

48 HOUR SESSION

MR. NICE GUY, IAN RUSSELL, SETS OFF TO THE INCREDIBLE VALLEE LAKES IN FRANCE FOR A QUICK SPLASH AND DASH 48HR SESSION



DAY ONE

11:00AM

Well, this is my first trip on a ferry in years, I am instantly reminded just why, myself and everyone I know, use the Channel Tunnel nowadays. It's so slow and God, the food they serve: it's scandalous! Anyway, clearing the ferry and just 90 minutes driving later we are greeted at Vallee Lakes by a smiling Mark, the fishery owner.

Mine and Matty's (my angling buddy for this session) first impressions of the place were how simply stunning and gorgeous

it was. Lake One is a mature water of 13-acres and features 10 swims with average depths of 8ft going down to 16ft in some areas. Features include a sizeable island, shallows, deep margins, plateaux/bars and overhanging trees. The fish in here are stacking on the weight and it holds a ridiculous amount of big fish, fact! I am led to believe there are over five-tonnes of large carp swimming about, with the average size of the fish being upper-thirties, along with copious amounts of forties, stacks of fifties, handfuls of sixties and even bigger!

After a quick sortie around the lake we were shown to our swims. For the purpose of this magazine trip, we were allocated Pegs 1 and 2 which came with the use of the most luxurious bivvy on earth. Just check out the picture: luxury or what? The lodge is a stunning two-storey property that overlooks the lake which offers top class facilities. Downstairs includes a fully fitted kitchen with gas cooker, fridge, breakfast bar, a large bathroom with fully fitted toilet and power shower plus a lounge with satellite television, sofas, heaters and dining



TODAY'S SESSION IS IN NORTHERN FRANCE

table. Upstairs features two lavish bedrooms with balconies and both rooms overlook the beautiful settings and lake. The two swims that accompany the lodge are literally 20-30yds from the front of the accommodation and command plenty of water; both swims are gravel filled, so I would recommend using a rod pod for ease. Behind the swims you have plenty of lush grass to erect your bivvy. What more could you ask for?!

13:00PM

After a nice cuppa with Mark, we threw the bivvies up and start to organise ourselves. The