

## Hitting these slopes will make you melt

Jacquelin Magnay  
February 14, 2008

WANT to meet men? Want to meet successful men? Want to meet successful, energetic men? What about successful, energetic and dashing men? I have found the place for you.

It is, essentially, in the middle of nowhere, at 4000 metres high. It is heli-skiing. For a variety of reasons - and I will touch on those later - women resist heli-skiing, which makes the heli-skiing clientele 98 per cent male.

When I went heli-skiing in the midst of the Caribou and Monashee Mountains in British Columbia, Canada, last month there were two other women heli-skiing, one accompanying her husband, the other an internationally renowned pianist, compared to 112 men. The odds are better than good.

And the clients, a huge proportion who return year after year for their white powder fix, are also superbly fit, adventurous types in their 30s, 40s and 50s.

What makes them so damn hot in business, makes them sizzle on skis. Hello to Steve, Jeff, Scott, Dan, Eric, Adam, Ross and Brent.

They just love the adrenaline rush produced by the loud whomp whomp reverberations of the helicopter as it manoeuvres to come into land just two metres away. Then hooning through the fluffiest, lightest untracked snow - the steeper and deeper the terrain the better.

Beating their mates down to the helicopter meeting point? Priceless.

And they get to do it again and again: on one day our group of 10 skied 11 long runs before lunch, the only rest were the heli rides to another peak which wasn't a rest at all, it was just "down time" to quaff water and munch on chocolate.

The blokes are time poor in business so it makes sense that they fly their personal jet, and a couple of mates for company, to the closest airport at Kamloops and pay big bucks to have limitless powder to ski. It is why they count the runs and log the vertical metres.

It is attention to detail, extracting the most from the occasion that is a little bit intimidating amid the testosterone-fuelled competition.

And the men never seem to counter that James Bond-ish myth to female friends that heli-skiing is dangerous and extreme. It is not.

Do not believe that all heli-skiing is like the fascinating ski documentary *Steep* - about the world's most extreme skiers, showing at Cremorne Orpheum February 22 to 25.

Women can ski the mountains just as well, if not more stylishly. It is challenging and exciting and very addictive.

Women who are fit and keen and don't mind the male jokes should stop believing heli skiing is too "out there" and start saving now. It is worth every cent.

*This story was found at: <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2008/02/13/1202760395482.html>*