

Travel

High altitude: 2013 ski news



Villa Gella, Bulgaria

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Seventeen kilometres from Pamporovo ski resort in a little visited corner of Bulgaria (which is considered the birthplace of Dionysus, the Greek god of wine), one London banker with indigenous roots unpacked the souvenirs of his wanderlust, from Ming dynasty pottery to modern artworks by Craigie Aitchison and Dale Chihully, at this Aman-inspired refuge that comprises blond wood, unpolished concrete and ashen limestone. Fireplaces and indulgently stuffed furniture covered in undyed hemp, wool, linen and leather warm the stark spaces, while abundant windows frame the snow or wildflower covered Rhodope Mountains throughout. The villa includes six master-size, white washed suites, and guests can unwind among the ten-metre indoor pool, steam room, massage area, outdoor deck and private gym.

4710 s. Gela, Smolyan region, Bulgaria; tel: 359.8 88 566 872; www.villagella.com

Writer: Cynthia Rosenfeld

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