

Mountain, Land & Ski



THE GREAT DRAW TO MOUNTAIN HOMES

Red Ledges, named for surrounding rock formations, features year-round activities, including snowshoe hiking at Daniel's Summit.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RED LEDGES

PHOTO BY J. EDWARDS

Diamond Peak, on the north shore of Lake Tahoe, has a vertical drop of 1,840 feet. Mountain homes boast scenic views.

by **Tonie Auer**

Todd and Jill Kaufman dreamed of owning a home with water views on Lake Tahoe. Leaving behind the high taxes of California was a bonus. They didn't want a place with neighbors who were only there part of the time and used their residence for short-term rentals, but they did want a home close enough to their family for visits. After some searching, they discovered the allure of private resort-style communities in the great outdoors.

Clear Creek Tahoe, located between Carson City and Lake Tahoe, is a new private residential community set on 2,136 acres, bordered by 400,000 acres of protected national forest. It incorporates the natural beauty of the land with amenities like its Coore & Crenshaw golf course, Twin Pines Lake and Ski House, and a variety of year-round activities.

The Kaufmans were a little hesitant about the brand-new development. Ten minutes inside the gates was all it took for the empty nesters to know they had found the right place.

"We didn't have to buy a house on the lake because the club's lake house really meets that need for us," Todd explains. "We can go there to enjoy the views year-round, and during the winter we get shuttled to the nearby ski slopes at Heavenly and then back home for dinner."

The 57-year-old asset manager notes the lots were selling quickly — and largely to people like he and his wife, looking to establish a social life somewhere new. They love Clear Creek Tahoe's first-class facilities, from the golf course to the Summit Camp recreation areas.

CONSUMER DEMAND

Families like the Kaufmans are flocking to resort-style communities with year-round activities and amenities that are next level, whether cardio tennis classes or mountain yoga.

"Our membership has high standards and expectations, so we offer a four-season amenity package with professionally trained personnel," says Tom Garcia, Whitetail Club and Shore Lodge president

and general manager. Whitetail Club, located in McCall, Idaho, is largely made up of second and third homes, providing a respite from the big city, Garcia says. "They're looking for less crowded areas with their own spaces," he says.

Mitchel Burns, chief operating officer of the Red Ledges private community near Park City, says homeowners want to make friends. "That is our secret sauce," he says. "All of these gated communities have wonderful amenities, but where we excel is by making activities like our ski club accessible, so our members can meet and ski together regularly as a group."

It's all about those friendly encounters and finding personalized year-round mountain living that focuses on shared experiences.

"Our residents tend to be a mix of empty nesters and families who seek an experiential lifestyle," Garcia says. "They want to be one with nature and enjoy wellness. They're also at a point in their lives where they want a full-service experience and amenities to enjoy."

In the spring, Whitetail Club has a tailor-made culinary program which features cooking with regional wines and pairing food with craft beer from local breweries.

Getting people involved adds to the experiences that residents are looking for. At Red Ledges, there is an amphitheater for concerts. Residents are encouraged to bring a blanket and a bottle of wine — and mingle. When the weather isn't great, there are indoor "Red" Talks from regional thinkers and leaders.

FOUR-SEASON LIFESTYLES

Part of getting that experience is enjoying the four seasons of activities these resort communities offer. Red Ledges amenities and activities range from tennis, swimming, fitness classes, horseback riding and snowshoeing to mounting biking twice a week and special events throughout the year for residents and guests.

"What makes it different is residents are connecting and building friendships. Once they connect, they are self-organizing and creating more activities as friends," Burns says.

Snowmobile adventures and cross-country skiing on both groomed and ungroomed acreage are among the Whitetail Club's winter activities. There are also natural ice ponds for skating and other sports.

Throughout the year, personalized fitness training and mountain yoga reigns. All-terrain vehicle camping trips are available as well. And, of course, there's the golf course. Garcia says Whitetail Club's new cart barn has computer-aided teaching bays to help improve your golf swing.

Family events include scavenger hunts, fishing derbies and lake activities ranging from boating excursions to sunset dining. There are also camps for the kids that focus on a variety of activities from sports to educational topics.

LIVING IT UP

At Red Ledges, the real treat for families might be the Jack Nicklaus signature golf park, which Burns says is built to the same standards as a golf

course, but has 12 holes, which are all par 3 with two holes on each green. "There is the standard regulation hole and an eight-inch hole. And there are no rules in the golf park: play barefoot, bring your dog or use a soccer ball. It's all about having fun in a laid-back atmosphere," he says.

Fly-fishing on the nearby Provo River is very popular as well. For those who like a more physical challenge, hiking Mount Timpanogos — at an elevation of almost 12,000 feet — is an option, too. Red Ledges has a club that leads training hikes with the goal of completing the all-day trek to the top.

Meanwhile, Clear Creek Tahoe features two private hiking trails that connect to the Tahoe Rim Trail and go all around Lake Tahoe, says Georgia Chase, director of sales. Residents have private access to Lake Tahoe and 180 feet of sandy beach with exclusive access to the Twin Pines Lake and Ski House. Paddleboard yoga and use of a personal watercraft are just a few of the water activities, along with use of Clear Creek's Hinckley Yacht, Louise. Last year Summit Camp opened with a family pool, water slide, tennis center, bocce court, hot tub, fire pits and many other family activities. Construction just started on a 20,000-square-foot clubhouse.

Clear Creek's Coore & Crenshaw-designed golf course was ranked No. 24 in *Golfweek's* 2019 Best Residential Golf Courses in the U.S. Chase says the private course is easy for members to access and highlights the area's beautiful natural landscape.

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WINTER WONDERLANDS

by *Tonie Auer*

When it comes to winter adventures, skiing and snowboarding rank high on the list. But where to go? You have options, from hitting the slopes with the professionals to sticking with the beginners.

The Reno Tahoe area claims to have the largest concentration of ski resorts in North America. Among the dozen or so ski destinations is Squaw Valley, which hosted the 1960 Winter Games. The region is also home to David Wise, who won the gold in the men's ski halfpipe in PyeongChang in 2018 and Sochi 2014, four-time Alpine skier Stacey Cook, and two-time halfpiper and Sochi 2014 gold medalist Maddie Bowman.

"It's one of the best places to go skiing in the U.S., with 11 downhill ski resorts and a handful of additional cross-country ski resorts," says Ben McDonald, senior communication manager of Reno-Sparks Convention & Visitor's Authority. "At Diamond Peak in Incline Village, you can see the beauty of Lake Tahoe as you glide down the slopes. It also has an average snowfall of more than 300 inches annually, and the region features an average of about 300 days of sunshine per year."

Mount Rose Ski Tahoe in the northern Sierra Nevada Range has the highest base elevation at 8,260 feet and is one of the premier places to ski and snowboard, McDonald says. Naturally, the Reno-Tahoe region's biggest economic driver is tourism, not only as a vacation destination, but also for conventions.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Also in Tahoe is Heavenly, with a summit elevation of more than 10,000 feet and a vertical drop of 3,500 feet (the area's longest). Heavenly is the region's largest mountain resort and features views of Lake Tahoe and the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Its 30 lifts and 100 trails crisscross between California and Nevada from four base facilities.

"There is world-class skiing at Heavenly and a dozen or so other ski resorts around Lake Tahoe," says Georgia Chase, director of sales at Clear Creek Tahoe, a private residential community on the eastern slope of the Carson Range. "Eight of the resorts here are among the top-rated resorts nationwide," she adds. "Clear Creek provides our owners and members easy access to Heavenly from our lake house, Twin Pines, which is just a short four blocks away via our shuttle. Members and owners can also ride across the lake to the slopes of Homewood in our Hinckley Yacht."

In the Park City region there are four ski resorts within a 30-minute drive of Red Ledges, a 2,000-acre, four-season private community, says Mitchel Burns, the property's chief operating officer. Red Ledges features an engaging mountain lifestyle with world class golf, skiing, tennis, horseback riding, mountain biking, hiking, snowshoeing, fly fishing, and a robust schedule of social and recreational programming designed to facilitate mingling and friendship among members.

The closest ski area is the award-winning Deer Valley Resort, accessed via Deer Valley's Jordanelle

Gondola, which is about "15 minutes from our gates," Burns says.

PARK PLACES

The Deer Valley Resort was recognized as the 2019 United States' Best Ski Resort by the World Ski Awards, which selects winners by votes cast by ski professionals. It is the seventh year in a row for the Deer Valley win.

"Most of our members choose Deer Valley because it is a very civilized ski area, famous for perfectly groomed runs, hidden powder stashes and five-star service," Burns says. "The St. Regis Hotel is there with the private Deer Crest Club, where we have a reciprocal club agreement. Our members can drive up to valet park at the club and grab breakfast while the staff takes their skis and boots and has them waiting slope-side when they finish dining. It is a great setup."

About 30 minutes away from Red Ledges are three more ski areas. Park City Mountain Resort is the largest ski resort in the U.S., with 7,300 acres, Burns says. It is also only a 35-minute drive from the Salt Lake International Airport.

Also, just a half-hour drive away is Sundance Mountain Resort, which was named the No. 1 ski resort in North America by Conde Nast Traveler as part of its 2019 Readers Choice Awards. Fun fact: It is owned by world-renowned actor Robert Redford. Additionally, Woodward Park City is a half-hour away from Red Ledges. It opened the nation's first action sports and ski resort in December 2019.

UNEXPECTED ADVENTURES

Not many people think of Idaho as a ski mecca, but just outside of McCall, Idaho, lies the private residential community Whitetail Club, and president and general manager Tom Garcia says two world-class ski areas are within a 20- to 30-minute drive.

Tamarack Resort, to which Whitetail Club shuttles its members, has 2,800 feet of vertical (the height of the ski hill) on 1,100 lift-accessed acres for skiers and snowboarders, along with Nordic and snowshoe trails.

Another great ski area, Brundage Mountain, which has been credited with the best powder in Idaho by *Ski Magazine*, is just 20 minutes away door to slope, Garcia says. Brundage is best known for its powder-packed glades, wide groomed runs and more than 320 base area inches of snowfall annually. Brundage also features lift-assisted access to more than 20 miles of mountain bike trails, he adds.

"Our members are snow lovers who also enjoy Whitetail Club's private 20 kilometers of Nordic skiing trails. To them, Brundage is a dream with the freshest powder. The mountain itself can be skied by all levels, and they have back-country skiing, which I really enjoy. These are ski areas that can be enjoyed by many people. We are spoiled to have them so close by," Garcia says.



Cross country and nordic skiing are popular sports on both groomed and ungroomed acreage at Whitetail Club.

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