

Chow Wows

Most Coveted

servation in L.A.

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ice's Top Toques

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SKI REPO

The Best of What's N

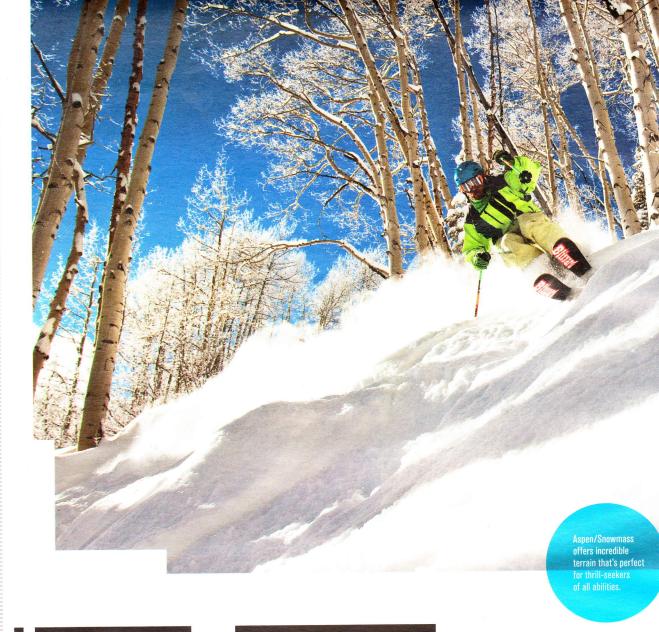
LEGENDARY LANDSCAP

of the African W



of heli-skiing. d midmountain at Tahoe Resort, The Ritzce Tahoe (ritzcarlton es 153 guest rooms, suites and The Ritz-. The ultraluxe hotel w packages, including juvenate You. Valid . 16, it includes overnight ions, a 50-minute t, lunch and an houritness class for two. ellation Residences at onstellationatnorthstar w whole-ownership operty set adjacent to, amenities with, The , Lake Tahoe. Its 17 t, fully furnished two-, ur-bedroom residences for vacation rental or 25,000 to \$2.3 million). ng a coveted address on ide of Lake Tahoe, the ncy Lake Tahoe Resort, sino (laketahoe.hyatt.com) nillion overhaul to its 422 uest rooms and suites.

dergo a \$300,000 face-lift, y's legendary **Olympic** ill reopen this winter upscale table-service lso the first full season for Rocker@Squaw (a comfort-food-with-a-T Base Bar + K'Tchen stellar après-ski party eck of Olympic House). 's only ski-in/ski-out lso recently opened at e resort's Funitel. a turn for the new n **Zephyr Lodge** at -which offers indoor seating for 700 in gourmet pizza y sandwiches.



COLORFUL COLORADO

Thanks to like-clockwork snowfall and more than 300 days of sunshine per year, Colorado is home to some of the world's best—and most reliable—skiing. Heavy dumps of pristine snow at more than 20 ski resorts sprinkled throughout this Rocky Mountain retreat promise a peak experience year in, year out.

ASPEN/SNOWMASS

MOUNTAIN UPDATE Aspen Skiing Company's

(aspensnowmass.com) \$26 million investment in capital improvements includes the new \$7 million **Tiehack Express** quad lift at **Buttermilk**. Now the stand-in for the Eagle Hill and Upper Tiehack lifts, this highspeed hoist also acts as a porthole to new gladed terrain for intermediate and advanced skiers. The investment also includes the addition of 237 skiable acres at **Aspen Highlands**.

LODGING NEWS

The Silvertree Hotel and Conference Center's multimillion-dollar transformation into the new **Westin Snowmass Resort** (westinsnowmass .com), sited in the center of Snowmass Village, features room upgrades; **The Snowmass Kitchen** restaurant, with seating for 233; and a first-class spa and fitness facility.

The Little Nell (thelittlenell .com), Aspen's only five-star, five-diamond hotel offering ski-in/ski-out access to Aspen Mountain, elevates winter stays with the Ultimate Ski Free package, featuring one full-day private lesson, premium ski rentals, a pair of lift tickets per day (valid at Aspen Mountain, Snowmass, Aspen Highlands and Buttermilk), transportation to all four mountains and first tracks on Aspen Mountain.

The Sky Hotel (theskyhotel .com), a boutique property at the base of Aspen Mountain's gondola, emerges with renovations to guest rooms, the interior corridors and the pool. Recalling the retro vibe of a



Expect an opulent stay at The St. Regis Aspen Resort.

'70s ski lodge, the hotel plays host to the slopes' chicest set.

APRÈS-SKI

Aspen Skiing Company has completed the first phase of Elk Camp Restaurant (asccatering.com) at Snowmass. The \$15 million undertaking will seat up to 300 guests.

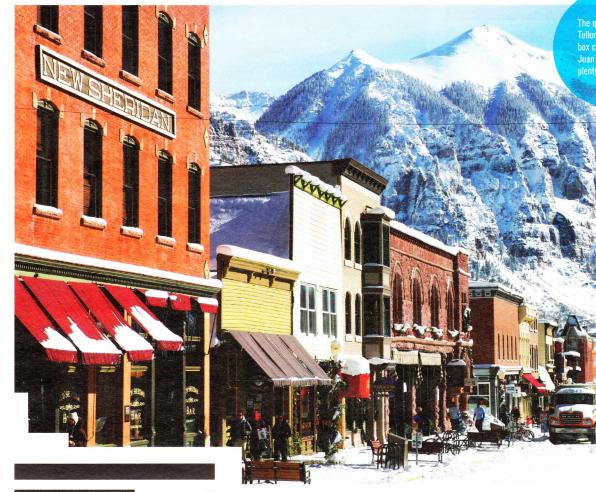
Midmountain at Aspen Highlands, the Merry-Go-Round Restaurant's nearly \$6 million refurbishment complements its menu of pizza and pasta. It joins the new stand-alone restaurant and bar, Ranger Station, and a New Belgium-themed bar, situated inside the newly remodeled Wildwood Snowmass hotel.

The Little Nell's revamped Montagna restaurant—opening as Element 47 on Nov. 22promises to be a happening spot with its glass wine wall, contemporary furnishings and Colorado-focused menu. Also on tap is The Oasis, a Veuve Clicquot mobile bar on Aspen Mountain—complete with Champagne and caviar.

In addition to the \$40 million redesign, resulting in a new catering venue, Chefs Club by FOOD & WINE debuted in June at The St. Regis Aspen Resort (stregisaspen.com).

FLIGHT INTEL

American Airlines recently announced nonstop flights to Aspen/Pitkin County Airport (aspenairport.com) from Los Angeles and Dallas, and even more hops from Houston. United Airlines also added four daily flights from Chicago and two from San Francisco.



>>> STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

MOUNTAIN UPDATE

Steamboat Ski Resort

(steamboat.com) is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, with a festive lineup planned for the weekend of Jan. 12. The ski resort also has partnered with Rossignol to create the only Rossignol Experience Center in Colorado, which—through ski rentals and progression programs—enables beginning skiers to quickly learn the sport.

>>> WINTER PARK

APRÈS-SKI

Strike first at Winter Park's (winterparkresort.com) new upscale cinema and bowling area, The Foundry Cinema and Bowl (foundry-wp.com). This eight-lane venue trades in plastic bowling chairs for leather couches, and arcade staples for billiards tables, shuffleboard and two movie theaters with plush perches.

>>> TELLURIDE

LODGING NEWS

A new division from **Telluride Alpine Lodging** (telluridelodging.com) instills a true sense of luxury with its posh portfolio of homes, including Riverfront Estate (a six-bedroom residence in Historic Telluride's Depot District).

APRÈS-SKI

Enjoy French country fare—and unparalleled views—at Telluride Ski Resort's (tellurideskiresort .com) new restaurant,

Bon Vivant. Relax on the mountainside patio at the new Tomboy Tavern, and try some of the 30-plus Colorado beers on tap. Other newbies, Zest and Flavor, offer fresh, seasonal cuisine.

A trio of new retail outposts in Mountain Village—Mountain Standard Time Telluride, Alpenglow Beauty and Heritage Apparel—have given the hub its nickname, The Mountain Village Fashion District.

MOUNTAIN UPDATE

Vail (vail.com) kic celebrations for its anniversary on No the debut of a new Vail Village, to rep Bahn Express Lift This state-of-the-a 10-passenger gond less—is the first of United States, and passengers enjoy a from the base of V mid-Vail. Cushion Wi-Fi access also a

LODGING NEWS With its 100-room suite hotel and 36 residences, The Se (thesebastianvail .com) made a spla Vail Valley's newe resort and residen featuring après-sk hole Frost Bar and star Block 16. The Vintage Vail four package includes t