

# T&C TRAVEL



## A Snob's Guide to SNOW

*Let's face it: We're all nostalgic for winters as they once were: snowy, hushed, magical. Here's where to find the best white stuff this season—whether you're chasing powder, a wintry cure, or the aurora borealis.* EDITED BY KLARA GLOWCZEWSKA

Snowfall is a mood elevator. Case in point: Jackson Hole, Wyoming.



# They're the TOPS

*You know their names—America's great ski resorts. Here is their news (and the ski guides we love).*

BY JEN MURPHY

There are four qualities that define America's storied ski resorts: exceptional groomed trails, elevated on-mountain dining, energetic après scenes, and excellent "high touch" hotels. These destinations are not resting on their laurels.

**JACKSON HOLE, WYOMING** The Wild West spirit lives on in Jackson's steep slopes and cowboy-chic town. Its original luxury hotel, the **Rusty Parrot Lodge**, has finally reopened (after a 2019 fire), with a new spa and rooftop. At the eight-suite **Caldera House**, you're as close as you can get to the famous red tram up to Rendezvous Bowl, the place to be on a powder day; to test your mettle, hire guiding great Doug Workman. The lunch hotspot is **Piste Mountain Bistro** (floor-to-ceiling mountain views), and guests at the **Four Seasons** can sip après cocktails at its new speakeasy, **80 Proof**. Non-skiers: **Backcountry Safaris** does snowmobile tours (with fondue picnic) on private land at Snake River Ranch.

**DEER VALLEY, UTAH** The Winter Olympics is coming to Salt Lake City in 2034, and it shows already. A new base village, Deer Valley East, will include a **Grand Hyatt**, opening this November, and the **St. Regis** and **Montage** have been renovated. To show off, tackle Daly Chutes on a powder day, or try the **Ski with a Champion** program, which lets you share turns with Olympic athletes. But no one will blame you if, on a bluebird day, you ski straight to **Royal Street Café** to lounge and lunch on the sunny deck. The vintage-ski-themed **Sticky Wicket**, upstairs, is the place for après.

**ASPEN, COLORADO** All the flash at America's sceniest winter destination can overshadow its fantastic slopes. Last year Aspen Mountain added 153 high-altitude snow-sure acres, called **Hero's**; explore them with extreme-skiing world champion Kim Reichhelm. Two of the town's most sumptuous hotels, **Little Nell** and **St. Regis**, recently opened top-notch spas. And the new boutique place **Mollie** has become the après magnet—though whiskey aficionados prefer **Stranahan's Whiskey Lodge**, an outpost of the Denver-based distillery. Two new galleries further enrich Aspen's strong cultural scene: **Meuse** and **Corwin**.

**TELLURIDE, COLORADO** As ever, its remote location, in a box canyon surrounded by 14,000-foot peaks, keeps crowds away. The news: The team behind **Dunton Hot Springs**, the ghost town-turned-luxury resort, has transformed the ski-in-ski-out **Lumière with Inspirato**, off the Boomerang run (its restaurant is the talk of the town). Book Aussie ski guide Peter Steiner, known as Hollywood. He'll take you to untouched tracks in Revelation. By 11 a.m. be in line at tiny, no-lunch-reservations **Alpino Vino**, North America's second-highest restaurant. Down day? Snowmobile to Dunton Hot Springs for lunch and a soak.

**SUN VALLEY, IDAHO** America's first glitzy, Euro-inspired ski resort retains all its Golden Age charm. The hallways and suites of **Sun Valley Lodge**, which opened in 1936, pay homage to guests from its heyday (Clint Eastwood, Marilyn Monroe), and its 20,000-square-foot spa is a standout. To hear stories of bygone days, hire Ski Hall of Famer Jake Moe as your guide. You'll need a reservation for lunch at the octagonal **Roundhouse**. Another way to take in the area's wilderness is on the valley's 120 miles of Nordic trails (rent equipment at **Galena Lodge**). In town the year-old **Monarch Longevity** clinic is the spot for the latest après biohacks.

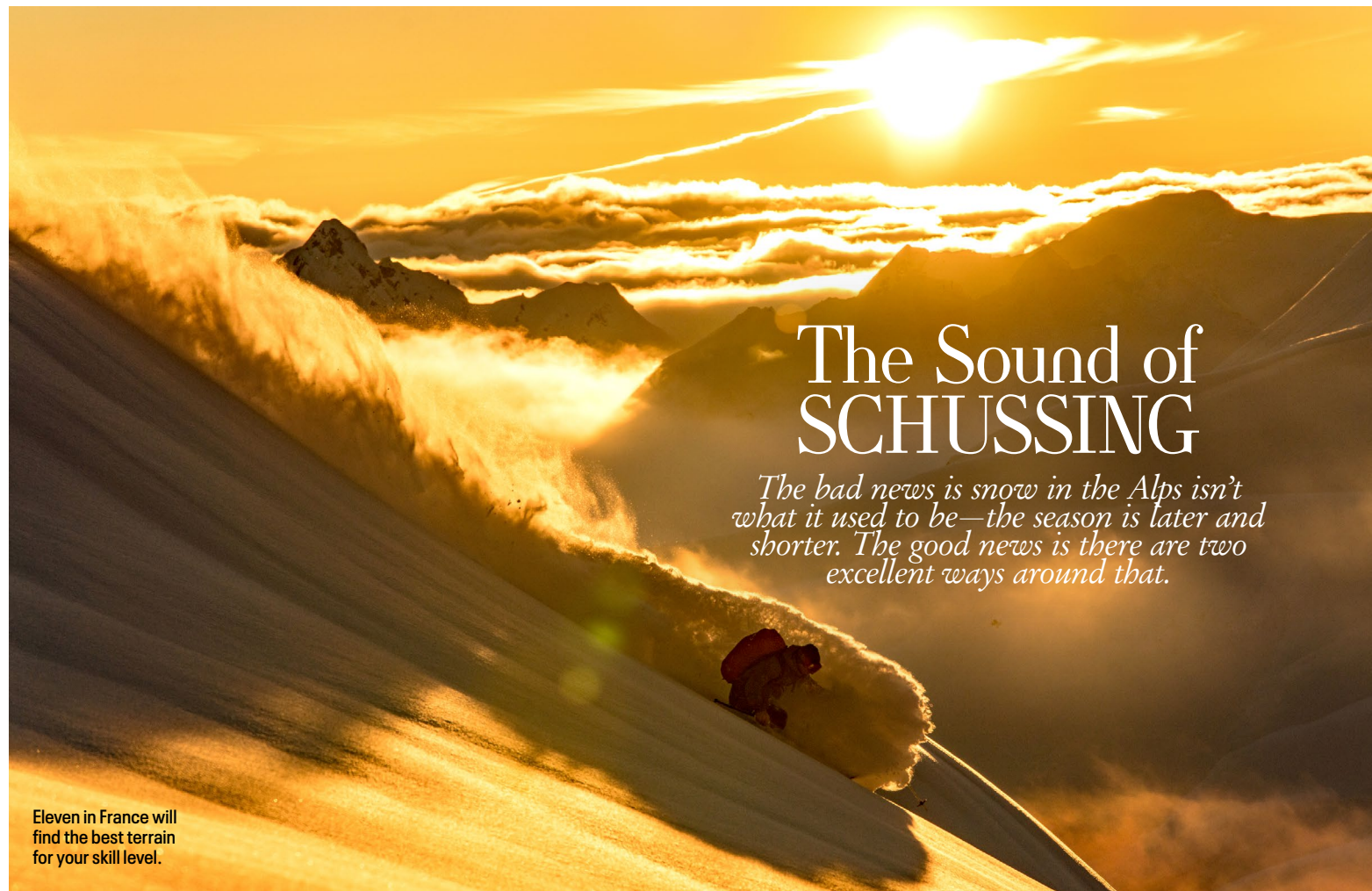


Gondolas in Aspen.

SNOW  
DRIFT

The eight-room Weston hotel, opened last season in the tiny eponymous town, may just be the best little thing in Vermont. It's from the family who once owned the Carlyle in New York. New England architecture, a French-inspired restaurant, and close to Okemo (15 minutes) and Stratton (40 minutes).





# The Sound of SCHUSSING

*The bad news is snow in the Alps isn't what it used to be—the season is later and shorter. The good news is there are two excellent ways around that.*

Eleven in France will find the best terrain for your skill level.

## GO WHERE THE SNOW IS...

Long before the first ski lifts, winter sports enthusiasts like Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Ernest Hemingway climbed Alpine slopes on their own power, then schussed down through valleys and villages, never skiing the same piste or staying in the same hut twice. From their exploits the modern ski safari was born. And it's having a day. These three outfitters—snow cognoscenti and logistical wizards—craft custom itineraries with an eye to the best snow conditions, terrain, lodges, and lunches (and mugs of *vin chaud*). For all skill levels, and a no-crowd guarantee.

**SWISSKISAFARI** Switzerland, France, Italy Founder Danielle Stynes nails the alpine trifecta, accompanying guests on most trips and always with a plan A, B, and C. A 10-day tour might include runs under the Matterhorn, a

few days in Zermatt and Vallée Blanche in France, and a heli-drop, weather permitting, on the Italian side of Mont Blanc. ► **Stay:** Mont Cervin Palace, Zermatt; over-the-top Hameau Albert 1<sup>er</sup>, Chamonix; and the Fior di Roccia chalet in Italy, accessible only by ski, snowshoe, or snowmobile. In the mood for a down day? Stynes is a wellness snob and has a Rolodex to match.

**DOLOMITE MOUNTAINS** Italy Founder Agustina Marmol has spent decades researching the best ski runs, restaurants, and rifugios. A seven-day safari might start at Cortina d'Ampezzo and end at the Alta Badia ski area. Tour



A SwissSkiSafari heli transfer.

WWI battle sites, ski Marmolada Glacier, and lunch on sun-soaked terraces.

► **Stay:** Ciasa Salares, with its 24,000-bottle wine cellar, and the seven-room Rifugio Fuciade.

**ELEVEN** France This collection of adventure lodges runs two properties in the Tarentaise Valley; you're within 30 minutes of seven world class ski resorts, including Val d'Isère, and you can heli-transfer to Italy. ► **Stay:** Eleven's Chalet Pelerin and neighboring Chalet Hibou. And this year you can ski-tour between their two backcountry rustic-chic huts, Ruitor Alpage in France, and Rifugio Valgrisenche in Italy. *J.M.*

### SNOW DRIFT

An outpost of IGNIV, the shared-plate restaurant from three-Michelin-star chef Andreas Caminada, will open this December in the Swiss ski village of Andermatt. It will occupy the ground floor of Maya, a new residential project from designer Patricia Urquiola.

## ...OR PLAY LIKE YOU JUST DON'T CARE

In case you've forgotten, Europe's winter hotspots were never just about skiing. Less than optimal powder? Never mind.

**ST. MORITZ** Switzerland Some Old World snobbery still hangs over this tiny town and its tightly guarded members clubs, but its winter sports scene is wildly free-spirited, with 150 seasonal events (skijoring?). And cold and snow still come early here.

► **Stay** Grace La Margna, the first new hotel here in 50 years, has a 10,000-square-foot spa, and you can pick your wing: Art Nouveau or contemporary and cool. Badrutt's Palace has a new addition, the 25-room Serlas wing, opening in December.

► **Off-piste** The snow polo World Cup, the White Turf horse race, and a robust art scene, including the NOMAD art and design fair.

**MEGEVE** France Two families put this medieval village on the map: the Rothschilds in the 1920s (Baroness Noémie wanted a French St. Moritz) and the Sibuetts, who in the '80s turned a cluster of farmhouses into Les Fermes de Marie, defining French rustic luxe.

► **Stay** A new generation of Sibuetts is keeping Les Fermes fresh, and the Rothschilds have collaborated with Four Seasons

on the Hotel Megève and its new sister property, Les Chalets du Mont d'Arbois, spread over three historic chalets that include the original Rothschild family retreat. ► **Off-piste** A heated carriage ride on cobbled streets and Les Cinq Rues jazz club.

**DOLOMITES** Italy The region's 12 interconnected ski resorts are on the world cup circuit, but the big draw has long been their laid-back vibe and the sprezzatura on display at its high-altitude rifugios.

► **Stay** The spa at newish ski-in-ski-out Como Alpina, in Val Gardena, is reason enough to book. Intimate Hotel de Len, in Cortina d'Ampezzo (home of the 2026 Winter Olympics), is the latest venture from the family



behind Puglia's Borgo Egnazia. Aman's Rosa Alpina, in San Cassiano, will supposedly be ready for ski season.

► **Off-piste** Skate the Olympic ice rink where Bardot took lessons, and shop Cortina's Corso Italia.

**VAL D'ISERE** France A set of serious skiers, put off by Courchevel's ostentation, migrated to snow-sure Val d'Isère, 80 minutes away.



Audrey Hepburn in the opener of *Charade*, filmed in Megève.

► **Stay** William and Kate are fans of the family-run Airelles group, whose outpost here has a new Guerlain spa and a newish four-bedroom Chalet Schuss, with its own staff. At Le Refuge de Solaise, one of France's highest ski-in-ski-out options, you wake up in the clouds. The Paris-based Experimental Group is opening swish Chalet Val d'Isère this season.

► **Off-piste** Thrill-seekers can paraglide or dive frozen Tignes Lake. And the nightlife here is mythical (see our guide to après, page 79).

**ARLBERG** Austria These 190 miles of connected slopes with excellent snow are the cradle of alpine skiing. Local boy Hannes Schneider opened the world's first ski school, and the Arlberg technique remains the gold standard. Tamer runs and posh chalets predominate in Lech and Oberlech; hard chargers head to St. Anton, where the steeps rival Jackson Hole.

► **Stay** Hotel Almhof Schneider in Lech has a 25,000-bottle wine cellar. Sonnenhof, its new six-bedroom chalet, occupies a 14th-century house. Seven-suite Hotel Tannenhof in St. Anton exudes Austrian elegance.

► **Off-piste** Sledding isn't just for kids here. St. Anton's 2.5-mile run will deposit you at Thony's Barn restaurant, in a Tyrolean barn. *J.M.*



St. Moritz from the Badrutt's Palace tower penthouse.

ELEVEN EXPERIENCE (SKIER); SWISSKISAFARI (HELICOPTER)

FILM PUBLICITY ARCHIVE/UNITED ARCHIVES VIA GETTY IMAGES (CHARADE); HOTEL DE LEN (COCKTAIL); BADRUTT'S PALACE HOTEL (VIEW)





An aurora-viewing yurt in the Yukon.

## Snowshoes REQUIRED

*It takes someone with special-ops skills to lead you into Canada's wilds. We have your man.*

Henry David Thoreau extolled the transcendent pleasures of a cabin in the woods in Concord, Massachusetts. But in Canada, he quipped, all he got "was a cold." Marc Telio of **Entreé Destinations** specializes in helping travelers comfortably access his country's most beautiful and remote places. "Think cabins in falling snow, snowshoes, dogsleds, snowmobiles, and roaring fires. It's gorgeous." Included in his itineraries: **Wander the Resort** in Ontario, two hours east of Toronto, has 10 two-bedroom cabins, a five-bedroom house, and a new 10,000-square-foot Nordic spa among the pines. Of the cabins sprinkled across the 700 acres of **Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge**, in Alberta, the one to book is Outlook, which offers room service and has had royal occupants (Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip). A private plane delivers you to the log cabins of Yukon's **Southern Lakes Resort** to ice-fish and dogsled by day and view the aurora borealis by night. To reach **Blackford Lake Lodge** in the Northwest Territories (which extend all the way to the Arctic Ocean), Telio will organize a skiplane; you can fat-tire-bike, snowmobile, and stargaze from a rooftop hot tub in one of the least populated places on the planet. *J.M.*

MARC@ENTREEDESTINATIONS.COM



Lakeside sauna at Wander.

## ICE ICE Baby!

*Want to be absolutely sure of snow? There's only one place in Europe for that.* BY LEENA KIM

Here's a secret. It's not *that* cold up above the Arctic Circle—as long as you're in Norway, where, thanks to the Gulf Stream, the temperature rarely dips below 14 degrees Fahrenheit (which is balmy compared to the frigid climes of Sweden and Finland). "It is the perfect winter country. We have amazing scenery, all this wilderness, a lot of snow, and a mild climate," says Jan Sortland, who has been crafting #IYKYK itineraries in his homeland—and the rest of Scandinavia—for 40 years. Here's how to do it.

JAN@NORWEGIAN-ADVENTURES.COM



62° Nord does custom trips through Norway's fjords. This is Alesund.

### IF YOU WANT TO CHASE POWDER

The runs may not be as long as in the Alps, and the après scene isn't as sexy as what you'd find in Gstaad, but if you're a purist who is simply after pristine terrain, stunning nature, and the freshest snow, Norway is the answer. "We Norwegians taught the world to ski," Sortland says. Plus, here you get the bonus of the famous fjords. **62° Nord** specializes in itineraries exploring—and skiing!—those dramatic glacier-carved inlets and also operates its own collection of lodges, such as the **Hotel Union Oye**, a retreat beloved by royals since the 19th century.

### IF YOU WANT TO SEE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

Don't go to Iceland like everyone else. For Northern Lights success, three conditions must be met: darkness, the right location, and clear skies. Iceland is too cloudy. Aurora seekers can't lose in Alta, in Norway's arctic region, where sightings are basically guaranteed (peak season runs from September to April). Stay at the 24-room **Sorrisniva** for its unbeatable location, but call Sortland to organize all your daytime activities, whether you want snowmobiling, king crab fishing, or reindeer herding led by members of the local Sami tribe.

## HAUTE ARCTIC

*You'll mostly be wearing extreme weather gear. But you have to live a little.*



◀ **BARRIE** SWEATER (\$1,895), BARRIE.COM



▶ **PARAJUMPERS** CAPE (\$545), PARAJUMPERS.IT



▼ **DUCKFEET** ARHUS BOOTS (\$338), ORVIS.COM



▲ **MONCLER GRENABLE** BUCKET HAT (\$465), MONCLER.COM



▶ **GUEST IN RESIDENCE** CLOUD JOGGERS (\$395), GUESTINRESIDENCE.COM

ENTREÉ DESTINATIONS (YUKON CABIN); WANDER THE RESORT (SAUNA); CHRISTIAN REMOY (ALESUND)



The dreamy 17th-century Tsurunoyu onsen is best done as a daytrip.

## Me, SKI?

*Spas in ski areas are taking off. You might even want to skip the slopes.*

Spas used to be add-ons in ski resorts—unassuming places you'd go to recover so you could ski again tomorrow. No longer. They are the draw, and here's the latest crop.

**JAPAN** The spa at the recently opened **Setsu Niseko**, at Grand Hirafu, Niseko's largest ski resort, is an onsen oasis, designed around indoor and outdoor springs; several terraced penthouses even have their own onsens. Non-skiers can enjoy Japan's deep, soft powder too: The outfitter **Walk Japan** organizes snowshoe treks in the mountain-circled Aizu region; each day ends, of course, at a traditional inn-plus-onsen.

**NORTH AMERICA** **Alaska**, Alaska's only ski resort-cum-hotel, has predominantly black diamond terrain. Its new 50,000-square-foot Nordic spa is the perfect excuse to cut the ski day short, or skip it altogether: four types of sauna, cedar hot tubs, cold plunges, and more.

Deep in a forest of birch and pine, Quebec's **Manoir Hovey**, near Montreal, has long attracted the soft-winter-adventure crowd: Nordic skiing, snowshoeing on 620 miles of groomed trails, plus Relais & Chateaux food. It has just added the 9,000-square-foot Le Spa, which features an indoor-outdoor hydrothermal circuit.

**EUROPE** Most people who come to the Dolomites' **LeFay Resort & Spa** are coming not to ski but to gaze at the peaks from one of the area's largest spas—spanning four floors and 46,000 square feet. At **Forestis**, a high-altitude former sanatorium in the South Tyrolian Plose ski area, you can ski out the door to the chair lift, but the new treatment rooms, carved into the mountain, are hard to resist. The revamped spa at **Hotel Goldener Berg**, in Arlberg, Austria, which has long billed itself as a health retreat, is now a reason to go there; it has, for what it's worth, the highest infinity pool in the Arlberg. *J.M.*

### SNOW DRIFT

One&Only Moonlight Basin, in Big Sky, Montana, doesn't roll out until next summer, with a grand spa and six restaurants and bars. But its gondola and ski lodge will be open this December—an early taste of its dining and après experiences.

## WE'LL ALWAYS HAVE APRES

*More snow or less, these are top spots around the world, from wild to mild.*



**ON-PISTE** (You have to be able to ski down to town.) Cloud Nine in **Aspen**, a former ski patrol hut, has Euro-style vibes (skiers decked out in Bogner and Moncler dance on tables) and is said to be Veuve Clicquot's biggest American account. **MooserWirt**, in **St. Anton, Austria**, at blue piste 1, has an enormous outdoor terrace, and the beer flows. La Folie Douce, a legendary name in après for its nightclub-meets-cabaret theatrics, has a sky-high outpost in **Val Thorens, France** (8,530 feet).



**OFF-PISTE** (Stay late—your chalet is just a taxi ride away.) The royals are fans of the clubs at Farinet, the hotel in the heart of **Verbier, Switzerland**. Everyone has boogied under the neon lights of GreenGo, a 1970s-inspired disco in **Switzerland's** Gstaad Palace. Do not miss line dancing to live country bands in **Jackson, Wyoming's** Million Dollar Cowboy bar (but do swap ski boots for cowboy ones).

MooserWirt, in St. Anton, Austria.



**CIVILIZED** (A relaxed mood and good drinks.) Au Comptoir, in **Woodstock, Vermont**, seats 30 and serves small bites with caviar. The Mallard Lounge in the Fairmont Chateau **Whistler** is the town's living room—oversize couches, roaring fire. Operated by Badrutt's Palace, Paradiso, in **St. Moritz, Switzerland**, serves vintage champagne on a large deck. An onsen is the traditional way to après in Japan; if you crave a cocktail, bow-tied waiters in **Hokkaido's** tiny Bar Gyu+ pour rare Japanese whiskeys. *J.M.*