



**By Norwegian**  
December 2017  
Issue 60

### **Ski Colorado**

Where to go for  
the best adventures  
this winter

### **Shooting Dubai**

One photographer's  
take on the Manhattan  
of the Middle East

### **Pigments of imagination**

The Boston library  
that stores the world's  
rarest colours



# Just roll with it

How the mystery holiday became  
the next big thing in travel



# Contributors



Hitting the slopes in Colorado? Find out where to go on p51

## 1. LORENZO PESCE

As a photographer for magazines like *Tatler*, *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair*, Italian Lorenzo is used to shooting famous faces. But for *N* this month he turned his camera on relative unknowns – the craftspeople of Florence's Oltrarno district (see p99). He says his technique is the same regardless of the subject.

"It involves... a lot of disappearing. I think that the photographer needs to give space to the real soul of people, [so] I like to take pictures as if I wasn't there." [lorenzopesce.com](http://lorenzopesce.com)

## 2. NICK HANNES

Belgian photographer Nick spends much of his life waiting for the perfect moment. "As a photographer, you need to filter a moment from the whole reality," says the *Paris Match*, *Vanity Fair* and *El País* snapper, who shares his award-winning photographs of life in Dubai with us this month (p88). His secret: "I spend as much time as possible on the spot, and I won't move until they throw me out, the club closes or whatever."

[nickhannes.be](http://nickhannes.be)

## 3. GABRIELLA LE BRETON

British ski writer Gabriella used to live in Colorado, so she was thrilled to get the chance to hit up old ski buddies to get insider tips for this issue. "It's quite rare to be able to count chatting with mates about their favourite bars, ski runs and restaurants as work," says *The Ultimate Ski Book* author. The hardest thing was choosing which of them to include. "They were all so enthusiastic, and profuse, in their advice." Read more on p51.

[gabriella-lebreton.com](http://gabriella-lebreton.com)

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# ***18 REASONS TO ♥ SKIING IN COLORADO***

The Centennial State is one of the world's best places to ski. With the help of some snow-mad locals, we get the low-down on the top resorts for powder, fun and après

Words  Gabriella Le Breton



In Colorado, taking the first chairlift of the season is kind of a big deal. This year that accolade went to four buddies from Breckenridge – one calling himself “Nate Dogggg” – who spent two nights sleeping outside by the lifts in Arapahoe Basin, CO, just so they could front the queue.

On the morning of 13 October 2017, TV crews arrived in time to capture Mr Dogggg (not his real name) and his buddies on the coveted chair, having relegated a grown man dressed as a chicken into second place. Breaking through a 3m-wide paper sign proclaiming “Colorado is open!”, the foursome whooped and cheered like it was the first lift of their lives. This anecdote tells you two things about skiing in Colorado. One: the season here starts early. And, two, Coloradans are snow mad.

Considering where they live, it’s no wonder. As the highest state in the USA, with over 50 peaks towering above 14,000 feet (4,300m), Colorado is home to one of the longest, most varied ski scenes in the world. Its 30 resorts run the gamut from simple “mom-and-pop ski hills”, which have just one lift, to some of the world’s largest and most celebrated resorts, including Aspen, Breckenridge and Vail.

As diverse as these destinations are, they share Colorado’s consistent 300 inches (7.6m) of average annual snowfall and 300 days of sunshine each year – as well as Coloradans’ warmth, and their obsession for getting the best out of their skiing. That’s why we asked a load of actual ski-crazy locals to fill us in on the best resorts. Time to get your skis on...

## AT A GLANCE

Find the resort for you by checking our ski key

	\$	\$\$	\$\$\$
BUDGET	Basic	Standard	Big bucks
POWDER	Some	More	Loads
BEST FOR	Beginners	Regulars	Experts
SIZE	Small	Medium	Large



### BEST FOR SERIOUS SKIERS

## ARAPAHOE BASIN

With the longest season of virtually any American resort, and 71 per cent of its trails marked as Most Difficult and Extreme, Arapahoe Basin (A-Basin to locals) is a quirky, no-frills 1,331 acre (5.4km<sup>2</sup>) spot favoured by local powder hounds. One such resident, Adrienne Saia Isaac, has a strategy for visitors who are hoping to get the best out of the resort. “Think of lift tickets like airline tickets – you want to buy online in advance for the best pricing,” she says. “You wouldn’t go to an airport to buy a same-day plane ticket.” Another invaluable tip she has for making the most of town: “Pick up a free daily newspaper as they’ve got a ton of information about what’s going on to help you plan your days.”

[arapahoebasin.com](http://arapahoebasin.com)





**BEST FOR A HOLISTIC  
MOUNTAIN BREAK**

## ASPEN

One of the world's largest and best-known ski resorts, Aspen's 5,517 acres (22km<sup>2</sup>) of skiable terrain are spread across four distinctive mountains, delivering manicured pistes and legendary off-piste. But this mega-resort also boasts acclaimed art galleries, theatre productions

and world-class restaurants. Local professional ski mountaineer Christy Mahon, AKA @aspenchristy, describes her perfect day: "Aspen is all about mind, body and spirit. Start the day on Aspen Mountain with laps on the gondola, enjoying a cosy, European-style lunch at Bonnie's Restaurant.

Then take your legs for a spin around the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies' Hallam Lake nature preserve in the heart of town, before winding down the day with a locally sourced Colorado meal at Meat & Cheese for amazing vegetarian options."

[aspensnowmass.com](https://aspensnowmass.com)

"One of the world's largest ski resorts, Aspen is all about mind, body and spirit"

### need to know

#### CELEB SPOTTING IN ASPEN

Famous people love Aspen. The Kardashians come every year, and Kevin Costner has a ranch here. And it's not just living stars you might encounter at this swanky resort. Look out for the Aspen Shrines, quirky tree-stapled tributes to departed figures including Marilyn Monroe, Jimi Hendrix and Hunter S Thompson. [aspen-snowmassshrines.com](https://aspen-snowmassshrines.com)







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#### BEST FOR LUXURY LOVERS

## BEAVER CREEK

Beaver Creek's motto – "Not exactly roughing it" – reflects the pride it takes in pampering visitors. In addition to grooming its 150 trails 24-7 and providing free sunscreen and cookies, slopeside valets store your skis while moving walkways spare you from walking far in ski boots. While 62 per cent of trails are suitable for beginner

and intermediate skiers, the 1,815 acre (7.35km<sup>2</sup>) "Beav" also boasts steep, barely touched backcountry terrain. Local Patrick Barrett is a fan: "January usually brings the best powder days, when I head straight for my secret spot, Thresher Glade. Whenever you come, hit the Ritz-Carlton's Buffalos bar for live music and après around the fire pit."

[beavercreek.com](http://beavercreek.com)



## COOL ACCOMMODATION TIP!

Fans of ski touring in Europe might be surprised to learn that Colorado has a system of backcountry huts similar to those in the Alps. The **10th Mountain Division Huts** are 34 shelters in the Rocky Mountains, connected by 350 miles (560km) of ski-touring trails.

Named in honour of the 10th Mountain Division of the US Army, whose men trained in central Colorado during WWII, they sleep three to 20 people, offering magical nights in pristine wilderness.

Lea Tucker, an arts and PR consultant in Aspen, has honed the

perfect hut trip: "Find a fun group of friends to fill your hut and assign teams of two to bring in all meals, snack and signature drinks, to keep the food and beverages exciting and the weight evenly distributed throughout everyone's backpacks. And never forget the Glühwein."

[huts.org](http://huts.org)







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#### THE BIG HITTER

## VAIL

Vail is recognised as one of the world's best resorts for good reason. For starters, it's vast, with over 5,200 skiable acres (21km<sup>2</sup>), including the world's most groomed terrain and seven back bowls. It's made for confident intermediates, with countless flattering groomers and gentle powder bowls for entry-level off-piste skiing. Add impeccable customer service, a dizzying choice of hotels, restaurants, bars, shops and family

facilities, and you can appreciate Vail's enduring appeal. Local estate agent Patrick Barrett has this advice: "Lots of people come to Vail to ski powder but everyone always rushes to the back bowls, so my tip is to stick to the front side trees. I also recommend ditching the kids for the day (I have kids so I can say this). Small World Nursery takes kids under three while Golden Peak Ski School looks after ages three to 14." [vail.com](https://vail.com)



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#### BEST LOCAL VIBE

## LOVELAND

The locals' favourite resort, Loveland lies just 90 minutes' drive from Denver yet delivers a true sense of mountain escape. Straddling the Continental Divide – at 3,966m above sea level, it is literally breathtaking – it encompasses 1,800 acres (7.3km<sup>2</sup>) of varied terrain, which receive an average 10.7m of snow each year. Marc Vitelli, global brand manager for SIMS Snowboards, heads here as often as possible:



"Loveland is a true hidden gem despite being Denver's closest major resort," he says. "Once the snow stacks up, they run the Ridge Cat, a free snowcat that brings you up

higher on the Continental Divide for amazing conditions. On top of all this, Loveland has a positive, low-key, locals-only vibe."

[simsnow.com](https://simsnow.com), [skiloveland.com](https://skiloveland.com)





“Use jet lag to your advantage. Most visitors don’t hit the mountain till 9.30am but the lifts open at 8.30am”

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**BEST FOR EARLY RISERS**

## BRECKENRIDGE

Breckenridge arguably has it all: a Wild West town packed with bars and restaurants; 2,908 acres (11.7km<sup>2</sup>) of terrain spread across five lift-linked mountains with pistes, terrain parks and off-piste for every level of skier and snowboarder; and super-friendly locals and mountain staff. Unsurprisingly, it’s also one of the most popular resorts in North America. For 15-year Breck resident Kristen Petitt

Stewart the best way to do it involves an early start: “A great day for confident skiers has you start the ski day on Peak 7 for a hearty American breakfast at Sevens Restaurant before the lifts open,” she says. “Use jet lag to your advantage – most Breck visitors don’t hit the mountain until 9.30am but the lifts open at 8.30am, so you can enjoy an hour of mountain quiet.” 📶 [breckenridge.com](https://breckenridge.com)





**BEST FOR FREESTYLERS**

## COPPER MOUNTAIN

This compact resort, a former copper-mining town, shines brightest today for freestylers, thanks to its impressive terrain parks and Camp Woodward, a state-of-the-art indoor big air training facility. Handily, its 2,490 acres (10.1km<sup>2</sup>) of wooded slopes are divided by natural boundaries: beginners' trails to the west, intermediate trails in the centre, and advanced

skiing in the east and the back bowls. "For freestylers, Copper has the best terrain parks created by the Camp Woodward pros that provide fun for all skill levels," says Lindsay Atkins, owner of the High Rockies Whiskey and Wine Bar. "If you want a real powder thrill, head to Spaulding Bowl and lap the trees off Super Bee Line."

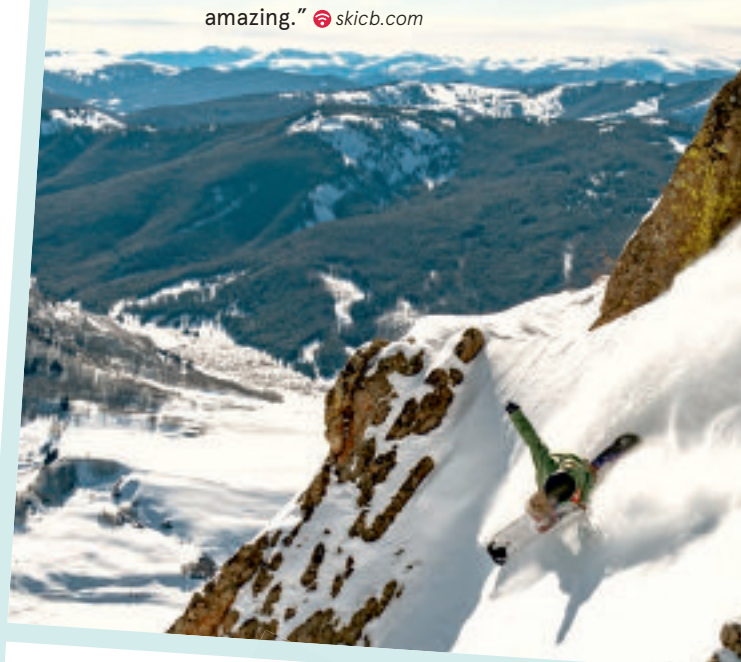
[coppercolorado.com](http://coppercolorado.com)



**BEST POWDER SPOT**

## CRESTED BUTTE

Crested Butte is as genuine a Colorado ski town as you'll find: its streets are lined with brightly painted Victorian houses propped up by bicycles and fat skis. The "fatties" are put to good use on Crested Butte's steep, powdery backcountry terrain, which makes up half of its 1,547 skiable acres (6.3km<sup>2</sup>). Long-term local Jenny Cluett Jeffery recommends Crystal Trees "for super floaty fun", before recovering at First Ascent for lunch. "The Kobe burger is amazing." [skicb.com](http://skicb.com)



### need to know

**FOR THE EXPERTS...**

Silverton Mountain is unique in the US for being 100 per cent expert terrain. It has just one lift and requires all skiers to have avalanche equipment and a guide, as pistes are unpatrolled and ungroomed. It also serves as a base area for more than 22,000 acres (89km<sup>2</sup>) of heli-skiing. For next-levelers only.

[silvertonmountain.com](http://silvertonmountain.com)





**BEST FOR NON-SKIERS**

## STEAMBOAT

A genuine Old West town, Steamboat is surrounded by ranches and the seven peaks that make up its 2,965-acre (12km<sup>2</sup>) ski area. The quality of Steamboat's terrain and reliable snowfall is best reflected in its moniker, "Ski Town, USA", reflecting the unparalleled number of Olympians who live here. In addition to Stetsons and Olympians, it's crammed with opportunities

for off-slope winter activities, from snowmobile and horseback tours to sleigh-ride dinners and hot-air balloon rides. As one of Steamboat's Olympic alpine skiers, Caroline Lalive Carmichael says: "There are so many wintersports to enjoy here but some of my favourites are cross-country skiing at the Steamboat Ski Touring Center and snowshoeing up Emerald Mountain." [steamboat.com](http://steamboat.com)



**BEST FOR FAMILIES**

## SNOWMASS

One of the four mountains in the Aspen Snowmass ski area, Snowmass has 3,332 skiable acres (13.5km<sup>2</sup>) of its own (making it Colorado's second-largest ski area), so you barely need three further mountains at your disposal. With most of its accommodation both family-friendly and ski-in/ski-out; a remarkable spread of terrain that's equally divided between beginner/intermediate and advanced/expert; and excellent on-mountain dining, you can spend a fortnight here and not get bored.

As Ted Mahon, a professional ski mountaineer and local ski instructor (@tedmahon), says: "With wide-open cruisers groomed to perfection, hidden glades and steepes, ample moderate terrain and fun programmes for the kids, Snowmass has it all. The



resort has seen recent lift upgrades and remodels to popular on-mountain restaurants like Elk Camp and Gwyn's High Alpine, putting this something-for-everyone family resort on par with the best in North America."

[aspensnowmass.com](http://aspensnowmass.com)

Three things  
you only  
know if  
you've skied  
Colorado



### THE AIR CAN BE DEADLY

The altitude in some of Colorado's ski resorts can, quite literally, be a killer. Take advantage of the oxygen canisters in many hotel minibars or drop into an oxygen bar to top up your levels.



### CHAMPAGNE MEANS SOMETHING ELSE

Thanks to its dry climate, Colorado snow is famously light and fluffy. However, Steamboat is the only resort in the world permitted to refer to it officially as Champagne Powder®.



### GROOMING IS A SERIOUS BUSINESS

Colorado resorts take the grooming of their pistes extremely seriously. If you love carving down fresh corduroy, check on-mountain notice boards for news of the day's "Noon Groomer", a piste that's freshly groomed late morning and reopened at midday.





#### BEST FOR NIGHTLIFE

## TELLURIDE

Shoehorned into a box canyon in the San Juan mountains, Telluride doesn't just provide 2,000 acres (8km<sup>2</sup>) of piste – split helpfully between intermediate-friendly groomers and experts-only backcountry steeps – it's a charming Victorian mining town packed with quirky bars and gourmet restaurants. Locals like Kristen "Supergirl" Permakoff, ski and snowboard instructor, are spoilt for choice. "For the best drink in town it's a toss-up between the Chop House Flatliner or There Bar's Grapefruit Martini," she says, "both are totally awesome." [tellurideskiresort.com](http://tellurideskiresort.com)



"Even on the busiest weekends there are secluded spots with great snow"



#### BEST FOR HIDDEN POWDER

## WINTER PARK RESORT

Founded in 1939 as a winter park for Denver residents, Winter Park Resort is a popular weekend bolthole, 90 minutes' drive from town, that's grown into a world-class resort. "Winter Park is so big that even on the busiest weekends you can find secluded spots with great snow," says John Glancey, a former ski patroller who has lived here for 22 years. "My favourite is Eagle Wind. Located on the back of Mary Jane, it's tucked far enough back that you can always find powder stashes."

[winterparkresort.com](http://winterparkresort.com)



*Norwegian flies to Denver from London/Gatwick and from Paris, starting April 2018. Book flights, a hotel and a rental car at [norwegian.com](http://norwegian.com)*



While you're in... Denver



#### STAY

##### Crawford Hotel

For a classic slice of all-American railroad chic, pitch up at this hotel, part of the renovated Union Station complex. Comfort meets proximity as the train from Denver Airport will drop you mere steps from the hotel reception.

[thecrawfordhotel.com](http://thecrawfordhotel.com)



#### EAT

##### Mercantile

Eat in or take away at this market-restaurant hybrid, where global light bites are the name of the game. From Vietnamese banh mi to quinoa salad and falafel flatbreads with Icelandic skyr, everything is well-made, fresh and delicious.

[mercantiledenver.com](http://mercantiledenver.com)



#### DRINK

##### Williams & Graham

We suspect the cocktail list at this speakeasy – with names like "Bears, Beets, Battlestar Galactica" and "I'd Like to Thank Meryl Streep" – is a joke at the expense of punters. But while you may feel silly ordering them, the drinks are top-notch (and that's all that matters). [williamsandgraham.com](http://williamsandgraham.com)