

FOOD AND WINE SPECIAL ISSUE

# Sunset

THE NEW  
**WESTERN  
HOLIDAY**  
100 WAYS TO WIN THE WINTER

**BEST  
WINES  
OF THE  
WEST**

**BRAISE,  
ROAST,  
REPEAT!**  
Simple, Sumptuous  
Recipes, p. 75

**CELEBRATE  
IN STYLE**  
No-Fuss Holiday  
Décor, p. 54

**ULTIMATE  
GIFT GUIDE**

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high-desert  
holiday on  
page 54

NOV/DEC 2019

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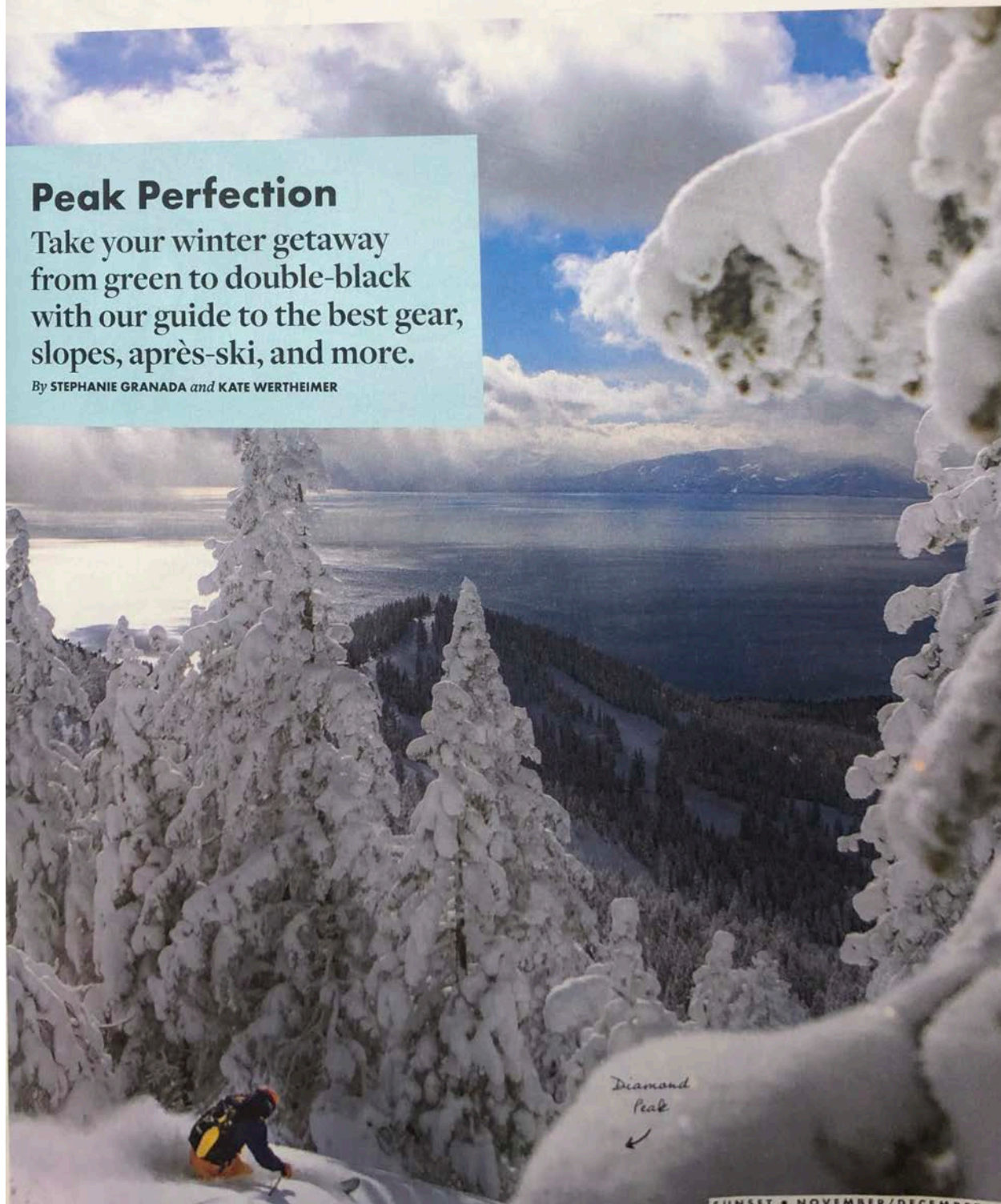
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# Travel

## Peak Perfection

Take your winter getaway from green to double-black with our guide to the best gear, slopes, après-ski, and more.

By STEPHANIE GRANADA and KATE WERTHEIMER



Diamond  
Peak  
←



## Fresh Gear

The season's sleekest and smartest

- 1. MOUNTAIN HARDWARE SCRAMBLER 25 BACKPACK**  
A removable top storage component makes for a smart slope carrier. \$140; [mountainhardware.com](http://mountainhardware.com)
- 2. NORTH FACE FUTURELIGHT A-CAD JACKET**  
New high-tech membrane blocks moisture and lets out sweat. \$600; [thenorthface.com](http://thenorthface.com)
- 3. DANNER WOMEN'S MOUNTAIN PASS BOOT**  
This lightweight boot boasts classic styling for fashion meets function underfoot. \$360; [danner.com](http://danner.com)
- 4. DIAMONDBACK EL OSO TRES**  
Carve through drifts with this two-wheeled front-suspension steed. \$2,200; [diamondback.com](http://diamondback.com)
- 5. SMITH 4D MAG GOGGLES**  
Crisp optics give you more slope to scope. \$280; [smithoptics.com](http://smithoptics.com)
- 6. FLYLOW SPHYNX WOMEN'S SKI BIBS**  
Bright colors and crisp tailoring. \$300; [flylowgear.com](http://flylowgear.com)
- 7. POC OBEX BACKCOUNTRY SPIN HELMET**  
A built-in NFC chip offers medical information in the event of injury. \$250; [pocsports.com](http://pocsports.com)

## Awesome Après Options

Rack your skis, doff your layers, and revel in the time-honored tradition of tying one on too early at these top spots for festive après-ski activities.



**THE BEACH, Arapahoe Basin, CO:** Shake out a beach chair and get to grilling at this parking lot tailgate party. It's only open 'til 6 p.m., which means you'll have time to recover for an alpine start the next day.

**CLOUD NINE BISTRO, Aspen Highlands, CO:** Gorge on raclette-and-apple strudel and wash it down with some bubbly at this on-mountain hot spot known for its Champagne-fueled après parties.

**CANADIAN WILDERNESS ADVENTURES, Whistler-Blackcomb, B.C.:** Cozy up for an hourlong heated snowcat ride (complete with views of the twinkling village below) to Blackcomb's charming Crystal Hut for a candlelit fondue dinner at 6,000 feet.



**SNOWMOBILING, SOAKING, AND STEAKS, Shore Lodge Resort, ID:** Take an evening snowmobile ride through the backcountry to Burgdorf Hot Springs, followed by a spa treatment and dinner at the new Narrows Steakhouse.



**ROCKY MOUNTAIN UNDERGROUND, Breckenridge, CO:** Pick up handmade skis at this ski/bike shop and bar that holds the record for the world's longest shotski (1,234 shots!).

**DJ CAT, Heavenly Mountain Resort, CA:** Dance in ski boots as a DJ spins tunes from this roaming former slope groomer customized with a cutting-edge sound system.

## Extreme...ly Affordable Heli-Skiing

Gliding through pristine backcountry terrain doesn't exactly come cheap, but you don't have to drop \$10K a head, either. The only place in the country to offer single drops, Colorado's Silverton Mountain runs at \$179, plus the cost of gear and a lift ticket (around \$300 total). If you're jonesing for the full experience, rates drop significantly when you venture beyond the lower 48. Alaska Heliskiing offers \$600 day trips (six to seven drops), while B.C.'s Revelstoke's Selkirk Tangiers prices start at \$754 U.S. for the same time span but with lunch and equipment included. Otherwise, look for deals. Ruby Mountain Helicopter Skiing in Nevada will charge you \$750 (half off the standard rate) if you take the standby flight.