

# FLASH!

NOT QUITE A DSLR, MORE THAN A COMPACT AND A MILLION TIMES BETTER THAN YOUR CAMERA PHONE, MEET THE CLEVER NEW LUMIX GX1

Though the big boys needn't worry just yet, Panasonic's Lumix GX1 is taking on the low- and mid-range DSLR market and winning. This Micro Four Thirds system camera (mirrorless, interchangeable lens digital cameras smaller than digital SLRs, but with a reduced sensor size and no optical viewfinder) is rammed to the gunnels with features. The GX1 is a 16MP gem with a maximum sensitivity of ISO 12,800 (huge), which delivers exceptionally low-noise images. Other plus points? The build quality is top notch, the shutter speed is 60 frames per second, and it also has a superb auto-focusing speed of just 0.09 seconds. The adjustable electronic viewfinder is a nifty optional extra worth bagging, and the 3in touchscreen is pretty appealing, too. All this and colour rendition to almost rival an £8,500 Leica M9. A no-brainer. Snap one up. From £500 [panasonic.co.uk](http://panasonic.co.uk)



The GX1's pop-up flash is a space saver, and that 3in touchscreen is both bright and responsive

# ON THE PISTE

GEAR UP FOR THE SLOPES WITH THESE HI-TECH SKI SOLUTIONS



### A SPARE TANK

You're going to need to take on fluids (and not just Jägerbombs washed down with glühwein). The CamelBak SnoBlast backpack holds a freeze-proof insulated 2ltr reservoir. The low-profile design boasts CamelBak's patented Big Bite valve and PureFlow tech, so you'll get quick access to that aqua vita on the slopes. Plus it's a convenient place to stash your GPS goggles and ChapStick. £85 [zyro.co.uk](http://zyro.co.uk)



### THE TWOFER SKI

For the gentleman who can do it all but would rather not take two sets of skis up the mountain. Salomon's hi-tech BBR model is a thing apart: piste skis that float on powder, powder skis that carve on piste — in one design. The surfboard-like "V" tip helps the ski to skim over powder, while a narrow waist and tail give grip and play on harder snow. It works. £400 [snowandrock.com](http://snowandrock.com)



### A MOUNTAIN MIRACLE

Comfy ski boots? Yes, it is possible. Fischer's Soma Vacuum 130 boots are heated to 80°C then moulded to your feet using compressed air. Crucially, the 130s are made from a new polymer called Vacu-Plast, which is 15 per cent lighter than any comparable ski boot — and for anyone who has walked around in hire-shop offerings all day, this should be reason enough for purchase. £500 [snowandrock.com](http://snowandrock.com)



### THE TOUGH SHOOTER

There's little point in carving elegant lines through fresh powder if no one is going to capture it. Waterproof, shockproof and rugged as hell, Philips's ESee camcorder is a tough cookie. It takes Full HD movies and 8MP stills with anti-shake wizardry, while dual-format recording gives you email-friendly files to send jealous friends back home. £150 [philips.co.uk](http://philips.co.uk)



### PURE POWDER

Looking high-end? You want a pair of Zai skis, a company that has already collaborated with Bentley and Hublot. The new Laisa design not only sets itself apart aesthetically, but, thanks to the double tip, it delivers a supreme off-piste experience. By all means admire the Laisa's vulcanised rubber, carbon fibre (applied in seven different directions to improve strength) and bonded cedarwood, but concentrate on that narrow front tip, which glides through deep snow with little resistance and then gently supports the second tip, giving a fast upswing. £3,100 [zai.ch](http://zai.ch)



### INTELLIGENT EYEWEAR

Zeal Optics has crammed in GPS location tech as well as a small screen displaying all manner of info into its Z3 goggles. Real-time stats zapped to a head-up display that appears to hang 6ft in front of your eyes let you know where you are, vertical distance travelled, speed, temperature and air time so far. The catch? You provide the skills. £450 [firebox.com](http://firebox.com)

