

Spend Christmas at home and slope off afterwards



Holiday snaps BY JIM MURTY

I'M still paying for buying the redoubtable Mrs M a frying pan (non-stick, if you don't mind) and a tray of selected sausages for her first Christmas present. The next year (something of a miracle she was still around the next Christmas) I was stung for a day at a spa. Every year since, she's dropped hints about an Arctic cruise or some other winter wonderland. And snow-ploughing our way around the rocks on the Cairngorms in Scotland won't count. Méribel in France might. Highlife has waived single supplements to Chalet Carine in Méribel commencing 10 April, which gives us just enough time to get the Outlaws to look after the man-child and his sister. My chalet in said Cairngorms was nothing like this. The Highlife chef and host will prepare afternoon treats. There are three-

course evening meals with wines, digestifs and a cheese board and a log fire. Prices for a solo getaway from €695 per person includes minibus transfers to and from your chalet which includes saunas, hot tubs and log fires, food, wines, a complimentary bar and Highlife Ski Discovery Tours. Contact (01) 677 1100 or email info@highlife.ie. If you can pack the family off at short notice Crystal Ski Holidays are offering €300 savings when you book. Soll, Austria: Seven nights B&B in the 2* Au Pension, from €484pp. Inc: Return flights ex. Dublin. Two sharing.

Travel: December 26.
Mayerhofen, Austria: Seven nights B&B in the 3* Hotel Landhaus Roscher, from €633pp. Inc: Return flights ex. Dublin. Two sharing. Travel: December 26.
Zell am See, Austria: Seven nights B&B in the Hotel Garni Edelweiss, from €652pp. Inc: Return flights ex. Dublin. Based on two sharing. Travel: December 26.
Contact (01) 4331080 or crystalski.ie.

TALKING of spas, Knockranny House & Spa, Co. Mayo, may be the place this Yuletide. An overnight stay, the Winter

Wonderland experience at Westport House and breakfast from €170 for two adults/ two children (u-16) over selected dates this month.

OF Star Wars I little know... but Tourism Ireland is pitching a Star Wars campaign in 2016. Part of it was shot in Skellig Michael. May the Force be with you. Snaps will keep you updated.

IN a Galicia far, far away... if you book your Camino trip with Camino-Ways.com before the end of the year you'll get a special 10% discount. Pilgrims travelling in 2016, Holy Year of Mercy, will be able to enter the cathedral through the Holy Door. Prices start at €517 pp for a six-night trip on the last section of the Camino Frances Sarria-Santiago (does not include flights, insurance and lunch). Contact (01) 525 2886 or see camino.ways.com.

IS €20 enough for a gift? Aer Lingus is offering city breaks to Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham from €19.99, London from €24.99, Brussels and Amsterdam from €29.99, Paris €39.99 and Rome €43.99. see aerlingus.com. It is also reintroducing an early morning flight Dublin-New York June 9 to August 31. And also, Dublin to New York each way, inc. taxes and charges, from €305 for travel April 1 to April 30. Book by December 21.

