



Evolène, Switzerland

SAVED FROM DEMOLITION



name ANAKO'LODGE	🏠 2-6 people	€€
+ lovely mix of traditional, modern, and hip; storage space for skis in the sheds; beautiful view of the valley	TO DO located in the Val d'Hérens; the highest dam in the world is nearby; the pyramids of Euseigne; Leukerbad, 34 kilometres away.	
architect Olivier Cheseaux	✈ Geneva Airport (GVA)	
➔ slowholidayhomes.com and anakolodge.ch		

On the steep slopes of the Eringerdal (Val d'Hérens) are centuries-old villages with their typical houses. Some of these houses have seen better days, and their only hope is for an architectural patron like Olivier Cheseaux to customise a piece of local history and transport it to the 21st century.

In rural Swiss villages, such as Evolène, most of the houses are a tribute to local agriculture and are beautiful examples of the local farming architecture. The same goes for the seven holiday homes that belong to the anako'lodge. At first sight, these homes, with their weather-beaten appearance, resemble cattle sheds. But once inside, guests are quickly reminded that you can't judge a book by its cover. The 'mayens' (typical sheds) preserve their original structure and their exterior has been well preserved. Inside each home, the architect created a hip interior with sandblasted concrete ceilings and wooden floors (or the other way around: wooden ceilings and concrete floors) that create a retro-modern setting for the perfect holiday in the Swiss mountains. All the wooden elements are, of course, made from reclaimed wood, because in Eringerdal nothing gets thrown away—certainly not items of heritage!

All the homes of anako'lodge have local names: Olivier, Etienne, Jean, Madeleine, Pierre, Joseph, and Henri. And their interiors are as varied as their names. The Mayen à Jean accommodates six holidaymakers overnight in a retro-chic interior with one double bedroom and a dormitory. Mustard-coloured armchairs, colourful design chairs, a Formica table, mismatched porcelain crockery, a Cassina sofa, and some alpine artwork on the walls ensure a rustic, chic charm. The Mayen à Olivier and Mayen à Henri are designed for two people only, while the Mayen à Joseph, with its two double bedrooms and dormitory, accommodates up to 12 people. One thing that all seven sheds have in common is that they offer modern comfort with a twist of simple but warm, emotional design. And no less important is that they all have a view of the Eringerdal, which stretches from the Rhône Valley near Sitten to the foot of four mountains—Dent Blanche, Dent d'Hérens, Mont Collon, and Mont Blanc de Cheilon.

At the gateway to the Val d'Hérens (Eringerdal) are the famous pyramids of Euseigne, steep rock towers crowned with boulders. Behind is the elevated green basin, surrounded by an impressive ring of mountaintops, above which the snow-capped Dent Blanche protrudes. In the side valley of Val d'Héremence you will find the great dam of Grande Dixence; towering 285 metres tall, it is the highest dam in the world, containing 6 million cubic metres of concrete. Its base is as wide as that of the great Cheops pyramid, and it is twice as high and voluminous.

Evolène is an absolute dream destination for wintersport lovers. The village itself has a relatively small ski area (with unprecedented off-piste possibilities), but together with Arolla and Forclaz, it forms part of the L'Espace Dent Blanche region. Arolla in particular, with its slopes of up to 3,000 metres high, is a destination with guaranteed snow. For those who crave even more, on the rear side of the Dent Blanche lies the gigantic ski area of Zermatt, which is connected to the Italian ski station of Breuil-Cervinia. In other words: endless ski pleasure!





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