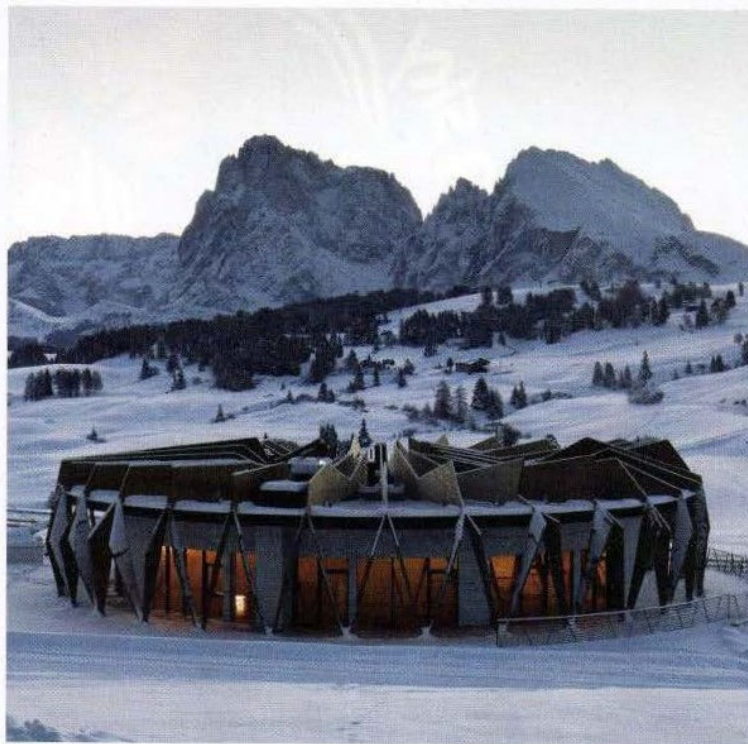


US professional skier Seth Morrison is known for his extreme descents in Alaska, but can also be found relaxing at the small Austrian village of Hochfugen, home of the Wedelhütte, see below



## Alpine retreats

Once staying high on the mountainside meant roughing it in a climber's refuge. No longer: these high-altitude retreats combine seclusion with luxury. By *Tom Robbins*



### ◀ Alpina Dolomites, above Siusi, Italy

As guests arrive by cable car at Alpe di Siusi, Europe's largest high-altitude plateau, a jaw-dropping view reveals itself. All around are the jagged spires of the Dolomites, shapes reflected in the bold architecture of the slick Alpina hotel and spa, which opened its doors in December 2010. The 56-room hotel is the perfect place for beginners or intermediate skiers, with 60km of mainly gentle slopes on the doorstep. Once those are mastered guests can move on to the wider ski area, which boasts 433km of pistes, including the famous Sella Ronda circuit. Back at the hotel, indoor and outdoor swimming pools await, alongside saunas and steam baths. Or you could simply retire to the cigar bar to toast your exploits.

*Doubles from €378 (£316) half-board; [www.alpinadolomites.it](http://www.alpinadolomites.it)*