

## Great skiing competitions and colorful carnival in the Alps Rome

The Valle d'Aosta is known for its Roman history and gastronomic specialties, and with 20 ski areas and a wide range of events, the area is also a very popular winter destination. The coming months the slopes are also visited by skiers in fanciful costumes.



The Valle d'Aosta, Italy's smallest region, is with its Roman heritage and its magnificent national parks an interesting acquaintance at all times of the year.

And the Aosta Valley will be no less attractive this winter, where the area is the setting for a number of major sporting events.

The new season thus marks the return of the Aosta Valley as host for the international Ski World Cup: the very best international athletes in the sport will compete in La Thuile for the first time since 2016, when competitions are held in Super G and slalom respectively at the famous Franco Berthod ski slope.

From a technical point of view, the Franco Berthod piste with its steep inclines and sharp turns is among the most interesting in the world.

A few weeks later, from March 5 to 14, the world's best cross-country skiers compete in and around the small village of Cogne during the world championships in cross-country.

### **Carnival and ancient rituals**

For many villages in the Aosta Valley, winter time is also carnival time and a time of year when virtually all inhabitants cooperate and get involved in the festivities.

The Courmayeur Carnival is a celebration of nature's fertility and includes the fascinating *badoche*, a traditional dance that has roots in ancient rites.

Another traditional carnival is the carnival in Nus, which for more than 60 years has taken place exactly three days before Ash Wednesday, a day that marks the beginning of the Christian Lent, which is celebrated mainly by Catholics.

The event draws its inspiration from the history of the Barons in Nus and relates to historical events from the 1300s; "Seigneurs" come down from the Old Castle, accompanied by a torchlight procession, clarion calls, heralds and a lively, smartly-dressed entourage.

For more than 90 years there has also been a carnival celebration in Villefranche, the largest city in Quart, and this year is no exception from the rule.

For the youngest, there is a lot of things going on during the Saint-Vincent Carnival, where pupils from primary school will be in charge for 11 days straight. Throughout this period, there is a special force of “Little Policemen”, who have the right to issue fines (or ask for offers) from the adults, but don’t worry: the money they earn is donated exclusively to charity.

Not even the slopes are protected during the colorful carnival period. During the special Carnevale bianco at the resort of Pila carnival characters in traditional costumes race after each other along the ski-slopes.

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[La Thuile World Cup](#)

[The Portal of Skiing in Aosta Valley](#)



**About Valle d'Aosta**

*Valle d'Aosta, Aosta Valley, has an area of about 3270 km<sup>2</sup>, and is the smallest region in Italy. A third of the area's total is located 2600 meters above sea level. The valley is shaped by glaciers and surrounded by mountains: A beautiful area, spectacularly located in the midst between Europe's highest peaks with Mont Blanc on the border with France on one side and Matterhorn and Monte Rosa on the edge of Switzerland to the other. It is also here you'll find the wild and unspoilt National Park Gran Paradiso. Culturally you'll find yourself in a nice mix between Italian and French. With an exquisite gastronomy, an architecturally charming and picturesque alpine landscape and with a wide range of sports opportunities, the area attracts people from all over the world. As a region, the Aosta Valley offers not only favorable conditions for mountaineers, hikers and skiers. It is also an ideal destination for people who want a more relaxed, easygoing and enjoyable holiday in beautiful surroundings. <http://www.lovevda.it/en>*