Italian ski resorts take off with new ropeways from LEITNER

Eight Italian skiing resorts are relying on the latest ropeway technology from the South Tyrolean manufacturer LEITNER this winter. Whether as upgrades to existing facilities or in the form of new installations: the investment drive ensures a new level of comfort, safety, and energy efficiency everywhere. Italy's top destinations are thus also sending a strong message in favour of sustainable operation and the optimal use of materials and energy. Installing all-new chairlifts and gondola lifts with the resource-saving and easy-to-maintain LEITNER DirectDrive also contributes to this.

"The modernisation of skiing areas in Italy is progressing intensively. We are all the more pleased to be an indispensable part of this development and to be able to contribute our extensive research and technology expertise to several projects at once," says Martin Leitner, Member of the Board of Leitner S.p.A..

One of these projects is the "CD6 Steinermandl", which halves the journey time for winter sports enthusiasts in the Gitschberg Jochtal skiing area to the highest point at over 2,100 metres on the existing route of the old 4-seater chairlift. The new system, including chairs with protective hoods, individual footrests, and seat heating, is in line with the style of the station panelling, with a Pininfarina design, and provides access to the various slopes, as well as the new Jochtal Fun Zone and SkiMovie slope. At the same time, the installation is a technological first for Italy: the "CD6 Steinermandl" is the first chairlift in the country to be equipped with LEITNER's LeitPilot technology for automated monitoring and control of the loading and unloading area. The solution, which is based on AI-supported recognition software, is currently being used and tested to support manual station management.

New facilities in Pila and Cervinia: LEITNER ensures innovative modernisation in the Aosta Valley

In the Pila skiing area above Aosta, the focus is on implementing a continuous ropeway connection from the village to the skiing area. The visionary solution is based on two new 10-seater gondola lifts that run from Pila via the middle station near Gorraz and the Couis top station to the Stella del Couis mountain hut at over 2,700 metres. While construction of the installation from Pila will start next year, the upper section from Couis is already in

operation in the form of the new "GD10 Couis-Platta" gondola lift. The system is equipped with Premium Diamond EVO cabins and achieves an hourly transport capacity of 2,400 passengers at a speed of six metres per second. Together with the 8-seater gondola lifts from Aosta to Pila, the two new 10-seater gondola lifts cover a difference in altitude of over 2,100 metres in around 30 minutes, over a total length of more than 8.5 kilometres.

LEITNER also carried out another important ropeway modernisation in the Aosta Valley, this time in Cervinia. In the Matterhorn Ski Paradise, one of the largest skiing areas in the world, the well-established collaboration between the Cervinia skiing area and LEITNER continues in the form of the detachable 6-seater "CD6C Lago Goillet" chairlift. It was not until 2023 that the highest Alpine crossing by ropeway was successfully completed between Zermatt and Cervinia thanks to the two Matterhorn Glacier Ride 3S ropeways. The new system is equipped with chairs with protective hoods, individual footrests, seat heating, and comfortable upholstery. Up to 2,400 people can be transported per hour at an operating speed of five metres per second.

Skiing fun at the highest level in the Dolomites thanks to new LEITNER ropeways

A new system from LEITNER is also being used in the Drei Zinnen skiing area in the Dolomites, including a unique panoramic view from the Stiergarten top station. As a replacement for an existing platter lift, the new detachable 6-seater “CD6C Porzen” chairlift offers a new generation of comfort thanks to its protective hoods, individual footrests, premium upholstery and seat heating. The ropeway upgrade in the winter sports area around Sexten will benefit all fans of the varied area—from children letting off steam on the Kids Ski Cross course, to non-skiers going tobogganing or snowshoeing, to passionate winter sports enthusiasts on the “Grande Giro delle Cime” ski adventure tour. The system has 57 Premium EVO chairs and can transport up to 2,200 people per hour.

The San Martino di Castrozza skiing area is located in the heart of the Dolomites with views of the imposing Pala Group. The new 10-seater “GD10 Valcigolera” gondola lift was built here to replace a 2-seater chairlift. It connects the mountain hut of the same name with the Cima Tognola and shortens the journey to the summit, at just under 2,400 metres, from ten to three and a half minutes. The lift, which is powered by renewable energy, is therefore particularly efficient and is one of a total of four LEITNER systems that have been installed in the skiing area over the past ten years. Up to 1,500 people per hour can be transported in the modern cabins along the 1,300-metre-long route, covering a 467-metre difference in altitude.

In the Arabba/Marmolada skiing area, part of the famous “Sellaronda” ski circuit, the detachable 6-seater “CD6 Antercrëp” chairlift replaces a 2-seater chairlift that is over 40

years old. The 29 chairs have individual footrests and comfortable upholstery and currently transport up to 1,800 people per hour. The new system provides a real quality boost on the ride up the Passo Padon, with its breathtaking view of the Marmolada, the highest mountain in the Dolomites.

The “Sellaronda” also includes the legendary winter sports resort Alta Badia. Here, the new, detachable 6-seater “CD6 Braia Fraida” chairlift provides fast and comfortable transport along the route of an over 30-year-old installation. From beginners on the gentle hills between Piz Sorega and Monte Cherz to more daring skiers on the Gran Risa World Cup slope: ski fans of all ability levels will enjoy the extensive innovations, such as premium upholstery, individual footrests, and seat heating when travelling on the new 6- seater chairlift. The lift, which is also equipped for bike transport in summer, has 70 Premium EVO chairs, which can transport up to 2,800 people per hour along the 1,200- metre-long route.

A new surface lift went into operation this season on the Karerpass in Carezza. The facility near the golf club replaces one of the same type built in 1995 and now offers state-of-the- art technology.

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