

THE NEW LUXURY: SMART WAYS TO SAVE ON GREAT TRIPS

Condé Nast Traveler

50
TOP SKI
HOTELS
IN THE U.S.
& CANADA

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

DECEMBER 2010

Ahh, Italy!

25 TREASURES of FLORENCE

SOUTH PACIFIC
7 ULTIMATE ESCAPES

AUSTRALIA
HIGH STYLE, HIGH ADVENTURE

SEXY VILLAS
PARIS, BALI, AFRICA & MORE

HIMALAYAS BY HELICOPTER * ANDES BY HORSEBACK * ANTARCTICA BY SMALL SHIP



READERS' POLL

AFTER THE GOLD RUSH

Skiers can capitalize on the upgrades put in place for Whistler Blackcomb's recent Olympics-hosting duties. Thanks to \$17.6 million in new snowmaking, classic runs such as the Dave Murray Downhill (on which Lindsey Vonn won gold) are skiable even earlier and later into the season. The bobsled and skeleton tracks at the Whistler Sliding Centre are open to the fearless, and there's a wider, more scenic Sea-to-Sky Highway from Vancouver to the resort. Hail a Whistler Taxi at the airport—you won't need a car in the pedestrian-friendly village (604-932-3333; one-way from Vancouver, \$240-\$260).



TOP 50 SKI HOTELS

	★	↺	👤	🍴	📍	🏠	✔	💰	
1	Westin Riverfront Resort & Spa, Avon, Colo.	96.9	98.5	95.2	94.7	97.6	97.9	97.3	\$179-\$499
2	Hotel Terra, Jackson Hole, Wyo.	95.4	95.5	90.9	100	95.5	95.5	95.2	\$139-\$359
3	Four Seasons Resort, Jackson Hole, Wyo.	94.7	95.1	92.7	92.7	95.1	92.7	100	\$275-\$525
4	Arabelle at Vail Square, Vail, Colo.	94.4	97.0	93.9	87.1	100	97.0	90.6	\$350-\$750
5	Amangani, Jackson Hole, Wyo.	94.1	95.0	95.0	95.0	90.0	100	89.5	\$565-\$1,700
6	Stowe Mountain Lodge, Stowe, Vt.	93.4	94.7	91.2	90.2	94.7	93.0	96.4	\$299-\$629
7	Little Nell, Aspen, Colo.	92.3	88.8	91.3	90.0	100	91.1	92.4	\$355-\$644
8	Sundance Resort, Sundance, Utah	92.2	89.3	89.3	92.9	89.3	96.4	96.3	\$159-\$399
9	Fairmont Chateau Whistler, Whistler, B.C.	91.0	87.2	90.4	87.8	94.7	90.4	95.5	\$259-\$799
10	Four Seasons Resort, Whistler, B.C.	90.9	93.2	94.9	87.9	83.1	91.5	94.8	\$300-\$1,020
11	Stein Eriksen Lodge, Park City, Utah	90.6	87.3	87.3	90.9	94.5	89.1	94.4	\$420-\$835
12	Mirror Lake Inn, Resort & Spa, Lake Placid, N.Y.	89.3	86.2	87.9	86.0	96.6	93.1	86.2	\$215-\$360
12	Teton Mountain Lodge & Spa, Jackson Hole, Wyo.	89.3	87.9	87.9	81.3	97.0	90.9	90.6	\$139-\$349
14	Ritz-Carlton, Bachelor Gulch, Avon, Colo.	89.2	89.8	85.4	85.4	91.5	90.8	92.2	\$299-\$699
15	Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, Lake Louise, Alberta	89.0	88.1	87.5	83.8	97.1	91.9	85.2	\$275-\$393
15	Pitcher Inn, Warren, Vt.	89.0	90.0	85.7	95.0	85.7	85.7	100	\$425-\$650
17	St. Regis Aspen Resort, Aspen, Colo.	88.9	89.8	89.6	82.6	93.0	89.7	88.4	\$309-\$1,919
18	Hotel Telluride, Telluride, Colo.	87.6	88.5	88.5	88.0	96.2	80.8	83.3	\$261-\$330
19	Sonnenalp Resort of Vail, Vail, Colo.	87.4	87.5	90.0	76.9	90.0	90.0	90.0	\$230-\$900
20	Rimrock Resort Hotel, Banff, Alberta	87.1	87.5	85.0	84.6	85.0	92.5	88.2	\$178-\$198
21	Woodstock Inn & Resort, Woodstock, Vt.	87.0	87.5	80.0	87.5	92.5	87.5	87.2	\$210-\$459
22	Equinox Golf Resort & Spa, Manchester, Vt.	86.6	83.1	92.2	78.1	93.8	87.7	84.5	\$179-\$399
22	Mountain Lodge, Telluride, Colo.	86.5	92.0	92.0	65.0	92.0	88.0	85.7	\$119-\$259
23	Pan Pacific Whistler Mountainside, Whistler, B.C.	86.5	88.0	84.0	62.5	96.0	96.0	91.7	\$199-\$349
25	Fairmont Banff Springs, Banff, Alberta	86.1	73.6	85.1	80.9	97.5	91.1	88.1	\$279-\$409

Bold-faced scores are the highest for their criterion. Rates quoted are for doubles during the month of December.

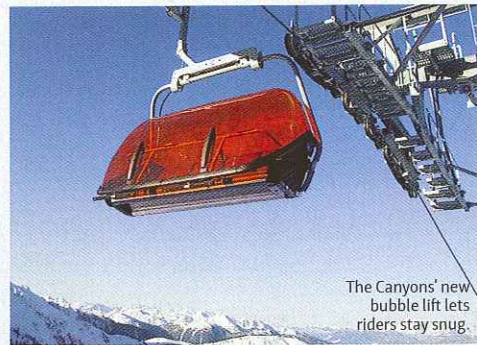
★ Overall Score ↺ Rooms 👤 Service 🍴 Dining/Food 📍 Location 🏠 Overall Design ✔ Activities/Facilities 💰 Rates for doubles



COLD COMFORT

The days of freezing your tuckus off on the lift may be going the way of the dodo, starting at The Canyons in Park City, Utah, which debuts North America's first heated chairlift this season. Seats warmed to about 55 degrees keep you toasty, while a transparent overhead bubble swings down to protect you from the elements.

The high-speed quad lift connects the Grand Summit Hotel with the Sun Peak lift.



The Canyons' new bubble lift lets riders stay snug.

EVERGREEN GEAR

Make Swany's Eco-Pipe your gloves always and forever. Created from a polyester manufactured by Japanese textile giant Teijin, they can be recycled over and over again via a chemical process that uses 84 percent less energy than is required to produce the original petroleum-based product. Wear them out (these are high-quality gloves, so it will take a while), and then send them back to Swany in the included envelope; the company recycles them and gives you a 10 percent discount on a new pair (swanyamerica.com; \$55).

921 752

Total skiable acres at Maine's Sugarloaf for the 2010-11 season, including 270 new gladed acres opening in Brackett Basin. The expansion makes the resort the largest east of the Rockies.

Total skiable acres at Vermont's Killington, formerly the largest resort in the East. Killington still has the region's most trails (141) and lifts (22, with a system capacity of 37,535 people per hour).

SOFT LANDING

A new 121-room Four Seasons Resort debuts this month in Colorado's Vail Village (416-445-5031; doubles, \$375-\$575).