

# Ski couple live it up in the Rockies

AS SKIER Helen Gienke roars down another slope in the US Rocky Mountains it seems a far cry from her old life in almost flat East Anglia.

Now the proud owner of a US ski chalet business she has not looked back since swapping her old life as a marketing consultant and setting up in a Colorado holiday resort she now calls home.

Ex-Netherhall and Hills Road Sixth Form pupil Helen, 31, identified a gap in the market for European-style chalets in the US and set up Chalets USA with her husband Rob Brown, 36.

Helen, formerly of Rutherford Road, Cambridge, said: "We love living in the mountains. With the majestic scenery, the 300 days of sunshine a year and the awesome skiing, we really are living the dream."

"With a snowfall averaging 30 feet a year and the pound prevailing over the dollar, the US ski market has benefited from an influx of British skiers."

Ski chalets have only just taken off in the US despite being a mainstay of the ski holiday in Europe for many years with many Americans used to self-catered condominiums. The Winter Park resort receives the most snow out of all Colorado destinations and is the nearest to Denver International, a two-hour shuttle journey away.

**By Ben Lee**

Their new home, Chalet Bluebell, is a luxury chalet sleeping eight to nine people.

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■ Rocky mountain high . . . Helen and Rob taking some off-piste time together in their new US home town. CP

bine the Alpine tradition of providing afternoon tea and cake with serving a three-course meal with wine in the evenings and the

option of authentic cowboy saloon bars on the doorstep to explore.

That leaves just about enough time to get out on the slopes themselves.

Further details on the chalet can be found at [www.chalets-usa.co.uk](http://www.chalets-usa.co.uk).