

MODERN LUXURY

HOUSTON

TRAVEL ISSUE

SNOW SAVVY:
SKI, STAY AND PLAY

FIVE-STAR EXCELLENCE:
NEW ZEALAND'S
SOUTH ISLAND

TEXAS' HOTTEST
HOTELS FOR WICKED
WEEKENDS!

PLUS

PERFECT PATIOS
RIVER OAKS
GALA GLAM
'SIX MILLION DOLLAR
CAMH A

YOU'RE
INVITED...



STATUS UPDATE

WHERE TO SKI, WHERE TO STAY,
WHERE TO SHOP AND WHERE TO PLAY—IT'S
THE ANNUAL LOWDOWN ON THE LATEST UPGRADES
AT OUR FAVORITE SLOPES, EAST AND WEST.

By Misty Milioto

As in nature itself, each ski season brings a whole host of changes, expected and not—from newly built hotels to classic resort renovations, as well as mountain modifications and new modes of transportation to get you where you're going. So, for even the most seasoned travelers and area aficionados, checking in on classic haunts and investigating emerging hot spots is par for the course. We've researched the finer points of what makes up an ultimate winter wonderland experience—focusing on new developments in seven of our top ski states—think of these packed pages as your personal guide to mapping out your ideal itineraries for the ski season.



With three separate ski regions as diverse as California itself (North Lake Tahoe, South Lake Tahoe and Mammoth Lakes), the Golden State's beaches aren't the only natural wonder worth crowing about. Lake Tahoe alone boasts nine premier ski resorts surrounding its namesake waters, and the area continues to benefit from more than \$100 million worth of capital improvements. Throw in the nonstop nightlife on the Nevada side of the lake, and you've got an action-packed powder locale popular with a ski set looking for a social scene more sophisticated and sexy than fireside hot cocoa.

SUMMIT SEEKERS

Copper Mountain is just 75 miles from Denver and is a locals' favorite, with varied terrain across nearly 2,500 skiable acres.



Long-loved for its bluebird skies, a variety of terrain and seemingly limitless powder, the wide array of ultraluxe resorts in Aspen and the famous Back Bowls of Vail have made Colorado among the top ski destinations in the United States, especially among the swankier set.

ARAPAHOE BASIN

APRÈS-SKI Offering the longest ski season in Colorado (from mid-October to early July), and the highest skiable terrain in North America (summit elevation is 13,050 feet), **Arapahoe Basin** (arapahoebasin.com) always keeps the party going longer than anywhere else—often with the help of bacon Bloody Marys from the **6th Alley Bar**, a staple hangout that's getting a \$1 million renovation (slated to reopen later this year as **6th Alley**

Bar & Grill) with expanded space, a horseshoe-shaped bar and additional seating.

ASPEN

STAY **Hotel Jerome** (hoteljerome.aubergeresorts.com), now owned by Auberge Resorts, is the place to mingle with Aspen's elite. This season, enjoy its completed, extensively redesigned and historic restoration by Rowland+Broughton Architecture and Urban Design. The Living Room lounge/bar provides more space for socializing,

while its American bistro, Prospect, features substantial dishes with locally sourced ingredients from Executive Chef Rob Zack. All-new is the Auberge Spa. (Fear not: The legendary J-Bar remains virtually untouched.) The hotel is also offering

two **Winter Auberge Adventures**: a heli-skiing experience in the San Juan Mountains (guests fly from Aspen to Telluride and enjoy six guided helicopter ski runs), followed by an après-ski celebration; or privately guided ski sessions with Jonny Moseley (the only skier to have medaled in both the X-Games and the Olympics) or with Tommy Moe (a former World Cup alpine ski racer, and Olympic gold and silver medalist).

At Aspen's only ski-in/ski-out hotel, **The Little Nell** (thelittlenell.com), Holly Hunt (who remodeled the hotel's guest rooms in 2009 and the lobby in 2011) is bringing her signature sleek and clean lines to the hotel's six VIP suites (two of which will be completed by the start of ski season).

APRÈS-SKI In addition to the newly opened Chefs Club by Food & Wine, **The St. Regis Aspen Resort** (stregisaspen.com) recently opened its signature restaurant, **Trecento Quindici Decano**.

Guests can enjoy traditional handmade pasta and focaccia with a contemporary twist from Executive Chef Thomas Riordan. In addition to an extensive selection of Italian wines, the hotel offers two exclusive private-label house wines.

GETTING THERE **Delta Air Lines** (delta.com) has added daily nonstop seasonal service to Aspen/Pitkin County Airport from Atlanta.

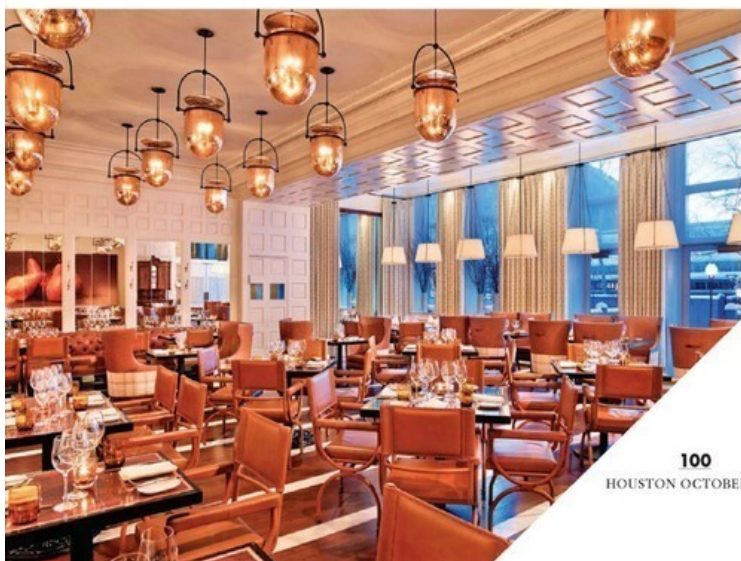
BRECKENRIDGE

MOUNTAIN MEASURES

The biggest news in the ski industry this year is the **Peak 6** expansion at **Breckenridge Ski Resort** (breckenridge.com)—the largest development of its kind at a United States ski resort in more than a decade. Breck will now have an additional 543 acres of heart-pounding terrain (400 acres of lift-served terrain and 143 acres of hike-to terrain), which represents a 23-percent increase in overall skiable acreage. The expansion provides more above-tree-line terrain for intermediate and expert skiers, 10 new trails, three new bowls and two new lifts (one four-person fixed grip lift that provides access from Peak 7 and one six-person high-speed lift that provides access above the tree line).

GOLDEN NUGGET

With a name that harkens back to Aspen's mining days, **Hotel Jerome's** new restaurant, **Prospect**, features a sleek aesthetic (designed by locally based Rowland+Broughton Architecture and Urban Design), plus a hearty menu of re-imagined classic fare from Executive Chef Rob Zack.





COPPER MOUNTAIN

MOUNTAIN MEASURES

Copper Mountain (coppercolorado.com) is investing more than \$7 million in capital improvements, including a replacement **Storm King** surface lift that provides access to Spaulding Bowl, Upper Enchanted Forest and Copper Bowl.

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

APRÈS-SKI Steamboat Springs (steamboat.com) is opening the new multimillion-dollar **Four Points Lodge** this ski season. The nearly 13,000-square-foot, two-level building will be home to a 200-seat restaurant with an outdoor grill, flat-screen TVs and an indoor bar.

TELLURIDE

STAY Telluride Ski Resort (tellurideskiresort.com) recently acquired the **Inn at Lost Creek** (innatlostcreek.com), a luxury ski-in/ski-out boutique hotel located slopeside in Mountain Village. The property's new **Siam's Talay Grille** offers fresh seafood, handmade sauces, hand rolls, lettuce wraps and specialty cocktails. **Hotel Madeline Telluride** (hotelmadelinetelluride.com)—also ski-in/ski-out—is set to unveil a new entrance

adorned with a pair of fire pits and a new art collection (with pieces for sale at the artists' studio prices). The hotel's signature restaurant, **Restaurant REV**, is adding a street entrance, while the newly enhanced outdoor seating and a new fire pit at the hotel's hip **SMAX Bar** provide the perfect place to grab a microbrew or handmade cocktail.

GETTING THERE Allegiant Air

(allegiantair.com) is offering two weekly nonstop flights from both Phoenix and Los Angeles to Montrose Regional Airport, and additional air service is now being provided by other airlines to MTJ from Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas and Houston.

VAIL/BEAVER CREEK

MOUNTAIN MEASURES

Vail Mountain Resort (vail.com) is opening two new chairlifts this ski season to increase time spent on the hill: a high-speed, six-person lift to replace the Mountaintop Express Lift (#4) from mid-Vail to the Patrol Headquarters area (increasing lift capacity by 33 percent); and a fixed-grip triple lift to replace the fixed-grip double Gopher Hill Lift (#12) (increasing lift capacity by 50 percent to the Golden Peak area and Vail Village).

STAY Four Seasons Resort and Residences Vail

(fourseasons.com) recently remodeled three residences that are now available getaways. Each custom-designed abode includes a fully equipped kitchen and dining area. Choose from a five-bedroom with game room, a three-bedroom with large outdoor terrace, or a one-bedroom with lavish media room (that can sleep up to six people). The resort also recently re-launched **Flame**, a modern mountain steakhouse that now features tableside steak-carving and inventive dishes like the signature bison pot stickers.

The Park Hyatt Beaver Creek Resort and Spa

(beavercreek.hyatt.com) is spending \$4 million to upgrade its 190 guest rooms, and it's also offering a new gourmet après-ski experience at **8100 Mountainside Bar & Grill**. Parties of eight to 10 can book a private chef's table for a Colorado-inspired handmade cocktail lesson—combined with a variety of small bites and a five-course dinner with wine pairings.

The Ritz-Carlton, Bachelor Gulch (ritzcarlton.com) reopened this summer after an extensive \$15 million renovation to its 180 guest rooms and suites, lobby, great room and other public spaces. Expect an ambience in keeping with The Ritz-Carlton brand—think sophisticated furnishings and contemporary paintings by local artists. The ski-in/ski-out hotel will also unveil a new restaurant and lounge prior to the ski season.

The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Vail

(theresidencesvail.com) has introduced a collection of 10 designer residences—known as The Lionshead Collection—that are available for vacation rental or for sale. Each residence features personally selected finishes from acclaimed Colorado

designers, including Eddy Doumas, who will unveil four new residences for the collection this season.

APRÈS-SKI Vail's new place to be is **Leonora**, located at **The Sebastian-Vail** (thesebastianvail.com). Enjoy tapas, crudo and Alpine-bistro cuisine—featuring fresh, local and organic ingredients, all paired with wines from around the globe.

Or, if you're skiing at **Beaver Creek Mountain** (beavercreek.com), pick a roosting spot at **Talons**, the European-inspired, 17,000-square-foot restaurant that replaces Red Tail Camp at the confluence of Larkspur Bowl, Grouse Mountain and Birds of Prey. Enjoy gourmet dishes like the Kasseler Rippchen casserole or Colorado lamb burger.



The Westin Riverfront Resort & Spa at Beaver Creek Mountain

(westinriverfrontbeavercreek.com) has opened its signature restaurant, **Maya**. Grab a seat on the deck overlooking the Eagle River, and enjoy chef Richard Sandoval's traditional Mexican dishes with a contemporary twist. Be sure to try one (or several) of the 100-plus agave-based spirits and house-infused tequilas.

GETTING THERE Delta Air Lines is adding extra Saturday service from Atlanta to Eagle County Airport from Feb. 15 to March 29.

PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ The redesigned lobby at The Ritz-Carlton, Bachelor Gulch is just part of the extensive \$15 million renovation that was completed this summer.