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Heath Korvola

The places inspiring your return to travel.

BY JEN MURPHY AND NINA KOKOTAS HAHN

November 2, 2021

For our 34th annual **Readers' Choice Awards** survey—yes, more than three decades—registered voters weighed in on their favorite ski resorts around the globe. As the world has begun to reopen and readjust, the results reflect the kinds of places you longed to visit when you couldn't travel and the ones you returned to first once you could. From Aspen to Alberta, Park City to the Poconos, these ski resorts were picked by our readers as the best in North America for their trails, lifts, and après-ski spots. Whether you're a moguls expert, a terrain park shredder, or a novice still mastering blue runs, these ski resorts ticked all your boxes.

All listings featured in this story were independently selected by our readers. However, when you book something through our retail links, we may earn an affiliate commission.



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30. Mont-Tremblant, Québec

Northwest of Montreal in the Laurentian Mountains, Mont-Tremblant rises 2,116 feet, covers 755 acres, and, even with its gladed terrain, seems quaint compared to most contenders on this list. But Tremblant brings exactly what you what you wish for from a European-inspired ski resort in French-speaking Quebec: a newly upgraded pedestrian village with boutiques at the foot of the mountain, ski events like Tremblant's 24h and the FIS Freestyle Ski World Cup, and Le P'tit Caribou, a rowdy après-ski hot spot with a lake-facing terrace and bars upon which people are known to dance until 3 a.m. Major snowmaking investments mean the slopes are guaranteed to be good.

Where to stay: For ski-in-ski-out access, stay at the 314-room [Fairmont Tremblant](#), which boasts excellent restaurants, including a brasserie and an Italian spot. If you prefer to be close to the shops and restaurants of the village, book [Le Westin Resort & Spa, Tremblant](#). Just a short walk to the ski lifts, the hotel has one of the area's best spa facilities.



Courtesy Mammoth Mountain Ski Resort

29. Mammoth Mountain, California

The name says it all. Mammoth is big, boasting 3,500 skiable acres and the highest summit elevation in California. An excellent blend of beginner and advanced terrain, plus 10 parks with two half pipes and more than 50 jumps, makes it a great mountain to work skills progression. With one of the longest seasons in North America, Mammoth serves as spring training ground for many pro skiers and riders, and it's not unusual for diehards to score runs into July. New daily service from Los Angeles, San Francisco and Denver to Bishop on United Airlines makes the mountain more accessible than ever.

Where to stay: Nestled on the shores of Twin Lake, historic [Tamarack Lodge](#) exudes California craftsman style and guests can snowshoe or cross-country ski straight out the door. The all-suite [Westin Monache Resort](#) has a heated outdoor pool that overlooks Mammoth Mountain.



Getty

28. Breckenridge, Colorado

For the skier and rider who wants it all, it's hard to do better than Breck. On-mountain, there are five huge peaks, nearly 3,000 skiable acres, and 11 bowls. With some of the country's best high-alpine terrain, accessed by North America's highest chairlift, Breck consistently offers great conditions well into the spring, with a season that runs through Memorial Day. The new Freedom Super Chair on Peak 7 will be a game-changer this season, enhancing the resort's interconnected peak-to-peak experience by whisking skiers and riders between Peaks 6, 7, and its main hub, the Peak 8 Base Area.

RockResort, has roomy condos and kid-friendly amenities like a two-lane bowling alley.

Stats: 35 lifts for 187 trails. One-day lift tickets start at \$104; on the Epic Pass.



Bradley Smith/Courtesy Heavenly Mountain Resort, California

27. Heavenly Mountain Resort, California

Heavenly owns bragging rights to having the most skiable terrain in **Lake Tahoe**, at nearly 5,000 acres, and it's also the only ski resort in North America to span two states. Experience the best of both California and Nevada while exploring wide-open cruisers and 1,600-foot chutes. Sparkling Lake Tahoe views, plus an average of 300 days of sunshine a year, make Heavenly a dream getaway for East Coasters. The

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gondola and offers a variety of rooms from bunk beds to luxe tents. **Zalatta Resort** at the Village is steps away from Heavenly Village and residence-style rooms include gourmet kitchens and private balconies.

Stats: 28 lifts for 97 trails. One-day lift tickets from \$104; on the Epic Pass.



Courtesy Park City Mountain Resort

26. Park City Mountain Resort, Utah

America's largest ski area, Park City Mountain is also one of its most accessible: Its 7,300 acres, eight terrain parks, and 330 trails are only half an hour from the newly reimagined **Salt Lake City International Airport**. And **Park City** continues to be rated one of our readers' favorites, thanks to its varied terrain and a buzzy downtown that has top-notch après-ski. Serious overnight grooming efforts ensure over 120 trails

pool and bar in town, while the [Waldorf Astoria Park City](#) is the place to be for five-star service. For something more intimate, the stylish 12-room [Washington School House Hotel](#) is less than a five-minute walk from the Town Lift and serves a heavenly breakfast.

Stats: 43 lifts for 330-plus trails. One-day lift tickets from \$104; on the Epic Pass.



sboice/Courtesy Copper Mountain

25. Copper Mountain, Colorado

Copper Mountain may arguably be Colorado's best-kept winter secret. The resort's off-the-highway location, just 75 miles west of Denver, makes it incredibly accessible for those flying into [Denver International Airport](#) as well as residents of Colorado's Front Range. The terrain has always been fantastic—over 2,500 acres, naturally divided by ability—but this season, the new Western Territory, an area dedicated to

with an indoor training facility and mountain terrain parks for all abilities.

Where to stay: The new **Element 29** has been a game changer for the resort, with mostly condos and townhouses for lodging. The 127-room hotel is just a short walk to Center Village and features on-site ski storage, an après bar, and hot tubs with mountain views.

Stats: 24 lifts for 153 trails. One-day lift ticket from \$99; on the Ikon Pass.



Getty

24. Aspen Mountain, Colorado

This winter marks 75 years of skiing in **Aspen**. While the Aspen Mountain ski area is only one-fifth the size of Snowmass (without a single beginner run), it offers 675

après drinks.

Where to stay: The [Limelight Hotel Aspen](#) just came off a top-to-bottom renovation that enhanced all 126 rooms and suites, and the [St. Regis Aspen Resort](#), [The Little Nell](#), and [Hotel Jerome, Auberge Resorts Collection](#), remain area favorites. [The Gant Aspen](#), tucked just off the main square, offers apartment-style lodging with kitchens. Newcomer [Aspen Street Lodge](#), in the heart of downtown, is an eleven-room buyout property perfect for families or groups of friends.

Stats: 8 lifts for 76 trails. One-day lift tickets from \$149; on the Ikon Pass.



23. Palisades Tahoe, California

minute shuttle, encompassing 6,000 acres. Steeply pitched vertical terrain has made the Olympic Valley side the stomping ground of hard-charging pros, while Alpine Meadows is known for its crowd-free, hike-to back bowls and top-to-bottom groomers. You'll want to work up an appetite as the base villages clearly cater to a foodie crowd, with restaurants specializing in everything from banh mi to tacos.

Where to stay: The ski-in, ski-out [Resort at Squaw Creek](#) has spacious penthouses and three swimming pools.

Stats: 42 lifts for more than 270 trails. One-day lift tickets from \$99; on the Ikon Pass and the Mountain Collective Pass.



Courtesy Mount Snow-Vail Resorts

22. Mount Snow Resort, Vermont

riders can find challenging double black diamond runs like Ripcord on the North Face, while snowboarders and freeskiers head to Carinthia, the largest terrain park in the East with more than 100 acres of features.

Where to stay: The [Grand Summit Resort Hotel](#) is conveniently set at the main base area and features a heated outdoor pool and hot tub. Live music and craft cocktails make the bar at Harriman's restaurant popular for après-ski.

Stats: 20 lifts for 86 trails. One-day lift tickets from \$97; on the [Epic Pass](#).



Courtesy Whiteface

21. Whiteface Lake Placid, New York

Three peaks and the highest vertical in the East at 3,430 feet make up Whiteface Mountain, which offers 22 miles of skiing in the Adirondacks, just outside of the

this winter, a new SkyTrac quad replaces two double lifts to allow easier access for new skiers and riders.

Where to stay: **Whiteface Lodge** offers luxury cabin vibes, the new Peak 47 dining lounge, and new high-intensity, therapeutic wellness treatments at the spa.

Stats: 12 lifts for 87 trails. One-day ticket from \$65.



Getty

20. Steamboat, Colorado

Spanning six peaks and nearly 3,000 acres in the Yampa Valley, Steamboat is revered for its tree skiing, trademarked Champagne Powder snow, and family-friendly amenities. But many folks keep coming back for its deep Western roots and a down-home vibe that extends from the mountain to the town. A multiyear,

an ice rink in the base area will be rolling out in the coming years. Base-area eats range from sit-by-the-fire Timber and Torch at Gondola Square to grab-and-go slopeside food truck Taco Beast—or you can get a whole pie delivered by the mobile Pizza Ranger, a modified snowcat.

Where to stay: [The Steamboat Grand](#) offers a massive heated pool and hot tubs, while the ski-in/ski-out [Sheraton Steamboat Resort Villas](#) are conveniently located next to Christie Peak Express.

Stats: 18 lifts for 170 trails. One-day lift tickets from \$119; on the Ikon Pass.



Courtesy Daniel Bayer/Snowmass

enough variation to make it an all-around hit with families. A new high-speed, six-person chairlift and expanded snowmaking capabilities are complemented by some seriously delicious new on-mountain dining options. Now in its second season, Sam's transports skiers to the Italian Dolomites with a menu featuring rigatoni Bolognese and Negroni spritzes, while the new Alpin Room takes its cues from the Alps, with dishes such as schnitzel and tartiflette.

Where to stay: The former Westin underwent a multimillion-dollar renovation and reopens this December as the [Viewline Resort Snowmass](#), under Marriott's Autograph Collection flag, while its sister property, [Wildwood Snowmass](#), got a retro makeover, including a new beer hall. The [Limelight Snowmass](#) remains the Base Village social hub, with a lively après scene and the state's highest indoor climbing wall, while the [Viceroy Snowmass](#) is the most luxe stay on the slopes, with a serious spa and a restaurant from star chef Richard Sandoval.

Stats: 20 lifts for 96 trails. One-day lift tickets average \$162; on the Ikon Pass.



ANDREW MAGUIRE/Courtesy Keystone Resort

18. Keystone Resort, Colorado

Thanks to its easy access from Denver, Keystone is one of Colorado's most family-friendly resorts, with a Kids Ski Free program and complimentary red wagons to tote your tikes and their gear to and from the parking area to the slopes. The terrain, however, isn't just for kids. Five above-tree-line bowls and an in-bounds cat-skiing program make Keystone fun for all-levels of skiers and riders. It's also one of the state's few resorts that offers night skiing. The resort has been seriously investing in its lifts: This season, the Peru Express lift at the Mountain House base area was upgraded to a new high-speed, six-passenger lift, and the Bergman Bowl will offer lift-served skiing for the 2022-2023 season.

Where to stay: Founded as an 1800s stagecoach stop, [Ski Tip Lodge](#) remains one of the ski industry's most historical buildings. The charming B&B is known for its excellent food and intimate fireside après scene. Keystone Lodge & Spa has easy access to the slopes and three on-site eateries.

Stats: 20 lifts for 129 trails. One-day lift tickets from \$104; on the Epic Pass.



Photo by Ryan-Bonneau/Courtesy Telluride

17. Telluride, Colorado

Telluride rises above the rest with its no-nonsense attitude and a gorgeous location within a box canyon that attracts a healthy mix of adventurers, artists, and entrepreneurs. Its nearly 2,100 acres of terrain include 44 new acres of expert- and advanced-level gladed terrain around Lift 9. Into heli-skiing? Telluride Helitrax can take you to more than 200 square miles of high-alpine skiing. Or grab the kids and shake things up with some snowbiking. A free, eight-mile pedestrian gondola eliminates the need for a vehicle, connecting the mountain and historic downtown in a quick 13-minute ride. Custom designed yurts and tents will provide extra al fresco dining areas in the village again this winter.

Where to stay: The **Madeline Hotel and Residences**, **Auberge Resorts Collection**, is the most stylish new stay on the mountain.

Stats: 19 lifts for 148 trails. One-day lift tickets from \$104; on the Epic Pass.



Courtesy Sun Valley Resort

16. Sun Valley, Idaho

Welcome to a slice of history: Developed by businessman and politician W. Averell Harriman in the late 1930s, Sun Valley marked the first destination winter resort in the U.S., and beginner-friendly Dollar Mountain was the first in the world to install chairlifts. Bald Mountain, the larger of the resort's two hills, upped its expert terrain in 2020 with the opening of the Sunrise terrain expansion, an additional 380 acres of advanced tree skiing accessed from the top of Seattle Ridge.

Where to stay: The well-heeled crowd stays at old-world [Sun Valley Inn](#). For a downtown address, look to the buzzy [Limelight Hotel Ketchum](#), which boasts a lively après scene like its sister outposts in Aspen and Snowmass, or the [Hotel Ketchum](#), a former motel-turned-modernist mountain stay.

Stats: 13 lifts for 120 trails. One-day lift tickets average \$131–\$175; on the Epic Pass.



Getty

15. Whistler Blackcomb, British Columbia

In recent years, **Whistler** has grown into the largest destination ski resort in North America, known for unmatched big mountain skiing and snowboarding. With 8,171 acres of skiable terrain, there's easily enough mountain to keep you on new runs through the entire six-month regular season. The pistes offer a wide range of difficulty, making this the perfect place for beginners, adrenaline junkies, and everyone in between. To push your limits with high-alpine descents, book a steep clinic with Extremely Canadian or a heli-drop with Whistler Heli. Whistler's après-ski scene is just as legendary as its slopes. After a year hiatus, on-piste après is back. The Roundhouse Umbrella Bar is the hot spot on the slopes; in the village, head to the Garibaldi Lift Company for outdoor drinks around a firepit.

Where to stay: The 519-room **Fairmont Chateau Whistler** at the base of Blackcomb Mountain will offer unique snow-globe dining this winter. The all-suite **Westin Resort & Spa** is a short walk from the Blackcomb gondola and FireRock Lounge is a cozy spot for après ski. A short walk to the Creekside lifts, **Nita Lake Lodge** is known

Epic Pass.



Getty

14. Big Sky, Montana

It's called "the biggest skiing in America" for good reason: The first thing you register when you buckle in at Big Sky is the complete lack of crowds. Its 5,850 skiable acres add up to about an acre per skier on average, so it's not uncommon to have an entire run to yourself. The mountain has the most consistent powder dumps in the Northern Rockies, which blanket 4,350 vertical feet from Lone Peak and more than 2,300 acres of beginner and intermediate slopes. Thanks to the [Big Sky 2025](#) investment initiative, it also has some of the most technologically advanced chair lifts, with heated seats and weatherproof bubbles—including Swift Current 6, a base

fresh off of much-needed renovations. The **Montage Big Sky**, the area's first five-star resort, opens this December in the Spanish Peaks area and raises the bar for luxury with its massive spa, Northern Italian restaurant, and après-ski raclette cart.

Stats: 39 lifts for 300 trails. One-day lift tickets from \$74; on the Ikon Pass and Mountain Collective Pass.



Getty

13. Jackson Hole, Wyoming

Aptly nicknamed "The Big One," **Jackson Hole** has some of the most challenging skiing in all of North America. Despite its deserved hard-core reputation, there are

as seriously good dining options.

Where to stay: The [Four Seasons Resort Jackson Hole](#), [Hotel Terra](#), the [Teton Mountain Lodge & Spa](#), and [Amangani](#) are classics, while the eight-suite, tram-side [Caldera House](#) is perhaps the resort's most exclusive slope-side stay. In town, [Hotel Jackson](#) brings city-level sophistication to the mountains, while the new [Cloudveil](#), a 100-room Autograph Collection hotel, is the only hotel on Jackson's historic Town Square and home to local restaurateur Gavin Fine's newest concept, a Parisian brasserie named the Bistro.

Stats: 14 lifts for 133 trails. One-day lift tickets from \$93; on the Mountain Collective Pass and Ikon Pass.



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fluffy, dry snow falls frequently and abundantly on Big White Mountain—reaching over 23 feet annually. If your powder legs aren't quite in shape, Big White's grooming fleet serves up plenty of flawless corduroy on which to practice your turns. Canada's largest full ski-in/ski-out village is just 45 minutes from Kelowna International Airport. Once you arrive, every amenity and experience you desire is a short ski away, from nearly 20 on-mountain restaurants and bars to ice skating and snowmobiling.

Where to stay: It's worth splurging on one of [Sundance Resort's](#) cabins, which offer ski-in/ski-out access and private hot tubs.

Stats: 16 lifts for 119 runs. One-day lift tickets from \$93.



Getty

ifferent mountain faces and a solid mix of beginner, intermediate, and expert runs from every chair. Here's what else makes it a dream for all walks of skiers: steep slopes backed by an awe-inspiring wilderness, bowls dusted in famously dry powder, a serious terrain park, and long cruisers—one of which winds on for five miles. Last season's debut of new West Bowl terrain added 480 more wilderness acres to explore, and this winter's addition of the Juniper Express Quad will open up three new runs on the front-side of the resort, aimed at new and intermediate skiers and riders.

Where to stay: Located lakeside in Banff National Park, [Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise](#) looks like a fairytale castle and offers an authentic fondue experience in its Walliser Stube restaurant. A member of Relais & Châteaux, [Post Hotel & Spa](#) has a saltwater pool and is known for its extensive wine cellar and talented culinary team. At the intimate [Baker Creek Lodge](#), guests can choose between log cabins with wood-burning fireplaces or spacious lodge suites, some with kitchens and whirlpool tubs.

Stats: 11 lifts for 146 runs and back bowls. One-day lift tickets average \$109; on the Ikon Pass and Mountain Collective Pass.



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10. Alyeska, Alaska

Skiing in Alaska is a different experience than anywhere in the lower 48. Located just 40 miles southeast of [Anchorage](#), Alyeska's terrain is uniquely Alaskan, boasting everything from high alpine to the steep faces the 49th state is known for. Experts can push their limits, but with over 55 percent intermediate terrain, tree skiing, wide open groomed runs, and a lower mountain venue perfect for beginners, Alyeska caters to all ability levels. Aside from resort skiing, Alyeska serves as a backcountry basecamp offering guided ski touring, cat skiing, or heli skiing. And when it comes to après-ski, a trip to the mountaintop Bore Tide Bar for an off-menu Fizz cocktail is an Alyeska ritual.

Where to stay: The 300-room [Alyeska Resort](#) will open a 50,000-square-foot, indoor-outdoor spa this season. The [Ski Inn](#) is an intimate eight-room bed-and-breakfast within walking distance of the shops and restaurants in Girdwood.

Stats: 7 lifts for 76 runs, with an additional 1,400 vertical feet accessible via hike-to terrain when conditions allow. One-day lift tickets from \$75.



Getty Images

9. Whitefish Mountain Resort, Montana

The quintessential local skiers' hill, with nearly 3,000 acres of terrain on **Big Mountain**, has quietly grown into a destination ski escape. Friendly and unpretentious, the resort offers plenty of glades and chutes for the experienced skier or rider, as well as uncrowded beginner-gear slopes with stunning views of the Flathead Valley and the Northern Rockies. The newly relocated Chair 8 will offer improved access to the Hellroaring Basin this winter. Break for lunch at the Summit House, at an elevation of 6,817 feet, or grab a pint at the iconic Bierstube. Eight miles away, downtown Whitefish offers all manner of après activities, from fine dining to bar grub. Glacier Park International Airport (FCA/GPI) is only a 30-minute drive from the resort.

Where to Stay: The **Kintla Lodge** offers ski-in, ski-out access.

Stats: 11 lifts for 111 named trails. One-day lift tickets from \$89.



Courtesy Camelback Mountain Resort

8. Camelback Mountain Resort, Pennsylvania

A winter haven for East Coasters, this **Poconos** resort's snow-making capacity could cover the George Washington Bridge with one foot of snow in 24 hours. The mountain's 900-foot vertical drop is great training before venturing to bigger mountains in the West. More than half of the mountain, however, is covered in beginner-friendly greens. Families love the amenities, including the country's largest snow-tubing park, an indoor water park, and a plethora of dining options including a new food hall, while the ski-in/ski-out Summit House serves Philly cheesesteaks, Bavarian-style hot pretzels, and German beers.

Where to stay: **Camelback Lodge**, the only ski-in/ski out resort in the Poconos, recently refurbished 453 guest rooms that come in 16 different configurations including bunk rooms and a suite that can sleep up to 14 guests.



Taylor Ahearn/CBMR

7. Crested Butte, Colorado

The Southwest Colorado resort is one of few in North America that really does offer wide-ranging terrain for every kind of skier. Spanning 1,547 acres and topping out at an elevation of more than 12,000 feet, **Crested Butte** has plenty of terrain for beginner and intermediate skiers—more than two thirds of that acreage, to be exact—while the rest is dedicated to insanely steep advanced terrain serviced by some of the best lifts in the country. A Ski with an Olympian program affords the opportunity to ski privately with one of the biggest icons in the skiing world, Wendy Fisher. Private lessons are limited to five people per session.

Where to stay: It's hard to beat the location of the **Lodge at Mountaineer Square** in Crested Butte's base area, just steps from the lifts and a free town shuttle. **Scarp**



Courtesy Vail Resorts

6. Vail, Colorado

Perhaps the winning ticket for 5,317-acre [Vail](#) isn't just that it's big, but that 3,000 of these acres span the mountain's seven legendary Back Bowls, made up mostly of intermediate-to-advanced and ungroomed terrain, plus some killer vertical—the Forever trail in Sun Down Bowl, for example, drops a thrilling 1,850 feet. This season head to the huge outdoor space at Belle's Camp in Vail's Blue Sky Basin, where outdoor picnic tables under the area's namesake wide open blue skies provide the perfect sun-soaked and socially distant outdoor lunch break experience. The spot is a local favorite for pairing a bring-your-own backpack lunch with panoramic views of the nearby Tenmile and Sawatch mountain ranges, and Mount of the Holy Cross, one of Colorado's tallest peaks.

Where to stay: Perennial favorites include the Bavarian-inspired [Sonnenalp Hotel](#); the high-touch [Four Seasons Resort Vail](#); [The Arrabelle at Vail Square](#), a [RockResort](#);

Stats: 51 lifts for 195 trails. One-day lift tickets from \$104; on the Epic Pass.



Getty

5. Snowbird, Utah

If great snow and challenging terrain are your top priorities, Snowbird is your dream mountain. Nearly three quarters of the mountain is covered in expert and intermediate runs, and Utah's famed dry snow consistently averages more than 400 inches a year. If you want a social scene, head to Park City. Snowbird's amenities are limited, but there are some gems like SeventyOne grill and The Aerie, a gastropub with a serious wine list located at the Cliff Lodge. After recent upgrades, the resort now produces nearly 100 percent of its power on-site, making it one of the greenest ski resorts in North America.

Where to stay: The ski in-ski-out [Cliff Lodge](#) has a rooftop pool and hot tub.



Courtesy Beaver Creek

4. Beaver Creek, Colorado

Arguably the most luxe ski experience in the United States, **Beaver Creek** takes pampering to the extreme, with perks big and small—think complimentary, just-baked chocolate chip cookies handed out in the base area daily at 3 p.m. The grooming is immaculate, and kids love the Candy Cabin at the top of the Strawberry Park Express lift. Beaver Creek's frills get all of the attention, but the mountain boasts serious steeps, like its famous Birds of Prey, home of the FIS Ski World Cup downhill course. A new learning area, McCoy Park, offers 17 trails of natural, groomable glades, plus snowshoe and cross-country areas.

Where to stay: Favorites include **The Westin Riverfront Resort & Spa Avon, Vail Valley**; **The Pines Lodge, a RockResort**; **the Park Hyatt Beaver Creek Resort and Spa**; and **The Osprey, a RockResort**.

Stats: 26 lifts for 167 trails. One-day lift tickets from \$104; on the Epic Pass.



Getty

3. Aspen Highlands, Colorado

Of the four mountains that make up Aspen-Snowmass, the ultimate rite of passage is here at Aspen Highlands' massive Highland Bowl. Here's how to do it: Hike some 45 minutes to the top of the bowl, soak in rewarding 360-degree views that include the twin-peaked Maroon Bells, and own the drop into almost 2,500 feet of steep bowl skiing. Survive? Celebrate your Aspen street cred later with a beer and the legendary burger at the [J-Bar at the Hotel Jerome](#).

Where to stay: The [Little Nell](#) offers upgraded guest rooms and a new wine bar at the base of Aspen Mountain.

Stats: 5 lifts for 144 trails. One-day lift tickets from \$149; on the Ikon Pass.



Justin Olsen

2. Sundance Mountain Resort, Utah

The 12,000-foot Mount Timpanogos towers over this tiny ski town. Steep bowls give experienced skiers a thrill, while a third of the runs are green and beginner-friendly, and this season sees the addition of a new beginner area with three magic carpets. Just an hour from Salt Lake City (hello, easy airport access!), the 5,000 acres of protected wilderness that surround the 450-acre resort will help you seek solitude and make you feel totally removed from the rest of the world. Two new lifts will run this season, including a high-speed quad that will restore access to the mid-mountain summit for the first time in 25 years. Film fans can also nerd out while they ski the slopes surrounding the home of Sundance, the largest film festival in the U.S. Four nights a week the majority of the front mountain stays open for night skiing so you can maximize your turns.

Where to stay: [Sundance Mountain Resort](#) offers alpine-chic, cabin-inspired studios, rooms, suites, and spacious lofts that can sleep up to six.

Stats: 5 lifts for 44 trails. One-day pass is \$119.



Courtesy Deer Valley Resort

1. Deer Valley, Utah

One of only three resorts in the country that still bans snowboarding, Deer Valley is made for families who love to ski together and are willing to spend top dollar for the experience. The resort's "your wish is our command" customer service is worth the splurge. It's also conveniently located: under 40 miles from the Salt Lake City International Airport, and adjacent to Park City along the Wasatch Range. This season, the dining experience at the base lodge, Fresh Tracks Kitchen, has been reimagined with mobile ordering and tableside delivery of customized bowls, salads, and burgers.

Where to stay: [Montage Deer Valley](#) remains the epitome of luxury with its 35,000-square-foot spa and rooms and suites that feature fireplaces and soaking tubs. Guests of the ski-in/ski-out [St. Regis Deer Valley](#) have access to an exclusive funicular that transports them to the top of the slopes. Reminiscent of the King Cole Bar in New York, the St. Regis Bar is a hot spot for après ski, and wine lovers won't want to miss a meal at the hotel's steakhouse, which boasts a 10,000-bottle cellar.

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