

BEST LIST

15 TOP SKI RESORTS

Boutique Bonhomie

BIGGER ISN'T ALWAYS BETTER

After a day skiing, skating, or bobsledding at **Lake Placid Lodge**—the winter activities at this upstate New York “great camp” run the gamut—you can warm up in front of your own fireplace; each of the 30 guest rooms has one. Soft pillows and throw rugs adorn the intimate **Dunton Town House**, a five-guest room residence just off Telluride’s main drag and only a block from the Colorado town’s free gondola. **Nita Lake Lodge** is the only lakeside boutique hotel in Whistler, British Columbia, a mecca for skating—and a short shuttle ride from the Creekside ski lift.

Kid-Friendly

EVERYONE IN THE FAMILY FEELS SPOILED

Children checking in to Utah’s **Montage Deer Valley** resort get to choose a stuffed animal and play with the resident Bernese mountain dogs. The **Ritz-Carlton Lake Tahoe** in California caters to kids with acres of nearby ski-in, ski-out beginner terrain and a kids’ club; parents chill at the luxe spa. Vermont’s **Stowe Mountain Resort** ponies up fun for all with skiing, ice skating, dog sledding, an indoor adventure center, and spa treatments. A highlight at France’s **Evian Resort** is that country’s largest kids’ club, housing a pool, a dance studio, and a theater where children perform for their parents.

From top: Chilling out at Stowe Mountain Lodge’s ice rink, an igloo turned dining room at KAI Alps, and a fire-warmed Lake Placid Lodge guest room



Fine Dining Delights

FEAST AND SIP LIKE ROYALTY

Dine at Aspen, Colorado’s **Little Nell** hotel, and one of the more than 40 sommeliers will find the perfect pairing for your meal from the house cellar holding millions of dollars worth of wine. **Timberline Lodge**, at the foot of Oregon’s Mount Hood, sources beef for its Cascade Dining Room from locally raised, grass-fed cows; complement your entrée with a Willamette Valley pinot. Sip tea in an igloo at **KAI Alps**, a hot springs resort reopening in December in Omachi, Japan. The signature dish is *yuki-nabe*, or “snow hot pot”—spun sugar melted into a cooking broth for meats and veggies. It can’t get much cozier than a truffled fondue for two at **Chedi Andermatt’s** Chalet restaurant in Switzerland.

Après Scene

PARTY LIKE, OR WITH, A ROCK STAR

A who’s who of Austria’s ski scene congregates around the fireplace at **Hospiz Alm** restaurant in St. Christoph am Arlberg to down post-slope shots of schnapps and platters of Wiener schnitzel. Chile’s **Hotel Portillo** has no guest room TVs, so patrons soon find themselves in the hot tubs, chatting over Chilean wine. The elegant lobby bar at Switzerland’s **Gstaad Palace** is legendary for its gemütlich vibe and live music, savored with cherry-based kirsch liqueur; there’s no snuggler spot for people watching. During the winter holidays, cap a day on skis in Banff National Park with ice wine or spiked hot chocolate at the **Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise’s** ice bar.