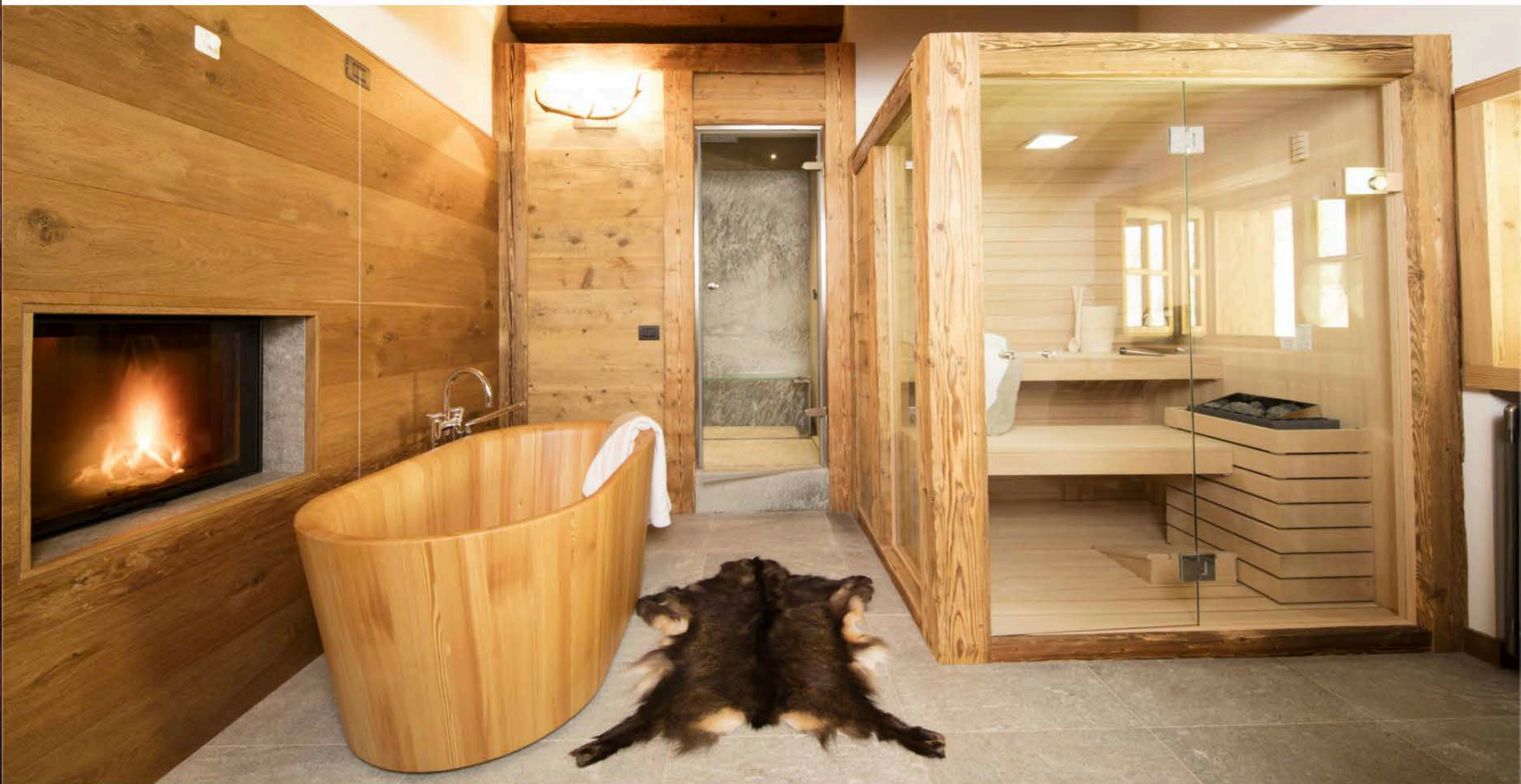


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This spa is in a family retreat in the resort town of Madesimo, a small town in the Italian Alps.  
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## This Master Spa is a Post-Slopes Paradise

In the Italian Alps, a luxurious bathroom featuring a larch wood bathtub, wood-burning fireplace and custom sauna

By [Beth DeCarbo](#)

Sept. 19, 2019 12:00 pm ET

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Sometimes the best après-ski activity is a long, hot soak next to the fireplace.





ILLUSTRATION: SHAW NIELSEN

An Italian industrialist built a family retreat in the resort town of Madesimo, a small town in the Italian Alps that is about a 2½-hour drive from Milan. Key to the design is a spalike space off the master bedroom to serve as an antidote to body aches after a long day on the slopes.

“You can imagine he comes back from the cold weather and skiing and wants to enjoy the warmth and the ambience in this room,” says Luca Capurso, who designed the interiors

for the homeowners and their two teenage daughters.

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The biggest challenge was making the interiors of this 2016 home seem old. “A lot of energy went into making it look like a 17th century chalet,” says Mr. Capurso, co-founder of Northerners Collective, which has offices in the U.S. and Italy. The design incorporates local materials such as quartzite and woodwork with noticeable imperfections that give it character.

Here are some elements in the master bathroom spa, with approximate prices, not including installation, for a similar space in the U.S.



1. The room's centerpiece is a bathtub that is handmade out of larch wood. For an added touch, the chrome tub filler includes a hand-held shower wand. *Price: \$18,000 for the Rapsel tub by Ofuro; \$5,225 for the Tara tub filler by Dornbracht*
2. The built-in, wood-burning fireplace does double duty, warming the bathroom as well as the bedroom on the other side. *Price: \$4,275 for the Jupiter 510 from Rüegg*
3. The walls of the shower/hammam are lined with quartzite to evoke the feeling of being inside a rock enclosure. A steam generator (not visible) is mounted on the wall inside. *Price: About \$10,000 for the Aquasteam 45 from Effegibi*
4. To bake away the aches, there is a custom sauna made using Canadian hemlock. The glass door and exterior window keep the unit bright and airy. *Price: \$27,000 for a similar model from Effegibi*
5. Custom made floor tiles are silbergrun quartzite, a stone quarried near Madesimo. *Price: \$23 a square foot*
6. An Alpine goatskin rug breaks up the space with color and texture. *Price: \$350 from Rhätische Gerberei*
7. A dark accent wall is made of "thermic oak," wood that has been treated with heat to reduce expansion and contraction and improve its overall durability. *Price: Starting at \$22 per square from Albino Pozzi*
8. Antique reclaimed spruce cladding is found elsewhere in the room—the back wall, sauna surround and ceiling beams—to add age and character. *Price: Starting at \$24 a square foot from Albino Pozzi*
9. Ambient lighting comes from a wall sconce featuring an antler naturally shed by a deer. The fixture was designed by Luca Capurso. *Price: \$1,200 for the LP1 standard from Officine Retica*

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*What lessons did you learn from remodeling your bathroom? Let us know in the comments below.*

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