



SCIJ Event 2014

# Champéry

## At a huge but almost secret corner of Cirque de Soleil

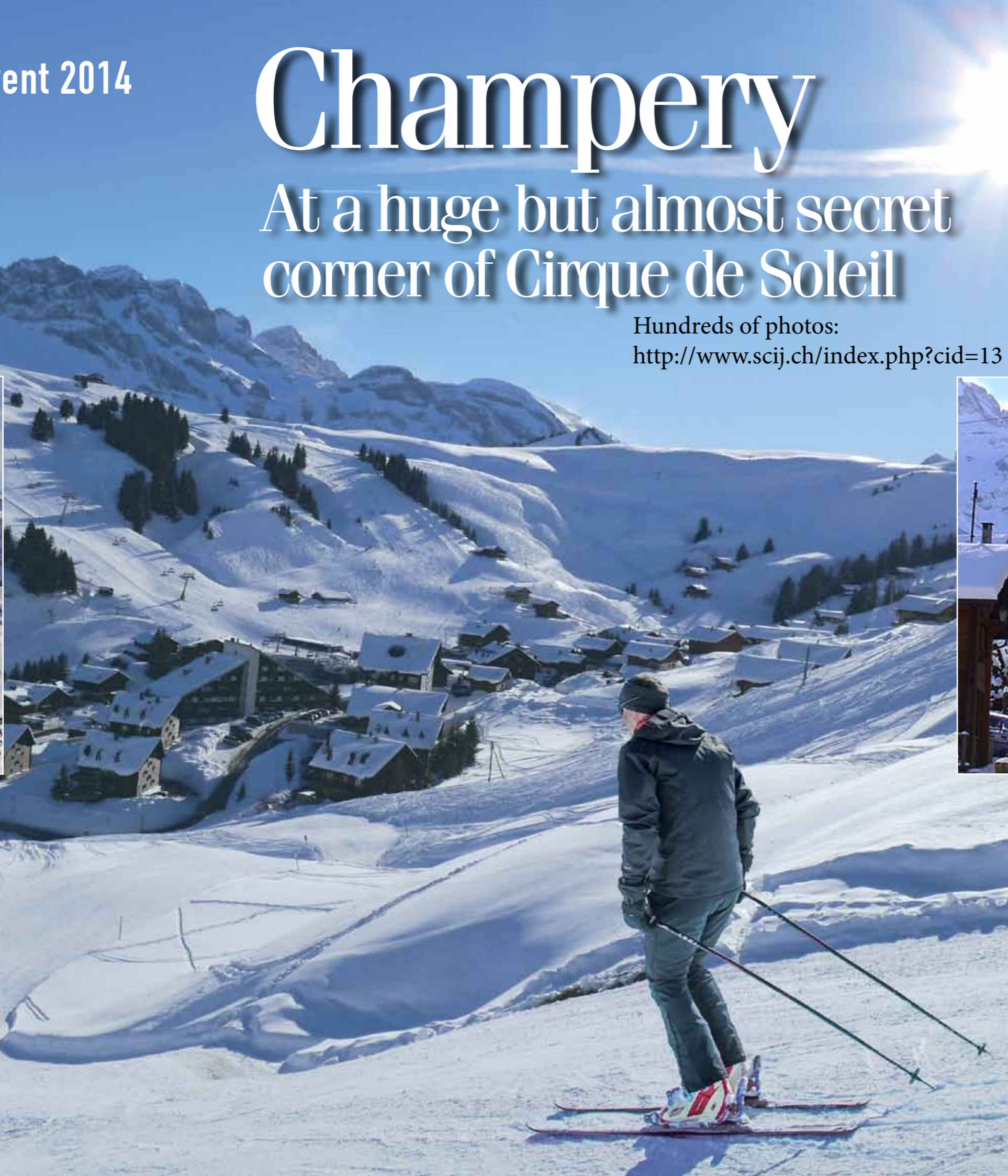
Hundreds of photos:

<http://www.scij.ch/index.php?cid=13>

- SSHHHH! said a policeman to people coming out from Le Pub in Verbier.
- You mustn't disturb sleeping people.

It's all coming back to me from behind fifteen years when we walk slowly towards our hotel through the beautiful centre of Champéry. It's as quiet as in a graveyard.

We are the only people outside. Not one restaurant is open.



There are hundreds of family houses and small blocks of flats in Alpine style in Champéry, but only ten hotels. The private houses and apartment are un-occupied most of the time. The Swiss don't give the property for rent. Here it's unnecessary to muzzle us. Most of the hotel guests are in the disco of the Palladium sports hotel in the valley.

**Some twenty years ago** the director the Verbier tourist office complained to a group of Finnish journalists, that even though new houses were erected in the town, the number of beds decreases.

- What we need here is a 4-5 star hotel for the wealthy Swiss to stay at.

Today there is one five star and two four star hotels in Verbier, but none in Champéry. Is it too late to start building?

### Slow suicides of ski resorts

A bad paradox of the Swiss ski resorts threatens to kill them slowly. The lack of visitors worsens the services, the infrastructure suffers, the worth of the property investments decreases.

Champery is an excellent place to compare the situation in France and Switzerland. Reachable by two ski lifts and three slopes is Avoriaz, a base for jet-set highlife for people who spend their summer in Cannes. The town, sloper, off-pistes and restaurants pubble with life. Don't know the hotel prices, but dining is much cheaper than in Champery. So, I lunch in France but ski in Switzerland.

### At the gates of a skiing paradise

The Geneva Airport is a real "Stargate SG-1" of skiing. You may still remember the latter TV series of the wonderman MacGyver. The easiest way to reach the endless ski slopes and off-pistes of Porte de Soleil is to hop on a train, enjoy the scenery of Lake Geneva till Aigle, where a mountain train is already waiting and end up at the Champery railway station. The 100-person telecabine is ready to take off for the slopes.

This wonder of personal logistics is possible only if one has put on the skiing outfit on the train and agreed with the driver of the hotel van to fetch the rest of one's luggage at the railway station. When travelling in a larger group of people it's an idea to choose on person to move our luggage to the hotel. A free dinner should be his reward... with drinks of course... and desert...

### Almost enough for the first day

A beautiful and easy slope takes us to the little village of Les Crosets, that is a perfect base even for a whole day. Six ski lifts and eight prepared slopes plus a wide area of off-pistes between them are quite sufficient for the first day. Four restaurants take care of one's nourishment.

After three days of heavy snowfall we had no reason to leave Les Crosets for a while. The valley is like a bowl and all its sides are skiable. As free-ride is so trendy today, half of the slopes were left un-prepared. So, there was lots of power to everyone to get his/her outfit white. White Doctor ski factory provided us for free with skis wider than our smiles to surf the clouds on the ground.

### To wider horizons

We left Les Crosets taking the ski lift to Pointe de Mossettes and skied some five kilometres along a beautiful road through the woods to Morgins. No slowing turns needed, neither pushes for more



Fondue



Crub specialty of Chet Yoyo et Jibi slope joint.



Wine tasting at the Palladium



CHAMPÉRY-PLANACHAUX  
VAIS SUISSE SWITZERLAND ALTITUDE 1065-1890 METRES



The backdoor from the slopes to the Val d'Illiciez, 5-minute bus drive to Champery village



Les Crosets, the centre of Champery skiing area



They gave all they got, but was it enough?



The excitement is palpable before the GS race



Melnik and Liubomir Boyadjiev



France and Avoriaz not far off.



# Post Tour Cran Montana



After cross country ski



Finnish rye bread, bear and elk meat



speed. So quiet and peaceful, only a random cry of a crow, the winding road brought us to a small cluster of cottages and a ski lift. From there we returned to Les Crosets, through five lift lines and five slopes of Chamoussin.

The next day we had the same foreplay or prelude, if you like, but went on north-east to Chatel and Torgon. Their ski map, quite a labyrinth, should be examined carefully to find the way back to Morgins and from there to Les Crosets and Champéry.

We could have continued our expedition to Abondance in France, but that would have meant crossing two valleys on foot. It would have been just a few ten meters, but getting stuck in a ski lift queue back there could have meant a 30-kilometre walk back home. Not nice with boots on.

### Attentive with the ski map and watch!

Portes de Soleil is such a labyrinth, that in the afternoon it's wise to stay close to the familiar slopes, and go in time to the Champéry telecabine. The alternative could be a cold night on the mountains or a taxi drive of tens of kilometres, if one succeeds in finding a taxi. E.g Avoriaz is only 7 km from Champéry on skis, but 70 km along the road.

If one comes too late to the upper station of the telecabin, one can, if the snow condition is Good, ski down to the west-most suburb of Champéry and hope that the last bus hasn't left. If it has, it's only a two-kilometre walk downtown.

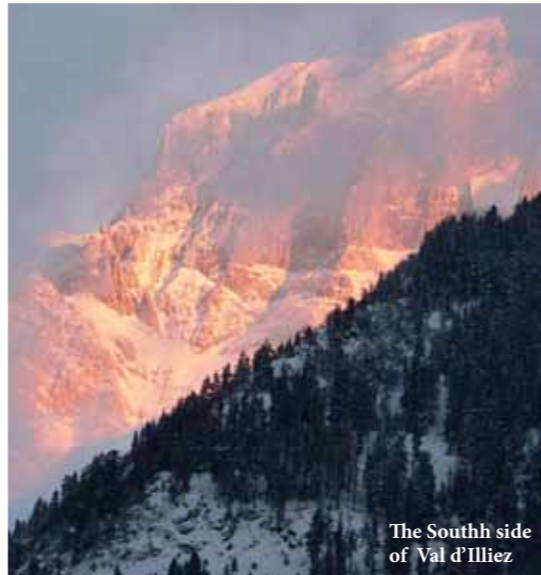
In spite of the train to Champéry, transportation in Porte de Soleil is based on private cars.

However, the French villages are connected with a bus line, but it doesn't come to the Swiss side.

### Second quick visit to France

The next day I took the Pointe de Mossettes ski lift again, this time alone, and turned to Avoriaz in France. It's easy to reach by two different routes, moderate and easy. Coming back is very easy, too. However, after the relatively empty slopes in Switzerland, skiing among hundreds of other skiers wasn't as pleasant, and the cocktail of good and bad skiers was scary. So I headed for the three black pistes behind Avoriaz, below the Les Hauts Forts mountain peak. An excellent choice it was and later I rewarded myself with an onion soup. Not as delicious as the one in Les Halles in Paris tens of years ago, but that memory is very nostalgic. I was a very hungry hitchhiker at the time.

I could have continued my expedition to Morzine and Les Gets the slopes there are profiled for families with children, so I left back for Switzerland, and there I stayed the rest of the week.



The Southh side of Val d'Illeiz



Veronika Mergnthal from Germany



Fanfare for watering can

## Competition results

Clit Nom et prénom Nation GS CC Comb

### Junior / Homme

Clit	Nom et prénom	Nation	GS	CC	Comb
1	MATTHEY-DORET Simon	SUI	3	1	4
2	MOCNIK Blaz	SLO	2	5	7
3	MLCH Petr	CZE	5	2	7
4	EGGER François	SUI	6	3	9
5	SAULE Andrea	ITA	1	11	12
6	SÖDERLUND Johan	SWE	10	7	17
7	BOYADJIEV Liubomir	BUL	17	4	21
8	BUXANT Henry	SUI	15	9	24
9	TREPPER Sebastian	GER	8	18	26
10	DANCI Marius	ROU	13	15	28
11	FABIJAN Petar	CRO	14	14	28
12	DUBRAVEC Tom	CRO	11	19	30
13	DELEURY Stéphane	SUI	22	8	30
14	ORSINI Jacopo	ITA	9	22	31
15	FRANÇOIS Laurent	FRA	19	12	31
16	ŠTĚRBA Martin	CZE	21	10	31
17	DJURICA Marko	SRB	16	23	39
18	SCHMITZ Bruno	BEL	29	13	42
19	BOGOYAVLENSKI Alexander	BUL	20	24	44
20	THOMPSON Sam	GBR	27	17	44
21	HAULOT Alexis	BEL	26	21	47
22	MILICEVIC Mirko	SRB	28	20	48
23	VITOMIROVIC Miljan	SRB	25	25	50
24	PÁLINKÁS Norbert	HUN	30	27	57



The Matts of Sweden



The Waxman



La Motta

Clit Nom et prénom Nation GS CC Comb

### Senior / Homme

1	AQUISO Miguel	SUI	2	5	7
2	CHABOUDEZ Patrick	SUI	6	2	8
3	STOYANOV Julian	BUL	1	10	11
4	FISCHER Bertrand	SUI	5	6	11
5	WALLACE Frederick	CAN	7	7	14
6	SARLIN Kimmo	FIN	8	9	17
7	CAVALIERE Dario	ITA	4	14	18
8	RICHEBE Renaud	FRA	10	11	21
9	MARKAUSKAS Gytis	LTU	13	8	21
10	GAINANOV Wladimir	RUS	9	15	24
11	LUCAZEAU Olivier	FRA	14	12	26
12	BOEVER Eric	BEL	18	13	31
13	MARINO Francesco	ITA	12	22	34
14	BRÜNGER Ulrich	GER	16	19	35
15	AMIGUET Luis	ESP	17	22	39
16	MOUHYI Youssef	MAR	19	21	40
17	ÚJVÁRI Miklós	HUN	21	20	41
18	GRIGALIUNAS Stasys	LTU	24	17	41
19	SMAIL Israil	KAZ	25	16	41

### Super-Senior / Homme

1	PUCELJ Gregor	SLO	1	2	3
2	ODELBERG Axel	SWE	3	3	6
3	GAY-COUTTET Hubert	SUI	2	7	9
4	DRAGOSEI Fabrizio	ITA	4	6	10
5	KUBKA Petr	CZE	9	1	10
6	MATULA Jan	SVK	8	4	12
7	NUSSLE Pierre	SUI	7	12	19
8	MICALLI Roberto	ITA	6	15	21
9	STORM Rauli	FIN	16	5	21
10	MINARIC Milan	SVK	14	11	25
11	KLEMM Hans-Günther	GER	13	15	28
12	KINSELLA Patrick	IRL	11	18	29
13	KOPIC Jaroslav	CZE	22	8	30
14	ÖRBRINK Mats	SWE	12	22	34
15	POPOVIC Danijel	CRO	24	10	34
16	FONDA Dave	CAN	10	25	35
17	MOORE Barry	GBR	15	23	38
18	PROWSE Michael	GBR	20	19	39
19	NAEGLER Marcel	SUI	18	24	42
20	CHRISTENSEN Peter Moeller	DEN	26	17	43
21	KOSTOURKOV Borislav	BUL	32	13	45
22	SHOLEV Tihomir	BUL	27	20	47
23	ARMENGOL Juan Carlos	ESP	23	27	50
24	VILARO Ramon	ESP	28	26	54
25	SALTON Zvi	ISR	30	28	58

Clit Nom et prénom Nation GS CC Comb

### Junior / Dame

1	FOURNIER Anne	SUI	2	4	6
2	WENDLANDT Astrid	FRA	3	3	6
3	PATRIGEON Nolween	FRA	1	6	7
4	GRGIC Maja	SLO	7	2	9
5	HENJER Anna	SWE	8	1	9
6	LESJAK TUSEK Petra	SLO	4	9	13
7	SALAJKOVÁ Linda	CZE	9	5	14
8	TZAUD Céline	SUI	10	17	27
9	MILASEVIC Lorence	SUI	14	13	27
10	GENS Elena	RUS	15	12	27
11	BOUDOVA Dana	CZE	17	10	27
12	CAHEN Anne-Laure	FRA	16	14	30
13	LINDQVIST Mia	SWE	19	11	30
14	GUROVA Elena	BUL	12	21	33
15	RAIC-KNEZEVIC Ana	CRO	13	24	37
16	HALTINER Nadine	SUI	21	16	37
17	PEPIC Bojana	SRB	11	29	40
18	STRBAC Barbara	CRO	18	22	40
19	DUBREUIL Emilie	CAN	22	18	40
20	PERKKIÖ Tanja	FIN	33	7	40
21	ABRAMOVIC Natasa	SRB	23	23	46
22	GYÖR Agnes Janka	HUN	26	20	46
23	ILIC Catherine	SUI	20	27	47
24	NAUMETSKAYA Anastassiya	KAZ	24	28	52
25	GREWIN Tove	SWE	29	25	54
26	EMERSON Lucie	GBR	25	30	55
27	SHARP Rebecca	GBR	31	26	57
28	BUIL ROVIRA Montse	AND	27	32	59
29	MARZAK Salima	MAR	28	33	61
30	FRENKEL Billie	ISR	32	31	63

### Senior / Dame

1	MOTTA Gisella	ITA	1	8	9
2	HÖGLUND Lena	SWE	2	7	9
3	KJÖLLER Hanne	SWE	4	6	10
4	AARSETH Cecilie	NOR	6	4	10
5	SODERGREN FREROT Elisabet	SWE	8	3	11
6	WEINBERGER Stefanie	GER	10	2	12
7	SEDERIAS Codruta	ROU	3	10	13
8	BLOMQUIST Helena	SWE	12	1	13
9	FINNSIÖ Marica	SWE	9	9	18
10	MERGENTHAL Veronika	GER	13	5	18
11	VLADKOVA Vessela	BUL	7	12	19
12	CHIODA Maria Luisa	ITA	11	13	24
13	PIGARYOVA Tatiana	RUS	14	11	25
14	PENCHEVA-BALINSKA Hristinka	BUL	17	14	31
15	FOLEY Cliona	IRL	16	19	35
16	MATHIEU Elisabeth	BEL	18	17	35
17	DUSMEZ Gamze	TUR	19	20	39

### Super-Senior / Dame

1	LANCTOT Martine	CAN	1	1	2
2	VON KAUFFUNGEN Ellinor	SUI	2	3	5
3	JANKU Jana	SVK	3	6	9
4	SUHADOLC Ivana	ITA	6	4	10
5	MALNAR-TRAVAS Branka	CRO	5	8	13
6	BLAZETIC Neva	SLO	11	2	13
7	JOUAULT Catherine	FRA	4	11	15
8	DUCHARME Andree	CAN	10	5	15
9	RADEMACHER Vivienne	GER	8	13	21
10	LARKIN Leah	USA	15	9	24
11	LAMARCHE Ginette	CAN	17	10	27
12	VILUP Merike	EST	19	12	31
13	GARRIDO Maribel	ESP	16	16	32
14	ZEZAK Aliza	ISR	18	18	36
15	MARTIN Gill	GBR	20	17	37
16	WEINREB WYATT Risa	USA	23	15	38