A black and white photograph of four people standing in an ice cave. They are silhouetted against a bright light coming from the entrance of the cave. The cave walls are made of translucent, layered ice. The people are wearing heavy winter gear, including hats and jackets. One person in the center is holding the hand of a child on the right. The overall mood is mysterious and adventurous.

WHERE THE WILD THINGS  
ARE...A YEAR IN THE LIFE  
OF BRIG, SOREN AND  
REIDAR PUTNAM

# October



Our first day in France and we are looking to find mischief of some kind. There are mountains and trees to climb and adventures for us to find.





We went to Buckingham Palace, the Guards Museum, Westminster Abbey and, of course, Big Ben. And throughout the day they ate and ate.



We are who we are, so life can't be too bucolic, in a 10 minute drive there's an adventure to be had. Off to Les Gaillands for a ropes course, some rock climbing and a Via Ferrata. And, no it's not perfect, our things haven't yet arrived but we used what we had and lived it live.



December, oh yeah  
there was snow.



They can now ski the steep (45 degrees +), they can now ski it long (over 6000ft per run) and they can now ski the deep. We're having fun!

**January**

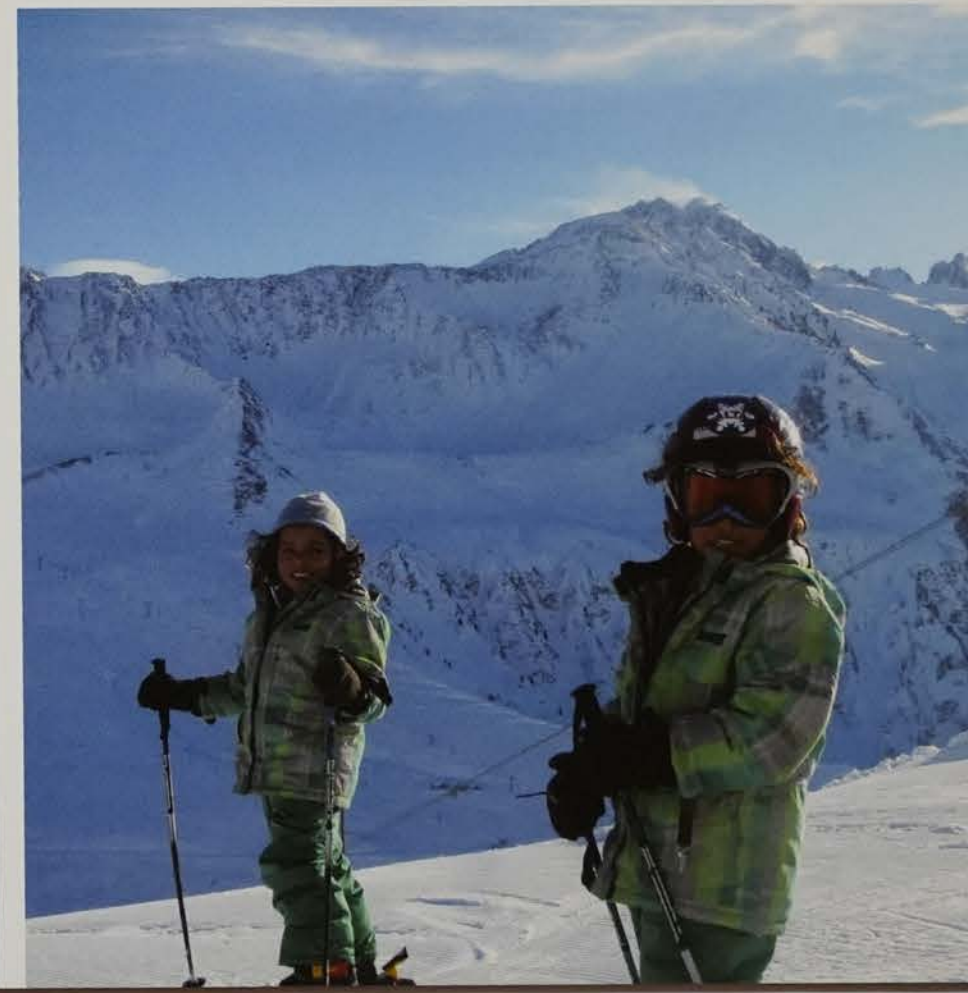




Pas de Chevre on a  
Sunny Day



Vallee Blanche  
for Brig, little  
boys ski  
touring and  
twin mountain  
power. It's an  
alpine life we  
are striving for  
and an alpine  
life we are  
loving, the  
smiles say it all.

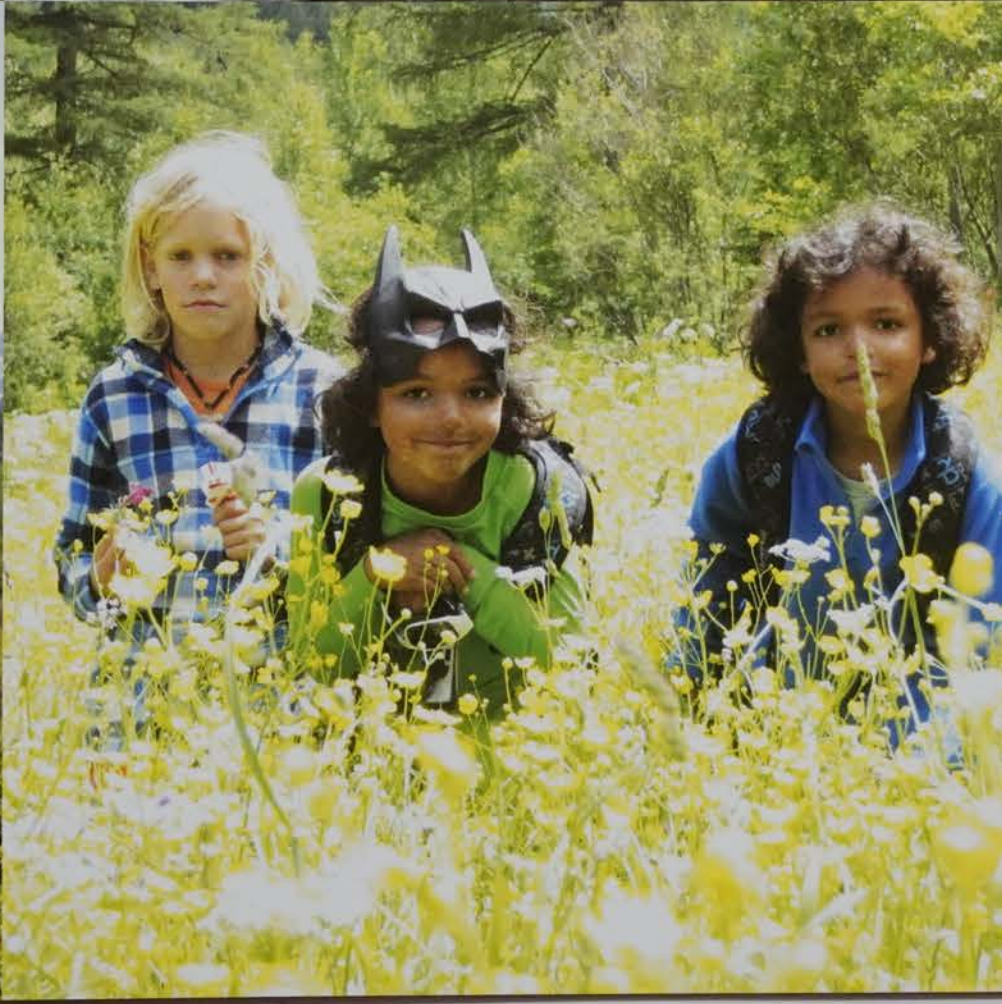




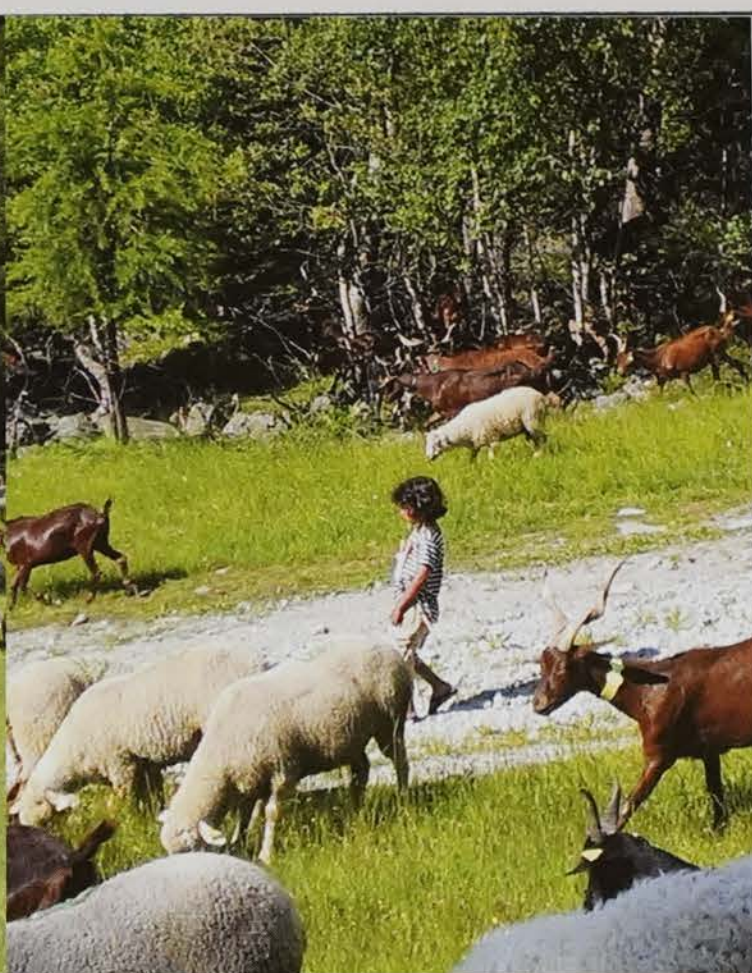
# April

It's time for spring skiing and a few more trips down the Vallee Blanche. Scott took some holidays so we were able to ski alone together, what fun. He also managed to get in a summiting of Mt. Blanc climbing to summit with the rising of the sun.





June  
The wild  
flowers are in  
bloom but  
there is still  
snow on the  
mountain tops,  
we enjoy a  
hike from  
France to  
Switzerland up  
and over the  
Col du  
Balme..the hills  
are alive with  
the sounds of  
happy Putnam  
boys.



The last day of school on the 5th of July corresponds with the Foule des Sel when the goats and sheep are moved to pastures up high.



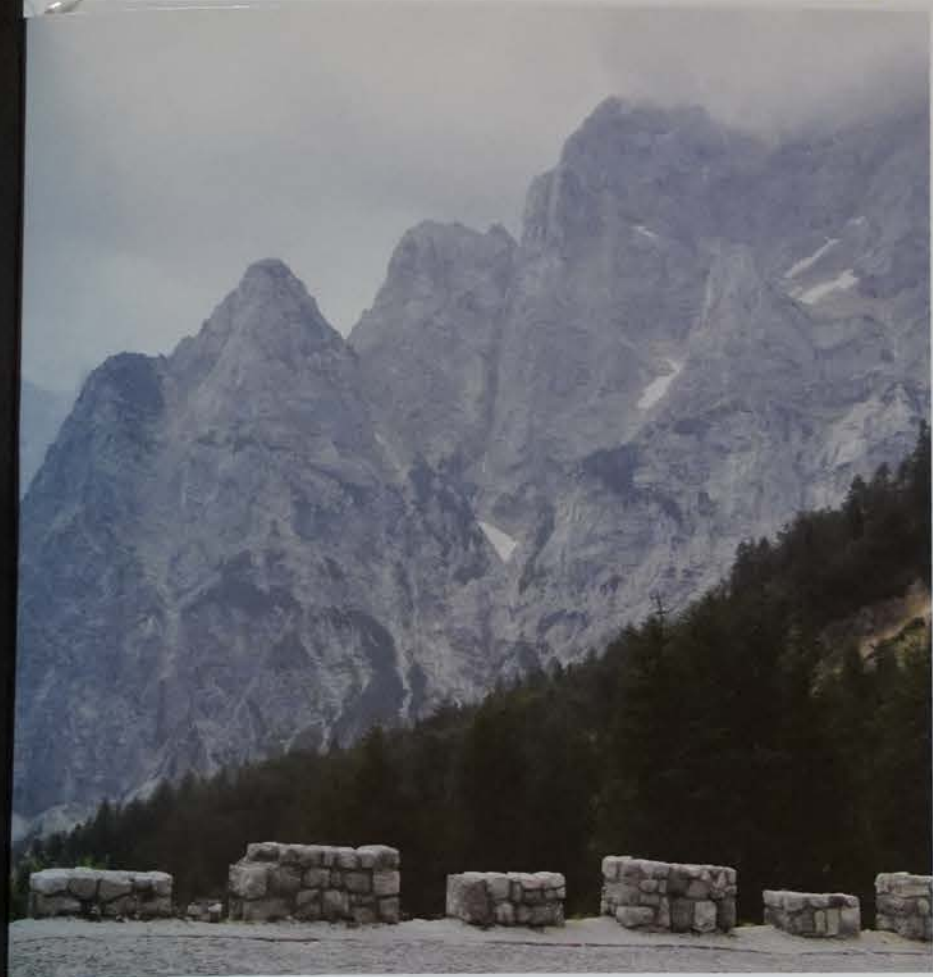
So the children all gather to help the shepherd and his dogs, they can run around with the animals and have a ball.

Canal rides, St. Peter's  
and so much walking



But that night we dined al  
fresco and there was  
more eating than talking



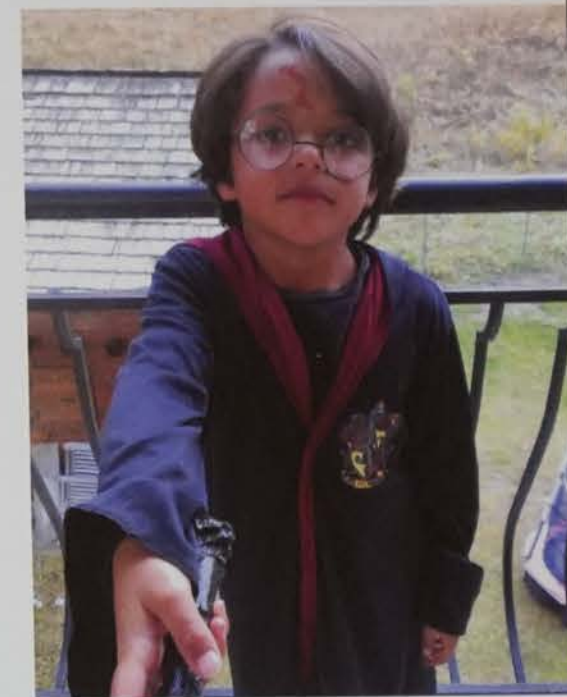


The camping is easy the boys learn to tie knots and dance their tribal dance around the fireplace, there are more caves to slide down into, feet first because there is so little space. The most spectacular cave allowed no photos and required a tour but the experience was well worth it and we will come back.





The food is fantastic, barbequed squid and fresh fish everyday, the boys are healthy and thriving and, of course full of play.



Halloween and the costumes were grand, we went to Geneva for a party and a kid created haunted house and even trick-or-treating, not bad for Europe!

But before we can climb we are off to London, for papers must be filed



And they showed me they were!

First, they posed so beautifully for their photo, but then I called them Wild Things!







November arrives and there is snow on the ground, but no school on Wednesdays so we feed the cows. Our house is in the background so it's a short walk to go.

## November Cow Bells





The view from the top  
towards Les Drus



And the joy at the  
bottom, this place is too  
good to be true.

Time for  
some skiing



And Pere  
Noel, ho ho  
ho!!



We're pretty far north so the light isn't great, but it's better outside, so out we go. The ski teepee is for the school run on Fridays - it's a ski afternoon.



Verbier baby!!!

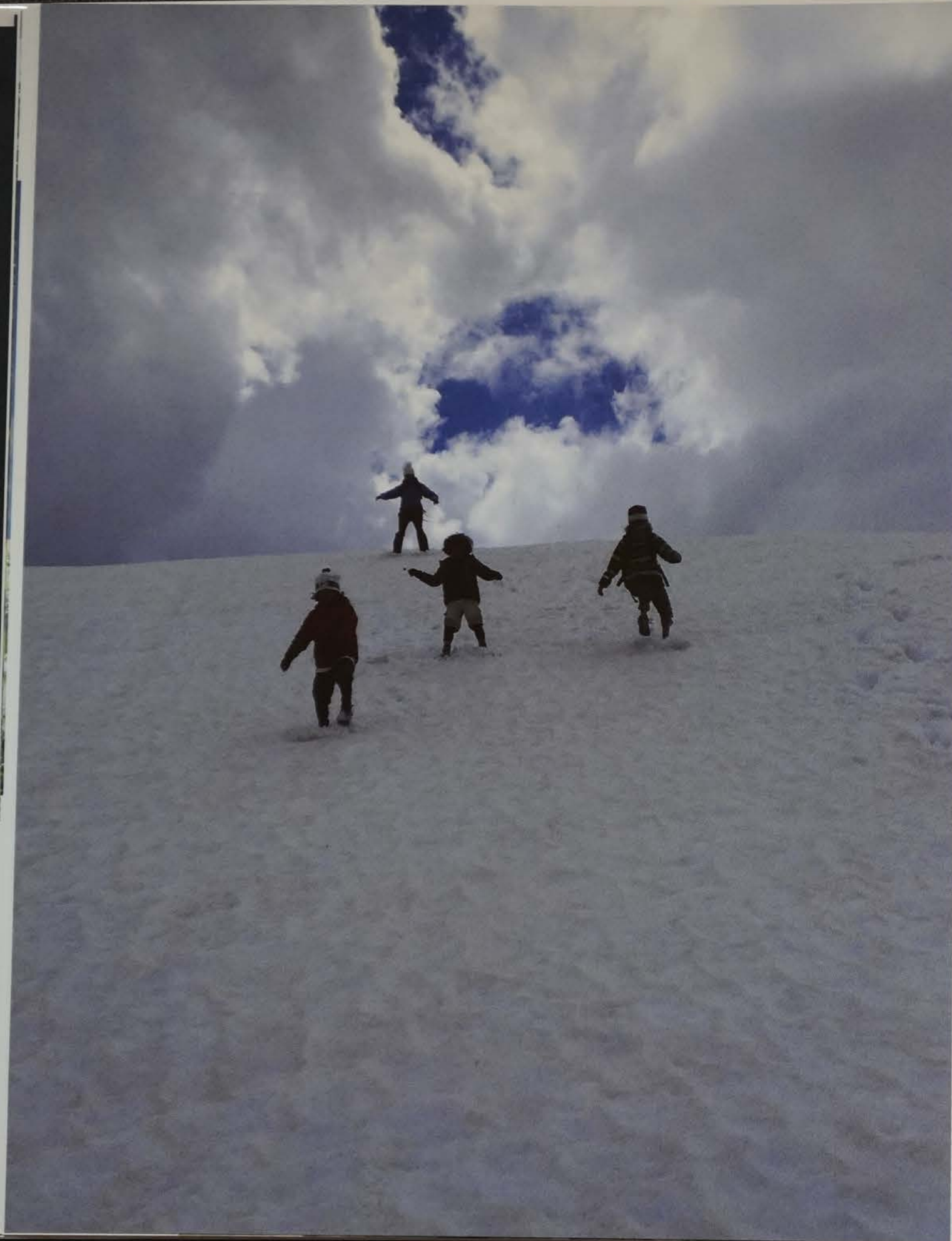


It's March and time for Carnival, we had face painting and a dance/parade of children through the streets.

Tigers!



He wanted to be a clock!!



## May



The lifts have re-opened for summer time hiking Lac Blanche needs the route set so off we go!



We take a day to drive over to Italy, it's only an hour a way...there are castles and ruins to see so why not go we say. The ruins were the great and the castles were fun, but on a castle tour you must behave your best and above all don't run.

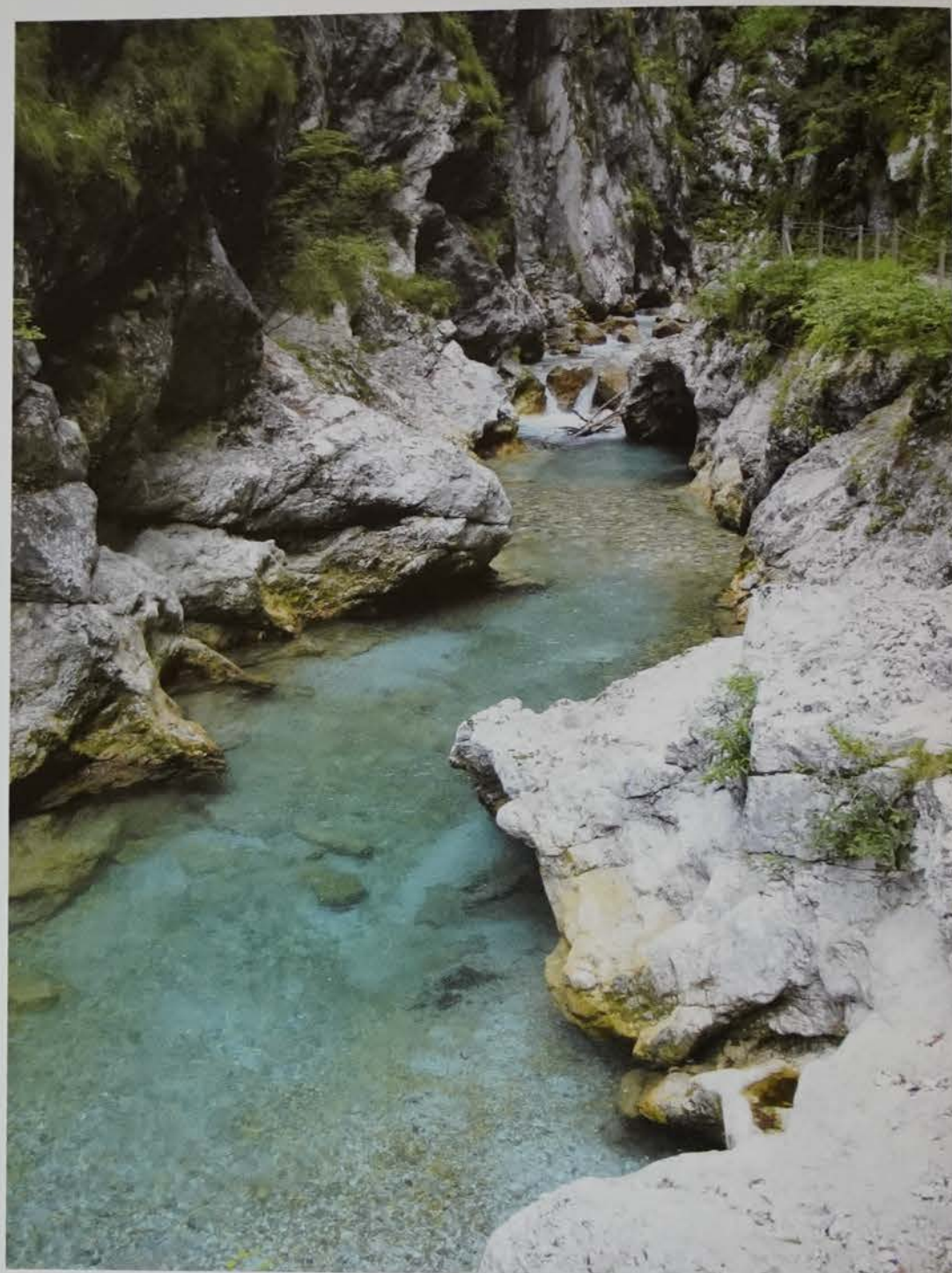
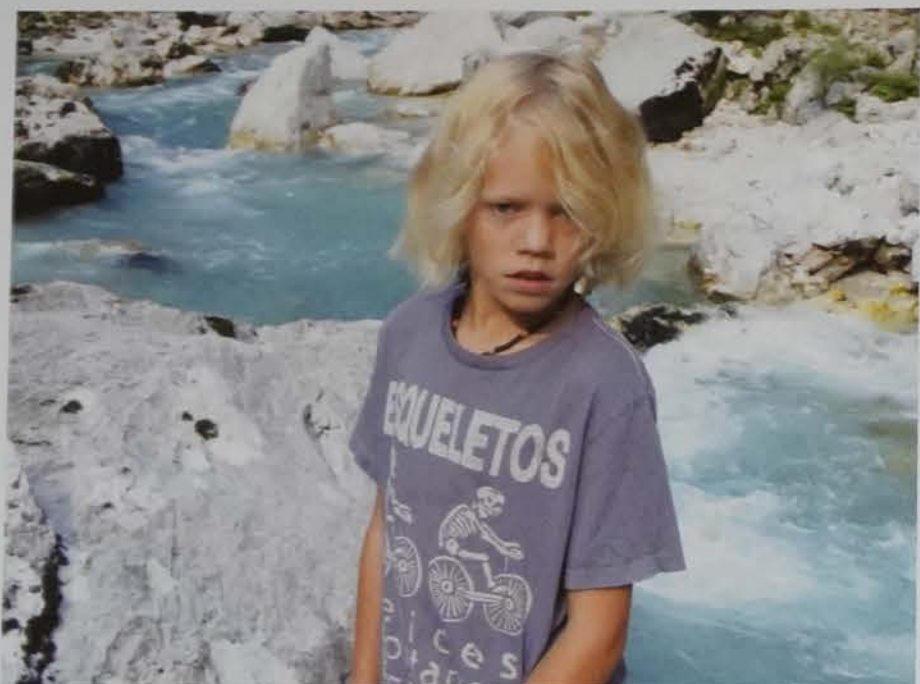




## Venice



Brig's Birthday present was a trip to Venice. Ah pizza!



We're in Slovenia now and the mountains are spectacular with beautiful blue glacial water, we hike to Dante's cave and the boys test out the frigid river.



We are in Croatia now on an island in the Adriatic called Hvar - the water is turquoise and we spend a week swimming and boating



There was a race to be run, the Trails des Aiguilles Rouges and Scott was up for the task with his Mum to cheer him on...50km later

## September





We are who we are, and we may be  
wild but we are ethical too and  
remember with pride.



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