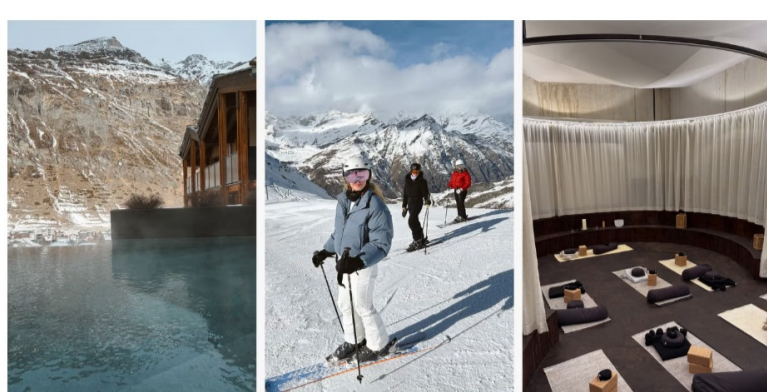


Travel

'I went on a snow and spa weekend at Switzerland's prettiest ski resort'

CERVO Mountain Resort in Zermatt's got the ski and wellbeing balance just right

Isabelle Shury Published: 05 March 2026



Isabelle Shury

I never thought I'd swap après ski for a yoga class. Yet here I am at 5pm, horizontal on a bolster, being talked through my heart chakra instead of scanning the cocktail list. I'm a mountains-over-beach person. A ski trip is the pinnacle of holidays for me – and I may just have found my dream abode in Zermatt at CERVO.

Perched above the town, the Matterhorn dominating the background, CERVO is arguably the most surprising hotel I've come across in a mountain resort – and I mean that entirely as a compliment. It refuses to play by the usual twee chalet decor rules. There's no heavy tartan, no overworked chalet clichés. Instead, the design pulls references from further afield – subtle nods to Asia, Africa, the Middle East – all presented in a way that feels subtle rather than themed.



Isabelle Shury
A room at CERVO

Originally a hunting lodge, the bones of the hotel are still visible, but it's been given quite the makeover. Fifty four rooms and suites – plus three restaurants, a plush boot room and a spa – now stretch out from the original building, arranged across the hillside in what feels like a carefully constructed labyrinth.

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It's an interior design dream

It didn't take long to realise CERVO isn't playing it safe with the design – it's an amalgamation of cultural influences (Nepal, Bhutan, Japan, and Peru to name a few), and I was wooed from the moment I was greeted with the refreshing combo of a glass of herbal iced tea and a hot towel. Founder Daniel F. Lauber is the creative force behind it all, and the whole place feels like stepping inside a well-travelled scrapbook of his life.

Technicolour Moroccan rugs sit alongside retro Alpine trinkets, and yet the whole thing feels oddly harmonious. The après-ski terrace swaps sheepskins for scattered Moroccan cushions, and everywhere you turn, there are terracotta ceramics, dried blooms and woven fabrics cutting through the chalet timber and stone. His eclectic art collection alone was enough to blow my socks off – modern ski photography beside Tibetan paintings, Victorian portraits holding their own against vintage Alpine posters. It borders on museum territory. Just one you can sleep in.

What's the wellness like?



Isabelle Shury
The spa

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