



STAY

The only five-star hotel in the Aravis Mountain range, Au Coeur du Village, blends a cosy chalet feel (faux-fur rugs on the beds, sloping wooden ceilings, sheepskin rugs on the floor), with a sleek contemporary look behind the wooden and white-washed stone façade. It sits near the pretty Savoyard church in La Clusasz, facing the slopes, with its own ski shop and some formidable ski guides on its speed dial such as local Raymond Thovex, whose son, Candide, is a legend on the snow. There is a spa (ask for Mylena if you need to iron out any serious aches and pains, she fixed a problem I had had for years) with Carita and Cinq Mondes treatment lines, a swimming pool, sauna and steam room. There is a strong emphasis on food here (we are, after all in France) with two restaurants, one described as gourmet, the other gastronomic, offering dishes such as pike fish quenelles in a yellow wine sauce or lemon Vacherin with hay and hazlenuts. Even snacks at the bar like Croque Monsieur come with truffled ham.