

PISTE CHIC – MEN

Alf Alderson reviews a range of ski jackets for the coming season.

SKI JACKETS

We've reviewed a wide variety of ski jackets in this issue, with a focus on lightweight shells which are especially suited to skiers and boarders who want to move fast and light and are happy to layer up beneath the jacket.

That said there are also one or two heavier, insulated jackets for riders who don't mind a bit of extra bulk and weight in return for plenty of warmth – so something to suit everyone, hopefully!



£180

PARAMO VELEZ ADVENTURE SMOCK

→ PERFORMANCE 4.5/5
→ VALUE 4/5

The Velez has a technical cut making it adaptable enough to be used for everything from ski touring to mountain biking and running – worth checking out for anyone looking for one jacket for all purposes.

There are heaps of well-considered features, including fully articulated shoulders and elbows, a drop tail and high collar for maximum protection against the elements, easy-to-adjust Velcro cuffs with bite tabs, a double-layer lining either side of the spine and on the shoulders for use with a rucksack, a fully adjustable, wired and roll-away hood and single hand adjustment throughout.

www.paramo.co.uk



£160

HELLY HANSEN PRECON II

→ PERFORMANCE 3.5/5
→ VALUE 4/5

The Precon seems to be aimed at the snowboard/freeride market as it's a fashion statement as much as a ski jacket.

It comes with a fairly lightweight insulated lining and has a generous cut so you could get plenty on underneath it. Features include a generous hood, six outer pockets with either zip or Velcro fastenings (so plenty of room for essential gear such as goggles and mobile phone) and an inner MP3 pocket, whilst on the technical side there are pit zips, Velcro cuffs, drawcord hem, a chin guard and a powder skirt.

www.hellyhansen.com



£59

RESULT ACTIVE HORIZON

→ PERFORMANCE 3/5
→ VALUE 4.5/5

Let's say it's your first-ever ski trip and you don't want to invest too much on gear at this stage – well, this is the kind of jacket you might want to check out.

With two side pockets, two chest pockets and one interior pocket, all generous in size and with zips, plus a large mesh inner pocket and a phone pocket, there's plenty of room to carry all your bits and pieces; it's also tabbed and zipped to take Result's microfleece Horizon jacket in case you need more warmth.

www.resultperformance.com

oe EDITOR'S CHOICE

£230

DIRECT ALPINE TRANGO

→ PERFORMANCE 5/5
→ VALUE 4/5

For committed skiers and boarders, the Trango is all that you need in a ski jacket. The fact that the Chamonix-based Guides du Mont Blanc use this jacket says it all.

The Trango is made from a very light (630g) soft shell stretch material with excellent waterproof and breathable qualities and a very technical cut giving ease of movement whether skiing, climbing or scrambling. Features are minimal but totally effective, and include a rollaway hood which forms a high collar when tucked away, two large zipped chest pockets, one zipped internal pocket and a zipped sleeve pocket, very effective pit zips and useful reinforced shoulders and elbows. All external zips are waterproof, all the seams are sealed and there are Velcro adjustable cuffs and a drawcord hem.

www.directalpine.com



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