



## Le Potheu

### The beautiful Dubochet's chalet

- Le Potheu. Pronounce "th" as in English Narrow rocky place on which a goat got lost.
- Adresse. c/o DUBOCHET  
c.p. 949  
CH-1961 Villa (+41 27) 283'19'69
- Keys. See with the Dubochet.  
Reserve key in Café du Torrent (closed on wednesday). Léon Maistre and family (027) 283'11'53
- Location. In the Swiss Alps, in Valis, south from Sion (35 km), in the val d'Herens, just above Evolène. The altitude is 1750m.
- Equipement. The chalet is fully equipped, with all comforts (electricity, warm water, bath) but no luxus. There are 4 sleeping rooms with 6 beds (one double) and a baby bed with all the necessary blankets and down quilts. There is a large living room with fire-place, a bath-room (with view on the Pigne d'Arolla from the bath) and the kitchen.  
There is a full kitchen equipment for ca. 10 persons. Basic cooking ingredient (oil, sugar, salt, etc.) are available.

*Visitors are requested to bring their bed-sheets or sleeping bags . (This does not concern those coming from far; it is no problem for us to take care of the laundry at our next visit)*

### **How to get there?**

#### 1) By train and bus.

- All the trains stop in Sion. ( Time table: Figure 1).
- From the train station in Sion, the post-bus of the Val d'Herens takes about one hour to Villa, through Evolène and les Haudères (Figure 1).
- The bus-stop in Villa is also the end of the road. At that place is also the restaurant "Café du Torrent". The chalet is on the same hight, 100 m further (Figure 2).

#### 2) By road

*The road is always open (except for few hours per year) but winter equipment is frequently needed in winter.*

The highway brings you to Sion from Lausanne (100km). One can also come from Kandersteg (railway tunel of Lötschberg, convenient and beautifull when coming from the north) or from Andermatt (car on the train for the tunel). In Sion, follow the road Val d'Hérens-Evolène. After 30 km, passing Evolène (one of the nicest old village) 4 more km to les Haudères (another one) turning left direction la Sage-Villa-la Forclaz. After 4 km, the road ends in Villa, on the place of the Café Col du Torrent. Please park one a marked, alloweded place (see Fig. 2 or ask at the shop "Col du Torrent")

The chalet is 100m behind the Café du Torrent, at the same height. It is the last house before the ravine, by the larches. The best way to come to the chalet is from the parking place, at the curve, 150 m on the road for Cotter, just before the anti-avalanche tunnel. From there, straight down, a

poorly drawn path bring you directly down to the chalet. Alternatively, there is a small path, starting just below the bus stop and continuing nearly horizontally, passing just above chalet "Plein Soleil" (Figure 2) and through the garden of the neighbors Lob.

What's new in chalet?

### **What's new in chalet (chronicle of the recent developments)**

**There is a new floor in the main room.** Very beautiful. Please be careful not to scratch it. Do not leave water on it.

**3 new electric heaters.** One for the studio, one for the main room and one for the bath-room. The fuse will disconnect (in cellar) if two heaters are on together on the same floor. The same will happen if the water boiler and the heater are on together in the main floor.

**Leaking chimney:** The exhaust pipe of the Pierre-olaire leaks sometimes drops of horrible combustion residues.

Avoid that by doing the following:

- watch when this happens in order to stop it before it makes more horror.
- Use only dry wood (it is the humidity of the wood which is the cause of the condensation). For that, leave the wood for drying in the chalet for at least 2 days before using it
- Unless you have really dry wood, do not close the little metallic curtain on the door of the Pierre-olaire in order to secure enough air circulation in the exhaust pipe.

## **What to do on arrival?**

a) In winter if water is turned off. - This is serious and you have to do it right! Do not improvise. If you are not sure, ask us.

- Eliminate possible rests of mouse poison
- Warm up the chalet well above 0°C
- Turn on water – see below – it must be done correctly or severe damage may happen.
- Turn on the warm water boiler on the upper floor.
- Turn on the fridge (in the freezer compartment)

a) In summer, when water is on.

- Makes sure there is no mice poison left (poisonous corn; kitchen or other strategic places and in most cases, on the shelf in the cellar.)
- Turn on warm water heater (hall upper floor, by the boiler).
- Turn on the fridge (turn the knob in freezer compartment on 3 or so).

## **While staying.**

Keys: They hang in the hall, right from the door. There is one for the studio, one for the cellar and one for the letter-case. A reserve key for the chalet is by Léon in café du Torrent.

Heating; - electricity: There is one electric heater on each floor (The fuse will blow if you put two of them on one floor).

- pierre-ollaire: This is the traditional stone oven in the living room. It is agreeable and efficient. It takes one hour before it is a bit warm but it keeps warm for the whole night. Close the shutter of the open fire-place (right side in the fire-place) in order to obtain best smoke-free fire in the pierre-ollaire. Do not put anything, especially liquid, on the warm pierre-ollaire. Do not overheat the pierre-ollaire.

- Fire-place: Pleasant but not very efficient heater. Do not forget to open the shutter (inside right). -*Fire danger: Be sure you put the grid protection in front of the fire when it is not attended.* Caution, you should use the pierre-ollaire OR the fire-place. Not both together or you will be smoked.

--Ashes: The ashes are not discarded in the compost but first in the metal garbage can. Believe it or not but an open fire started once in the compost, five days after ashes were put on it! If we would not have been there by chance, the chalet would now be gone in smoke.

Post box: It has the Nb. 949. It is in the village, just before the bridge.

Garbage: Garbage in plastic bags are put in the containers by the fountain in the village. A special container for glass is on the parking place of Borza, on the other side of the bridge.

Shopping: Nearly every thing can be bought in the grocery of the Café du Torrent. The big shopping center Migros is in Sion.

Tumb and sink: Should not be cleaned with abrasive powder like Vim or Potz. Use soft soap..

Sheep: In spring and autumn, there is a sheep invasion. Close the door of the fence, including that of the neighbors. (Though it does not help too much) Mice: This is no laughing matter! *If you detect them, let us know. Do not leave food accessible to mice at the end of your stay.*

Humidité: On peut humidifier l'air avec un récipient d'eau chaude sur un radiateur (pas sur le pierre-ollaire) mais il ne faut pas le faire les dernières 24-48 heures pour laisser le chalet sécher et éviter que la literie etc. ne pourrisse à froid.

Note finally that the pleasure of being in one of the last valleys of the Alps where the traditional way of life is still in practice requires that the working habits of the natives must be considered with respect. In particular one should avoid to walk in the meadow when the grass is high and to park the car outside of the parking fields.

## **Finance.**

- See <http://dubochet.ch/chalet/> for present situation.

Please pay

- in the cash boxes
- or to the Compte chalet:

Dubochet et consort.: Nb. R 0233 77 69 Banque Cantonale du Valais 1983 Evolène  
(Paying forms should be with the cash boxes)

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## **In winter**

### **Avalanche:**

En 1980 une avalanche a détruit plusieurs maisons proches et a menacé le chalet. Une telle avalanche ne s'est produite qu'une fois dans les 150 dernières années. Elle pourrait se reproduire en cas de danger généralisé d'avalanches (bulletin des avalanches au télé: No. 162) les années où beaucoup de neige est accumulée par le vent sur l'arrête du col du Torrent. En cas de doute, s'adresser au café du Col du Torrent. En cas de panique...pas de panique! Le "Fond avalanche" est destiné à couvrir les frais de ceux qui, surpris par cette situation, devront précipitamment se reloger à l'hotel du coin.

On Feb. 21. 1999 several enormous avalanches caused big damage in the village and down to Evolène. The chalet stood but it was very close. We all were in and followed the thing vividly. We would not like to try it again and you should not try either.

**So, in case of serious danger of avalanche: no hesitation – go away!**

**En hiver, le problème du chalet est le gel de l'eau. Pour l'éviter, il faut veiller à ce que tout le circuit d'eau soit toujours au-dessus de zéro. En particulier il faut éviter le gel à la cave et au studio. Des thermomètres et des radiateurs sont placés dans ces deux locaux qu'il faut attentivement surveiller.**

**En cas de grand froid on peut laisser couler un filet d'eau à la cuisine et au studio pendant toute la nuit. Ceci ne protège pourtant pas les deux vidanges qui longent le mur extérieur entre la cave et le studio.**

### **What to do when leaving:**

- Leave the chalet clean and tidy
- Turn off the fridge and leave the door open
- Make sure there is no warm ashes in the compost
- Pay for the telephone (according to the counter), for the local taxes and for the avalanche. Put the money in the appropriate box. Write the amount in the record-book.
- Make a note of your visit in the Chalet record-book (braun book, on the shelf, left from the chimney)
- Turn the boiler for warm water off (upper floor, by the boiler)
- Empty the water if necessary (autumn-spring, see below)
- Lock the Cellar and the studio. Put the keys in the kitchen
- Close the aperture of the fire-place
- Close the shutters of the all windows (except in the hall of the upper floor)
- Close the fence: the door just behind the chalet and the fence of the neighbours.
- Make sure that all the lights are off (outside light also)
- For the house key, do as arranged with the Dub'

## **The water problem (relevant only in cold season)**

This is a very serious issue. If water is not put or removed correctly, this could cause the most severe damage (several 10'000 fr). So, if you are not sure, don't do in winter.

### **Turning water on.**

(normally, the water is left up to the main valve in the cellar. The procedure is different if the main valve which is situated in the field, 100 m. away is closed. If this is the case, a special procedure must be applied – contact us)

1) Warm the chalet well above 0°C in order to avoid water to freeze in the pipes. This include warming cellar and studio. If it is seriously freezing in the chalet, you must leave a good night for this preheating.

2) Close all faucets except warm and cold water in the bathroom.

Do not forget to close

- 3 purges in the cellar (one bathe main valve, two on the opposite wall)
- the faucets and the shower in the studio
- the emptying faucet of the boiler (red, see drawing)

3) Open the main valve in the cellar (close to the floor, under the electricity panel). Open just a bit (if a pipe has been damaged by the frost and leaks, it is better to have a restrained flow until you control)

4) Control that there is no leak. Have a look at the cellar, the studio - kitchenette and shower, - kitchen, bathroom and boiler to be sure that every thing is ok.

Air should come out of the warm water faucet of the bathroom until the boiler is full.

It may happen that the main valve is not open enough and that you get nearly no pressure in the upper floor. Go to the cellar and turns the main valve a bit more open.

Normally after 10 to ??? minutes, the boiler is full and water – not air - flows out of the warm water faucet of the bathroom.

Open the other faucets and shower in the bathroom, in the kitchen and in the studio to empty the rest of air and control that every-thing is ok.

5) Now that every thing is ok and controlled,

- finish to open the main valve
- turn on the electricity of the boiler.
- and keep an open eye and an interested attention to the good functioning of the water circuit.

### **Turning water off.**

1) The day before, turns off the electricity of the boiler (just not to waste the hot water reserve) and make sure you have enough anti-freeze (Leon is selling in the restaurant col du Torrent)

2) Close the main valve in the cellar (hard)

3) Open all faucets, including studio, showers and toilets (this is to start empty the pipes)

4) Open all the purges :

- the warm water boiler: red valve. (it will take about one hour to empty the boiler, you do not need to wait during this time)

- major purge, just left of the main valve in cellar – put a recipient to avoid water flowing in the floor. It takes some minute to empty most of the water. If something is still flowing after everything seems to be gone, this mean that the main valve is not closed strong enough.
- the two purges, on the opposite wall of the cellar (warm water and studio). Open very gently so that the water goes in the funnel.
- empty the flush of the toilets in the studio

5) Put anti-freeze. 1.5 dl in all sinks and 3 dl in each of the 2 toilets after having removed most of the residual water (sorry!) All together there are 7 places to put anti-freeze.

### **Advices and suggestions**

General conditions: The chalet is in relatively high mountain and the region is really mountainous. The region is generally free of snow from late April to December but snow storms can happen as late as June or as already as October. September is one of the best month. The weather is generally fine and the temperature is mild. In the night it is always rather cold (10-15°C average).

### **Walking:**

The possibilities for walking are innumerable in well marked, beautiful paths but which are frequently steep. One must keep in mind that a nice path can very soon become a nasty, slippery track, just above a dangerous cliff. Also it takes sometimes only minutes from the nice and shiny weather until you are in a thunder-storm and a thunder-storm in the mountain is a very impressive thing. (Weather forecast by phone Nb. 162 are very accurate).

Drinking water: Running water is not safe because of the cows, sheep a.s.o. Springs are safe only if they are real spring, coming from deep.

### **Some suggestions for walking.**

Villa-Volovron:

Evolène-Villa:

Ferpècle-Glacier:

Arolla-Glacier

Villa-Col du Torrent

Villa-La Sage

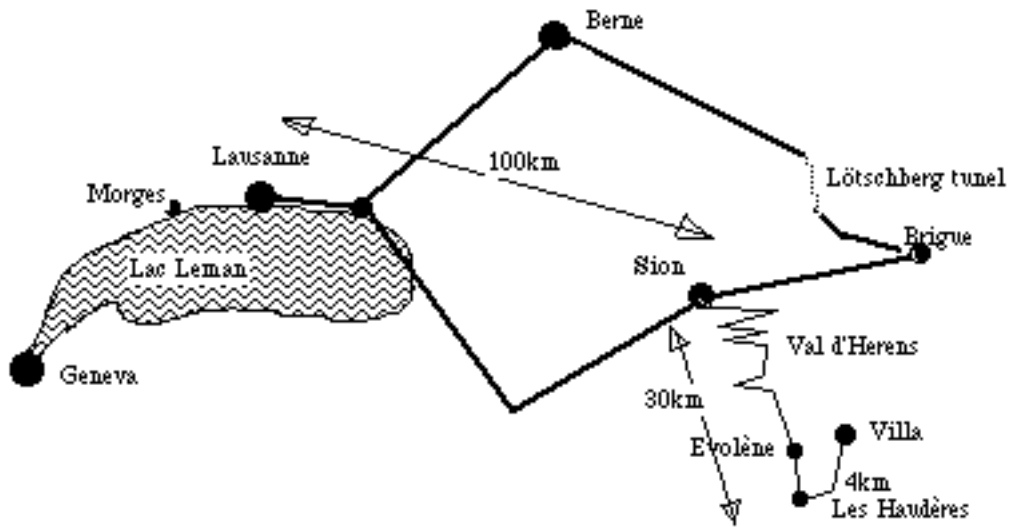
Les Haudères-Villa

Lac Bleu

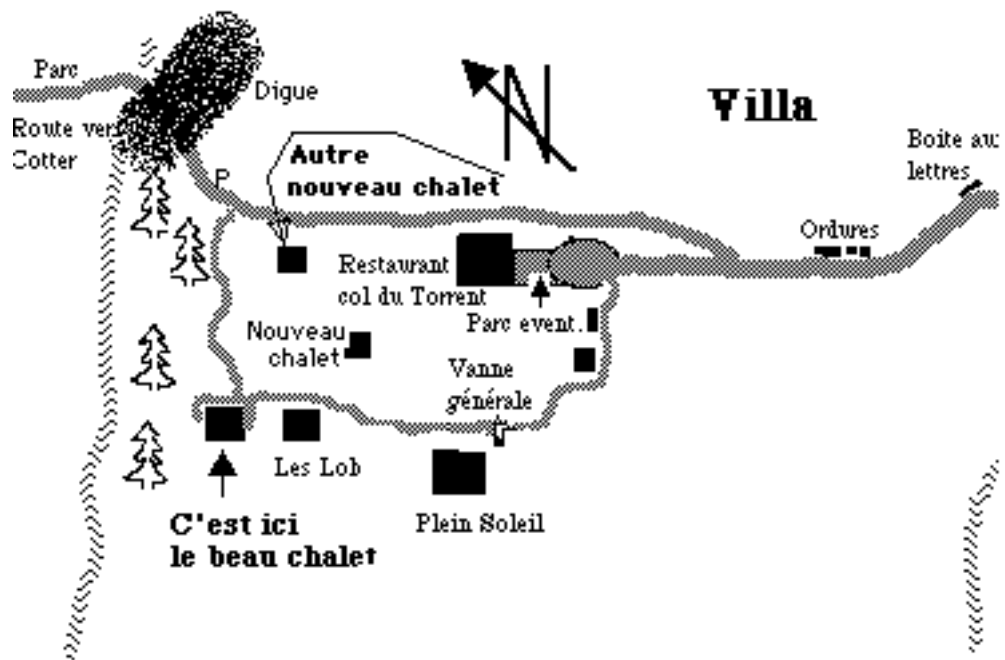
## Adresses utiles.

Ambulance	Henri Gaspoz-Crettaz, La Forclaz	283 12 49
<b><u>Avalanches :</u></b>		
- Bulletin des avalanches		187
- André Georges, guide, les Haudères, coordinat. sécurité avalanche	079 629 18 38 ou	283 17 34
- Pierre Forclaz, guide, Villa, responsable local sécurité avalanches	079 449 18 34 ou	283 33 59
Banque Cant. Vs.	Evolène (17-19h)	283 19 67
	Compte chalet: 337 769-5	
	Compte avalanche. 337 769-6	
Beytrison, Francis	Forestier, pour bois, Evolène	283 13 94
		077 36 81 87
Bovier, Gilbert	Appareilleur, Evolène	283 15 52
Chevrier, Jean	Cordonier, Magasin de sport, les Haudères.	027 283 11 59
Denner; satellite; Jean-Pierre Quinodoz; <b>Bois</b> , Immeuble les Ritzes, 1984 les Haudères,		283 10 10
	Fax:	283 34 74
Dubochet Michèle	45 av. Vulliemin, 1005 Lausanne	(021) 323 99 00
Dubochet,	Chalet (dès le 2.11.96: ... 283'19'69)	(0041/21) 283 19 69
Dubochet, J. et Ch.	Banc-Vert 17, 1110-Morges	(021)801 03 49
	Prof.:	(021) 692 42 80/81
Gare de Sion		22 20 35
Maistre, Léon et Fam.	Col du Torrent	283 11 83
Médecins	<b>Bernhard, P.Y.</b> Les Hirondelles, Evolène (celui qui n'a pas diagnostiqué ma franche fracture de la colonne vertébrale)	283 11 22
	<b>Egg, Christian</b> , Les Bouquetins, Evolène (Bonnes expériences)	283 13 23
	<b>Sermet, Maurice</b> , Rte de Lannaz, Evolène (Timide mais idem)	283 18 12
	Avec la pharmacienne sa femme.	
Moix, Arsène	Electricien, La Luette	81 14 65
Office du tourisme	Evolène	283 12 38
Poste	La Sage (815-915; 1030-1130; 16-1730) (samedi: vers 9h; 10-11)	283 11 21
Pralong, Laurent	Pierre Ollaire , Evolène	283 15 30
Pralong Frédéric	Forestier : nous fournit le billot en 2000	079 417 12 73
Prévisions du temps		162
	spécial montagne	01 252 76 44
	Cointrin	022 98 24 24
Quincaillerie Maitre -Rieder, Les Haudères		283 31 31
Quinodoz, Jean-Pierre; <b>Bois</b> , Immeuble les Ritzes, 1984 les Haudères,		283 10 10
	Fax:	283 34 74
Taxi	Maurice Gaudin, Borza	283 13 57
	Henri Gaspoz-Crettaz, La Forclaz	283 12 49
Télé-ski Tsaté		283 19 69
Télésiège d'Artzinol, Evolène		283 10 80
Vuissoz, Roger	Le Ranch, Route de Vex; Sion	027 31 13 13
	Le bois de hêtre	077 28 06 57

**Figure 1 - La route pour Villa**



**Figure 2 - Le chalet à Villa**





## Horaire des trains et bus

Erreurs réservées

**selon horaire => 15.6.2002 (italique : non vérifié)**

Remarq.	10	11	12	10	10	10	10	10	12	12	
Bern											
<i>Brigues</i>	<i>601</i>	<i>643</i>	<i>736</i>	<i>918</i>	<i>1036</i>	<i>1203</i>		<i>1418</i>	<i>1536</i>	<i>1636</i>	<i>1807</i>
Morges	-	607	712	847	1012	1112	1212	1347	1512	1612	1712
Lausanne	?	639	730	900	1030	1130	1230	1400	1530	1630	1730
Sion ar.		728	845	1000	1145	1245	1345	1500	1645	1745	1845
Sion dep.	650	750	850	1020	1145	1240	1350	1520	1650	1750	1850
Les Haud.	740	840	940	1110	1235	1330	1440	1610	1740	1840	1940
Les Haud	755		945	1115	1236	1445	1445	1655	1745	1841	1941
Villa	801		951	1121	1242	1451	1451	1701	1751	1847	1947

10) lundi au samedi ainsi que 15 avr, 22.6, 15 août, 1.11, 8.12 et 19.3.2001

11) fériés et 22.6, 15.8, 1.11, 8.12, 19.3.2001 mais pas le 13 avr.

12) sur demande => villa

**selon horaire => 15.6.2002 (italique : non vérifié)**

Remarq.		10	10	10	12					
Villa		630	835	1030	1121	1320	1451		1735	1830
Les Haud		640	845	1040	1140	1330	1515		1745	1840
Remarq.	10					10		10		
Les Haud.	545	645	855	1045	1245	1345	1525	1635	1750	1845
Evolène	550	650	900	1050	1250	1350	1530	1640	1755	1850
Sion ar.	635	735	945	1135	1335	1435	1635	1725	1840	1935
Sion dep.	652	752	959	1159	1359	1459	1659	1759	1859	1952
Lausanne	800	900	1100	1300	1500	1600	1800	1900	2000	2100
Morges	811	911	1111	1311	1511	1611	1811	1911	2011	2111
Brigues										
Bern										

10) lundi au samedi ainsi que 15 avr, 22.6, 15 août, 1.11, 8.12 et 19.3.2001

12) tous les jours du 27.6-23.8 ; samedi et dimanche du 29.8-27.9.

### Remarques:

10) en semaine sauf jours fériés

4) lundi au vendredi, sauf fériés.

15) va sur demande jusqu'à Villa

7) dimanches et jours fériés

8) du 5 .10.92-22.5.93

12) du 31 mai au 4 oct.

## Nos beaux oiseaux

<u>Lequel</u>	<u>Où</u> <u>Quand</u>	<u>Qui</u>	
Accenteur alpin	Régulier sur le balcon		2.85
Pinson des arbres	Autour de la maison		6.85
Bergeronnette			8.85
Rouge-queue noir			
Chardonneret			
Chocard	Partout		
Crave à bec rouge	devrait 'être fréquent mais pas encore repéré		
Merle à plastron	Bois au-dessus de Villa	JD	4.86
Niverolle	un grand groupe autour du chalet, 11.12.99	Jd,ld,md	4.86
Traquet tarier	Sur chalet des Lob	JD	6.86
Cingle plongeur	La borgne vers la Tour	Tous	10.86
Mésange charbonnière	Balcon	tous	
Mésange huppée	Balcon	MD	10.86
Mésange nonette	Balcon	tous	
Chocard	En bandes autour de Villa		
Grand corbeau	S'entend surtout, assez fréquent,		
Aigle royal	Au dessus des Haudères, Vallon de Volovron	J,CH, L,G.	
89,90,91			
Bec croisé des sapins	Sur notre mélèze	M,Ch, J, G&L,	
5.2.89			
Grive litorne	Niche dans le mélèze au-dessus		89
Pic vert	Nos mélèzes	J	8.92
Coucou	Nos mélèzes, en bas	J	8.92
Lagopède	Chemin du col de Tsarmine	Tous	90
	Moraine de la pointe de Vouasson	JD	8.94
Faucon pèlerin?	Les haut du Lachior, un couple	J, Chr.	8.94
Casse noix moucheté	Foret des Vésivi, joli au haut de son arbre sec	J, Chr.	8.94
Traquet moteux	Alpe de Vesivi et assez souvent	J, Chr	7.95