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Uncommon Cold

Need some mountains in your life? Take a powder to the newest Utah and Colorado resorts where frost is boss!

| By *Connie Dufner, Marissa Conrad & Korey Karnes Huyler* |

Snowmass, Colorado

Never mind the partially stalled Snowmass Base Village development just across the road, a victim of the economic slowdown. The year-old **Viceroy Snowmass** (from \$635, viceroyhotelsandresorts.com/snowmass) hotel has made a stylish entrée that shows no sign of retreat. With its handsome, urban-influenced décor, environmental sensibilities (visitors are handed a reusable water bottle at check-in) and suave fine dining destination Eight K, the resort has redefined mountain chic. >>> Venture into nearby Aspen for dinner at **Ellina** (970.925.2976), a new Italian hotspot helmed by chef Miguel Diaz, formerly sous chef at popular Ajax Tavern. The cool, cavelike dining room debuts expanded bar seating and a new menu this month. **PEAK PERFORMANCE!** The ski area includes four mountains, boasting 147 miles of trails; the longest run is 5.3 miles. aspensnowmass.com

PEAK PERFORMANCE!

Park City's three mountain resorts contain more than 9,000 acres; 426 runs, bowls and terrain parks; and 58 lifts. *Above:* Upper-tier Deer Valley Resort includes Empire Pass, 1,600 acres of protected land and powder-perfect snow.

Park City, Utah

Call it a blizzard of harmonic convergence—with the Sundance Film Festival, 2002 Winter Olympics coattails and new state liquor laws that make getting a drink easier, there are some serious new mountain highs in this bucolic wonderland about a half-hour's drive from Salt Lake City. Local glitterati are anticipating the December opening of **Montage Deer Valley** (from \$845, montagedeervalley.com), the third outpost of the O.C.-born hotel brand. Nestled at 8,300 feet in the Empire Pass of the Wasatch Range, Montage will feature 174 amenity-laden guest rooms, 81 private residences, a 35,000-square-foot spa with a dazzling indoor pool and sundeck, and a subterranean pub with a bowling alley. Sundancers, catch a sneak peek at the glam "Artist at the Table" opening event on the property. >>> Montage joins expansive **St. Regis Deer Crest Resort** (from \$199, stregis.com/deercrest), which opened last Thanksgiving. Enjoy the slopeside view from a 90-second funicular ride up to the lobby. >>> In historic downtown, check out **Talisker on Main** (taliskeronmain.com), serving robust mountain fare with an aggressive sophistication. >>> And **High West Distillery & Saloon** (highwest.com), Utah's first ski-in/ski-out gastrodillery (and its first legal distillery since Prohibition) combines fine dining with small-batch vodkas and whiskeys.



WIZARD OF SPAS Relaxation room at the Viceroy Snowmass, designed by Jean Michel-Gathy.

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HIGH FIVE! The Ritz-Carlton, Denver was awarded AAA Five Diamond status in 2010. Photo: Ritz-Carlton suite.

Denver, Colorado

Ready for some serious après-ski? Enjoy a layover weekend with a dose of mile-high urban indulgence. Just opened is **Four Seasons Denver** (from \$235, fourseasons.com/denver), a 45-story tower of 239 rooms and suites and 102 residences in the heart of downtown. The hotel features warm earth tones and regional art; check out the couples' suites in the spa with private showers and sunken tubs. >>> The FS joins top-shelf **Ritz-Carlton, Denver** (from \$219, ritzcarlton.com/denver), giddy from the announcement that the nearly three-year-old property has been awarded the 2010 AAA Five Diamond rating. With sweeping views, a full-service health club and fine

dining fit for a quarterback (hometown fave Elway's, natch), the more upscale the merrier. >>> Unleash your inner history buff at boutique **Hotel Teatro** (from \$179, hotelteatro.com) in the restored 1911 Tramway tower and car barn. New this fall is a reno for **Restaurant Kevin Taylor**, with sleek décor and a more price-conscious menu. >>> Save room for executive chef Frank Bonanno's legendary cuisine (Osteria Marco, Bones, Mizuna). This month the hometown star restaurateur is poised to open **Wednesday's Pies/Green Russell** (frankbonanno.com), a combo pie shop and speakeasy, and in December, casual **Lou's**, with nothing on the menu priced over 20 bucks.



FIRST TRACKS
One Ski Hill Place,
Breckenridge

Breckenridge, Colorado

If Vail is the Mercedes of ski towns, then Breckenridge is the Audi—equally covetable; infinitely less glitzy. Charming, until it comes time to find a condo with all the bells and whistles. Enter **One Ski Hill Place** (from \$600, oneskihillplace.com), a new ski-in/ski-out resort that ups the Mobil ante without straying too far from Breck's casual roots. Take a spin around the lobby's

360-degree fireplace and up to the Living Room—where guests sip wine to a player piano's soft chords of "Christmas Time Is Here"—and get in touch with your inner angel amid plenty of play-it-safe chocolate leather. Same goes in the condos, which stick to brown fabrics. Yet amenities are tops, from full in-unit kitchens to a glistening duo of pools with steam and sauna rooms. Kids flock to the basement bowling alley, leaving the 'rents to savor cocktails in the outdoor hot tub. Rent or buy, choosing from studios up to 4-bed/4-baths, \$665K and up. That way, you can come back whenever to hit the slopes or the rustic downtown, where a foie gras fix at local fave **Relish** (relishbreckenridge.com) doesn't require changing out of your jeans. **PEAK PERFORMANCE!** One hundred fifty-five trails span 2,358 acres of ski terrain. breckenridge.com



LUXE LINEUP Four Seasons Resort Vail is opening in December.

Vail, Colorado

Three splashy developments are making off-slope news in Vail. Alpine quaint, meet American modern west with the December opening of **Four Seasons Resort Vail** (from \$375, fourseasons.com/vail), featuring 121 suites and rooms, and 35 private condos. Don't want to leave? You don't have to with the newly opened **Ritz-Carlton Residences** (theresidencesvail.com), or check out the new **Solaris** (solaris.com) residences, with a movie theater, restaurant, bowling alley and public ice rink. >>> Vail Resorts debuts **EpicMix** (epicmix.com), a mobile app that will be able to award collectible digital pins and share Facebook updates, among other nifty features. >>> Expand your culinary comfort zone with three new, don't-miss spots in Vail Valley. Enjoy regional specialties and great fireside dining at **8100 Mountainside Bar & Grill**, at **Park Hyatt Beaver Creek** (beavercreek.hyatt.com). With its West Coast-inspired menu, dishes at **Restaurant Avondale** (avondaleresaurant.com) at the **Westin Riverfront Resort & Spa** in Avon include house-made charcuterie and sausages. **Tavern on the Square**, the newest restaurant at **The Arrabelle at Vail Square** (arrabelle.rockresorts.com), has a killer assortment of organic brews. **PEAK PERFORMANCE!** Watch for the **High Noon Express** lift, which will cut ride time in half and double capacity. vail.com