

# WONDERS OF THE WEST

Resorts that delight as much as the destinations themselves

BY ALISON BAILIN BATZ



**With more than** a dozen luxury resorts in the Valley, Phoenicians have come to expect a lot more than a clean room and free coffee when it comes to hotel ambiance and amenities. Luckily, select Western U.S. resorts will impress even the most discerning traveler with sensational luxury suites, award-winning dining, exclusive adventures, and rooms with far more than just a view. As you plan upcoming travel, consider these resorts worthy of your bucket list.

## *Waldorf Astoria Park City: Park City, Utah*

Situated at the base of Park City Mountain, Waldorf Astoria Park City was recently honored by *Condé Nast Traveler* with Readers' Choice awards for both "Best Spa in North America" and "Top 10 Resorts in the West." The rooms range from traditional to massive three- and four-bedroom suites (some with as many as five bathrooms!) designed for helping couples and families relax after a day on the mountain. The resort's 16,000-square-foot spa uses a personalized program that draws on local products, environmental inspiration and contemporary techniques. A truly unique offering, the resort has its own "Snowman Alley," an outdoor space dedicated to snowmen with snowman-building kits and professionally built snowmen throughout. [www.waldorfastoriaparkcity.com](http://www.waldorfastoriaparkcity.com).

## *Auberge du Soleil: Napa, California*

As if its prime location in the heart of wine country, 13-time Michelin-starred restaurant, and five-star rating by Forbes Travel Guide weren't enough, over the past several years Auberge du Soleil has been in the midst of an awe-inspiring renovation, featuring new guest rooms and suites. The new suites, some offering as much as 1,300 square feet of indoor-outdoor space, feature spa-like bathrooms and fireplaces in bedrooms and living spaces. Some even offer sculptural stand-alone tubs in private outdoor bath gardens. The grounds have also received a contemporary makeover that highlights wine country views and intimate spaces have been created throughout the property, perfect for lingering among the vines and ancient olive trees. [www.aubergedusoleil.com](http://www.aubergedusoleil.com).

## *The Ranch at Rock Creek: Philipsburg, Montana*

Situated on 6,600 acres of rugged ranchland and wilderness in the small western Montana town of Philipsburg, The Ranch at Rock Creek is the only guest ranch in the world recognized as a Forbes Travel Guide five-star hotel four consecutive times. It features rustic yet elegant accommodations including bespoke lodge rooms, historic barn suites, private log homes, and luxury canvas cabins that deliver the definitive Montana "glamping" experience. As part of its all-inclusive designation, the ranch provides twice-daily adventures, including horseback riding, ice skating, sleigh rides, archery, hiking, mountain biking and wildlife viewing. [www.theranchatrockcreek.com](http://www.theranchatrockcreek.com).

### *Post Ranch Inn: Big Sur, California*

Post Ranch Inn is an environmentally sustainable resort that sits high atop the cliffs of Big Sur, California, overlooking the Pacific Ocean. In fact, it's the only resort in Big Sur that offers ocean views. The property's 39 guest rooms are built to blend into their natural surroundings and perfectly combine rustic elegance, comfort and privacy with panoramic ocean or mountain views. Amenities include an array of activities, such as complimentary morning yoga classes, culinary tours through the on-site organic vegetable garden, dining at *Wine Spectator's* Grand Award-winning Sierra Mar restaurant, and lavish spa treatments in-room or at the award-winning spa. [www.postranchinn.com](http://www.postranchinn.com).

### *Four Seasons Resort and Residences: Jackson Hole, Wyoming*

One of just five mountain resorts in America with a Forbes five-star rating, Four Seasons Resort and Residences Jackson Hole boasts 18 lavish suites and 34 residences in addition to its 100-plus beautifully appointed rooms. It is a true ski-in, ski-out resort with its own ski concierge as well as rentals and fittings on-site. There is also a concierge at base camp to ensure the perfect apres-ski experience. Beyond skiing, the resort has its own dedicated team of naturalists, each of whom can lead guests on wildlife safaris, fly-fishing expeditions, and stargazing opportunities. Its three dining options use locally sourced ingredients from across Wyoming, Utah and Idaho including tomatoes, cheeses, elk, potatoes and fresh-caught trout. [www.fourseasons.com/jacksonhole](http://www.fourseasons.com/jacksonhole).

### *Salish Lodge & Spa: Snoqualmie, Washington*

Consistently ranked among the best small resorts in the world, Salish Lodge & Spa overlooks the 268-foot Snoqualmie Falls, one of Washington's most popular scenic attractions, and sits in the foothills of the picturesque Cascade Mountains. The guest experience is authentically inspired by these surroundings. For example, honey and herbs from the lodge's own apiary and garden appear in treatments at the spa, and nearly all of the food and drink at the lodge's dining venues are inspired by and sourced from the Pacific Northwest. Another reason to visit: In 2018 the lodge completed a \$12 million renovation to its 86 rooms (each with its own fireplace and soaking tub), spa and public spaces. [www.salishlodge.com](http://www.salishlodge.com).

### *Shore Lodge: McCall, Idaho*

A former logging town, McCall, Idaho, is a pristine mountain hideaway in the Payette National Forest that's been named one of the best hidden ski towns by *National Geographic*. Shore Lodge, a four-season lakefront resort nestled on Payette Lake – and on the edge of the largest area of protected wilderness in the continental U.S. – offers visitors access to a variety of outdoor adventures, including cliff-jumping, visits to nearby hot springs, and paddleboarding as well as a restful place to relax and unwind. The property houses 77 rooms, a private lakeside cottage, an award-winning Andy North-designed golf course, a spa, and three dining concepts including a *Wine Spectator* "Best of Award of Excellence" steakhouse with a 5,000-bottle wine cellar. [www.shorelodge.com](http://www.shorelodge.com).



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