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ROCKY MOUNTAIN RETREATS

Winter may not be Chicago's favorite season, but that doesn't mean it's all bad. For some, in fact, it actually is the most wonderful time of the year—time to hit the slopes, of course! And there's no better place to strap on those skis than Colorado, a state known for its powder.

These days, though, many Chicagoans aren't just taking the usual ski trips. As the nation continues to recover from the recession, many Americans are forgoing multiple pricey vacations in favor of spending extra time at their second homes—and Colorado has become an increasingly popular destination for such properties. John Gillian, a contractor at Abbey Paving in Chicago, is a part owner at One Steamboat Place in Steamboat Springs. "It's very family friendly. There's a huge sense of community," says Gillian, who has already visited the resort six times this year. "A lot of my other family members have [second] homes in Wisconsin or Michigan. For us, we're willing to work that much harder to get to someplace that is so different."

Combining high-altitude thrills with soothing mountainside relaxation, Colorado certainly seems to have it all. Intrigued by the idea of a snow-capped second home? These four new ski resorts could just be your next great investment.—Nicole Briese



ONE STEAMBOAT PLACE

Steamboat Springs, 970.875.1000, onesteamboatplace.com

This Timbers Resorts property, located in the heart of the Rocky Mountains, redefines luxury with 80 private residences and top-notch amenities. Though the property opened just last January, its presence within the city is already undeniable. Boasting approximately 450,000 square feet of space, One Steamboat Place features slopeside ski concierges and facilities, a private wine cellar and tasting room, fine dining at Truffle Pig, a year-round heated outdoor pool and hot tubs, a full-service spa, a state-of-the-art fitness center and round-the-clock services (including transportation, housekeeping and errand running).

Full ownership in the property can run upwards of \$3 million, while shared deeds ring in at \$580,000 for 1/8 of a four-bedroom residence or \$370,000 for 1/12 of a three-bedroom. Added bonus? Owners at Steamboat Springs can partake in the resort's reciprocity program, which allows investors to trade allotted time at Steamboat in exchange for time at any of the company's other properties, located in such appealing destinations as Tuscany and Cabo San Lucas.

Not ready to make such a big investment? For \$65,000, you can become a member of One Steamboat Place's Summit Club, which grants access to all grounds, activities and amenities.

ONE SKI HILL PLACE

Breckenridge, 877.354.6747, oneskihill.com

This resort, overlooking Breckenridge's Peak 8, celebrated its grand opening in November, just in time for ski season. Part of the RockResorts family, the property plays host to a two-lane bowling alley, two movie lounges, a game room, 10,000 square feet of outdoor event space, three restaurants and state-of-the-art aquatic and fitness centers. The property's 88 condominiums, which are available for rent or purchase, offer such features as ski-in/ski-out access, gas fireplaces and in-room recycling programs, which support the resort's Green Globes environmental standards. The condos are available in a range of sizes and prices: Studios are priced at \$665,000, while a four-bedroom residence can go for up to \$2.67 million. Whether

you're renting or buying, all One Ski Hill visitors enjoy convenient access to peaks 7, 8, 9 and 10 and to the charming town of Breckenridge.

FOUR SEASONS RESORT AND RESIDENCES

Vail, 877.748.8245, fourseasons.com

Opening its doors this December, this 121-room resort offers the same level of style and service all Four Seasons guests have come to expect. This time, though, they can make their stay more permanent. In addition to standard vacation suites, the Four Seasons Resorts and Residences offers 16 whole ownership condos and 19 fractional ownership options in private wings. Prices for one-bedroom homes begin at approximately \$2.7 million; fractional alternatives range in price from \$299,900 to \$598,000.

Owners and vacationers alike will enjoy such signature amenities as 24-hour personalized concierges, courtyard access to an all-season pool, whirlpools, fireplaces and childcare services. Of course, the mountains remain the biggest draw: Situated at the base of the Vista Bahn lift, the resort's guests can prep themselves in private lockers with ski equipment from Four Seasons' new partner in high-end outdoor gear and apparel, Gorsch, before hitting the slopes.

THE SEBASTIAN

Vail, 877.888.1540, timbersresorts.com

The newest addition to the Timbers Resorts family, The Sebastian also debuts this December. A boutique hotel and private residence rolled into one, The Sebastian offers 100 guest rooms as well as 38 private units. Ideal for both business and pleasure, the property features a 7,000-square-foot conference center and meeting facility, a sprawling library and a premier destination spa. Ownership is available in two levels: Buyers can pony up \$580,000 for eight weeks at the lodge or \$310,000 for four weeks. Both options entitle members to participate in Timber Resorts' reciprocity program, which allows owners to trade time at The Sebastian for a stay at any of the company's other properties.