worldly, the Chedi Andermatt is not only one of the best ski resorts you'll find anywhere, but also one of the premier hotels in the world.

## THE SETTING

Taking the spiraling roads into the Swiss Alps or the world-class Glacier Express from Zermatt to St. Moritz, the views on the trip to Andermatt take your breath away. If it's winter, the snow-covered peaks point skyward with a terrible beauty that demonstrates the true power of nature and lures in skiers with the promise of epic runs. In the summer, there are pristine lakes and plunging waterfalls so stunning they have more Instagram "likes" than Cristiano Ronaldo.

But probably the most memorable of scenery is what isn't there—the gorges that drop away for thousands of feet demonstrate how less can be more in the most striking way. The most famous of these local ravines is Schöllenen Gorge, which is so daunting that legend has it only the devil could bridge to cross it—which is why the span crossing it is called Devil's Bridge to this day.



## THE DESIGN

You wouldn't be faulted to think you are looking at a traditional Swiss chalet that maybe got a bit of a facelift. Natural wood exteriors. Wide projecting gabled roofs. Exposed beams. Natural yet decorative facades. Predominant windows. Railed balconies. All the classic elements of this local architecture are featured in the cluster of buildings of this resort. But looking closer you'll see that these features are just a part of the story as there's an Asian aura underlying everything. That's not surprising since after all "chedi" means temple in Thai. It's also not surprising that this combination of European sensibilities and Far East atmosphere comes from the mind of Jean-Michel Gathy, the revered architect who is from Belgium but lives in Malaysia. The result is the perfect combination of cozy lodge and Zen hideaway.



## THE INTERIOR

To walk into the lobby of the Chedi Andermatt is to be astounded by its breadth. The vaulted ceilings of the lobby mirror the tall peaks outside. But instead of making you feel small, this entry puts you at ease. The natural colors of the dark wood, local stone, and plush leather invite you to stay and relax instead of hurrying off to your room.

Adding to the comfortable yet posh environment are the arrays of fireplaces and the pillows everywhere, while the nearly 100 feet long black stone Long Bar that doubles as the reception area speaks to the hotel's mountain location and powerful design.

This rustic sophistication carries over to the 100+ rooms and suites that are not only spacious, but also luxurious. The fireplaces, big windows, and terraces bring the feel of the outdoors inside while comfy touches like more pillows and leather chairs, ultra-lux Hästens beds and books on the shelves give them a homey warmth no matter how cold it is outside. The Asian influence is evident in the décor, including the wall murals, but probably most apparent in the bathrooms with the deep soaking tub and exposed stone walls.



## THE AMENITIES

The 25,000 square-foot spa here is world-class, and its centerpiece is a 35-meter indoor pool (there's also a heated outdoor pool, as well as 8 other pools with varying sizes and temperatures). Asian-inspired treatments like Thai reflexology massage mix with Swedish techniques to offer a decadent array of relaxing options that also include a sauna, steam room, and hydrothermal baths.

World-class food is also on the menu here. From the Eastern influence comes The Japanese Restaurant, which has sushi and sashimi on par with anything you'll find in Tokyo (and some say it's even better). The Swiss culinary connection stands out in a big way with the cheese room that stands at 16 feet high to accommodate all the varieties they serve at The Restaurant.



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## THE ACTIVITIES

Yes, you're in the mountains so there's hiking and biking and wandering around the quaint village of Andermatt, with its population of 1,200 souls, is a nice break from the norm. The amazing scenery makes sightseeing a good bet as well. Golfing is also popular with an 18-hole, par-72 championship golf course a stone's throw away from the hotel and three other courses in the area. But let's be honest, just like summer draw folks to the French Riviera, you're coming here for the snow.

Skiing is the name of the game here, and there are thousands of miles of terrain to cover on mountains like the Gemsstock and the Nätschen, and at ski areas at Sedrun and Oberalp. If you need some help with your gear or your form, the ski butlers will look after you. Downhill not your thing? There's cross country as well snowshoeing and sledding in a classic wooden sledge to keep grown-ups and kids alike happy.

The après ski scene is a blast with the aforementioned lobby as well as a cigar bar, wine bar, library to hang out at. If you can't get enough of the clean Alps air you can also chill in the courtyard where there's a skating rink (and cocktails if you'd rather have your ice in a glass).

## THE CHEDI

The Swiss Alps have long been a destination for both relaxation and adventure and the Chedi Andermatt doesn't disappoint on either account. To become a destination in its own right in one of the most revered destinations in the world is a testament to its ability to integrate seamlessly with the idea of what a Swiss chalet should be, while elevating that notion to five-star standards with its personal touches and international style. You can debate whether it's the best ski resort in the world, but there is no arguing that the Chedi Andermatt is the pinnacle of alpine elegance.

You can book a stay at the Chedi on their [website](#).

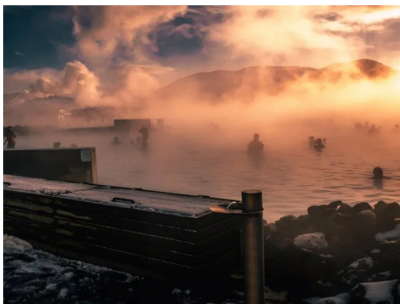
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