

Modern Luxury

ORANGE COUNTY

ART & SOUL

**THE MONUMENTAL
WORKS OF
MÁRTON VÁRÓ**

SEASONAL STYLE

**MEN'S FASHION
ADDS PANACHE TO
TIMELESS NEUTRALS**

FASHION STAR

**JOHN VARVATOS
TALKS O.C. STYLE**

MODERN SAUVAGE

**JOHNNY DEPP'S
ROCK 'N' ROLL HEART**

ELITE RETREATS

**EXOTIC AFRICAN
ADVENTURES.**



POSH POWDER

BY MISTY MILIOTO

We're coming into a ski season of big, big news—all of it great for luxury-loving snow-sports enthusiasts. From resort expansion in Park City and Telluride to anniversary celebrations in Heavenly and Jackson Hole, and from new and newly refreshed hotels in Lake Tahoe and Vail to a blizzard of bespoke services and après-ski action everywhere, we present everything that's hot (and cool) at our favorite U.S. ski resorts. We'll see you on the slopes!



California and Nevada offer a wide variety of terrain that draws skiers and snowboarders from around the world. The Sierra Nevada range is the most popular ski destination in the area, thanks to the high concentration of ski resorts in Lake Tahoe.

A few of our favorites—such as Northstar California Resort, Sugar Bowl Resort and Heavenly Mountain Resort—have some exciting improvements that are sure to up the ante on your ski vacation. And, in the Eastern Sierra, Mammoth Mountain offers steeps and bowls that appeal to athletes of all levels. The resort has several new après-ski spots that are sure to make the experience sparkle.

NORTH LAKE TAHOE

MOUNTAIN MAKEOVERS Northstar California Resort (northstarcalifornia.com) has revamped its Big Springs Express Gondola at the base of the mountain in The Village at Northstar to enhance the guest experience. Meanwhile, at Sugar Bowl Resort (sugarbowl.com), a new terrain park located below the Mount Lincoln Express Chairlift will include 43 classic features—all designed with flow in mind. The new Sugar Bowl Snow Park, which will start at

the Upper Ridge Catwalk and continue down Chase Ridge, provides more terrain for skiers and riders to explore.

SUITE DREAMS Just in time for the ski season, The Resort at Squaw Creek, A Destination Hotel (rooms from \$375 per night, destinationhotels.com) will complete a \$7 million renovation of its guest rooms. The 405-room resort, which offers ski-in/ski-out access to Squaw Valley (squawalpine.com), will now feature a new modern-meets-mountain aesthetic designed to

deliver a sense of place. Expect to find soothing neutral textures and colors, warm wood tones, rich leather, mixed metals, natural stone and pops of color inspired by native wildflowers found in the area.

BESPOKE EXPERIENCE Northstar is offering a new private-lesson program called **Primo** (price upon request). After a consultation with the resort's concierge (who can arrange guided tours, spa appointments and child care), guests receive priority lift access

and a chance to dine at Schaffer's Club, a private enclave.

APRÈS SCÈNE Throughout the season, Northstar (northstarcalifornia.com) will be hosting **tōst**—a bubbly celebration that redefines the art of the daily toast—on East Ridge run at 2pm. This daily celebration exudes California laid-back luxury while paying homage to the tradition of toasting a great morning on the hill. Look for select dates that will also feature live music.

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE

SUITE DREAMS The big hotel news for ever-growing South Lake Tahoe is the new **Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Lake Tahoe** (King suites from \$525 per night, hardrockcasinolaketahoe.com)—formerly Horizon—which received a \$60 million

JACKSON HOLE MOUNTAIN RESORT SKI PHOTO BY PATRICK NELSON

VAIL

MOUNTAIN MAKEOVER

Vail Mountain Resort (vail.com) has replaced its Avanti Express Lift (on the front side of Vail Mountain) with a high-speed, six-pack chairlift that will increase capacity in an important access area of the mountain. The new lift will continue to provide access to intermediate and advanced terrain, and deliver skiers and snowboarders from Lionshead to midmountain.

SUITE DREAMS As the first hotel in Vail, **The Lodge at Vail, A RockResort** (rooms from \$510 per night, lodgeatvail.rockresorts.com) is steeped in a long history of alpine charm and A-list guests. The gorgeous hotel recently completed a renovation, capping off a multiyear series of face-lifts to the hotel's Cucina restaurant, Elway's restaurant, outdoor pool area, International Wing and spa. Changes over the last year have focused on the 165 guest rooms, hallways and common areas.

The Sebastian-Vail, A Timbers Resort (rooms from \$495 per night, executive suites from \$795 per night, thesebastianvail.com) has unveiled its 84 redesigned guest rooms, and added a new category of one- and two-bedroom executive suites that draws inspiration from the hotel's contemporary art-filled public spaces. All rooms also have high-end smart-tech touches like iPod home systems and flat-screen TVs.

BESPOKE EXPERIENCES This winter, **The Arrabelle, A RockResort** (rooms from \$1,307 per night, arrabelle.rockresorts.com) is offering spa-on-demand services (from \$36). It's like beauty room service: Guests have a choice of different spa offerings, including the

Grand Luxe (think lavender and honey bath salts, honey oat pajama paste yogurt face mask, salted caramels and a glass of wine, \$52).

Chic and savvy **The Sebastian-Vail** has introduced a new snow essentials room-service menu that operates much like a room-service hang-tag request service. However, this program offers specific options for slope-bound guests (such as hand warmers, luxe socks, Chapstick and sunscreen). Guests can also order post-ski products such as bubble bath, or pre-book spa treatments for when they return from a day of skiing. Additionally, the hotel has a new adventure concierge that can set up a variety of activities (try curling, ice climbing or night-owl adventures) and custom-fit all equipment.

APRÈS SCENE **Four Seasons Resort & Residences Vail** (fourseasons.com/vail) has a new bar and lounge called **The Remedy**, and it's sure to cure what

ails its patrons. The hotel has invested more than \$2.5 million to deliver a unique space featuring eclectic, custom-made furnishings and light fixtures, accentuated by white marble, walnut wood, saddle leather and industrial metal. The provocative bar program serves up pre-Prohibition classics and inventive concoctions, while culinary selections focus on artisanal flatbreads, small bites, shareable dishes and crudo. Also on offer: a range of small-production bottled beers; a curated wine list; an expansive rare whiskey collection; and an **Après Whiskey Cart** from which tableside cocktails will be made-to-order.

MOUNTAIN PRESTIGE Clockwise from top: Vail Village comes to life at night; Vail Ski and Snowboard School is one of the best in the country; The Remedy opens at Four Seasons Resort & Residences Vail; Vail Mountain Resort's Gondola One. Opposite page: Clockwise from bottom left: Telluride offers high-elevation skiing for every ability of skier; the Alpenglow hangs over Main Street and the historic Town of Telluride; the Telluride Gondola is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year; snowshoeing in the wilderness around Telluride Ski Resort is one of many activities to enjoy in the San Juan Mountains; The Peaks Resort and Spa stands proudly before Telluride's lovely mountains; a skier makes a line for the Town of Telluride.

