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The C&TH Guide to Arlberg^{DRINK/)}

Discover the wonders of Lech & St. Christoph

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*Did you know that of all the big name ski resorts in the world, the Arlberg region was where skiing began? With Austria's oldest skiing club founded in St. Christoph in the early 1900s. Along with drag lifts, cable cars and ski-instructors. Even parallel turns were first recorded at the first ski-school here in 1901. Cut to present day and the school is still considered one of the best. With the likes of Princess Caroline of Monaco a member, along with a few Olympic gold medallists, it's also hosted high profile skiing competitions including the Alpine Ski World Championships and the famous White Ring Race. Now, with the newest Gondola launched in 2016 – Arlberg is the largest connected resort in Austria (5th in the world). With Lech one of the most affluent – in a less ostentatious way than some of the others, it has the highest concentration of award-winning gourmet restaurants in Europe, says **Emma Whitehair**.*

The C&TH Guide to Arlberg

The Hotel Aurelio, Lech



(<https://www.countryandtownhouse.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/AURELIO-010089.jpg>)

As we arrive at Aurelio (<http://www.aureliolech.com/en/>), its partnership with Bentley is evident in the cars lining the drive. Then there's the distinctive yellow of a Veuve serving van on the deck, welcoming us at the main entrance. These brand alignments perfectly setting the tone for a luxurious stay in the what was voted the 'World's Best Ski Boutique Hotel 2018' at the World Ski Awards. Located just off the side of the main piste down to Lech, makes this my kind of ski in-ski out. With zero traipsing with heavy equipment, just a short and steep slope ensuring guests hit the ground running before hitting the lifts. Don't forget to say 'hi' to the Aurelio Alpacas on your way in and out though. They live just by the ski room. The town, with its chic boutiques and ski hire shop, Stolz (<https://www.stolz.at/lech-rent-a-ski>), which has more in common with Harvey Nichols than Intersport – is also just a short stroll down a mountain path.

With a fuss-free and modern take on typical Austrian pine interiors, the generously proportioned and well-designed rooms here are well worth writing home about. With considered lighting offering numerous light settings, from watching TV or reading in bed, to make-up or 'wellbeing' in the bathroom. Even when you turn on the light to get up in the night, there is a soft illumination to orientate yourself down the long corridor to the bathroom. While the blinds can also be controlled by the same panels by the side of the bed. Allowing guests to enjoy snowy mountain views from the comfort of mountainous-ly fluffy duvets and pillows.



(https://www.countryandtownhouse.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/arlberg1800-Chalet-Suites-c-arlberg1800-RESORT_David-Churchill-13.jpg)

During our stay, we had the privilege of seeing a moving (yes, I cried) performance by an Austrian string quartet in the intimate concert hall. The curves of the auditorium's undulating pine clad walls creating magical acoustics. We were also thrilled to see home grown British talent Adam Attew (<https://www.adamattew.com/blog/alpine-art-exhibition-at-the-arlberg-hospiz-hotel-in-st-christoph-austria/>)'s inaugural solo show of photo-real alpine art in the 'Cathedral Gallery' (<https://www.arlberg1800resort.at/en/culture/art-gallery-hotel-arlberg.html>). As a qualified ski instructor, the mountains are Adam's muse, and he has taken to helicopter to access remote winter landscapes to paint. Mostly featuring paintings of the local Arlberg region, there is even a collaboration with PSD skis used as his canvas, Catch this exhibition until 1st of May 2019.