

# colorado

## TRAVELER

WINTER 2020

### STAY IN STYLE

Vacation  
spots you  
won't want  
to miss

### APRÈS RACE

Olympian

Lindsey  
Vonn

Stays on the  
Fast Track



### Steamboat Story

Experience authentic  
mountain charm

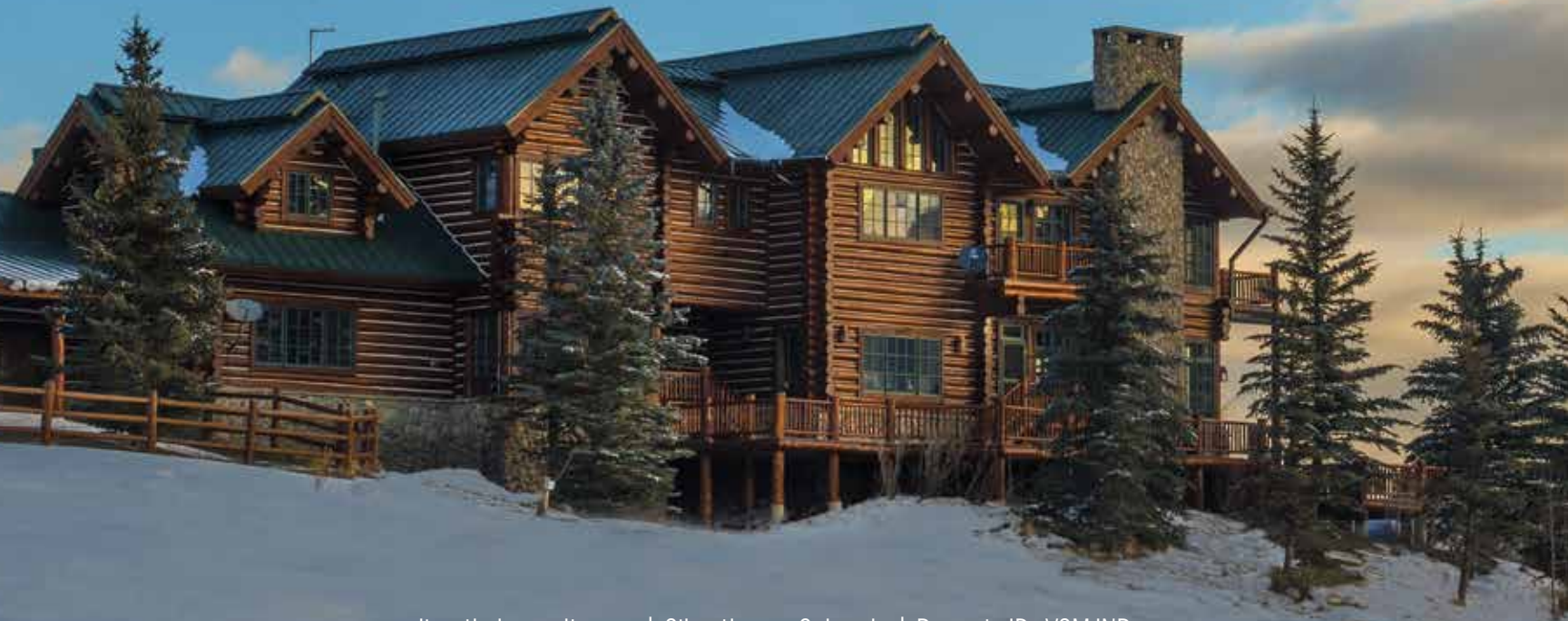
### Southern Exposure

Eat, Sleep and  
Play in the Denver  
Tech Center



# For those who have a vision

Your home is more than a building or an address.  
It's where you experience life, family, connection,  
growth. Your home should be as exceptional as  
you are, and as you are going to be. For a lifestyle  
inspired by your potential, there is only  
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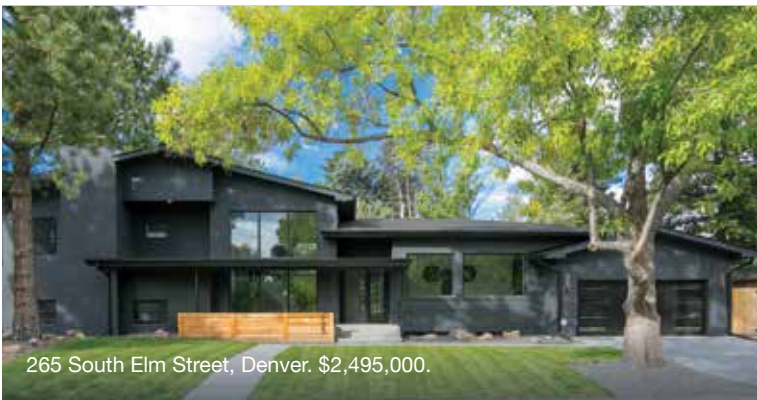
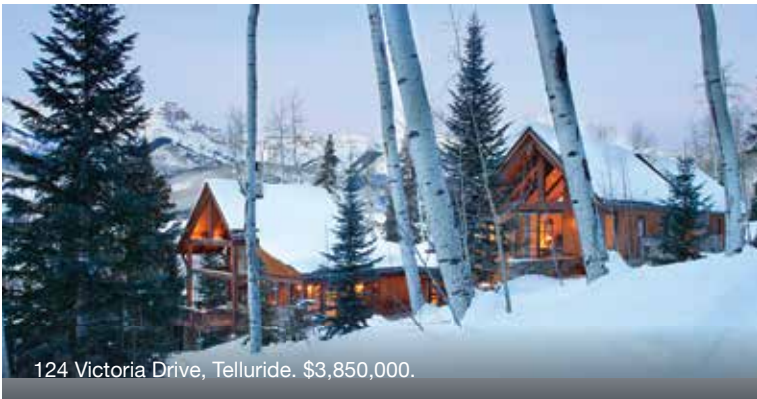


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Boulder Denver Tech Center Dillon Breckenridge Downtown Denver Castle Rock Evergreen Cherry Creek Telluride Crested Butte Vail Valley Winter Park



## INDULGE & IMBIBE

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### Sit at the Bar!

Gabby Gourmet, our beloved foodie, visits two Denver restaurants where the bar scene is an experience not to miss.

### Made in Colorado

What better way to commemorate your Colorado experience than with a gift or memento that is Colorado-made? Shauna Farnell has some suggestions guaranteed to surprise and delight.

## CHECKING IN

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### Settle in and Stay

Eric Elkins did your homework and offers up a great assortment of hotels around Colorado that will cater to your every need (or whim!).

### This Haus Rules

Breckenridge's newest hotel offers location, ambience and everything in between. Eric Elkins illustrates why Gravity Haus Breckenridge is such a special new addition to the mountain lodging experience.

## EXPLORE

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### Down in the Denver Tech Center

The DTC is a fun destination, and Monica Parpal Stockbridge highlights some of the area's restaurants, shops, hotels and nightlife that are drawing people from near and far.

### Steamboat Springs: A Winter Wonderland

The charming mountain town of Steamboat Springs is rich in history and flavor. Today, it's a lively blend of rustic and new, and Rebecca Treon shows why the town and the ski resort are special hidden gems.

## PERSONALITY

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### Meet Lindsey Vonn

She's bold, beautiful, and still on the fast track since retiring from racing. Shauna Farnell takes you into Lindsey Vonn's world in an exclusive one-on-one interview.

### Go Broncos! Go Defense!

Rain or shine, win or lose, we love our Denver Broncos. Check out our interview with defensive lineman Shelby Harris, who excels on and off the field.

## ADVENTURE

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### Welcome to Ski(n) Season

Skinning is gaining popularity as a way to power up the hill, savor the view, and get a fantastic workout. Learn the ins and outs of this popular new sport as Micah Ling takes you on a turn-by-turn look at what to expect.



*in every issue*

## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

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### CURRENT

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Real Estate Update  
Local Celebs Dish on Their Favorite Winter Warmers  
Ski Resort Fun Facts



# mountain thrills + town charm



**FRISCO**  
COLORADO  
MAIN STREET OF THE ROCKIES

Surrounded by 6 world-class ski resorts. Take your pick!  
90 minutes from Denver.

[TownofFrisco.com](http://TownofFrisco.com)



VAIL  
COPPER MTN  
BRECKENRIDGE

KEYSTONE  
A-BASIN  
LOVELAND



W

elcome to the new issue of *Colorado Traveler*. We are excited to share that we've gone 100-percent digital. So many of our loyal readers have told us they'd love to receive *Colorado Traveler* in their inbox, so we listened, and we delivered.

As you'll see, *Colorado Traveler* remains true to its commitment to deliver compelling content that showcases our beautiful state in all its facets – rave-worthy restaurants, don't-miss attractions, sophisticated hotels and resorts and more – all from the perspective of our writers who live here and love every moment! We cover the personalities who call Colorado home, the adventures to be had, the scenery to behold.

In this issue, we're excited to provide a close-up interview with superstar skier Lindsey Vonn, whose work ethic, tenacity and determination made her the one of the sports most-famous, and most-watched competitors. Now retired from the racing circuit, Vonn continues to push limits, devoting time to her nonprofit, writing a memoir and so much more.

We also take you around the state to some of our favorite resorts and hotels. With so many wonderful options and amenities, you'll understand why Colorado is the place to visit – and to return to time and again. From the mountains to the city, there's no end to unique experiences and adventures to discover every time you travel – whether you are from out of town or are fortunate to live here year-round.

If you're up for some cold-weather fun this winter, check out our feature on skinning, a sport that is quickly gaining popularity as a “killer” workout and an unparalleled way to take in the stunning scenery.

So enjoy this magazine at your leisure and make check out some of the fun and unique places. We spend time compiling the best of the best each issue, so that all you have to do is choose what to see and experience during your travels. Have fun and enjoy!



Ellen Gray

**Ellen Gray**

Publisher, *Colorado Traveler Magazine*



If you have an interesting Colorado experience or story to share, we would be pleased to read it and consider it for publication. Email your story to us at [ellen@coloradotravelermagazine.com](mailto:ellen@coloradotravelermagazine.com).



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# MOUNTAIN HOME AESTHETICS

*Get a Modern Makeover*

*By Amanda Molitor*

Pictured: 140 West Serapio Drive Telluride, CO.

There's something about the mountains that captivates us as humans. Their size, the environment they create, the way their colors change throughout the day and throughout the seasons. Mountains have been muses for artists for centuries and continue to inspire the way many choose to decorate their homes.

Bringing the outside into interior design has long been practiced in the mountain regions but recently the typical regional style has seen a shift in approach. Traditionally, mountain motifs have been more literal translations of what it means to live in the Rockies. Interior designs often incorporated the exact hues, textures, and patterns found

right outside the front door. Rich, warm-toned paint colors commonly coated the walls of great rooms and bright fabrics often overpowered furniture and window dressings. Similarly, the rustic aesthetic was taken to an extreme in many cases with the over-use of mounted trophy animals, antlers, and historically inspired art. However, today more mountain homes are taking a lighter, less-is-more approach to design.

Over the last decade, the mountain aesthetic has transitioned to a more modern interpretation. The use of neutral color palettes complements the natural beauty of the mountains rather than mimicking them. More grays and taupe colors have made their way into these stunning



residences, allowing the views of the ranges themselves to act as the focus of the homes. These revised color choices add a new level of sophistication not previously seen in this kind of home. Color plays a bigger role than one might think in the overall feel of a design. Often times, cooler colors can provide a more relaxing, calming effect, which is ideal as many mountain homes are used as secondary or vacation homes.

Some signature design elements that have been cherished as staple styles, such as plaid patterns, are still integrated into rooms but with a more modern, subdued twist. These classic

rustic pieces are used as accent pieces instead of focal points within mountain houses. Cleaner lines have replaced much of the heavy, carved furniture more commonly associated with homes in a ski resort or mountain regions. Bringing smaller-scale furnishings into a room creates a more timeless feel that will keep a home on-trend for longer. Not to say that a statement piece, such as a wood slab table, can't be incorporated. Even the iconic antler chandelier has gotten a modern upgrade and is being used to marry the old with the new in many mountain homes.

In this new era of modern mountain home design, homeowners and interior designers are acknowledging classic rustic components while embracing cleaner, contemporary trends. The blending of these two aesthetics is something that will breathe new life into these homes and elevate the already desirable lifestyle associated with mountain living.

All properties shown are listed for sale by LIV Sotheby's International Realty. To view our current listings, including an extensive portfolio of stunning resort homes, or to list your home for sale, visit [livsothebysrealty.com](http://livsothebysrealty.com) or call 303.893.3200.

*#thelifeyoulove*



Pictured: 926 Belleview Avenue Crested Butte, CO.



Pictured: 1800 Beard Creek Trail Edwards, CO.



Pictured: 33 Iron Mask Road Breckenridge, CO.



[livsothebysrealty.com](http://livsothebysrealty.com)  
303.893.3200

#### COLORADO LOCATIONS:

Beaver Creek   Boulder   Breckenridge   Castle Rock   Crested Butte   Cherry Creek   Denver Tech Center  
Downtown Denver   Dillon   Edwards   Evergreen   Telluride   Vail Valley   Winter Park



“The problem with winter sports is that  
- follow me closely here -  
they generally take place in winter.”  
— Dave Barry

# Baby It's Cold Outside

By Eric Elkins

We all have it — the one thing that warms us when winter settles in on Colorado. We asked some of our favorite locals to share their go-to winter warmers.



**Kendra Anderson, Owner of Bar Helix**

*My ultimate winter warmer is a hot toddy ... but not made with the traditional whisky. I prefer to use mezcal instead — that extra boost of smokiness is perfect for sipping on a chilly evening.*

**Kim DeVigil, Senior Director of Communications, Leprino Foods**

*We love to hit Jax Fish House in LoDo. Good oysters are tough to find. Their happy hour is a good time to sneak in. And we live in the foothills so we get out on the trails, even in the worst of weather. People can get on a trail just a short drive to Genesee or Evergreen, Golden, any town in the foothills. It doesn't take long to find yourself in complete silence on a trail in the foothills in the fresh snow.*



**Governor Jared Polis**

*My late-grandmother June's noodle kugel along with oven-roasted chestnuts.*



**Alan Gionet, Anchor, CBS4 This Morning**

*I like to be out in the cold. I grew up playing hockey and still prefer to play outside in the crisp air, even in the middle of a snowstorm. I'm almost always at Evergreen Lake on weekends. But getting to some other iconic spots will be on my list this year. Keystone has great skating. Breckenridge, Silverthorne. There's nothing better than searing cold air in the lungs. And Evergreen Lake is cheap. I pay less than 75 bucks for a yearly pass, but a one-day pass is less than \$10.*



**Adam Cayton-Holland, Comic/Writer, and winner of the Colorado Book Award for Best Non-Fiction for "Tragedy + Time"**

*Pho 95. Filet special. On a cold day? Nothing better. Warms you right down to your soul. Federal Boulevard is a treasure-trove culinarily, and there's plenty of great pho spots. Which is best is the subject of great debate. Pho 95 is my favorite. Hands down.*



**Liliana Myers, Head Pastry Chef at Safta Restaurant**

*My go-to warmer in the winter is a hot toddy. I love whisky and warm drinks. Arcana always has a really great hot toddy on the menu. I am not much of a skier but I love snowshoeing and I always make one for my treks. I also make a lot of soup in the winter. I work at Aspen Moon Farm in Hygiene in the summer and they pay me in their CSA. I always get overwhelmed by the amount of vegetables, so I make soups, curries, and stews and freeze them in pint containers. This way in the winter when I know it will be crazy at the restaurant, I can have a home-cooked meal without much effort. They always taste better in front of my fireplace with a good book.*





Lucy Beaugard

**Justin Brunson, Chef/Owner of Old Major, Masterpiece Deli, Culture Meat & Cheese, River Bear American Meats, Royal Rooster, Folsom Foods**  
*Sitting next to the fireplace at Thin Man on 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, drinking a glass of Buffalo Trace!*



**Jasper Schneider, Executive Chef at Ritz-Carlton, Bachelor Gulch**

*I like to warm up next to the fire in the Great Room of The Ritz-Carlton, Bachelor Gulch with a glass of Balvenie 12-year-old whisky, enjoying the views of the ski slopes and the live entertainment with my family.*



**Andrea Frizzi, Chef/Owner of Il Posto**

*My number one go-to in the winter is risotto funghi. It's so comforting — I always make it for myself and my staff on super-chilly days. I love vin brulé (mulled wine from the alpine region of Italy) when it is super cold and snowy! For a cozy spot, I love the way Finn's Manor bar feels during the winter night. And I have a Russian fur hat that I love to wear when I smoke cigars outside or when it snows; it is like a little baby bear embracing your head!*



Jeff Nelson

**Jeff Osaka, Chef/Owner of Pig & Chicken Hospitality (Osaka Ramen, Sushi-Rama, 12@Madison)**

*My family and I go to a place on South Federal called Tony Pho. The vegetables are always fresh, the broth isn't too sweet, and the service is friendly. Most of the time I'll get a bowl of pho with just brisket, it's cooked for a long time in the broth, which makes it so flavorful and tender.*



**Ryan Warner, Sr. Host of Colorado Matters from CPR News**

*My go-to warmer is a scarf. Well, not A scarf. I have two drawers of them. Striped and hounds-toothed and fringed and infinity and cotton and silk and on and on ...*



**Patrick Williams, National Beverage Director at Punch Bowl Social**

*Hot Buttered Rum! The classic rich, warming drink with two of my favorite ingredients — butter and rum. I make a batter with vanilla bean ice cream, ground baking spices (my addition), ground cardamom and Kerrygold butter. Add a scoop of that to hot black tea (preferred over hot water) and Pusser's British Navy Rum (super rich and caramelly) and you have the perfect winter warmer!*



**Josh Wolkon, owner of Secret Sauce Food & Beverage (Ace, Vesta, Steuben's)**

*It takes about 45 minutes in the chilly early morning to get to Belle's Cabin at the top of Blue Sky Basin (11,480 ft.) in Vail's legendary back bowls. I prefer a little winter warm-up with a steaming hot chocolate by the fire in this no-frills, rustic outpost to prepare for one of the freshest powdery runs of the day. The views are spectacular and if the sun is shining the outdoor grills are ideal for an on-mountain lunchtime BBQ.*



# SKI FEVER

## Resort Fun Facts

By Micah Ling

### Longshot, 5.3 miles

The Longshot at Snowmass Mountain is one of the longest ski runs in the United States. At 5.3 miles, it offers plenty of intermediate turns down the mountain.



### Galloping Goose, 4.6 miles

The 4.6-mile Galloping Goose is the longest run at Telluride Ski Resort. It's groomed daily and designated as beginner / intermediate.



### Riva Ridge, 4 miles

This 4-mile-long run is the longest, and oldest, at Vail, and was one of the original trails on the mountain. Even though it's long, this one is ranked as a black diamond.



Where are Colorado's longest runs?

Try these lesser-known Colorado mom-and-pop resorts

- Ski Cooper, Leadville
- Lake City Ski Hill, Lake City
- Howelsen Hill, Steamboat Springs
- Powderhorn, Grand Junction
- Kendall Mountain, Silverton



# Sit at the Bar

Eat,  
Drink,  
See and  
Be Seen

By **Gabby Gourmet**

Today's dining scene brings many choices, not only in food and service but also in ambience and vibe. Denver's dining scene has grown up over the past few years, and we're proud to feature some of the country's most highly hyped offerings. Even though relaxing in the restaurant dining room is a treat, one of the best ways to savor today's eating-out vibe is to grab a seat at the bar. So where to start? Here are two local options that have wonderful dining rooms *and* an awesome bar scene.



## **LE BILBOQUET**

299 St. Paul  
Denver, CO 80206  
303-835-9999  
[lebilboquetdenver.com](http://lebilboquetdenver.com)

### **The vibe**

Le Bilboquet, the latest opening in Cherry Creek, boasts a sensational atmosphere. This successful transplant from Manhattan has adapted to Denver style with lower prices, no dress code, and very friendly service. Surrounded by colorful velvet lounge chairs and sofa, a well-appointed dining room, and flowers that enhance the scene, this restaurant is inviting and lovely. And the bar is gorgeous, with florals and a mirrored backdrop of liquors, wines, and Rosé – the signature wine and owner's favorite.

### **The food**

The French-inspired menu offers many options. Along with beef tartar, Cajun chicken, steak frites, and duck confit, do not miss the shareable mussels, which arrive in a huge bowl, swimming in a white wine and butter sauce with diced tomatoes accented with crostini. Also not to be missed is the crabmeat salad, complemented by smashed avocado to create real yum. Curry chicken brochette also uses the smashed avocado, along with bright lime and cilantro. Both dishes have hints of spice to keep things, well, slightly spicy.

### **The drinks**

The signature French 75 features lavender syrup, while the Cajun Riviera combines mezcal, ginger, serrano pepper, Cajun spices, and ginger ale. And, get folded by their wicked Paper Plane. Rosés, many wines, and beer also are available.

Open daily for lunch and dinner, weekend brunch, and a terrific happy hour, grab that seat at the bar and watch the pretty people waiting to see and be seen. Dress up if you like, but casual works too. Le Bilboquet is one of the more sophisticated places in Denver, but by no means is it stuffy. Come early and stay late at this special bar or relax in the gorgeous dining room. Remember first come, first serve at the bar, but it's worth the wait.











## EL FIVE

2930 Umatilla Street  
Denver, CO 80211  
303-524-9193  
[elfivedenver.com](http://elfivedenver.com)

### The vibe

El Five is in the Highlands on the fifth floor of an office building. The vibe roars “This is not the Denver I was expecting!” An uninterrupted 360-degree view of the city is astonishing and totally Instagram-worthy. The décor features posters of celebrities popular in the middle east, emblazoned with descriptions in Egyptian. Dark glass-speckled mirrored ceilings, tile walls, and an open kitchen with seated prep kitchen add to the stunning ambience. Booths and tables throughout the dining room are surrounded by huge glass windows and a heated patio for even more spectacular viewing. The bar has its own area and it’s one of the most exciting lounge spots around. The Mediterranean décor continues with posters on the tile walls and filigree-covered shades that cast a soft glow. The back wall holds liquor while the center of the bar gives staff the chance to interact with guests. El Five gets a “10” for people watching – whatever your age.

### The food

The menu is a melting pot of all Mediterranean regions, labeled as Tapas De Gibraltar. Share appetizer platters, order from a selection of awesome small plates (tapas) or go for the signature paellas. Or combine them all. Don’t miss the med spread dish of peanut and charred carrot hummus, mohammara, Turkish eggplant, artichokes, and house-made pita. Crispy cauliflower yufka brings a chickpea crust filled with smashed cauliflower, while pinenuts, tahini, avocado Fattoush, and cumin aioli on the plate help create the most popular dish on the menu. Moroccan lamb sausage with hummus, fava beans, pea tendrils, and lemon mint are delish; and, matzo ball dumplings take this Chinese favorite food to new heights. The chicken bouillon, mirepoix, lemon olive oil, and dill in the broth accent the flavor of the “not for Passover” dumpling. Outrageous seafood paella brings mounds of crab, lobster, shrimp, mussels, and fish atop basmati rice. Mideastern spices used in the dishes offer great flavors without extreme heat.

### The drinks

A long list of specialty cocktails includes the Ray Donavon concocted with Johnnie Walker Black Label, Velbet Falermum (ginger, lime and almond syrup of Caribbean origin), and two dashes of Angostura bitters. Another favorite is the signature sangria with frozen fresh fruit and lots of booze, and yes, a high-flying Paper Plane. Add great wines with a focus on regions from the Mediterranean, beers, and a list of non-alcoholic offerings.

El Five is the most exciting restaurant in the area with its astonishing décor, incredible service, and unique elements. The crowds come early and late, young and old, people watching is unbelievable, and food appeals to all. El Five is open nightly for dinner and brunch on Sunday. No reservations at the bar, but do reserve for a table in the dining room. Delight in the experience at this most popular spot for locals and out-of-town visitors.



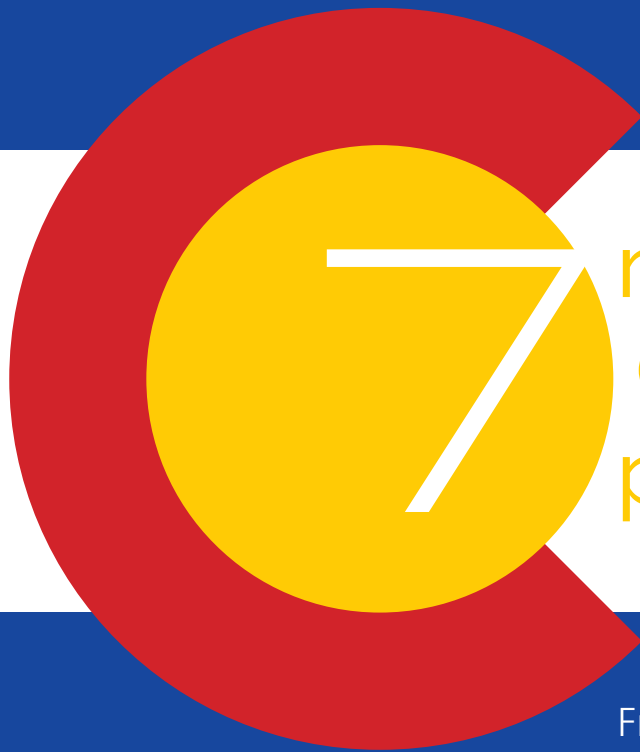
### For fun

Recipe: The Paper Plane – not the folded kind, but it will help you “fly”.

- 1.5 oz. amaro
- 1.5 oz. aperol
- 1.5 oz. bourbon
- 1.5 oz. fresh lemon juice

Shake well in a shaker with ice. Strain into two coupe glasses and take off!





# 7 must-try Colorado-born products

By **Shauna Farnell**

From snacks to sustainable shoes, there's no shortage of great items that pay tribute to Colorado's unique lifestyle.

When traveling, it's always fun to bring back a little something that serves as a lasting memento of your trip. Whether it's a gift for someone else or a treat for you, there is a bounty of innovative, useful and super-cool products from which to choose. Here are some of the centennial state's most-winning homegrown libations, fashion statements and snacks that make for one-of-a-kind gifts.



## Honey Stinger Organic waffles

Why gnaw on a cardboard bar with 87 ingredients when you can fuel up with a delicious, honey-filled waffle? Honey Stinger co-founder Bill Gamber Jr.'s grandparents were beekeepers and inventors of the honey bear bottle. Since its inception in 2001, the company continues to produce organic, tasty snacks – cracker and protein bars, gels, waffles and chews – with the common ingredient of honey, a natural energy source and anti-oxidant. The Holland stroop-style waffles, available in a variety of flavors and also gluten-free, are addictive.

[www.honeystinger.com](http://www.honeystinger.com)





### Saola sustainable shoes

Soft, comfortable, easy to slip on and off and unquestionably hip, you'd never guess these kicks were made from recycled plastic bottles. Other materials include organic cotton, natural cork and algae foam, the latter causing harm to lake and river ecosystems by releasing CO<sub>2</sub> into the air, but which can be reduced to powder and incredibly useful in the construction of outsoles. Saola was founded on the mission of preserving the planet through eco-design and wildlife preservation. Who knew that green footwear could look so good?

[www.saolashoes.com](http://www.saolashoes.com)

### Topo Designs accessory bag

This wallet-sized pouch is rendered from heavy-duty Cordura and nylon pack cloth material with industrial zippers that will never fail. Ideal for seamless access to credit cards, cash and coins, this bag, like all Topo Designs products, was inspired by outdoor living but suitable for travel across the globe. Launched in the Fort Collins basement of co-founder Jedd Rose, who made the early products himself on a sewing machine, the sweet look, endurance and obvious functionality of Topo Designs has taken off across North America.

[www.topodesigns.com](http://www.topodesigns.com)



### Headsweats trucker hat

Many of us separate our outdoor activity and going-out-on-the-town headwear, but there's no need for that with this variety of lids marked by super-cool graphics (pine trees, skulls, bikes, unicorns, Colorado logos ... the choice is tough). While artistically designed in the Boulder-based company's logolab (which also produces custom logos) to look and feel cool, but also to cover up a bad hair day or post workout 'do, the townie hat features Headsweats' famously light, sweat-wicking, performance-driven technology.

[www.headsweats.com](http://www.headsweats.com)







#### 10th Mountain bourbon

Created as an homage to the 10th Mountain Division soldiers who conducted their hearty mountain warfare training near Vail in the 1940s, 10th Mountain Whiskey & Spirit Company's bourbon has won numerous gold medals. Its charred oak-vanilla aroma alone will have you swooning before you take your first fiery-smooth sip.

[www.spirits.10thwhiskey.com](http://www.spirits.10thwhiskey.com)

#### Pakems women's Cortina – Brickell boots

Yes, these Pakems Cortina boots look cute, warm, rugged and water-proof. And they are indeed all of these things. What's truly amazing about them, however, is their ability to fold up into a small (included) bag that, unlike most winter wear, can easily fit into a backpack, suitcase, or, depending on how lightly you like to travel, the front of your jacket. Pakems founder Julie Adams was inspired to create the slipper-like footwear after lamenting her aching, ski boot-suffocated feet every afternoon during a European ski trip. You'll never want to take them off.

[www.pakems.com](http://www.pakems.com)



#### SYNC Performance stretch puffy

We all have that puffy jacket that's our go-to for heading outdoors on the most frigid days, but usually that jacket doesn't function well for skiing or aggressive winter activities. Enter the Sync Performance stretch puffy. Soft, stretchy and puncture-proof, this jacket was designed to keep ski racers warm yet pliant while bombing down the slopes at mach speed. It also doubles as a sporty, sleek outerwear option for wearing around town on the most blistering nights.

[www.syncperformance.com](http://www.syncperformance.com)



# Settle in and Stay

Colorado's hotel packages have it all

By Eric Elkins



Hotel Indigo

For as much fun as you can have wandering around downtown Denver or making the most of a mountain town, sometimes you just want to settle in and leave the outside world behind. And in many of Colorado's plush hotels, you don't have to brave the elements to find yourself a stellar meal or a mess of delicious cocktails, because everything you need is right there in the building with you.

## Station Staycations

For a fun urban escape, take the light rail to Union Station and stay at the Kimpton Hotel Born. Between the classic rooms with a modern touch, a staff that's dedicated to making sure you feel welcome and appreciated, and one of the best steak restaurants in the city, the hotel offers the perfect indulgence. Package your stay with a chef's counter dinner at Citizen Rail, with its steak aging room right there in the restaurant, and buckle up for a pampered experience you won't forget. Be sure to hit up Tavernetta next door for the best happy hour, including the perfect \$6 negroni.

For a true staycation experience, you can't go wrong at Hotel Indigo, a three-minute walk from Union Station.

Order up a whiskey flight at Hearth & Dram, known for its massive wall of spirits from all over the world, then "take the elevator home" to your room for the night. Be sure to wake up in time for Hearth & Dram's Rock 'n Roll brunch, a curated concert of delights designed by Chef Adam Vero.

Literally *in* Union Station is real estate pioneer and beloved developer Dana Crawford's namesake hotel. An oasis of calm in the bustling train and transportation station, with fun rooms spanning the entire building, you can up-scale your stay at The Crawford with the full Pullman-era experience in the elegant Cooper Lounge, yuck it up with the locals at Terminal Bar, or eat one of the best meals of your life at Mercantile (and of course eat oysters and the best burger in Denver at Stoic & Genuine). For a true local experience, get in on the Family Jones Spirit House Tour & Tasting package, where you ride in the Crawford's own Tesla to the nearby LoHi neighborhood and tour the Family Jones Spirit House, a local distillery. You'll get to taste all seven of their signature spirits and head back to the hotel with your personal bottle of their special edition Crawford Rock & Rye Cocktail.





The Maven Hotel

## Downtown Delights

For real historic charm, make a reso at The Oxford Hotel and book the Relax and Romance package, where you'll be welcomed with sparkling wine and house-made chocolates before you walk down to the Oxford Club — an in-house health club, spa, and salon for the services of your choice. Also downstairs, the historic Cruise Room is known for its martinis and bar fare.

And as much fun as a romantic urban staycation can be, The Maven Hotel at Dairy Block knows that bringing the kids along can have its own charms. That's why they've launched their Urban Glamping package, which includes, get this, an in-room tent for the kids in their guestroom, hot cocoa, and a customized Maven flannel picnic blanket to keep. The best thing about the hotel (besides truly stunning art on every floor and in every room) is easy access to Poka Lola Social Club, a lively bar with inventive cocktails. Gather the kids in the lobby to play board games while you sip your drinks, and of course grab a snack from Chef Frank Bonanno's Denver Milk Market. You won't feel much reason to leave the cozy mini-district, with so many restaurants and shops lining the alleyway behind the hotel.

Right in the heart of Denver's theatre district is Hotel Teatro, in the Tramway Building, a national registered landmark. The structure may be old, but the rooms aren't fussy or dated. Spoil yourself and a guest with the Teatro package, a celebration of their 20-year anniversary, with a bottle of Bouvet Rose and accoutrements for an indulgent bubble bath. Their charcuterie concierge will assemble the perfect in-room board of meats and cheeses from The Nickel restaurant downstairs. I highly recommend you order a couple of their barrel-aged boulevardier cocktails as an accompaniment.

Just across from Hotel Teatro is the Four Seasons Denver, which is a very different experience from the vintage boutique inn. Time your visit to coincide with one of Opera Colorado's performances and opt into their "A Night at the Opera" package, which doesn't include tickets to a show but does feature champagne during intermission in the Chambers Grant Donor Lounge at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House. You also get a credit at EDGE Restaurant downstairs, which means tasty bites before the performance or something sweet at the end of the evening. Live in-state? Check out the Colorado residents' package.



Four Seasons Hotel





Ritz-Carlton Bachelor Guch





## River North Nights

The Source Hotel, home to several delicious restaurants, including the epic Safta, which is owned by award-winning chef Alon Shaya, is just outside downtown on the edge of the RiNo Art District. The A Line from the airport stops just a short walk (or free shuttle ride) to the hotel, and when you get there, you're immediately greeted with a beer from the in-house New Belgium Brewery. The Artisan Market Hall in the lobby hosts an eclectic mix of goods and snacks. Their Avant Ski package includes dinner for two at The Woods, a stunning rooftop restaurant with views of the city and mountains (and a couple of hearty fireplaces), and even a canister of oxygen in the room in case you're feeling a little woozy from all the altitude. Be sure to grab brunch at Safta before you check out.

Also in RiNo is The Ramble, which feels like a modern take on an old west hotel. New York's legendary Death & Co has posted up in the lobby, with massive chandeliers and Old World charm, while Chef Dana Rodriguez's Super Mega Bien restaurant delivers on the promise of Latin-inspired dim sum.

The super-cool thing about The Guild, which hosts collections of condo rooms around the city, is that you can pay to have them fill your fridge in advance. The rooms are spacious and homey, with stylish furniture and full kitchens. Once you settle in, take a bath in a giant tub, wrap yourself in a plush robe so you can eat a bowl of local ice cream on the couch, and you'll realize you never want to leave.

Want to spoil yourself with an upscale experience in Denver's most-exclusive shopping district? Stay at the Jacquard Hotel & Rooftop, the newest hotel in the neighborhood, and reserve their In Vogue Vacation package. With 200-plus retailers nearby (and more than two-thirds independently owned and operated), you'll be happy for the included \$100 gift card. Start your shopping staycation right with a bottle of Veuve at check-in, and tool around the area in a Tesla Model X.

The Origin Hotel has its own unique experience, just a short shuttle ride away from the legendary Red Rocks Amphitheatre in the foothills. The mashup of a western and rock 'n roll vibe carries through the hotel, with memorabilia and décor that feel both modern and vintage. During concert season, packages include tickets to a show and a shuttle up to the historic venue, but wintertime brings its own charms, like a walk up to Dinosaur Ridge or just a warm afternoon of drinking and dining at the in-house restaurant, Nomad Taqueria + Beer Garden.

The Source Hotel

## Mountain Mayhem

Up in them thar hills, you can find more to do than ski and snowboard! The historic Hotel Colorado (which opened in 1893) is an après paradise in Glenwood Springs. With their Ski Swim Stay package, you get lift tickets and a free shuttle to nearby Sunlight Mountain Resort, and then much-needed recovery in the world-renowned (and all-natural) Glenwood Hot Springs at the foot of the hotel.

You can read more about Gravity Haus elsewhere in this issue, but if you want the full snow and social experience, with a side of elegance and fun in Breckenridge, this brand-new "campus" is the place to stay.

Drive past Vail and up to Beaver Creek to stay at the Ritz-Carlton Bachelor Gulch for ski-in, ski-out lodging and chef-driven sushi from their new restaurant, Sakaba. As you'd expect, a stay at the Ritz-Carlton is a truly indulgent, luxe experience. The ski valets have your equipment ready to go on the mountainside every morning and give it the necessary TLC at the end of every day. And talk about après — from the 21,000-square-foot spa to the multiple bars with both indoor and outdoor seating, to the kid-friendly s'mores, your body will thank you after a full day on the mountain. Don't forget to make a reso for dinner at WYLD, for some of Executive Chef Jasper Schneider's seasonal dishes.

And no rundown of epic staycations would be complete without including The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, which just celebrated 100 years in business last year, with its very own ski hill, golf course and spa, lakes, plenty of onsite restaurants, and plush rooms all in one place. You can experience the resort's classic alpine charm without having to drive up to the mountains, and the beauty of the place is only surpassed by the level of service you can expect from the moment you arrive. A range of packages, from romantic to family-friendly to adventurous, will suit just about any mood you're in.

Whether you just need a fun place to stay or are looking to cocoon for a weekend, Colorado's hotel packages are sure to make you feel right at home.

CT





EXPLORE





# Down in the



## The Denver Tech Center is now a Mile High hangout

By **Monica Parpal Stockbridge**

**M**

y first “real” job was in the Denver Tech Center. I worked for a startup in one of three bland office buildings in the heart of the city’s technology hub. At the time, I was thrilled. Never mind the dearth of cool restaurants or bars. I was making my way in the working world! My father worked for a large corporation headquartered in the Tech Center, just on the other side of the highway. My uncle worked for an e-commerce giant a few buildings over. Today, my husband still commutes to his office in the DTC.

This synthesis of startup ventures and colossal corporations seemed to define this pocket of Southeast Denver for years. Designed in the ‘70s, the Denver Tech Center has grown from 40 acres to more than 800 acres. Companies like Great-West Life, Arrow Electronics, Comcast and Zoom Video Communications now call the DTC home. And while for the longest time it seemed that all the trendy new restaurants and homegrown hangouts were in LoDo or RiNo, that mindset is changing.

These days, the DTC has earned a stake in the mile high social scene. The area is busier than ever, with local residents and even curious city dwellers coming in for a comedy show, sushi dinner or craft night. There are independent restaurants, award-winning shops and salons, and one of the city’s best concert venues.

In truth, it’s a momentum that has been building for years. Perhaps the DTC was previously overshadowed by Denver’s constant bustle. And, sure, the Tech Center’s reputation as a technology and trade hub wasn’t always synonymous with good food and hospitality. But the DTC has quietly carved out a name for itself. To me, it feels both nostalgic and exciting. I can’t wait to see how it continues to evolve.





## Where to Stay

There's no shortage of hotels in the area. A cluster of options at the junction of I-25 and I-225 include a **Hilton Garden Inn**, **Hampton Inn**, **Denver Marriott Tech Center** and the **Hyatt Regency DTC**, all within easy access of Denver International Airport and the light rail at Belleview Station, and close to several locally owned restaurants, bars and entertainment venues.

Of note is the **Hyatt Regency DTC**, which in 2019 completed a multi-million dollar renovation on its guestrooms, lobby and public spaces. All 451 guestrooms are designed for both working professionals and leisure travelers. Business travelers can upgrade to enjoy perks like complimentary breakfast, newspaper, and a freshly pressed shirt each day. With two Presidential Suites, two VIP Suites, five Studio Suites and three Hospitality Suites, guests can find ideal spaces for small meetings and dinner parties.

The hotel features 30,000 square feet of renovated meeting space, including the grand glass atrium, ballrooms and boardrooms, flexible conference rooms and the Highlands Amphitheater, complete with high-tech audiovisual equipment and Wi-Fi. In 2018, the hotel also redesigned its signature meeting space, the 12th floor Centennial Ballroom, with views of downtown Denver and mountains in the distance.

The space is one of a kind, says Soham Bhattacharyya, general manager. "The city's light rail is conveniently located right behind the hotel, making a commute to downtown and the nearby suburbs very easy for both our leisure and business travelers. We have seen an increasing number of families choosing to stay in the Denver Tech Center area while they visit great skiing destinations like Keystone, Beaver Creek, Vail and Breckenridge because of its convenient proximity from the hotel." Bhattacharyya notes that many prefer to stay away from the bustling traffic of downtown Denver.

Perhaps the most pleasantly surprising features are the updated onsite dining areas, including Root25 Taphouse & Kitchen. With an emphasis on seasonal ingredients, Root25 is a contemporary space with an inviting atmosphere and lively bar highlighting Colorado beers and spirits. A new dinner menu launches this month. In the morning and afternoon, guests can grab Starbucks coffee, breakfast sandwiches, and chef-prepared salads from the Perks Coffee & Go in the lobby.

"Over the years, the Denver Tech Center area has seen a significant boom in dining options," Bhattacharyya says, and many are within one or two miles of the hotel.





courtesy of Sushi-Rama

## Where to Eat

What used to be a land of primarily chain restaurants has begun to transform into a mini-Denver dining destination for local eats. **Snooze, an A.M. Eatery** is one independent restaurant that has taken up residency in the Tech Center.

“We saw it as an opportunity to bring our breakfast experience to a part of town we felt needed this energy,” says CMO Andrew Jaffe regarding the decision to open a location in the DTC. The breakfast icon serves breakfast, brunch, and lunch from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. daily. “We are thrilled to be a part of this neighborhood, serving creative spins on classic brunch options for professionals in the area, as well as families right outside of DTC,” Jaffe says.

The plant-based Makin’ it Grain Bowl has been a popular item, which includes farro and black rice topped with cage-free eggs, avocado, watermelon radishes, and black sesame seeds.

Another relative newcomer to the area is **Sushi-Rama**, a whimsical fast-casual sushi destination where diners choose their dishes from the signature conveyor belt, which brings fresh rolls straight from the kitchen. “I think the dining scene down here has grown (up) quite quickly,” says Chef/Owner Jeff Osaka. For business guests with limited time to sit and dine, the restaurant’s Rama boxes are popular takeaway options.

Osaka also calls attention to other Denver restaurants that have chosen to make their “second home” in the DTC; restaurants like **Los Chingones**, offering guests elevated tacos and a hip atmosphere, and **Tap and Burger DTC**, a modern sports bar with plenty of TVs and craft beer. Also nearby, **Ambli Global** serves an eclectic menu of shareable global cuisine in a warm, hospitable setting.



courtesy of Sushi-Rama



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## Entertainment in the DTC

### See a show

There are several tried-and-true entertainment opportunities in the DTC area, and the best-known is **Fiddler's Green Amphitheater**. The 17,000-seat amphitheater was originally commissioned over 35 years ago as a large-scale sculptural venue designed to host community festivals and symphonies. Today, musicians like Foo Fighters and Mumford and Sons bring throngs of people to sold-out shows.

### Laugh out loud

Another local entertainment venue, **Comedy Works**, first opened on Larimer Square and opened a second Comedy Works South at the Landmark in 2008. Comedy Works draws hardy crowds for evening comedy, featuring both national talent as well as local up-and-comers.

### Make a craft

Bring a date or a group of friends to **Upstairs Circus DTC** for a DIY craft night. Each guest gets to choose from the many guided projects available, from leather-working to wall art. Enjoy cocktails or craft beer and wine while you create. Reserve your spot during happy hour (Tuesday through Friday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.) for discounts on both drinks and projects.

"We started the Ambli concept six years ago in a strip mall east of Cherry Creek," says co-owner Kelly Morrison. She and co-owner Pariza Mehta opened Ambli Global at Bellevue Station in Oct 2017. "We are owned and operated by two females and a very talented chef who brings heart and soul every day. We feel Ambli brings a warmth that is unlike any other restaurant in Denver." One of Ambli's signature dishes is Kuku Paka, a coconut curry chicken dish currently available only at the Bellevue Station location.

For a slightly more upscale dining opportunity — think business lunches and client dinners — **Ocean Prime** and **Del Frisco's Double Eagle Steakhouse** fit the bill. Another newcomer to the fine-dining scene is **Le French**, owned and operated by two French-born sisters and longtime Denver residents who wanted to bring a taste of Paris to metro Denver.

When you're looking to bring a bottle of something to your hotel room or pack a liquid souvenir for your trip to the mountains, head over to the recently opened **Molly's Spirits** in Greenwood Village. While the original Molly's still resides on the north side of Denver, this second location brings its signature selection to the south side of DTC on Arapahoe Road, with an emphasis on Colorado spirits, wine and beer.

"The DTC is a very affluent area of Colorado that also has a high concentration of office-based businesses," says Molly's Spirits CEO, Rufus Nagel, who plans to serve a higher-end wine selection in the new DTC location.

"We want to create a hands-on experience to help shoppers find their next favorite drink," he says. Molly's will host unique tastings, special events, and release parties with beverage purveyors from Colorado and around the world.

CT



CHECKING IN

# This Haus Rules

The newest  
lodging in  
Breckenridge  
is more than  
a hotel





By **Eric Elkins**

“It’s a direct reflection of how we eat, how we play, and how we live.”

For Gravity Haus founder and owner Jim Deters, merely opening a gorgeous hotel at the foot of Peak 9 in Breckenridge wasn’t going to be enough. “It’s not just a boutique hotel, it’s a full community asset,” he tells me.

We’re sitting at Unravel coffee shop in Denver, a stylish spot Deters just happens to own, and he’s showing me photos and plans on his phone, ridiculously excited about what his team is bringing to the funky cool ski town in Summit County, Colorado.

“It’s community-inspired first,” he says. “We call it a campus, not a hotel. Everything else out there now is either super fancy and expensive or corporate-y crap. We asked ourselves, where’s the authentic thing? How can you seamlessly move from work to play to activities — a sort of choose your own adventure, where Mom, Dad, and the kids can all do things and be happy?”

At Gravity Haus Breckenridge, the first of several ski town locations, choosing your own adventure is just the beginning. The 60-room epicenter of mountain experiences is just 30 feet from Main Street, with its many shops, bars, and fun restaurants, and 30 feet from the Quicksilver Super 6 lift, which takes you right up to Peak Nine.

But with so much going on inside the hotel, you may never want to leave.

“The lobby is mountain modern with soft, comfortable touches to make you feel cozy and at home,” Deters says. Not only can you settle in alongside a massive fireplace for caffeine-fueled beverages at the new Unravel, but you can also drift downstairs to the après bar for a low-ABV cocktail made up from fresh juices. Speaking of juice, Cabin Juice is the hotel restaurant designed by acclaimed restaurateur Bryan Dayton (Oak on 14<sup>th</sup>, Acorn, Brider, Corrida) and the Breck Haus culinary team. Casually refined family-style dishes by Gravity Haus’ Executive Chef, Salvatore Proia, are simple and delicious, and just the thing to help you recover after a day on the slopes.

In fact, the hotel is as much about enjoying your time on the mountain as it is about recovery afterward.





With the Japanese-style onsen baths overlooking the Blue River and a Dryland Sports functional sports and recovery gym in the building, your post-downhill evenings can be spent soaking, sipping, or stretching. Get yourself some time in the hyperbaric chamber or work with the pros at the gym to give your muscles the help they need before another day on the hill. Too much effort? Check your ski equipment at the hotel and plop yourself down at Cabin Juice to share your exploits with the other enthusiasts who are still shaking the snow off their boots.

“Where do you go to share your stories after you throw off your gear and start warming?” Deters asks. He envisions people sitting around at midnight, so enamored by the vibe that they still have their ski boots on.

Maybe you need to knock out some emails or finish up a proposal before you get out on the slopes. Not a problem, because StarterHaus is a coworking space right on the river, with a 12-person conference room and fiber-fueled internet. Work, take a meeting, drink an Unravel flat white, and grind out some work before you grind a rail in Breckenridge’s terrain park.

Rather watch snowbound stunts than do them yourself? Gravity Haus has a MaxAir supertramp in the backyard, where pro skiers and snowboarders practice their big air exploits before taking them to the mountain.

With whimsical names like Powder Hound, Gnarnia, and Crash Pad, the hotel rooms themselves are part of the experience.

“They’re designed for families, teams, groups, buddies, corporate retreats,” Deters says, showing me floor-plans of the array of arrangements. With hostel-style lodging that includes shared common area and keyed individual spaces, 10-person bunk rooms with queen bunks and a living room, family friendly configurations like a king bed and attached bunk room for the kids, you’ll find the right setup for your crew.

### Membership means more

And Gravity Haus extends beyond the hotel in Breckenridge. It’s “a social club for the modern adventurer.” You can join the club for additional annual benefits, including free use of Dryland in Denver and in the hotel (including small group classes, the spa and onsen tubs, seasonal storage), unlimited coworking, access to back-country gear if you’re going out with a guide, member discounts at the hotel and even members-only events and travel experiences.

“The best places I’ve stayed were not the most fancy, but they anticipated my needs before I thought of them,” Deters says when talking about his vision for his new series of lodges. “We’re in the experience business, not the hotel business.”

He pauses for a second, looking back at a photo on his phone. “If there was ever a hotel for front range families, we built it.”

*Ready to see for yourself? Go to [gravityhaus.com](http://gravityhaus.com) for more info and reservations.*





EXPLORE


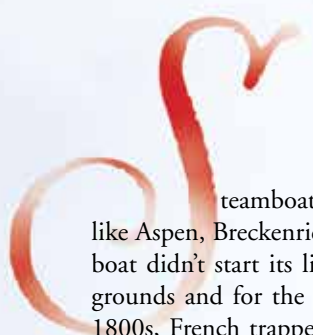
# Winter Wonderland

## Discovering Steamboat Springs

By Rebecca Treon







Steamboat Springs is different from other mountain towns in ski country. Unlike Aspen, Breckenridge, Telluride, and most of Colorado's other ski resort towns, Steamboat didn't start its life as a mining town. The Ute tribe used it as its summer hunting grounds and for the area's mineral hot springs for physical and spiritual therapy. In the 1800s, French trappers dubbed it Steamboat Springs after they mistakenly thought they heard the sound of a chugging steam engine, when in fact it was the sound being made by a bubbling natural spring.

The first homestead was built there in 1874 and by 1884, the area was an official townsite. By 1885 it had five more families, a newspaper called the *Steamboat Pilot* (which is still being published), and a sawmill. By 1900, there were hotels, banks, general stores, butchers, and a utility service company. When the railroad arrived in 1909, the ranchers of the valley turned Steamboat into one of the West's largest cattle shipping centers. The railroad also brought tourists, who came for the hot springs, scenery, and by 1910, skiing. *Fun fact: Steamboat has the most Olympians of any North American ski town: 96 and counting!*

Today, Steamboat Springs is a blend of ski boots and cowboy hats — a ski town with a rancher's soul. The valley is still home to some 400 operating ranches raising everything from Texas longhorn cattle to sheep and horses. Visitors can get a true feel of the region watching the sun setting over sweeping wide-open spaces and picturesque mountains conjuring a scene in a spaghetti Western. There are ranch tours and equestrian events, the Tread of the Pioneers Museum which chronicles Steamboat's history, Cowboy Round-Up Days (celebrating the town's heritage on Independence Day), the Steamboat Springs Pro Rodeo Series, and a weekly farmers market during the summer months.

Because of the vast swathes of land that remained undeveloped and instead were used for ranching, Steamboat evolved differently than many ski towns — meaning it has been able to remain a hidden gem of sorts, a town that until recently was a trifle undiscovered. It's less glitzy than its counterparts off the I-70 corridor, and that's a good thing. Steamboat boasts being in touch with the authentic mountain lifestyle.



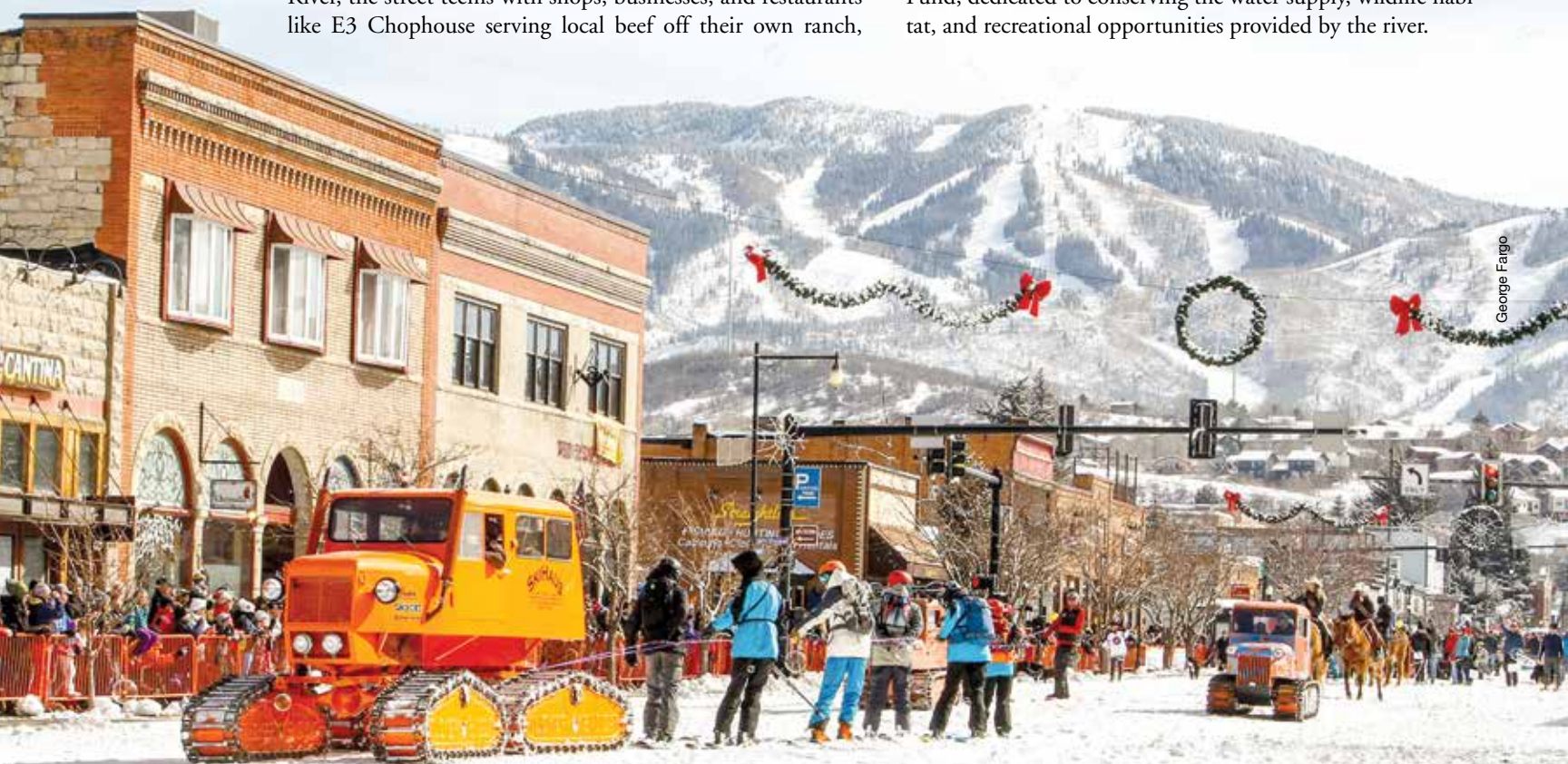
During ski season in Steamboat, there's no better place to be than on the slopes. There are 2,965 skiable acres and the longest run is three miles long. Steamboat is known for its incredible snow -- so much so that the area patented the term 'Champagne Powder' (there were 46 powder days last season, which is a pretty solid number). This season, Steamboat Ski Resort unveiled a new ski gondola, the Doppelmayr, which replaces a 30-year-old lift and gets skiers up the mountain 38-percent faster. One thing not to miss: TacoBeast is the mountain's roving Snowcat-turned-street taco truck, serving elk chorizo and beef barbacoa-stuffed tortillas with an ice-cold tall boy of Pacifico. The resort also brought a sustainability director on board for the first time. While the resort has always kept sustainability at the forefront, Sarah Jones' designated role will plan and implement new ways to be energy efficient, manage waste, and conserve water to keep Steamboat's ski mountain available for generations to come.



David Epperson

Lincoln Avenue has traditionally been regarded as Steamboat's 'Main Street,' where you can find places like Lyon Drug, an old-school soda fountain, diner and pharmacy. Check out F.M. Light & Sons, a western wear store that has been in business since 1905. Venture off Lincoln Avenue to explore Yampa Street, a newly developed entertainment district being touted as the 'new heart of Steamboat.' Running alongside the Yampa River, the street teems with shops, businesses, and restaurants like E3 Chophouse serving local beef off their own ranch,

609 Yampa featuring comfort food in a great location, Aurum Food & Wine featuring legendary seasonal fine dining, and other spots like a New Orleans-style food, barbecue, tacos, and a taproom/brewery. Yampa Street offers plenty of river access for fishing, tubing, or kayaking in the summer. The Yampa River is at the heart of Steamboat Springs, and Steamboat Ski Resort has donated half-a-million dollars to the Yampa River Fund, dedicated to conserving the water supply, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities provided by the river.



George Fargo





Alpine Mountain Ranch & Club

Those who want to get in on the Steamboat dream can look at properties like Alpine Mountain Ranch & Club, a 1,200-acre combination land preservation and homeowner community that offers a unique approach to development. The ranch offers access to the adjacent Steamboat Ski Resort, a 1.5-mile stretch of private property along the Yampa River that's ideal for fishing (or cast into the onsite stocked fishing pond), five miles of trails for hiking or equestrian use, and a luxury equestrian facility with a community barn. Best of all, 900 acres of the property is dedicated to wildlife preservation and will never be developed. Each of the 63, five-acre homesites backs onto preserve space, where wildlife sighting is a regular occurrence. Along with the private homes are a backcountry retreat, an Owners' lodge and two guest houses. They have a partnership with One Steamboat Place, whose luxury amenities include a spa, ski-in, ski-out access, and a private members' lounge. The homes are custom-built and designed to the owner's preferences with a mountain contemporary aesthetic (think natural light streaming from floor-to-ceiling windows, integrated indoor-outdoor spaces, and energy efficiency).

Steamboat offers countless year-round outdoor recreation opportunities, from ski jumping, tubing, the Winter Festival and the Bridgestone Driving School in the winter to fishing, water sports, horseback riding, hiking and mountain biking in the summer. But don't forget the hot springs! Old Town Hot Springs is a rec-center style pool with waterslides, a fitness center, a climbing wall, and in the summer, a pool deck, cabana rentals and an obstacle course that is a great family-friendly place to spend the day. Strawberry Park Hot Springs, a series of hot springs-fed pools at different temperatures., can be accessed through a hiking trail or by a car that can do well on back roads. The hot springs has lodging, massage, changing and picnic areas and is clothing-optional after dark. A soak in therapeutic hot water is the perfect way to unwind after a day filled with Steamboat Adventure.

Steamboat Springs isn't Aspen or Park City, Tahoe or Whistler — it's an authentic mountain town that's one of Colorado's (almost) undiscovered gems.











# Lindsey Vonn

finding new fast track(s) since retiring from racing

America's No. 1 skier of all time is  
jetsetting, enterprising and engaged

By **Shauna Farnell**

Lindsey Vonn has kept herself plenty busy since retiring from ski racing. The 35-year-old has launched new clothing collections, a beauty line, written a memoir, starred in an HBO documentary, led children's camps and has walked countless red carpets. Oh yes, she's also engaged.

Having put her Vail home on the market and relocated to New Jersey with fiancé and NHL star P.K. Subban, Vonn is still coming to terms with the reality of ending her ski career. After all, this marks her first winter since childhood in which skiing is not a major agenda item.

When asked whether it feels like five minutes or a lifetime ago that she was rocketing down icy racetracks, Vonn said, "it's kind of both."

"It's a bit weird to not be on the snow at this time, but it feels natural. It feels good to be in a different routine," she said during a November phone interview. "I feel like so many times at this point in the season, I'm injured. I'm not injured right now, so that's a very good thing."





Reusch Spies



## The bittersweet goodbye

Over her final 14 years of racing, Vonn did not go a single season without injury. She suffered multiple knee ligament tears and fractures, a broken ankle, broken arm, torn tendons and multiple concussions.

Her final race – the 2019 World Championship downhill last February – transpired in dramatic fashion.

After starting her farewell season with a training crash at Copper Mountain that resulted in nerve damage and a torn LCL in her left knee, Vonn spent several months furiously pursuing another familiar but unwitting pastime: rehabilitation. She competed in only three races leading up to the World Championships and, as documented in HBO's *Lindsey Vonn: The Final Season*, suffered great pain with every turn. Thus came her decision to end her decorated career before planned, making the 2019 World Championship performance her last.

In her second-to-final race – the World Championship super G – Vonn suffered yet another crash. Then, exhibiting the super-human resilience that characterized her race career, the freshly battered Vonn nonetheless entered the downhill five days later.

Under such odds – having barely raced all season, with a missing ligament in one leg and biting pain with every bump – simply making it to the finish line was a struggle. But Vonn made it there in typical form ... fast enough to win a medal.

The bronze she earned was added to her trophy collection, which totals eight World Championship medals alongside three Olympic medals and 20 World Cup globes, including four overall titles. Vonn wrapped up her career with 82 World Cup wins, the most of any female alpine skier ever and just five short of the all-time record held by Sweden's Ingemar Stenmark, a record that Vonn had hoped to beat as her swan song, her grand finale on-snow achievement.

"I didn't want to retire," Vonn said nearly a year later. "I wanted to break the record."

Vonn wrapped up the end of last winter with what she hopes is the absolute final surgery of her life – repairing her LCL and relieving nerve pain in her left leg.

## A break from the slopes to make way for business

Skiing, Vonn's lifelong passion and what she has described as her "only rock" during her toughest personal experiences – bouts of loneliness, depression and a divorce from ex-husband Thomas Vonn -- is something from which Vonn now wants to distance herself ... at least for one winter.

"I don't think I'll be skiing much this year. I'm not ready for it yet," she said. "The wound is too raw, too fresh, too open. I feel like right now every time I think about skiing, I think about pain ... emotional pain and physical, too. Emotionally, I'm not ready for it yet."

Thus, Vonn is pouring her energy into other endeavors. She's a global ambassador for her buddy Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson's Project Rock Collection with Under Armour, released a new sportswear line with long-time ski sponsor Head, has a forthcoming beauty line in the works as well as a memoir – *Rise: My Story*. She said the standout experience (so far) of her retirement was getting engaged last August to P.K. Subban, a 30-year-old, Canadian-born NHL star who currently plays for The New Jersey Devils.

## Sunny horizons

"Starting this next chapter in my life with him by my side has been huge for me," she said. "Knowing my future is with him and is bright makes me happy. He's been really good to me. He believes in me as a person. He doesn't care if I'm a skier or a businesswoman. He loves me for me, which makes me feel more confident with myself."

Vonn has tentative plans for a nuptial date some time in 2020.

"I'm working on it," she said. "I'm in the process of hiring a wedding planner. With P.K.'s schedule and because we have a big family and are trying to find a good location, I have

nothing solidified yet. It'll probably be when he's in his off-season. We definitely want to get married sooner rather than later. I want to do it someplace warm."

Having spent much of her life freezing in a lightweight speed suit at high elevations, Vonn is spending as much of her free time as possible in warmer climates. As anyone who follows her on Instagram already knows, she has not lapsed whatsoever in her workout regimen, regularly photographed performing precarious-looking balancing acts and hoisting what appears to be twice her body weight. Having also sold her home in Los Angeles, Vonn has continued to spend plenty of time there (e.g., her many red carpet appearances, including hanging out with The Jonas Brothers, John Mayer and the *Charlie's Angels* cast) and signs up for a suffer session with celebrity personal trainer Gunnar Peterson at every opportunity.

"Every time I go back to L.A., I've got to get a workout session in with Gunnar," she said. "It's hard to find the motivation to get into the gym these days. I work with some trainers in New Jersey, too. I'm trying to keep after it."

It seems that nearly every week since her retirement Vonn is making some sort of celebrity or swanky brand appearance somewhere in the world, be it for Land Rover, Rolex or ... attending an orchestra with the king and queen of Spain.

"I feel it's been a lot more travel, definitely," she said. "When I was skiing, I always had to control my schedule. I obviously had to train – there was so much I had to think about – but now I can travel as much as I want or as much as my schedule allows. I'm bad at saying no, so I'm probably traveling more than I should, but I like working so ... there's an upside and a downside."



## Giving back

Ranking among the major upsides of retirement is Vonn's ramped-up role with her charity, the Lindsey Vonn Foundation. Launched in 2014, the Foundation is aimed at empowering young girls in their passions through confidence-building camps and by supplying scholarships toward the young recipients' chosen sport or activity. In the last two years, the Foundation has awarded more than 100 girls across the country with more than \$315,000 in scholarships. Vonn has attended every single camp (called Strong Girls Camps and free to the first hundred or so 11-to-14-year-old girls who register) and says that empowering children continues to rank among her life's most-f fulfilling endeavors.

"I was all in," she said, reminiscing back to last summer's camps in Baltimore and New York, during which she allowed the young attendees to tattoo her arm. "I had permanent marker all over my arm for a few days."

Along with her younger sister, Laura Kildow, who runs the Foundation, Vonn aims to add more camps and do her part in providing transformative experiences to the young women who attend.

"I always wanted to be at every camp, but we only had one camp a year specifically because I was never able to attend," Vonn said. "I want to be very involved. We're going to try to do as many as we can now. I want to do stops in certain places annually ... that's my next goal."

## Her glowing influence

A person needs only to glimpse photos from the Strong Girls Camps – the glowing faces of attendees laughing with Vonn – to guess at the positive energy being exchanged.

"There are a lot of instances of individual connections," Vonn said. "There was a girl in one of my camps who was a cutter. She was depressed and she'd cut herself. She said that I turned her life around. This was the turning point for her. It started a chain reaction. The cutting stopped. I'm so thankful I was able to be there for her, to be that hope and inspiration. To know that I don't just inspire kids, but I actually change their lives is unbelievable and rewarding. Everyone out there has their own story. Everyone has their own obstacles."

Like so many of the kids involved in the Foundation, Vonn has kept in touch with the girl in question.

"We texted a lot. I saw her after that, several months later. She's so much happier now. It's amazing to see that transformative change. It's an emotional change for me, too," Vonn said.

The cornerstone of Vonn's close connection with the Foundation girls likely stems from her approachability and sincere presence.

"No one's perfect. I'm definitely far from perfect," she said. "That's what I always tell the girls ... that everyone comes in different shapes and sizes. It's just whether you believe in yourself. If you don't believe in yourself, nobody is going to believe in you. I try to deliver that message and make them see their potential."

Vonn's approach harkens back to being on the flipside of such wisdom, when she encountered her hero, fellow American ski racer Picabo Street, as a young girl. Street left an unforgettable impression, imparting a ray of light that ended up illuminating Vonn's career path.

"That's what Picabo did for me and the premise of my Foundation ... being able to connect with kids in powerful, meaningful, empowering ways," she said.

Now that Vonn is venturing into uncharted territory herself, she is trying to take her own advice to heart.

"At the Foundation, we're making an impact one girl at a time. Also, I think being able to be a businesswoman and prove to myself that I'm more than a skier, that's been really impactful to me personally as to who I am and what I'm capable of. I didn't have a traditional education and I'm really self-conscious about whether I'm smart enough to be doing these things. But the work I'm doing so far really makes me feel I belong. That's been very empowering for me."











Orange Photography

### Lasting impressions

Now that she's put some distance between herself and her ski career, Vonn has new perspective on the impact she made as an athlete and teammate.

"Sometimes I feel I've driven in the last six years to be a leader, but you don't always know if you made an impact," she said. "It makes me feel good, the comments I get from people. It's very validating. I guess it's better than I could have thought. As a team, we always pushed each other and grew together and were injured together. We've been through a lot as a team, as women. It's hard to not be around them all the time. I was around them more than I was around my family for most of my life."

Although she is no longer a Colorado resident, Vonn still has family here, including her brother and father in Vail, and said her time on the slopes is not behind her forever.

"My dad still lives there and I can always stay with him when I come. It's not like I'm not going to be in Colorado ever. I'm still part of the community. Once I move past my skiing career and can actually ski for fun, I'm going to go out there and ski with my dad and brother. I look forward to that."

CT



# Welcome to the Ski(n) Season

## The beginner's guide to skinning

by Micah Ling

### Going Up!

The earn-your-turns culture is growing in Colorado, and this season more resorts than ever are offering various deals to those who want to skip the lift line and power up the hill on their own energy.

For the early birds, many resorts offer pre-dawn skinning access, and what's better than sunrise from the top of a mountain? Some also offer specific routes or have designated guidelines about how to gain uphill access all day long. Always check out websites and talk to guest services before you head up the mountain, so that you have the safest and most updated information.







Arapahoe Basin

### What do you need?

What's more Colorado than a reason to buy a whole new set of gear? Skinning does require alpine touring equipment, designed to be lighter and give mobility going up the mountain, but also stability going down. You'll need AT boots, bindings, skis, (or a splitboard) and skins, which are long strips of nylon with mohair or synthetic fur on one side, and adhesive on the other. Skins usually make it through two seasons of skiing, depending on use. Whether you're curious about skinning at resorts, or getting into the backcountry, we recommend renting equipment first. Many resorts now rent AT setups, or demo them from time to time. JAX Outdoor is renting complete packages for \$60 per day at some locations, and employees are happy to give a rundown of how to get the skins on and general usage tips.

Ryan Petry, professional mountain biker and Boulder resident, started skinning last season as a way to stay fit and have fun through the winter months. "I love skinning because I'm able to get a killer workout, and the slower pace uphill allows me to enjoy the scenery in a way you just don't get on the chairlifts or when ripping downhill." Petry also likes skinning because it's pretty easy to pick up and, for the most part, safe. He likes going to resorts because of accessibility.

Petry's advice for someone looking to try skinning is to find cheaper gear on Craigslist or Facebook Marketplace, or borrow gear from a friend. "Definitely go out with someone who knows what they're doing. A mellow grade that's groomed, like a resort, is the perfect place to start. It's okay to fall. It's okay to feel uncomfortable and out of breath at first. The payoff is worth it; it's such a great low-impact workout."

Risk Management Director at Arapahoe Basin, Patrick O'Sullivan, suggests that people who want to try skinning decide what their goals are. "Skinning uphill is great for fitness and for getting to experience the mountain when no one else is around. I recommend knowing what your goals are. Maybe you're skinning to get fit for a hut trip, or you're primarily using the ski area like a Nordic center for fitness. If you just want to be on the hill for fitness, get the lightest gear you can handle. Otherwise it's like running in hiking boots."

Dan Wiesner, owner of **The Extra Mile**, a consignment outdoor store in Loveland, says you can piece together a pretty good starter setup for a reasonable price. Except for the skins themselves, there's nothing wrong with well-used gear when it comes to skinning and skiing.

For a shop closer to some of the big resorts, Wiesner recommends **Cripple Creek Backcountry**, with locations in Carbondale, Aspen, and Vail.



## Know before you go

Each resort is a little different when it comes to uphill access, hours, pass requirements, and general rules. Most resorts that charge for uphill skiing also feature day passes, so you can try things out before you go all-in for a season pass or add-on.

At **Arapahoe Basin** you'll need an uphill access pass and armband. For the entire 2019-20 season, the uphill access pass is \$30. Uphill access is free for anyone with a current A-Basin full-season, midweek, senior or military pass, but you must still have a pass and armband. <https://www.arapahoebasin.com/the-mountain/uphill/>

At **Eldora Mountain**, uphill access is restricted to specific routes at specific times, to pass- and ticket-holding skiers only. Due to constraints caused by Eldora's operational logistics, they don't allow uphill access on weekends, holidays, or peak days. But for those who crave quiet sunrise turns, Eldora offers early access three days a week, which means the mountain is pretty much yours from 6 a.m.-9 a.m. <https://www.eldora.com/plan-your-trip/tickets-passes/lift-tickets-passes/uphill-alpine-touring>

Uphill access at **Echo Mountain** is permitted from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (during normal business operating hours). During the early or later hours of the day, they suggest wearing reflective clothing visible from all directions, such as a vest, armband, belt, headlamp, or flashing bike lights. Current season pass holders can grab an uphill addition to their

season pass for \$50. Non-season pass holders can purchase an uphill seasons pass for \$100. <https://echo.mtn.com/uphill-access>

Ryan Petry often frequents **Crested Butte Mountain Resort** for his skinning sessions. "My wife's family has a house there, but it also happens to be my favorite place in the world. CB allows you to skin before and after the chairs run, but also have an all-day skin track if you don't feel like waking up super early or missing out on après with your friends. I've also skinned Breckenridge and A-Basin. The views and feel of Crested Butte are impossible to beat though. Even on the mountain, you feel like you're in the backcountry."

Many resorts, such as **Copper Mountain**, **Loveland Basin**, and **Breckenridge** allow uphill skiing for free, outside of normal operating hours, but you still need to sign a waiver and acquire a pass or armband.

**Steamboat Springs** allows free uphill access in certain areas even during normal operating hours. Users must have an armband, which they can acquire after downloading and signing forms from the website, and bringing them to the Welcome Center in Gondola Square.

Katherine Fuller, communications manager at Arapahoe Basin, says they've experienced steady growth in uphill use over the last several years, with both guests and staff. "It's pretty spectacular here at the Basin because just getting to mid-mountain means you're at 11,500 feet with incredible panoramic views. If you can make it to the top (12,500 feet) it's even more breathtaking — literally and figuratively." Fuller says she takes advantage of the early-morning hours herself. "I just love being on the mountain as the sun is rising with no one else around. The cold is intense, but as soon as that sun appears it's just a magical feeling."

## A look back in time

Longtime residents of Estes Park, Loveland, Greeley, and Fort Collins will remember a scrappy little resort called **Hidden Valley**. Operational from 1955 to 1991, this ski area was initiated by the National Park Service. Before it became an actual resort, in the '30s and '40s, the NPS cleared Trail Ridge Road through the winter, so that locals could ski the bowl. Army trucks shuttled visitors and their equipment up to 11,400 feet, and let them ski down.

By 1971 a chairlift was added, and in 1984 a season pass was \$100. Skiers in northern Colorado were thrilled to have a place to ski in their own backyard. Eventually though, the parks department decided that a ski resort really wasn't compatible with park objectives, and Hidden Valley closed.

Today there are still remnants of the little resort's heyday, and many from the area skin up and enjoy the old runs when the powder hits. The terrain is open for backcountry access, and the snow is plentiful on the higher slopes, most of which are relatively low-angle.

Dan Wiesner says the access from Loveland and Fort Collins makes it tough to beat. "I can get over there on a weekday for a lunch session, and still get back to Loveland to pick my kids up from school." He says that if you're new to skinning and back-country, Hidden Valley is a great place to start. "I'd still recommend going with someone more experienced the first few times, for safety and just to learn about technique and equipment." Wiesner says the best snow and conditions for skinning and skiing at Hidden Valley actually come later in the spring.

Despite Hidden Valley being less prone to avalanche, all areas of Rocky Mountain National Park are considered backcountry, and skiers should always come prepared with proper gear and some education on avalanche safety.



Arapahoe Basin



## So you wanna race?


If you've gotten your skinning legs and feel the itch to try your fitness up against some others, many resorts are adding racing to their calendars. A-Basin now has a Tuesday early-morning, uphill race series. Check-in begins at 6 a.m. at the rental shop, and races start at 7 a.m. Each event costs \$25 and features different demos and sponsors. The races start in Mountain Goat Plaza at 10,780 ft. and finish near the Summit at 12,474 ft., with twists and turns along the way. <https://www.arapahoebasin.com/event/rise-and-shine-rando-5/>

Eldora has a Nighthawk race series that runs from January through March and features alpine, uphill, Nordic, and snowshoe racing. Ryan Petry tried his off-season legs with other Nighthawks last February. "I have a bunch of friends I run and ride with, who are all pretty experienced at skinning. They have all of the fancy lightweight gear, so when they asked if I wanted to do it, I knew I was in for a rough day. My set-up isn't meant for racing, it looks more like everyday resort skis. With my fitness from mountain biking I was able to get to the top of the first hill mid-pack, but was so slow with the transition to downhill mode that I'm pretty sure I came in last. It was such a fun night though, and I really enjoyed the vibe. I learned a lot and was humbled, but I loved it." <https://www.eldora.com/things-to-do/competition/competition-at-eldora/nighthawks-racing>

And if you want to take your racing to the next level, the COSMIC series is all about competitive ski mountaineering racing in the Rocky Mountains and beyond. Each race is designed for all levels and features a variety of locations. Their goal is to challenge and bring out the best in everyone. <http://www.cosmicski.com/>

## Keep the season going

Many ski resorts in Colorado lease their land from the U.S. Forest Service, which means that when the regular season of operation ends, anyone is permitted access to it, just like any other public land. So when spring hits and the lifts stop running, but there's still plenty of snow on the mountains, having the equipment and the fitness to skin up really pays off.

If you decide to venture up the mountain outside of the resort season, or into the backcountry, always be aware of your environment and know the risks. Taking an avalanche class is smart for everyone. Talk to someone who has skied the area, pack the right equipment, and avoid going out alone. Visit the **American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education** for more information and snow safety. 

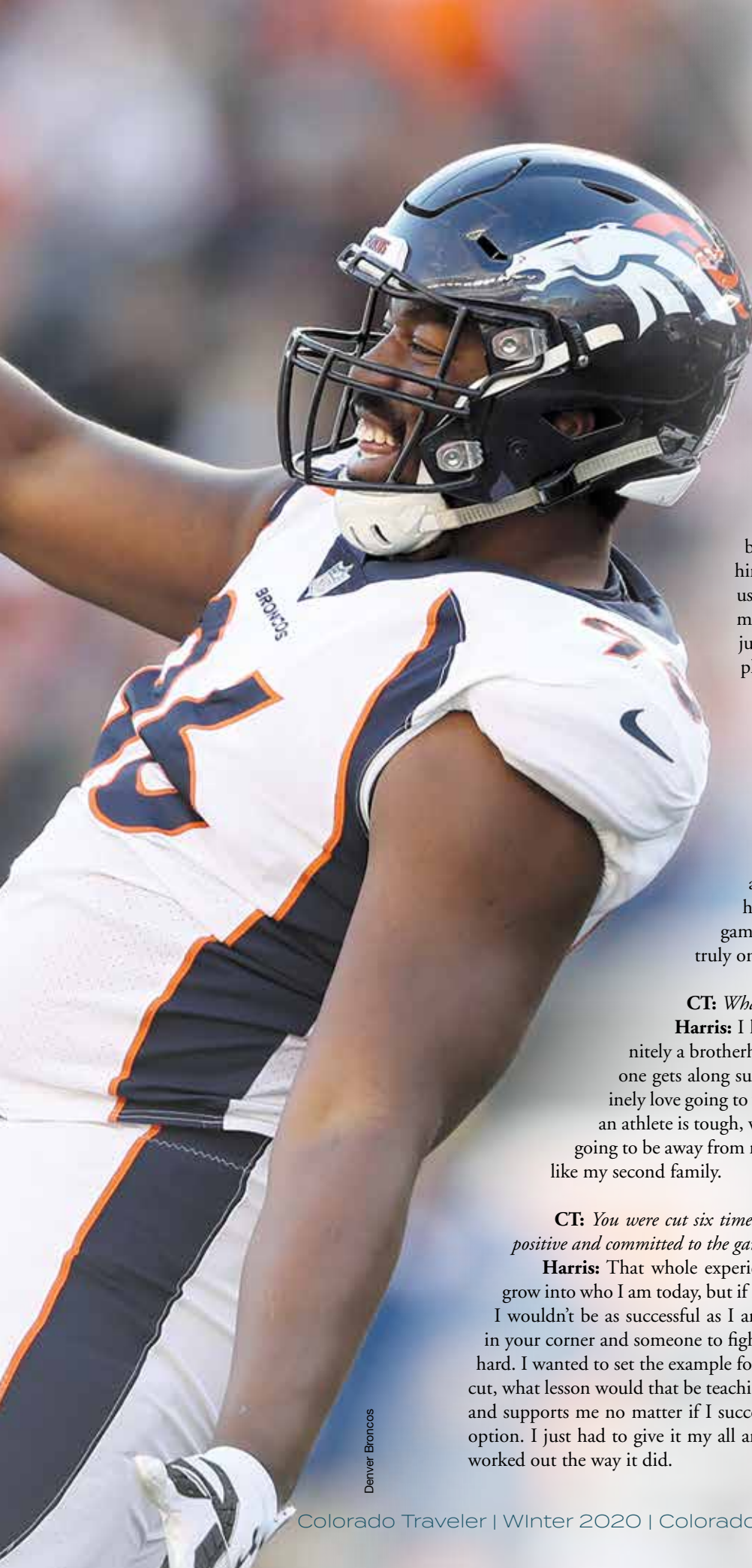




# D-FENSE!

One-on-One  
with Denver Broncos  
Defensive Lineman  
Shelby Harris





Denver Broncos

## FOOTBALL LIFE

**CT:** *Tell us a little bit about how the season has shaped up with Coach Vic Fangio.*

**Harris:** There are a lot of new and different things he's implementing, but they've all proved to be really beneficial so far. He's definitely seasoned in the league, so it's great to have a coach with this much experience. I mean, he's coached pro-bowlers, HOF players ... many of the best players in the league. It's really great to learn from him every day. Personally, it's an especially great year for us to get him as a coach, with it being a contract year for me because he's known to really help the defense, so I'm just excited to be learning from him and growing as a player before my contract is up.

**CT:** *Last year's game against the Steelers was a huge win for you. Walk us through how you felt after that one.*

**Harris:** It was a huge flood of emotions. My wife and I welcomed our baby girl just a few days before that game, so my emotions were super high from that alone. Going into the game and having it be such an amazing outcome for myself, the defense and the team, it was totally meant to be. Like that just happened way too perfectly. Being able to bring that game ball back to my wife at the hospital with the baby was truly one of the best moments of my life.

**CT:** *What is your favorite part about the team as a whole?*

**Harris:** I love the closeness of all the guys on the team, it's definitely a brotherhood more so than any other team I've been on. Everyone gets along super well and has a great working relationship. I genuinely love going to work every day, the guys make it an absolute joy. Being an athlete is tough, with all the travel and time away from home, but if I'm going to be away from my family, these are the guys I want to be with. They're like my second family.

**CT:** *You were cut six times before joining the Broncos in 2017. How did you stay positive and committed to the game through that?*

**Harris:** That whole experience definitely tested me as a person and helped me grow into who I am today, but if it wasn't for my family, my wife, my mom and my kids, I wouldn't be as successful as I am today. It's so different when you have those people in your corner and someone to fight for ... it really changes your perspective on working hard. I wanted to set the example for my kids to never give up. If I were to quit after being cut, what lesson would that be teaching them? And having my wife in my corner, who loves and supports me no matter if I succeed or fail, I could not let her down. It just wasn't an option. I just had to give it my all and let the pieces fall into place and luckily everything worked out the way it did.



## DENVER FAVORITES

**CT:** *Favorite Restaurants?*

**Harris:** Perry's Steakhouse is a huge favorite, and I also love Guard and Grace. We also really enjoy Fogo de Chao as a family, that place is so fun. Fire on the Mountain has some of the best wings I've ever had in my life. Denver Biscuit Company is RIDICULOUS! Best breakfast in Denver. Hands down.

**CT:** *Favorite Bars?*

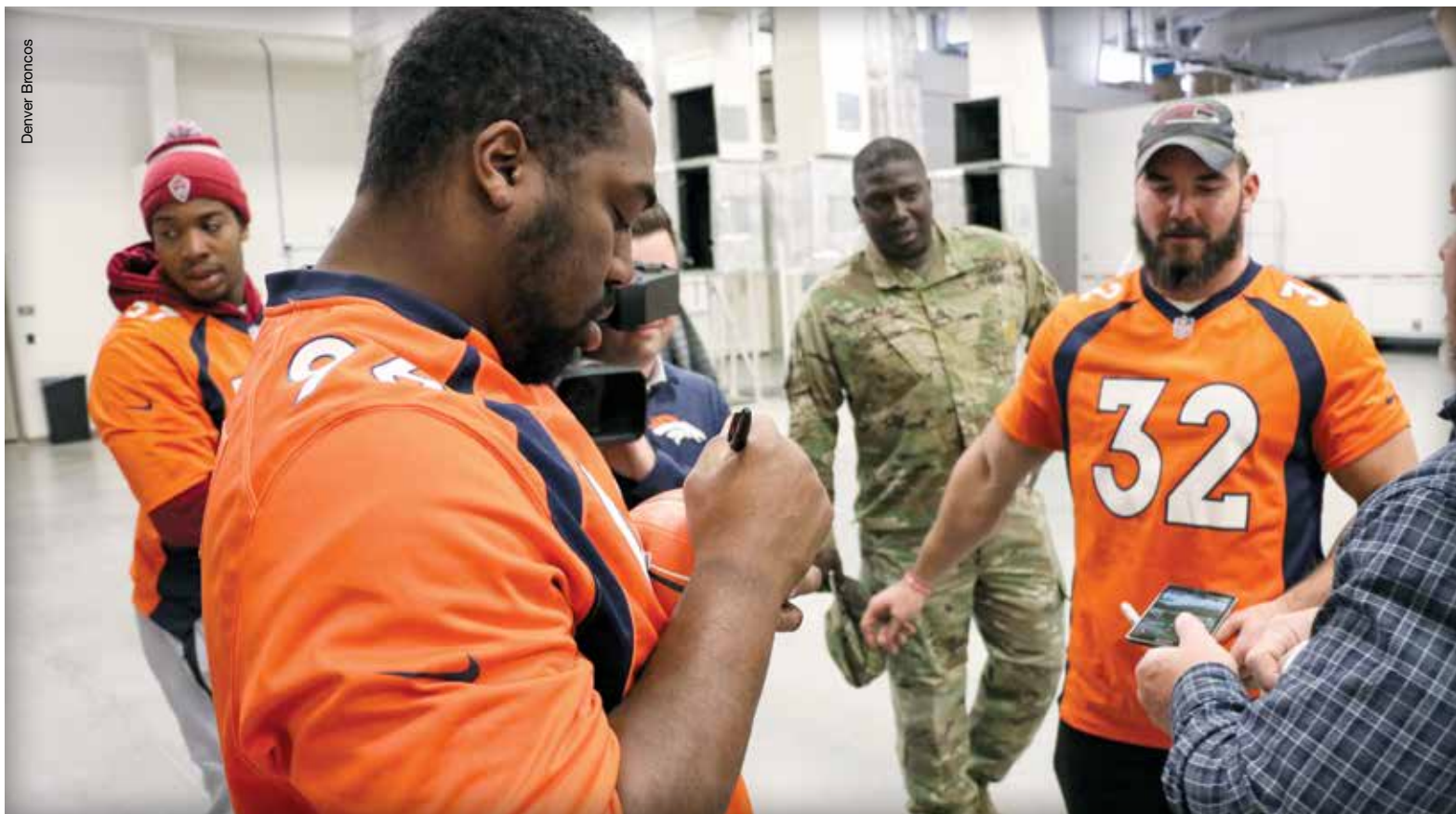
**Harris:** Mile High Spirits is always a good time on the weekends. They make their own liquor so it's a fun place. On a weekday, Front Porch is a super-fun place to chill. They have a little game there where you flip a coin and if you guess the outcome right, the drinks are free. That's always fun! Refinery for their pickle shots and Viewhouse for their food and drinks is always a good spot ... great atmosphere for sure.

**CT:** *Favorite Places to Go?*

**Harris:** We went to the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, that was really beautiful. I love the casinos out here, the ones in Blackhawk are fun. Reminds me a lot of Tahoe, which is one of my favorite places in the world. Breckenridge is always awesome, but we really love Vail and Beaver Creek. There is so much to see in those ski towns, we love going out west! Great restaurants, the hot springs are awesome, and it's so fun in both warm and cold seasons ... always something to do!

**CT:** *Favorite Family Outings?*

**Harris:** The Aquarium is a great place to take the kids ... they love it! Same with Elitch Gardens and the Denver Zoo. The kids also love Del Mar Aquatic Center. We really just love being outside with them, there's so much for them to do in Denver, and Colorado as a whole, so we feel really fortunate to be living here.



Denver Broncos





April Ivey

## FAMILY/OUTSIDE LIFE:

**CT:** *How did life change at home with your new baby?*

**Harris:** Definitely some earlier nights and a little less sleep than usual. The focus is entirely on her now. She keeps things so lively and there is so much more love in the house now. She is such a happy baby, you can't help but be in the best mood around her. We still do our family game nights and all of that, everything is just truly more fun with her here.

**CT:** *Your wife has been such a huge support for you. You've talked many times about how you thought about quitting in the past, but she pushed you to stick with football. How has her support really molded you into who you are as a player and a person today?*

**Harris:** It's been absolutely everything. The fact that I have someone like her in my corner is unreal. That support from her pushes me so much because she's holding everything down at home while I'm out grinding every day, so I know I need to be the best I can be for her and our family. She makes my success so much more special, to be able to share that with her and our family, especially coming from where I came from, it's really amazing to have her love.

**CT:** *What causes do you feel particularly passionate about?*

**Harris:** The causes I care most about stem from where I came from, surrounding low-income children and families. My mom was a teacher and we didn't grow up with a lot, so for me, helping children achieve greatness, regardless of their circumstances, is really important to me. I believe every child has the capability and the potential to be great. If I can help them get there, that's awesome. I also care a lot about supporting Breast Cancer research. My great aunt Freddie died from breast cancer, so that really hits home and I try to help with breast cancer research in any way I can. That's so near and dear to my heart because she meant so much to me, so this is my way of keeping her memory alive.



# parting SHOT



## Go Dog Go

Why not have a canine adventure this winter with some four-legged friends? Dogsledding is a fun way to see the beautiful terrain -- all while being pulled by friendly fidos who love to race the snow. Go to [coloradotravelermagazine.com](http://coloradotravelermagazine.com) to check out where to book your dogsledding experience!