



Passport to Powder

Journey from one great ski resort to the next with our guide to what's new at some of the world's top ski spots. By Larry Olmsted

Colorado

CRESTED BUTTE: This authentic, Old West-flavored resort is celebrating its 50th birthday by giving skiers and riders more terrain, capping a \$300 million-plus upgrade from new owners over the last five years. One addition is Mountaineer Square, a new base village with shops, restaurants, and hotels including the Elevation Hotel & Spa, a deluxe new option right at the lifts. In recent years, Crested Butte added the Teo 2 and Teo 2.5 ski areas in **Teocalli Bowl**, and this winter will bring an additional 15 acres of intermediate terrain on the main mountain along with a new Terrain Park and Superpipe. skicb.com

VAIL: No North American resort tops Vail in the "new" department. Major lodging additions this winter include the long-awaited Four Seasons Resort & Residence Vail, a full-service resort; and The Sebastian, a 100-room boutique hotel with spa, hip bar, and Napa Valley-themed restaurant. The residential Solaris adds an array of new public facilities, including Vail's first gourmet movie theater, **CineBistro**; an upscale bowling alley, Bol Vail; a new shopping arcade and ice-skating rink; plus several restaurants and bars. On the slopes, an important new high-speed quad chair alleviates bottlenecks to the bowls on powder days. All of this follows the major renovation of the Lionshead base area, where the ultraluxe Arrabelle at Vail Square, a RockResort, opened three seasons ago. vail.com



SNOWMASS: Despite its 21 lifts, three terrain parks, and frequently nonexistent lift lines, Snowmass spent years in the shadow of its sexier sister Aspen before erupting last season with one of the largest projects in ski history. The new \$2 billion, 80-acre village is built under LEED green-neighborhood standards and is full of luxury condos, restaurants, shops, and arguably the finest children's facility in skiing: a two-story, 25,000-square-foot "tree house" complex with supervised programs for kids 8 weeks to 14 years. The pièce de résistance is the hip **Viceroy Snowmass**, with an unparalleled location; lavish spa; its own extensive kids club; and Eight K, a farm-to-table restaurant, lounge, and bar immediately being called the resort's best. aspensnowmass.com, viceroy snowmass.com

BRECKENRIDGE: The nation's most popular resort refuses to slow down. Last season saw the completion of an entirely new area, Peak 7, while this winter another main base, Peak 8, welcomes Breck's first luxury hotel, One Ski Hill Place, a RockResort. Served by a gondola and four chairlifts, the boutique 88-room property offers awesome ski access and houses a surprising array of amenities, including a bowling alley, along with Breck's hottest new après-ski spot, the T-Bar. Also debuting at Peak 8 this season is the new Gold Runner alpine coaster, with two-seater cars twisting and turning down 2,500 feet of elevated rails set between two ski runs; it's an adrenaline rush for summer or winter. breckenridge.com

TELLURIDE: Long famous for its unrivaled mogul runs, Telluride has been radically expanding its other skiable terrain in recent years with the opening of Palmyra Peak and Revelation Bowl. For this season, the resort undertook an engineering marvel when it flew in a section of a steel bridge on a helicopter to extend ski access to additional extreme chutes off of Palmyra. If you have not been to Telluride recently, you will be shocked at the transformation and extent of terrain for all abilities. Off the slopes, the first U.S. outpost of the ultra-luxury chain Capella opened last season, upping the town's already-impressive ante of deluxe lodging options. tellurideskiresort.com, capellatelluride.com

STEAMBOAT: Coming off last winter, when Ski Town USA (it's trademarked!) sent more Olympians to Vancouver than any other U.S. resort, "The Boat" maintains momentum with 12 new restaurants, including a roadhouse-style barbecue joint, an upscale gelateria, and an authentic Mexican market. The highlight is the gourmet **Truffle Pig**, the public component of the luxury **One Steamboat Place** private residences, which opened last winter. Last season also brought the Edgemont, Steamboat's first slopeside ski-in/ski-out luxury rental condos, and over the past five years the resort has poured more than \$30 million into on-mountain improvements, including two chairlifts, new trails, and on-mountain cafeterias. steamboat.com

