

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**

Join our
high-desert
holiday on
page 54



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

RYAN SALM PHOTOGRAPHY

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



Awesome Après Options

Rack your skis, doff your layers, and revel in the time-honored tradition of trying 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.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: COURTESY OF ARAPAHOE BASIN; ©CHAD CASE/COURTESY OF SHORE LODGE; COURTESY OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN UNDERGROUND; J. RAYNE/COURTESY OF SILVERTON MOUNTAIN