

➤ **CORTINA D'AMPEZZO**

Cortina Queen of the Dolomites has a heritage of nature, tourism and glamour. A much loved Italian holiday destination for all seasons, Olympic town, cradle of alpine sports, and, for more than a century, a symbol of style, fashion and La Dolce Vita. International showcase of the Italian way of life, and exclusively positioned in the breathtaking UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Dolomite Alps.

Cortina d'Ampezzo, one of Italy's most famous tourist destinations, is situated in the far North East corner of the Veneto region, 72km from Belluno and only 44km from the Austrian border, in close proximity to the region of Trentino-Alto Adige. At an altitude of 1.224m, the valley is immersed in a landscape of unparalleled natural beauty, surrounded by some of the most mesmerizing mountains in the world, recently declared a World Natural Heritage Site by UNESCO. Cortina d'Ampezzo enjoys a unique position in the heart of this natural spectacle, where the valley opens up into an almost circular basin, hemmed in by four mountain passes. The Ampezzan peaks, many of which reach over 3000m, derive their particular beauty from being more defined, nuanced and monumental than other peaks, giving the impression of being almost architecturally inspired. The Ampezzan valley is not only the Queen of nature and alpine charm, it is also a destination known throughout the sporting world - it was the site of the 1956 Winter Olympics - as a distinguished location for the many great events taking place here. It is also a cultural centre of international reputation, and a place celebrated for *La Dolce Vita*. The town is also a guardian of tradition, ancient knowledge and precious memories, jealously guarded and preserved over time, allowing it to look to the future confident of its past.

➤ **CORTINA STATISTICS**

General Information

Country	Italy
Region	Veneto
Province	Belluno
Total area	254,51km ²
Permanent residents	6.112
Altitude	1.224 meters above sea level
Highest peak	3.244 meters above sea level
Peaks higher than 3.000m	6
Mountain passes	5

Resort Capacity

Hotels	62
Hotel guest beds	4.701
Other accommodation	2.092
Other guest beds	12.740
Rifugi / mountain huts	56
High altitude restaurants	21
Restaurants	40
Pizzerias	14
Agriturismo / farmhouses	4

City life

Bars and wine bars	33
Nightclubs	3
Shops	216
Museums	5
Art galleries and antique shops	14



Winter season statistics

Days of sunshine	8 of 10
Ski schools	6 (of which 2 are for cross-country)
Ski instructors	approximately 300
Alpine guides	30
Sport clubs and associations	21
Playgrounds + baby pistes	3+2
<u>Cortina Ski Area</u>	
Ski areas	3
Ski lifts	34
Number of ski runs	66
Km of piste	115
Highest piste	2.939 m above sea level
Connection between areas	ski bus every 15 minutes, free of charge
Average annual snowfall	4 m
Snowmaking coverage	95%
Snow cannons	130
Snow cats	30
<u>Piste classification</u>	
Black	15%
Red	37%
Blue/green	48%
Longest run: Armentarola	7,5 km
Longest vertical drop: Bus de Tofana	10 km with a drop of 1.600m
Cross-country tracks in Cortina	70 km
<u>Valley ski area</u>	
Cortina, San Vito, Auronzo	140 km of piste
<u>Dolomiti Superski</u>	
Piste	1.200 km
Ski lifts	450
Cross-country Dolomiti Nordic Ski	1.100 km
Snow cats	300

➤ DOLOMITI SUPERSKI

Cortina d'Ampezzo is part of Dolomiti Superski, the number one ski carousel in the world, and is a true paradise for all who desire a holiday with first rate skiing, excellent hotels, and a great choice of culture and entertainment. There are 12 separate resorts on this extraordinary circuit, immersed in the Dolomites of the Veneto, Trentino, and Alto Adige regions, boasting 1.220km of piste and 450 ski lifts, accessible with a single ski pass, the DolomitiSuperSkipass. From early December until April, Dolomiti Superski guarantees perfectly groomed slopes, 90% of which are located at altitudes between 1,500m and 3269m, for snow-sure skiing at high altitude, in an exceptional alpine environment.

➤ BEST OF THE ALPS

Cortina d'Ampezzo is the only Italian resort included in the prestigious European Association, Best of The Alps, the international seal of quality uniting the 12 most famous and exclusive alpine resorts appreciated for the quality of their services and facilities, admired for their striking landscapes and respected for their cultural, natural and environmental heritage. Best of the Alps is a symbol of a long hospitality tradition that has paved the road for both winter and summer mountain tourism. In each of these 12 destinations the beauty of the landscape and the uniqueness of the environment are perfectly combined with the requirements of modern tourism.

➤ UNESCO WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE

Science and beauty are joined together in the Dolomite rock. These are, in a nutshell, the qualities that lead to the nomination and subsequent selection of the Dolomites as a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Area. The UN committee for Education, Science and Culture was in fact seduced, as were Goethe, Mario Rigoni Stern and Le Corbusier, by the sheer beauty of these rocks, with their characteristically jagged yet monumental form, and their marvellous colours that change with the natural rhythm of the light and the weather. Universally considered one of the most attractive mountain sceneries in the world, the Dolomites are intrinsically fascinating because of their particular variety of shapes, with spires and towers in sharp contrast to the sudden horizontal surfaces of the ledges and plateaus. The nobility and majesty of the outline of the mountains are further enhanced by the contrast between the hues of the pale rock and the vivid colours of the forests and meadows below. Even the pioneers of geology were captured by the splendour of these mountains, as witnessed by the writings, drawings and many photographs that highlight the charm and the beauty of these places. The unique geo-morphological and geological properties of these mountains have also made contributions to the field of science.

➤ THE AMPEZZAN DOLOMITES: TOUCHING THE CLOUDS

The Dolomites are named after the French geologist Déodat de Dolomieu who, in the second half of the eighteenth century, determined the particular composition of rock contained in these famous formations, shaped 250 million years ago. The majestic Dolomite peaks, many standing more than 3000m tall, are characterised by the unique rock from which they are formed, giving the mountains their distinctive tint of colour that changes according to the time of day. At sunset they are alight with a fiery red that gradually changes to purple before being extinguished by the night. It is called *Enrosadira*, or *Alpenglow*, a phenomenon exacerbated by the geological composition of the rock. Some of the most famous Dolomite peaks, like the *Tofana di Rozes* or the *Cristallo*, flagships of one of the most picturesque natural sceneries on the planet, are found right here in the Ampezzan territory.

The **Tofane**, perhaps the most impressive group of all the mountains that overlook the splendid Ampezzo valley, have three main peaks, all of which are taller than 3000m. *Tofana di Mezzo*, or the *Tofana* in the middle, which once housed a selection of small glaciers, is the tallest of the *Tofane* at 3,244m.

The **Cristallo**, with its 3.221m, is one of the most majestic and celebrated mountains in the Dolomites, and together with *Pomagagnon* it closes the Ampezzo valley to the north, forming a scenic backdrop with high visual impact. Like the *Tofane*, the *Cristallo* is characterized by tall rocky walls that often drop vertically all the way to the subalpine level, whereas the massifs of *Fanes* and *Croda Rossa* present less hilly plateaus interspersed by vast grasslands and high altitude meadows.

The characteristic pale grey rock formations of the **5 Torri** (2.252m), located south of the *Falzarego* mountain pass, are instantly recognizable from their particular shape, reminiscent of medieval towers. The area was a First World War battleground between Italian and Austro-Hungarian armies, and many constructions from that era have been conserved and restored, today forming part of itineraries of great historical interest.

The summit of **Faloria** (2,231m) is the starting point for many ski-runs and routes used by hikers in summer. Legend has it that this was the house of God, *Monte Ciasadio*, as it was called by the Ampezzan people, because every morning the sun rises behind it.

Lagazuoi (2.827 m), which gets its name from the lakes that form here during spring, has since 1965 been connected by cable car to the *Falzarego* mountain pass. The area, which was used as summer pasture during the eighteenth century, was a notorious battleground during the First World War.

The **Croda Rossa d'Ampezzo**, with its 3.146 meters above sea level, marks the border between Tyrol and Belluno in the Nature Park of the Ampezzo Dolomites. It owes its name to the presence of

Jurassic limestone and chalk marl, which give it the particular shade of red that distinguishes it from the paler tones of other Dolomite mountains.

The characteristic shape of **Becco di Mezzodi** (2.602m), a familiar feature of the panorama south of the valley, derives its curious name (the beak of midday) from its shape which resembles a beak, and from the fact that, seen from the centre of Cortina, the sun hits its highest peak exactly at noon.

Together with Becco di Mezzodi and the 5 Torri, the **Croda da Lago** mountain range, with its highest peak reaching 2.709 meters above sea level, closes the Ampezzan basin to the south. Its name refers to Lake Federa situated at the foot of its eastern slope, at an altitude of 2.038m.

As one of the mountains surrounding the famous valley of Cortina, the visual impact of the **Pomagagnon** (2.178 m), is truly spectacular. Its dramatic effect is more due to its close proximity to the valley, creating an illusion of grandeur, than to a remarkable elevation.

➤ **THE REGIONAL NATURE PARK OF DOLOMITI D'AMPEZZO**

Another valuable resource of the local area is the Nature Park of the Ampezzo Dolomites, established in 1990. It extends more than 11,200 hectares north of the centre of Cortina, toward the border between the Veneto and Alto Adige regions in the heart of the Eastern Dolomites. This protected area hosts a wide variety of fauna, including roe, deer, chamois, ibex, marmots and the golden eagle, as well as a rich alpine flora. The Nature Park arose from the ancient and undivided ownership of the Regole d'Ampezzo – an institution stemming from the era of Celtic and Roman settlements, formed with the objective of safeguarding the collective use of forests and pastures. The Park has greatly stimulated cultural and scientific interest in the area and has its official seat at the Ciasa de rà Regoles, on Corso Italia.

From the main roads connecting the mountain passes of Falzarego, Cimabanche and Tre Croci, dozens of forest tracks and paths branch out, forming a network of more than 300km of hiking trails. The area includes 8 vie ferrate and 6 equipped climbing routes along the remains of the ancient castle Bodestagno, from which one can enjoy a bewitching landscape, or witness the scars from the Great War. Hikers visiting the newly restored outdoor museums of the Great War can choose between 11 alpine refuges, or mountain huts, located within the park offering traditional home-made cuisine and wines from the region.

➤ **THE SNOW QUEEN**

The 1956 Winter Olympics, the first to be transmitted live on Italian television, put Cortina on the map internationally as a winter sport destination of excellence. The Queen of the Dolomites maintains a privileged relationship with winter sports, as evidenced by the many great sporting events hosted here throughout the winter season. The area offers perfectly groomed runs for every skill level, scenic cross-country routes, some of the most beautiful itineraries in the alps, walks and excursions on snow, breathtaking off-piste, and finally, the latest news: curling, ski-mountaineering, snow-shoeing and snowboarding. Cortina d'Ampezzo confirms its position as a much-loved destination for sport enthusiasts, whether as spectators of international events, or practicing one of the many snow sports on offer on the white trails of Cortina, trodden by world-famous athletes.

Ski Area Cortina d'Ampezzo – part of Dolomiti Superski

A true paradise for winter sports enthusiasts, the Cortina ski area – where statistically the sun shines 8 out of 10 days, for eight hours a day – comprises Cortina Cube (Crystal, Faloria Mietres), Tofana, and Lagazuoi-5 Torri, offering 70 runs with a total of 115 km of piste, a vertical drop of 1715 meters, 95% coverage of snow making facilities, and 38 ski lifts – 5 gondolas, 26 chair lifts, 6 t-bar lifts and one hand-pulled lift – with an hourly capacity of 56,650 people. Famous runs, such as the Olympic in Tofana, and spectacular panoramas, like the one from the peak of Lagazuoi (2,800 meters) and from Forcella Staunies in the Cristallo range (2,930 m), are easily accessible by lift. Last winter saw the opening of a scenic, new lift facility that connects the 5 Torri-area with that of Col Gallina and Falzarego. Thanks to the new 420m long 2-seater Croda Negra chairlift, which connects the Croda Negra to the Fedare run of Passo Giau, the Lagazuoi - 5 Torri-area now finds itself in a central position to all the ski areas of the Ladin valleys.

On the north side of the Forcella Negra, one can now reach the slopes of Col Gallina and the Falzarego Pass via the new *Averau Troi* skirun. The new route runs around Mount Averau, one of the most scenic spots of the Lagazuoi - 5 Torri ski area, with views toward the giants of the Tofane and Sasso di Stria.

Ski area Faloria-Cristallo-Mietres

In addition to an excellent selection of runs catering to skiers of all levels and abilities, the Faloria-Cristallo ski-area offers spectacular views across the Ampezzan valley. The “Forcella Staunies” chairlift in the Cristallo range takes you to an altitude of 2,930 meters, where you can enjoy a breathtaking panorama of the Dolomite summits. The Mietres ski-area is specially adapted to children with its selection of gentle runs winding through the woods. Here you can also find a fabulous, dedicated sledge-run, popular with children of all ages! There are 12 mountain refuges in this area.

Ski area Tofane

The new 6-seat chairlift Tofana Express swiftly takes you from the beginner’s area of the lower slopes of Tofana to the higher pistes, where you will find several technically challenging runs, like the Canalone and the famous Schuss. The Freccia nel Cielo cable-car transports you to the Ra Valles ski-area, where at an altitude of 2,500m you are guaranteed great snow conditions throughout the season. The route of the Olympia ski-tour takes you to the unforgettable runs of the 1956 winter Olympics, today the site of the Women’s World Cup. There are 15 mountain refuges and restaurants in the area.

Ski Area Lagazuoi-5 Torri

A free ski bus links the Lagazuoi-5 Torri area with the Tofane. The area offers a wide variety of scenic pistes set in a breathtaking landscape. The Lagazuoi refuge, at an altitude of 2.752m, with views of the Tofane and the Marmolada, can be reached by cable car from the Falzarego mountain pass. This is the starting point for the Armentarola track, the longest and most scenic ski run in the Dolomites, which connects the area to Val Badia. In the Lagazuoi-5 Torri area there are still many traces of the Great War and trenches can be visited as part of the First World War ski tour, an itinerary along the Dolomite frontline territories of Badia, Arabba, Marmolada and Civetta. The area boasts 12 mountain refuges and refreshment areas offering traditional cuisine and local wines.

Skipass

The Ampezzo Dolomites offer some of the most exciting black runs in the Alps, set in breathtaking scenery. The valley skipass gives access to an area of 140km of piste, part of the Dolomiti Superski, which includes Cortina, Auronzo-Misurina and San Vito di Cadore. The Dolomiti Superskipass, on the other hand, gives access to all the 450 lift-facilities of the world’s largest ski carousel. Every day you can discover a new area, try new slopes, and enjoy different panoramas with 1,200km of pure piste pleasure across 12 unforgettable ski regions, accessible with a single skipass.

Winter Sports

Downhill skiing

The flagship winter sport on offer in Cortina, downhill skiing is in the very DNA of the resort. As well as hosting international events such as the Women’s World Cup, Cortina boasts famous runs that have made international ski history, such as the Olympia in the Tofane. A large number of highly qualified ski-instructors and ski-schools offer group and individual lessons at all skills levels and across every discipline.

Nordic skiing

The popularity of cross-country, or Nordic skiing, has been on the rise for several years, which is also reflected in the completely new look with which the sport is presented in Cortina. Cross-country enthusiasts and athletes will find well maintained tracks and services that meet the demands of all skill levels, including a snow guarantee programme, set in the breathtaking scenery of the Dolomiti d’Ampezzo Natural Park and framed by some of the most beautiful mountains in the world. The hub of cross-country skiing in the Ampezzo valley, the Cross Country Ski Centre in Fiammes, is a well-

equipped facility which has recently been enhanced through a range of specialized services. In case of a lack of natural snow, one can still ski on the tracks of the ski school and on the major part of the route along the former railway line, which is popular with experienced skiers of both classical and freestyle techniques.

Curling

The Queen of the Dolomites and curling has been a winning combination for more than a hundred years. The sport was practiced in Cortina already at the beginning of the previous century and grew in popularity on the icy tracks of the prestigious Cristallo and Miramonti hotels, frequented by international celebrities like Alberto Sordi and Brigitte Bardot. Photos from the fifties portray the French actress struggling with the rock on the icy runway of the Hotel Miramonti. Cortina curling is not just about high society and glamour; it is also about friendship and competitive spirit. For nearly half a century, Cortina has been home to the City of Cortina Summer International Championship, a competition with draws participation from high-level teams and athletes from around the world.

Snowkite

The latest and trendiest addition to Cortina's extensive repertoire of winter sports, snowkite is a fun, high-energy activity offering thrills and adventure in close contact with nature. As well as hosting the extraordinary Cortina Snowkite Contest, the resort also offers visitors the opportunity to try this exponentially growing sport through individual or group lessons organized by Kite4freedom.

Ski mountaineering

This is the activity for those who wish to get away from crowded slopes and immerse themselves in the peaceful and pristine landscapes of the magnificent snow-covered mountains of the Ampezzo Dolomites. With its forests, fauna and sunny exposure, this breathtaking nature reserve is the perfect setting in which to enjoy the wonders of nature. The discipline of ski mountaineering, which involves hiking uphill with seal skins and skiing down through untouched snow, takes skiing back to its roots as a means to move on snow. It is the perfect way to combine the pleasure of hiking with a passion for skiing, for example through multiple-day excursions with overnight stays in high altitude mountain refuges.

Snowboard

Even die-hard boarders will find challenges in Cortina, where snowboarding has been a popular sport for years. There is a wealth of opportunities both for novices and experts to hone their skills. The gentler slopes of Pocol and Socrepes are popular with beginners, whereas for those who enjoy jumps and breathtaking descents the areas of 5-Torri and Faloria are ideal.

Sledding

In the Guarné area, by the public swimming pool, a dedicated sledding track allows for fun rides and lift facilities to pull you uphill. The track is about 1 km long and sleds can be rented at the foot of the Mietres chairlift.

Extreme skiing and Freeride

For expert skiers who love the thrill of a steep descent, Cortina offers some of the best black runs in the Dolomites, both in terms of challenge and sheer beauty. The Vertigine Bianca, Labirinti, and Forcella Staunies are among the most famous. For those who want to ski off-piste along the steep ridges of the Creste Bianche, Bus di Tofana, Canalino and Ski 18, an experienced alpine guide with local knowledge of the terrain and snow conditions, is highly recommended both for safety and for knowing where to find the best runs.

Alpine Guides and Nature Guides

In the company of guides with expert knowledge of the local area, the more adventurous can enjoy off-piste and free-ride, while those who dream of a holiday dedicated to discovering the peace of the mountain have the opportunity to experience wonderful walks with snow-shoes in the area's legendary forests. Vertical thrills await those who wish to experiment with ice-climbing, and for those who want to try something new, ice-trekking with crampons on the frozen rivers is an experience not to miss. Some guides also offer the opportunity to spend the evening outdoors in total harmony with nature, in a self-built snow shelter.

➤ **Summer in the Mountain**

When the winter gives way to the vivid colours and fragrances of summer, it is time to discover the many marvels hidden under the snow-cover. Whether you prefer green summer meadows scattered with a vast variety of alpine flowers, or the explosion of colours brought on by crisp autumn days, Cortina offers endless opportunities to enjoy the miracles of nature through excursions on foot or by bike.

Trekking – the Ampezzo valley offers countless itineraries for hikers of all fitness levels, ranging from short, easy walks to longer and more challenging excursions.

Mountain-biking

Vie Ferrate - equipped routes of various levels of difficulty, traversed with a safety harness.

Rock Climbing

Nordic Walking

Bowls

Tennis

Golf

Football

Gyms

Swimming pool

Ice skating

Mini-golf

Cortina's experienced and highly qualified alpine guides and nature guide are available to accompany clients, from accomplished rock climbers to families with children, looking for a mountain adventure. These experienced instructors offer **rock climbing** lessons and group courses at the 5-Torri, conducted strictly according to the highest levels of safety and with equipment included in the price. Other activities include **Nordic walking** with excursions along forest trails to admire the natural beauty that has made the area famous, as well historic **vie ferrate** itineraries from the Great War.

For mountain-bike (MTB) enthusiasts, **Cortina Bike Resort**, the flagship product of Cortina's summer activities, offers an ever increasing range of dedicated facilities and services. Every July, the popular **Cortina Bike Days** take place on Corso Italia. This annual festival, dedicated to bike enthusiasts of all ages, offers a fun mix of sport, parties and entertainment, including a bike expo, and is the perfect frame for the much anticipated annual **Cortina-Dobbiaco MTB Mountain Bike Race**. For practitioners and fans of this exponentially growing sport, Cortina is a true paradise with a unique product offering, including well-developed infrastructure and an outstanding natural landscape which perfectly lends itself to the requirements of the sport. Cortina offers more than 500km of bike tracks, ranging from family-friendly routes to challenging descents for aficionados, as well as detailed bike maps, sign-posted bike itineraries, equipment rental shops and bike hotels. More than 20 qualified instructors are available for lessons and accompanied excursions. Thanks to the Bike and Trekking Pass, available with validity from 2 to 6 days, bikes can be transported uphill using the lift facilities which are open also in summer. One-day bike rentals are available at standard rates from 5 different rental shops that also offer a wide range of excursions. 22 Bike hotels offer dedicated services to those travelling with bikes, from storage facilities, repairs and maintenance to special menus with calorie counts.

Not only sport

In summer, Cortina plays host to many high level cultural events, such as **Cortina InConTra** a speaker series by Enrico and Iole Cisnetto, whose *Current Affairs on Holiday* programme has become one of the most important and prestigious events during the summer season. Events and talks with prominent personalities from the worlds of journalism, politics, art and entertainment take place during the months of July and August.

Classical music goes on stage in Cortina from the last week of July until mid-August, thanks to the prestigious **Dino Ciani Festival and Academy**. Directed by Maestro Jeffrey Swann, this highly esteemed annual fixture has become a much anticipated event on the international concert circuit, bringing the greatest names in classical music to the Ampezzan valley. Dedicated to the memory of the celebrated Italian pianist Dino Ciani, who tragically died at the age of 32, the festival is unique in its genre for its focus on young talents, who are given the opportunity to participate in Master classes taught by the world's leading pianists. Among the many celebrated classical music performers brought to the Dolomites by this event, one finds the names of Martha Argerich, the Grammy Award winning Argentinean pianist, Yuri Bashmet, hailed by the New York Times as one of the greatest pianists alive today, and the Russian pianist Grigory Sokolov, considered one of the greatest contemporary pianists, just to mention a few.

The traditional celebration of the **Corpo Musicale di Cortina d'Ampezzo**, a historic landmark of the town since 1861, is important both for its commitment to local music traditions and as a showcase for traditional costumes dating back to the eighteenth century. The summer programme contains numerous concerts and parades, culminating with the much anticipated **Festival of the Bands** during the last week of August, bringing together a large number of musical bands from Italy and abroad. Visitors to Cortina are offered many opportunities to experience the rich repertoire of the musical band that has been an important cultural institution in Cortina for centuries and still represents an integral part of Ampezzan identity today.

The **Coppa d'Oro delle Dolomiti** (Gold Cup of the Dolomites) is an annual event created by an irresistible combination of the classy charm of vintage cars with the splendid natural setting of Cortina d'Ampezzo. During the first week of September, the enchanting Dolomite landscape becomes an exclusive showcase for this historical event, organised by the Promotion Committee of the Belluno Automobile Club. The classic car race is unique for its beautiful alpine course, including mountain passes over 2000m and high altitude mountain passes and breathtaking descent to the valley. And although the cars no longer produce the impressive dust clouds so characteristic the 1950s events, its fascination still holds.

➤ SPECIAL EVENTS

Cortina Weddings

For those looking to say "I do" in an exceptional location, there is no better place than the Queen of the Dolomites.

Whether dreaming of a white winter wedding with a horse-drawn sledge, or the intimacy of a secluded mountain refuge, Cortina offers a unique choice of original venues for that special occasion. Imagine a romantic ceremony at sunset in the middle of a flowery meadow, or the terrace of a high altitude mountain refuge with the beautiful pale mountains as a backdrop. Alternatively, some chose to get married while practicing their favourite sport, such as mountain biking, or skiing down your favourite slope.

The Cortina Wedding concept is created around a network of local craftsmen, service providers and establishments that all come together to offer this unique service. From selecting a venue, creating invites and putting together menus, to the choice of music and flower arrangements, all organisational aspects are taken care of with the outmost dedication to quality and detail. Local master craftsmen add extra touches with wedding favours made according to traditional filigree technique, wrought iron, or other materials linked to the famous local handicraft.

This ambitious initiative seeks to bring together the customs and traditions of Cortina and make them available to couples who chose this mythical location for their wedding.

Cortina for Children

In addition to the many schools that help children get started on skis, Cortina boasts a wide range of facilities and fun activities also off the slope. The Olympic Ice Stadium offers ice-skating lessons and organized events for children by a team of expert instructors. For the younger children, the Dolomite Paradise playground offers a world of fun and excitement. The play-park, which is set in the grounds of the Olympic Stadium, is open all year and offers a sun-terrace and a coffee bar where parents can relax.

Mountain guides offer courses and walks for children, combining playful activities with learning to recognize various types of trees and identify animal prints. The beginner's area of Socrepes is the ideal location for those very first ski-lessons, accompanied by the professional instructors of the Cortina ski schools. There are 2 baby pistes - Baby Socrepes e Baby Guargnè - protected by inflatable barriers for a soft crash-landing.

For slightly older children looking for excitement, a visit to the Adrenalin Centre set in a beautiful larch forest, with an entire network of ropes, ladders, bridges, slides and pulleys, suspended above the ground, is a must. In winter it is possible to enjoy evening sled-rides with beautiful views of the lights of Cortina, after a nice dinner in a refuge.

➤ HISTORY

From 1420 the Ampezzan territory belonged to the domain of the Veneto region, from which it separated in 1511 to be included in the Habsburg Empire, where it remained until 1918. Thanks to the autonomy granted them by the Austrians the Ampezzan people kept Italian as their official language and enjoyed a large degree of governmental and economic freedom, thus succeeding in preserving their natural and cultural heritage.

The Great War is the historic event which more than any other had a profound impact on the territory. When the war broke out, the valley was still under Habsburg rule. The mountains around Cortina bear visible signs of the fierce battles that were fought here. Besides the monuments erected in memory of the fallen, such as the small church in Pocol, one can find numerous historic relics and trenches, which today form part of the open-air Museums of the Great War.

In the 1950s Cortina hosted the Olympic Winter Games and drew national and international headlines for being a favoured destination of the aristocracy and for its prestigious position as a stage for the Italian Dolce Vita.

The Development of Tourism

It is hard to believe that until little more than a century ago, the now so famous pale mountains were rather mysterious and unknown. It was only at the beginning of the twentieth century that the Dolomites "opened up" to the world, thanks to several factors coming together. Shortly after pioneering mountaineers ventured beyond the Alps, the first cars emerged along winding roads at 20km an hour, bringing a growing number of curious tourists eager to explore this breathtaking wilderness. The first printed reports hailing Cortina as a winter tourist destination appeared in 1909, prompting exponential growth in the number of quality hotels and mountain refuges in the area. For those who wonder how it was possible for Cortina to become Queen of the Dolomites in such a short time, sport has undoubtedly played a major role in the resort's rise to international fame. In 1933 Fisi made the decision to base their National ski school in Cortina d'Ampezzo. With this institution a new profession was born, namely that of the ski instructor. But it was the 1950s which marked the beginning of the golden era of the Ampezzan valley. In anticipation of the 1956 Olympics, the event which above any other shaped the DNA of the location, the town's infrastructure and hotel capacity was greatly enhanced. Internationally renowned architects were tasked with rethinking the urban layout and several projects were realized which were to become symbols of the city. Among these one counts the historic Monti piste, the Olympic ice stadium, and the ski jump. For the first time in Italy the Olympic game was broadcast live on television, firmly establishing Cortina as a prestigious location for winter sports. Meanwhile a growing number of international royalty and

personalities from the worlds of business, culture and entertainment chose Cortina as a destination for their holiday.

The path of history

The history of Cortina has over the centuries walked along some of the most famous roads in Northern Italy. The oldest link between Tyrol and the territories of the Venetian Republic was the Royal Road across the Cimabanche mountain pass that passed straight through the centre of Cortina d'Ampezzo. After the inauguration of the well known road of the Alemagna, constructed in 1830 to connect Conegliano to Dobbiaco, the Royal Road gradually lost its influence. The road of the Alemagna became an important postal route for the Habsburg Empire and was equipped with stations where travellers could change horses. It remained the cornerstone of communication between Venice and Innsbruck until 1870. The road of the Dolomites, which in September 2009 celebrated its centenary with a vintage car event, was inaugurated September 11th 1909. It was the realization of a dream: a road that would link Cortina with Bolzano, crossing the most evocative mountain passes in the Dolomites and thus paving the way for modern tourism and the era of the automobile. The famous Dolomite railway, which finally connected Dobbiaco with Calalzo di Cadore, was inaugurated in 1921 after decades of planning and discussions. It was closed in the early 1960s, but both tourists and locals still have fond memories of it. Today the partially paved track of the former railway serves as a pedestrian and cycle path and is frequently used for sports events, both during summer and winter, such as the Dobbiaco-Cortina cross country ski race, the Cortina-Dobbiaco run at the beginning of June and the Cortina-Dobbiaco mountain bike race in July.

The Open Air Museum of the Great War

An important part of First World War history was written on the mountains of Cortina d'Ampezzo, in the areas of Lagazuoi, 5 Torri and Sasso di Stria. These locations, which were the scene of tragic battles between Italians and Austrians, have been restored and transformed into testimonies of the Great War, a key event in the history of Italy and Europe that marked the end of empires and the emergence of nation states. The result of this major restoration project - in which the armies of the countries who fought each other here during 1915-18 took part - is the most extensive outdoor museum of the First World War, open for visitors all year round. Along the hiking paths and the ski slopes, just moments away from the mountain refuges and climbing walls in the heart of the Dolomites, it is today possible to visit the tunnels from the war in Lagazuoi, experience first-hand the trenches and the positions in the 5 Torri, and enter the restored fort of Valparola, all transformed into the Museum of the Great War in the Dolomites and the Open Air Museum of Sasso di Stria.

In winter the Great War sites are accessible to skiers thanks to the ski lifts, but it is in summer that the full potential and charm of the areas is realized, as the museums offer the perfect combination of nature and history. Accessible on foot or by bike, the sites of the First World War and the traces of history that still remain, are there to be explored and discovered along the many paths and tracks that bind them together.

➤ CULTURE, HERITAGE AND TRADITION

Cortina d'Ampezzo is not only sport, glamour and tourism. Within the secular culture that distinguishes it, the resort has not only managed to preserve ancient traditions that have disappeared elsewhere, but has succeeded in making these co-exist with more contemporary aspects of modern culture. Thanks to institutions dating back to Celtic and Roman times, like the Regole d'Ampezzo, and educational establishments like the Scuola d'Arte, one of its kind in Europe, ancient traditions and artisan techniques are preserved and handed down through generations.

Architecture, Art and Craft – a marque of quality

The Ampezzan valley has always been a custodian of artisan techniques, largely forgotten elsewhere. These traditional crafts are continuously updated and supported by the strong synergy that exists

between the work of artisans and local architecture. Since the early twentieth century Cortina has invested in excellence in this field through the Art School which has trained generations of craftsmen and preserved the expertise of local woodworkers and artisans, accumulated over centuries.

Cortina d'Ampezzo is proud of its artisan products that are part of everyday local life, be it in the form of ornaments, or objects for the home. Today just like before the offer is rich and refined, ranging from the artistic working of wood, furniture and sculptures, to objects made from iron, copper, brass and glass, the production of tiled stoves, and items of furniture embellished with the techniques of inlay and mosaic. There is also no lack of wooden toys and delightful filigree jewellery, which testify to the ancient technique of using a silver wire with a diameter of a human hair to produce precious items. An innate vocation for experimentation and a remarkable aptitude for technical work are the two characteristics that have allowed local artisans to create products of such high quality, many of which are considered works of art. The propensity for arts and craft in the Ampezzo valley can be traced back to ancient mythology, according to noted scholar Carlo Felice Wolff. In his book, "Cortina d'Ampezzo in the Dolomites," published in 1935, Wolff writes that according to ancient legend: "... an Ampezzan man once produced a sword of such flexibility that it could bend and be tied and then return to its original straight shape". This artistic sensibility might not have developed so successfully, were it not for the valuable contribution of the School of Art and the advent of tourism. The growing importance of this sector inspired the Austrian Ministry of Trade, in 1874, to establish the State Industrial School. Objects produced by the School were particularly appreciated by British and German tourists, eager to take home a souvenir from their trip to the Dolomites. The pride of producing items of value and the commercial opportunities that followed from this, prompted the artisans to join together in a consortium. The quality of the work of the masters was rewarded during exhibitions of products in wood, filigree and iron, in Italy and Europe. While the artisans have renewed and refined their creation over time, they have always stayed true to their tradition. In the shops of Cortina the original spirit that unites the functional and the aesthetic have remained intact, and assures authentic and original handicraft which are a true expression of the traditions of the villagers.

The onset of tourism and construction proved fertile ground for the development of Cortina's competencies in house-building. The home is the traditional space in which to express wellbeing, harmony and quality, and Cortina has achieved a high level of recognition for its expertise in this area. Time-honoured techniques and materials of the Dolomites have been revisited with imagination and rigour. Traditional furniture, decorations, furnishings, wood, wrought iron, artisan stoves, glass and textiles once commonplace in every Ampezzan home, have experienced a new renaissance thanks to demand from customers who value the local history and culture. Yet again people desire homes with an interior that reflects the charm and harmony of the valley, built in the spontaneous alpine architecture, and with a simple and harmonious decor. From the *toulà* with their hidden chests under the seats, to the *stue* with their carved ceiling beams, decorated with skilful craftsmanship, these are all testimonies to an unrivalled competency in design and artisan craftsmanship. The handcrafted products, architecture and interiors of Cortina have a reach well beyond the local valley. Ampezzan designers and craftsmen are today in demand all over Italy, as well as Switzerland, Moscow and even Dubai. Cortina has become a workshop of continuously evolving ideas that applies ancient excellence to the new challenges of bio-architecture, energy saving and home automation. From the strong bond that always existed between architecture and artisans sprung the project of creating a quality brand. The architectural culture of the Ampezzan valley has a strong tradition of innovation. Great international names like Edoardo Gellner and Luigi Vietti, were fascinated with the area and went on to leave buildings of great architectural, historic and cultural value. Some of the original local houses, sparsely scattered on the mountain, are also highly relevant examples of the rural architecture and draw interest from both scholars and enthusiasts.

The historic and cultural foundations of the area, **Le Regole d'Ampezzo** (the rules of Ampezzo), are an ancient institution recognized by state law, which continues to be a vital part of local life today. Designed to regulate the relationship between man and nature, Le Regole bring together the descendants of the original families of the Ampezzo valley in a communal system that govern and protect the territory in accordance with a collective vision. This system has for centuries enabled the conservation of the local natural heritage and is still in use in Cortina d'Ampezzo, as well as in some other areas of Cadore and Comelico. In Ampezzo the institution of the Regole was established with the first inhabitants of the valley, probably Celtic tribes, and consolidated during the Lombard invasion. In the past, collective ownership was critical to survival and the institution became an essential way to manage property. The membership was and is a right that is passed on through inheritance by the male head of the family in equal shares to all his sons, or in the absence of sons, to his daughter. The 'laudo' statements reflect the customs that govern the exploitation of pastures and alpine forests by these groups of families. The first 'laudi' written, date back to 1300; traditions, ancient knowledge and practices were transmitted orally from generation to generation. Every spring, new representatives are elected to the Regole, chosen from among the heads of member households. Today there are about eight hundred families descending from the Ampezzo genealogy. For centuries, up to the present day, these families have organized, administered and jointly used an undivided heritage of pastures and forests, in a fully democratic manner, and by so doing preserved their original beauty.

In addition to the Regole d'Ampezzo, there are many other aspects of local tradition that survive immersed in contemporary culture. The **Corpo Musicale** (musical society), goes back to the 1820s and is still a central part of local life as well as an important custodian of local customs. The **Coro Cortina** (choral society) is the other important musical institution and pride of the valley, thanks to its significant artistic achievements. In 1994, it was the only choir invited to perform during the Christmas concert at the Quirinal in Rome, attended by the President of the Republic.

L'Union de i Ladis de Anpezo (U.L.d'A.) is an organisation dedicated to protecting and developing the language, traditional dress, folklore, customs and cultural heritage of the Ampezzo valley. Established in 1975, it is part of the Union Generale di Ladins dla Dolomites, which brings together the different communities of the five ladino valleys in the Dolomites (Val Badia, Val di Fassa, Val Gardena, Fodom, d'Ampezzo), with the objective of creating a real integration of the ladino world and its various features.

The subdivision of the Ampezzan territory into **Sestieri** – six districts (Alverà, Azzon, Cadin, Chiave, Cortina and Zuèl), each containing a number of villages – was an initiative conceived and promoted in the 1930s by Sanzio Vacchelli, mayor of Cortina and president of the local tourist association. The first sports competitions between the *Sestiere* took place in 1936. Today the competition between the *Sestiere* is the most anticipated event of the Carnival. In the 1950s summer competitions began, the Palio estivo, which take place every year during the Sagra d'Ampezzo, a summer festival celebrated on the first Sunday in July, dedicated to the patron saints of the area, the saints Filippo and Giacomo Minore. During summer, each *Sestiere* organises its own summer party, a weekend of local food, sport competitions, music, dance and entertainment. The traditional costumes of the districts, still in use today, were designed by Dante Morozzi, once the director of the School of Art in Cortina d'Ampezzo.

➤ LITERATURE, CINEMA AND VISUAL ARTS

The Queen of the Dolomites has always distinguished herself by a thriving art and culture scene, and as a cherished location for artists. The journalist Indro Montanelli has a trail in Cortina named after him, where he used to walk during his Ampezzan holidays, and the author Dino Buzzati took inspiration for his masterpiece, *The Desert of the Tartars*, from the Dolomites. Goffredo Parise, Fernanda Pivano, and Ernest Hemingway are just some of the protagonists of literature past and present who have written of the charm of these places, or indeed adopted the area as their home.

Cortina also has a number of art galleries and exhibitions which lend prestige to the area's art scene. Among these, it is worth noting:

The 'Mario Rimoldi' Museum of Modern Art houses a collection of about 400 works donated to the Regole d'Ampezzo by Rosa Braun Rimoldi. During many years of collecting, Mario Rimoldi assembled paintings and sculptures of the leading exponents of twentieth century Italian art, such as De Pisis, Sironi, De Chirico, Carrà, Morandi Guttuso, which are among the artists represented in the collection.

Gnomes and fairies in the court of the Queen of the Dolomites

Cortina is a place rich in legends from the mountains and the forests. Many Stories of passionate and forbidden love are narrated in the Pale Mountains. One legend tells of how the princess of the moon, in love with a mortal prince, but sick with longing for her homeland, is helped by the king of the Silvans to live with her beloved on this planet, by ordering the gnomes to illuminate the Dolomites. On the first night of full moon the small subjects began spinning the rays of the moon, creating a huge ball of silver thread that covered the rocks and the mountains, until everything was bright white. The prince was thus able to bring his lover to Earth, as she no longer suffered from nostalgia, and they lived happily ever after. From that night on, the Dolomites were known as the Pale Mountains.

The *enrosadira*, the characteristic pink-orange tint of the Dolomite peaks at sunset, is of course also the subject of a legend. Once upon a time, the mountain tops were covered with flowers and inhabited by gnomes. One day the ruler of this kingdom was captured and imprisoned. The splendour of the beautiful flowers covering the mountain tops had caught the attention of the enemy. The king thus threw a spell on the mountain, transforming all the flowers into rock, so that they could no longer be seen by day or by night. He did however, forget about the twilight, and thus it is that still to this day at sunset one can admire the red tinges of that enchanted flower garden.

For those interested in learning more about these and other stories of fairies and princesses, gnomes, elves, and magic spells, the historic Savilla library of Cortina houses a precious collection of books about the legends of the Dolomites, by Carlo Felice Wolff and other authors.

The 'Regole d'Ampezzo' Museum of Ethnography houses a collection of antique tools, utensils and cultural artefacts typical for agriculture and forestry. From artistic wrought iron workings and filigree silver objects, to items made from precious wood inlaid with mother of pearl, and the fine metal threads typical for the costumes of the past: they all bear witness to a patrimony of traditions that are intact to this day thanks to the wisdom of the Ampezzan people who have preserved and handed down the precious memory of their origins, through the generations.

The 'Rinaldo Zardini' Paleontological Museum exhibits one of the most significant collections of fossils that exist today, including shells of marine invertebrates, corals, sponges and fossils of many animals. The exhibits, all from the Dolomites, were collected and categorized by the Ampezzan researcher Rinaldo Zardini and bear witness to the geological evolution of the Ampezzo valley.

On the set of Cortina

Cortina is a natural stage of rare beauty, set in a valley taken straight from the movies. From the first feature film by Luis Trenker and Karl Hartl, *Mountains in flames* from 1931, the Ampezzan summits and valley have continued to lend their charm to the world of cinema, and not only to movies dedicated to the mountain like *Pian delle Stelle* by Giorgio Ferroni (1946) and *Montagna di Cristallo* by Anton and Cass. The peaks of Lagazuoi and Falzarego, for example, were transformed into the gaunt and icy landscape of Utah by Sergio Corbucci, in his western *Il Grande Silenzio* (1968). Even the glamorous Faye Dunaway could not resist the call of the Queen, which hosted her during the filming of *Lovers* by Vittorio de Sica. And of course, one cannot forget how Roger Moore, alias James Bond, faced one of his most daring pursuits in the Ampezzan valley in *For your eyes only*. In 1993, Sylvester Stallone filmed *Cliffhanger* in the mountains around Cortina, with the famous 5-Torri, Cristallo, and the areas of Passo Giau as stunning backdrops. In Black Edwards' hilarious *Pink Panther*, Claudia Cardinale and Peter Sellers move across the snow on Cortina, creating an unforgettable comedy.

➤ CORTINA LIFESTYLE

The local kitchen

Located close to the Austrian border, the Ampezzo valley has a kitchen influenced by two different geographical areas, the Veneto and the Tyrolean regions. Two great powers, the Republic of Venice and the Austro-Hungarian Empire, disputed over this strategic area for centuries. From Tyrol, Cortina inherited the tradition of 'canederli', dumplings made from stale bread cut into cubes and stuffed with bacon, spinach, or cheese, and served in broth or melted butter with parmesan cheese.

Even the 'spaetzel', or gnocchi, green dumplings served with cream and bacon, has fully entered into the local cuisine and can now be enjoyed almost anywhere. From the Venetian cuisine came dishes of polenta, served in combination with cheese, mushrooms, sausage or goulash. For those with a sweet tooth there is of course the apple strudel and Sacher cake. Other local treats that simply must be tried include wonderful tarts filled with berries, ice-cream with hot raspberries, and pancake/omelettes made with flour and egg batter and served with cranberry jam. The most famous and typical Ampezzan dish is 'casunziei', half-moon shaped pasta dumplings that are red, if stuffed with beetroot or green, if stuffed with spinach or with 'sciopetis', edible herbs that grow wild in the meadows in spring. Visitors to Cortina have a great choice of hotels offering exclusive hospitality, as well as traditional mountain huts where one can enjoy a holiday immersed in nature. Cortina also offers numerous restaurants where one can enjoy dishes that go beyond the Ampezzan tradition, by skilfully combining the flavours of the past with more modern trends.

Après ski and nightlife

In addition to a vast selection of culinary pleasures, Cortina also offers a great choice of trendy wine bars in which to sip an *aperitivo* after a day spent on the snow. The Veneto region is the land of prosecco (Italian sparkling wine) and the bars and nightclubs of Cortina artfully blend the flavours of tradition with the latest trends.

Shopping

Cortina has always been at the cutting edge of trends and fashion. Since the 1950s this fashionable and fashion-conscious resort has been known for its knack of always being right on trend. One can pick up next season's fashions just by strolling down Corso Italia, the pulsating pedestrian street at the heart of Cortina's social life and the top spot for those who like to shop. Window displays of the most prestigious and exclusive brands in the world, side by side with art galleries, famous jewellers, antique shops and artisans' workshops, offer a skilful blend of past, present and future, from works by old masters to the latest designer trends, for a shopping experience to suit all tastes.

➤ TOP WINTER EVENTS

Sport events

Tour de Ski, World Cup Nordic Combined - January

In recognition of the FIS's efforts in the area of cross-country skiing in Cortina d'Ampezzo, a stage of the Tour de Ski will run along the historic track that for more than thirty years has hosted the great Dobbiaco-Cortina cross-country race. The FIS Tour de Ski, now in its fourth edition, will this year make a stop in Cortina d'Ampezzo on January 6th, bringing 80 World Cup athletes to the resort. Developed with the intention of promoting cross-country skiing, the Tour de Ski is a project designed by the Swiss delegate Jurg Capol. He specifically chose Cortina as a leg for one of the contests of the Tour that begins on the first of January in Oberhof (Germany) and, after a brief stop in Prague (CZE), arrives in Italy for Cortina/Dobbiaco (BL BZ) and finally finishes in Val di Fiemme (TN) with the legendary and challenging climb to Cermis. www.tour-de-ski.com

European Snowboard-cross Cup – January

After last season's successful experiment, the International Ski Federation has officially added Cortina d'Ampezzo to the international circuit of Snowboard-cross events, which in 2006 became an Olympic

discipline. 15-17 January 2010, the Ampezzo valley will host two European Cup qualifying races on the snows of mount Faloria. It is estimated that 120 athletes from across Europe will take part in the event. www.snowboardclubcortina.com

Women's Ski World Cup – January

The spectacular Olympic run in the Tofane mountains has for eighteen consecutive winters hosted the Women's World Cup races in Cortina d'Ampezzo. As per tradition, it is in the calendar for the third weekend of January. The competition begins with the Super G on Friday the 22nd and continues on Saturday with the downhill, to finish with the second Super G race on Sunday. www.cortinaclassic.com

Granfondo Dobbiaco Cortina Cross-Country Ski Race – February

The route of the famous cross-country ski race GranFondo Dobbiaco-Cortina closely follows the track of the disused railway line Dobbiaco/Toblach- Cortina. This prestigious race dates back to 1962 and due to its popularity has been a permanent fixture ever since. The circuit departs from Dobbiaco and goes through the valley of Ladro and over the Cimabanche mountain pass (1530m). The track winds through artificially lit tunnels and across wooden bridges suspended over gorges, and finishes at the old station of Cortina. It is considered one of the most picturesque routes in the world and every February, champions, athletes and fans congregate for this spectacular event in ever increasing numbers - last year counted 1500 admissions. New for the 2010 edition is the freestyle 'skating-technique' race scheduled for Saturday, with departure from Fiammes and arrival in Dobbiaco, while the 'classic technique' race will take place on Sunday. This approach is closer to that of the legendary Marcialunga race and reflects a desire to return to the traditional and historic style of cross-country skiing. www.dobbiacocortina.org

Cortina Winter Polo Audi Gold Cup - February

Nestled between the slopes of mount Sorapis and the Three Peaks, Lake Misurina is the impressive stage for one of the most eagerly awaited international fixtures in the calendar of polo on snow, the Audi Gold Cup 2010. The frozen lake turns into the playground of the Cortina Winter Polo, a fascinating and spectacular tournament unlike any other in the world. Speed, action, and fair play are the characteristics of this event that every year attracts high-ranking spectators, fans and players of international standing to the Dolomites.

Traditional Events

In addition to the many great sporting events taking place in the shadow of Tofana, the Ampezzan winter season is rich in manifestations and events dedicated to history and local culture.

The advent period takes on its traditional colours thanks to the **Christmas Market**, which brings lights, colour and a festive atmosphere to the main street Corso Italia. The famous pedestrian street lined by renowned national and international shops, is scattered with small wooden huts where artisans and local producers exhibit their products. All accompanied by mulled wine, roasted chestnuts and traditional sweets. Inside each of the characteristics wooden huts, a variety of seasonal merchandise, representing the crafts and traditions of the area, are exhibited and offered for sale. This is a truly great opportunity to get into the festive spirit, while looking for that special Christmas present for a loved one. To complete the atmosphere, and to make the browsing and shopping even more enjoyable there will of course be music to fit the mood in the form of all the most cherished and traditional Christmas songs.

The 25th and the 28th of December, Christmas Concerts by the Musical Corps of Cortina, one of the cultural symbols of Cortina for over 140 years. The traditional parade of the band dressed in historical costume will take place on Christmas Day, and on the 28th of December there will be a Christmas Concert in the church. The **choral society** of Cortina celebrates Christmas with its festive repertoire. An event not to be missed is the **concert of Sant'Ambrogio**, which officially inaugurates the winter season in the Ampezzo valley. **In January**, attention turns to Ice Art, and **the International Festival of Snow sculpture**, during which artists patiently and painstakingly transform giant blocks of compressed snow into works of art. Many foreign teams participate in the

event which is the only one of its kind and born in Cortina d'Ampezzo in the early eighties, thanks to the personal initiative of Dino Gaspari. Three days of work, three sculptors on each team, the dimension of each snow cube three by three meters. This is the "rule of three" that has characterized past events. The work of the sculptors provides plenty of entertainment for the many pedestrians strolling along the famous shopping street, stopping to admire the artists' work. At sunset, when the Dolomite mountains are coloured pink-orange, admiring a statue of snow can truly become a dreamlike experience. **In February, it is Carnival time**, which means a whole week of entertainment, colourful costumes, sport, music, drama, and fun. This is also the time for the traditional winter sport contest between the six historic areas of Cortina, **Ra Corsa de Sestiere**, which features a cross-country relay race in traditional costume.

➤ TOP SUMMER EVENTS

Cortina-Dobbiaco Run - June

A stunning race along the tracks of the former Dolomite railway. The event, which was founded in 1989, is the brainchild of Gianni Poli, winner of the 1986 New York Marathon, who was struck by the natural beauty of the area while training. Today the race has more than 3000 participants and continues to grow every year. Corso Italia, Cortina d'Ampezzo, is the starting point for the race, which finishes in Dobbiaco after 31,5km. The first part of the route is a gentle ascent and takes the runners through tunnels and across bridges that appear to be suspended in thin air. The Cimabanche mountain pass, at 1.530m altitude, divides not only two areas, but also two regions, Veneto and Alto Adige. From here, runners have a gentle descent toward Lake Landro and the starting point for the 11,5km non-competitive race, and soon after on the right hand side, the imposing Three Peaks - Tre Cime di Lavaredo - known world-wide for their beauty, come into view.

www.cortina-dobbiacorun.it

International Summer Curling Tournament «Trofeo Città di Cortina» - end of June

Every summer since the 1950s, the ice in Cortina goes red hot. The summer curling tournament, dedicated to the memory of Leo Menardi, who brought the game to Cortina, boasts participation of teams from around the world. www.curlingcortina.it

Concerts and parades by the musical corps – every Sunday from mid-July

Throughout the summer, the musical corps of Cortina, an important institution of local culture, entertains villagers and tourists alike. www.corpomusicalecortina.it

CORTINA INCANTA – July

Inaugurated in 2009, **Cortina inCanta** is an international Choir festival sponsored by Coro Cortina, the choir of Cortina. The initiative aims first and foremost to support the rich vocal traditions that inspire local culture, but also to encourage the younger generations to maintain these traditions. The Cantori delle Cime di Lugano will be among the guests in the 2010 edition.

www.cortinaincanta.it

Corpo Musicale di Cortina d'Ampezzo

The traditional musical corps is a historic symbol of the city since 1861, important both for its commitment to local music and for showcasing traditional costumes. Concerts take place every Sunday from mid-July, culminating with the much anticipated **Festa delle Bande**, Festival of the Bands, (last week of August) which hosts a number of musical bands from Italy and abroad.

www.corpomusicalecortina.it

Dino Ciani Festival and Academy – July/August

Classical music goes on stage last week of July and the first week of August, thanks to the Dino Ciani Festival and Academy. Directed by Maestro Jeffrey Swann, this highly esteemed annual fixture brings the greatest names in contemporary classical music to the Ampezzan valley. The festival is unique in its focus on young talents, who are given the opportunity to participate in master classes and courses taught by the world's top pianists. www.festivaldinociani.com

Sagra d'Ampezzo, summer events of the Sestieri – July/August

Summer festival organized by the residents of the various districts of Cortina, with competitions, dancing, food and fun. Kicks off the first Sunday in July. Each sestiere, or district, organises its own weekend event throughout the summer season.

CORTINA INCRODA – July/August

Poetry, adrenaline, literature, cinema, music, mountains, dreams, adventure, technology, journalism, people, memories, and the future. These are the ingredients of Cortina inCroda, which in 2009 celebrated the 70th anniversary of the birth of the Scoiattoli, the historical Ampezzan mountaineering association. The 2010 edition of Cortina inCroda, under the artistic direction of Andrea Gris, offers a variety of events during the months of July and August, including cinema and theatre nights at the Alexander Girardi Hall, along the same format which proved a great success last year. Through film, photography, and lectures, audiences will be introduced to the magic, history and culture of the mountain, and the unique adventures of her protagonists. Events will take place both in the town centre and in mountain refuges. www.cortinaincroda.org

COPPA D'ORO DELLE DOLOMITI – first week of September

Vintage cars and spectacular scenery are the key ingredients of this popular event. The *Gold Cup of the Dolomites* has become an important occasion in the summer calendar of Cortina d'Ampezzo. Every September, more than 120 vintage automobiles participate in this classic car race, organized by the Automobile Club of Belluno. The route of the race is changed every year to allow participants and audiences to enjoy new and unique panoramas. During the parade on Corso Italia, audiences are treated to close-up views of the cars.

www.coppadorodelledolomiti.org

CORTINA GOLF

Born from the passion of fans and friends that have always frequented the Ampezzan valley, summer 2010 Cortina Golf offers a brand new nine-hole course designed to double. The facility is located in the area near the historic driving range of the Miramonti Majestic Hotel, where players from around the world have practiced their swing since the 1930s. In the new Club House players can meet and socialize in a relaxed atmosphere between games, or enjoy dinner with friends. www.cortinagolf.it

➤ **CORTINA EDITORIALS**

The dual language (Italian and English) **CORTINA.TOPic** is a versatile publication targeted at an upscale, international audience. Its elegant, informative and lively presentation of current events, culture, art, music and Italian lifestyle, reflects Cortina's role as an image maker and status symbol.

CORTINA.TOP Living showcases architecture and interior design, as well as art, craft and furnishings from the Ampezzo valley.

CORTINA.TOP EVENTS offers an overview of all the season's events. The first winter edition is published in time for Sant'Ambrogio in December, and the first summer edition comes out at the beginning of July.

CORTINA.wakeUP was conceived and developed by Cortina Turismo as a daily window on the Queen of the Dolomites, to allow holidaymakers make the most of their stay. Launched in summer

2008, this daily newsletter has become a regular feature in the hotels, restaurants and mountain refuges of Cortina. With simple graphics and an engaging style, it aims to inform and reveal interesting facts and secrets of the village; because there is so much more to Cortina than what you see.

All the above publications are distributed free of charge in selected locations around Italy. The publications are also available online on www.cortina.dolomiti.org

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