

805 LIVING

Joy!



By Erin Rottman

A fire table (below) warms an inviting outdoor gathering space beside the saltwater pool and jacuzzi at Desolation Hotel in South Lake Tahoe (right).



Micro Resort Opens in Tahoe

Chet Pipkin's first trip to Lake Tahoe was a road trip some 40 years ago. "When you go over the last summit and the basin opens up before your eyes, it's one of the most beautiful sites that anyone can ever experience," he says. Hoping to share his love of the mountains that he calls "majestic, formidable, inviting, and daunting all at the same time," Pipkin has opened **Desolation Hotel** in South Lake Tahoe (desolationhotel.com, from \$279).

A collection of nine hotel rooms with kitchenettes, one one-bedroom suite, and 11 townhomes with private garages and electric vehicle chargers, the dog-friendly Desolation Hotel sits between a private beach on Lake Tahoe and Heavenly Ski Resort. After a day of skiing, riding, or winter hiking, Desolation provides several spots to recharge: the hot sauna and cold shower plunge, soaking tubs on the balcony of every room, and Pipkin's favorite, the outdoor deck at Maggie's restaurant and bar, which offers everything from burgers to branzino.

For every night's stay, Desolation Hotel contributes to the Sugar Pine Foundation to have a tree planted in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The Wait is Over in Mammoth

The hotel that housed John Wayne during film shoots in the Mammoth Lakes area has reopened as the rustic modern, mid-luxury **Sierra Nevada Resort, an Outbound Hotel** (thesierranevadaresort.com, from \$199). It's a welcome addition to a ski resort area that has not seen a new hotel open in 15 years, says managing director Brent Truax.

The canine-friendly property consists of standard rooms; suites with sofa beds, fireplaces, and kitchenettes; and multibedroom chalets for larger families and groups. There's a wine bar in the lobby—a communal space with a large fireplace—and the former Rafters restaurant is now Bar Sierra, featuring a variety of contemporary Californian dishes and beer from June Lake Brewing and Mammoth Brewing Co.

While the Sierra Nevada offers a free shuttle to the ski area, Truax also hopes to offer guests tips on finding lesser-known cross-country ski trails and hikes near Shady Rest Park; the back side of Obsidian Dome, which was formed from solidified lava; and more. "We'll help you find gems," he says. "We understand what this town is about, and we're going to tailor an experience for you."



Visitors to Mammoth Mountain Ski Area have a new lodging option: the Sierra Nevada Resort hotel in Mammoth Lakes.

Guests of the Goldener Hirsch in Park City, Utah, can raise a hot toddy and a fondue fork to celebrate the season on a snow picnic.



Old World Meets Contemporary in Deer Valley

For many years, the Eccles family traveled annually from Utah to ski in Austria, where they fell in love with the Hotel Goldener Hirsch in Salzburg. Eventually, they wanted to bring the feel of that charming European chalet back home. They asked the owners if they could borrow the tradition, and the Goldener Hirsch was born in Deer Valley in 1992.

Now, with the addition of 40 one- to three-

bedroom residences in two new buildings, the **Goldener Hirsch, Auberge Resorts Collection** (aubergeresorts.com/goldenerhirsch, inn from \$899, residences from \$1,049) offers guests the choice of an old world inn with ornately carved wood furniture from Austria or a modern alpine resort that blends concrete, steel, and reclaimed wood. “This makes this property special,” says general manager Ekrem Tercanoglu. “For one stay, [people] like to try the inn; for the next visit, they like to stay in the residence, to have both experiences.”

Either way, guests can complement the stay with a snow picnic, complete with fondue, warm alcoholic beverages, and piles of plush pillows and blankets.

Home and Hotel

Colorado’s **Riverfront Lodge at Beaver Creek** (eastwest.com/property/riverfront-lodge, from \$422)

couples space and amenities with its available one- to three-bedroom condominiums and access to the spa, fitness center, and restaurants at The Westin Riverfront Resort & Spa, just a couple of minutes’ walk away.

Furnished by the owners, each of the modern 36 residences is different. Some have high-end espresso machines and grills on the balcony; others feature floor-to-ceiling windows with mountain views and entries with cubbies to stow ski and snowboard gear easily. All have the touches that feel like home, such as premium kitchens, cozy faux-fur throw blankets, coffee table books, and unique art.

“The Riverfront Lodge is not a hotel,” says property manager Alex Ferenczyova. “You’re renting a home.” A complimentary shuttle runs to Beaver Creek and Vail, or guests may walk a few minutes to the ski valet and Riverfront Express Gondola to Beaver Creek.



Whistler’s Next Level Service

One recent Christmas Eve, a family staying at **Four Seasons Resort and Residences Whistler** (fourseasons.com/whistler, residences price upon request) forgot to organize something for the holiday. The scramble ensued. A bellman found one of the last Christmas trees in town, purchased decorations hours before the stores closed, and hurried back to the office to wrap presents and install the tree with his team in time for morning.

“We do whatever we can to make it happen,” says Sabrina Offers, director of private residences and owner relations.

Personalized service is part of what makes the newly renovated residences so unforgettable. Inspired by nature, designers outfitted the two- to four-bedroom apartments with materials like wood, stone, natural fiber textiles, and leathers in a neutral color palette to promote relaxation and calm. The residences have their own entrance, and parking, a pool, and a hot tub are separate from the hotel. ♦



Private residences at Four Seasons Resort Whistler, British Columbia, are designed with elements of nature for a relaxing vibe.

Please check CDC and local guidelines before traveling.