

November • December 2016

DEPARTURES

To get away
To stay at home
To throw a party...

'TIS
THE
SEASON

ATTENTION, DOWNHILL RACERS

What to look for this season out West, from a new Vail hotel to the relaunch of the Winter Park train **BY ERIN RILEY**



PARK CITY, UTAH

In October, **Stein Eriksen Residences** (villas from \$2,500; 7101 Silver Lake Dr.; 435-649-3700) debuted 15 homes and 39 condos with easy access to Deer Valley's Silver Dollar trail. The units can be rented starting in December. They offer full privileges at the lodge and also have an indoor-outdoor pool, their own spa and fitness center, and an après-ski lounge.

BRECKENRIDGE, COLORADO

Atop Independence SuperChair on Peak 7, the new 490-seat **Pioneer Crossing** (breckenridge.com) serves campfire food inspired by the town's mining history. The panoramic views are outstanding. Another opening to check out: chef Daniel O'Brien's **Breckenridge Distillery Restaurant** (1925 Airport Rd.; 970-547-9759). The menu features meat that's sourced from regional farms and ranches and cooked on an open grill.



BEAVER CREEK, COLORADO

Private jet service **XOJet** (877-599-6538; xojet.com) has partnered with Beaver Creek Resort to give clients perks like invitation-only access to the slopes before the day's initial lift. First, get altitude-acclimated at the new skiers' lounge with IV therapies at **Park Hyatt Beaver Creek** (rooms from \$300; 136 E. Thomas Pl.; 970-949-1234).



VAIL, COLORADO

Near Lionshead Village, **Hotel Talisa** (rooms from \$400; 1300 Westhaven Dr.; 800-420-2424) opens in December with 285 rooms and the area's only on-property lift. Everyone in Vail is excited about a beloved local chef's new spot, **Harvest by Kelly Liken** (1265 Berry Creek Rd., 970-477-5353), in Edwards. (That's her grilled octopus above.) For on-the-go dining, the **Four Seasons Vail** (rooms from \$475; One Vail Rd.; 970-477-8600) now offers pocket-sized meals (bacon, burritos, pastries).



WINTER PARK, COLORADO

Amtrak, Winter Park Resort, and Union Pacific Railroad have revived the 500-passenger **Winter Park Express** (888-923-7275), which first ran in 1940 and shuttered in 2009. The train will shuttle skiers between Denver's Union Station and the mountain on weekends and holidays from January 7 to March 26, making Winter Park the nation's only ski area with direct train access from a major city.

JACKSON HOLE, WYOMING

On the mountain, the Sweetwater gondola debuts this season. Off the mountain, the private **Snake River Sporting Club** (rooms from \$500; 14885 Sporting Club Rd.; 307-733-3444) started over the summer offering nonmember lodging. It's a half-hour drive from town; stay here for the heli-skiing and terrain park. In town, **Hotel Jackson** (rooms from \$300; 120 N. Glenwood St.; 307-733-2200) opened last winter—the area's first new luxury boutique hotel in over 15 years.



ASPEN, COLORADO

SoulCycle (534 E. Cooper Ave.; 212-787-7685) is hosting its first Aspen pop-up: From December 22 to January 2, the Spinning studio will hold up to five classes daily at a 50-bike setup. On that fitness note, the **St. Regis Aspen** (rooms from \$400; 315 E. Dean St.; 970-920-3300) now has unlimited access to yoga classes by local studio Shakti Shala.

TREND ALERT

Uphill Skiing

in the backcountry is not a new pursuit, but a shift is happening this season: A few resorts—including all four mountains at Aspen Snowmass—have carved out dedicated uphill routes. Meanwhile, hotels are starting to help their guests get in on the craze, like the Four Seasons Vail (see above), which has joined with Paragon Guides to offer the activity.

IN SEARCH OF ADVENTURE and a great workout, hard-core skiers like to ditch lifts for uphill skiing, also known as skinning (in reference to the skins you wrap around each ski's base to provide traction to climb the mountain; you take them off before descending). Or as locals call it, earning your turns. Skinning