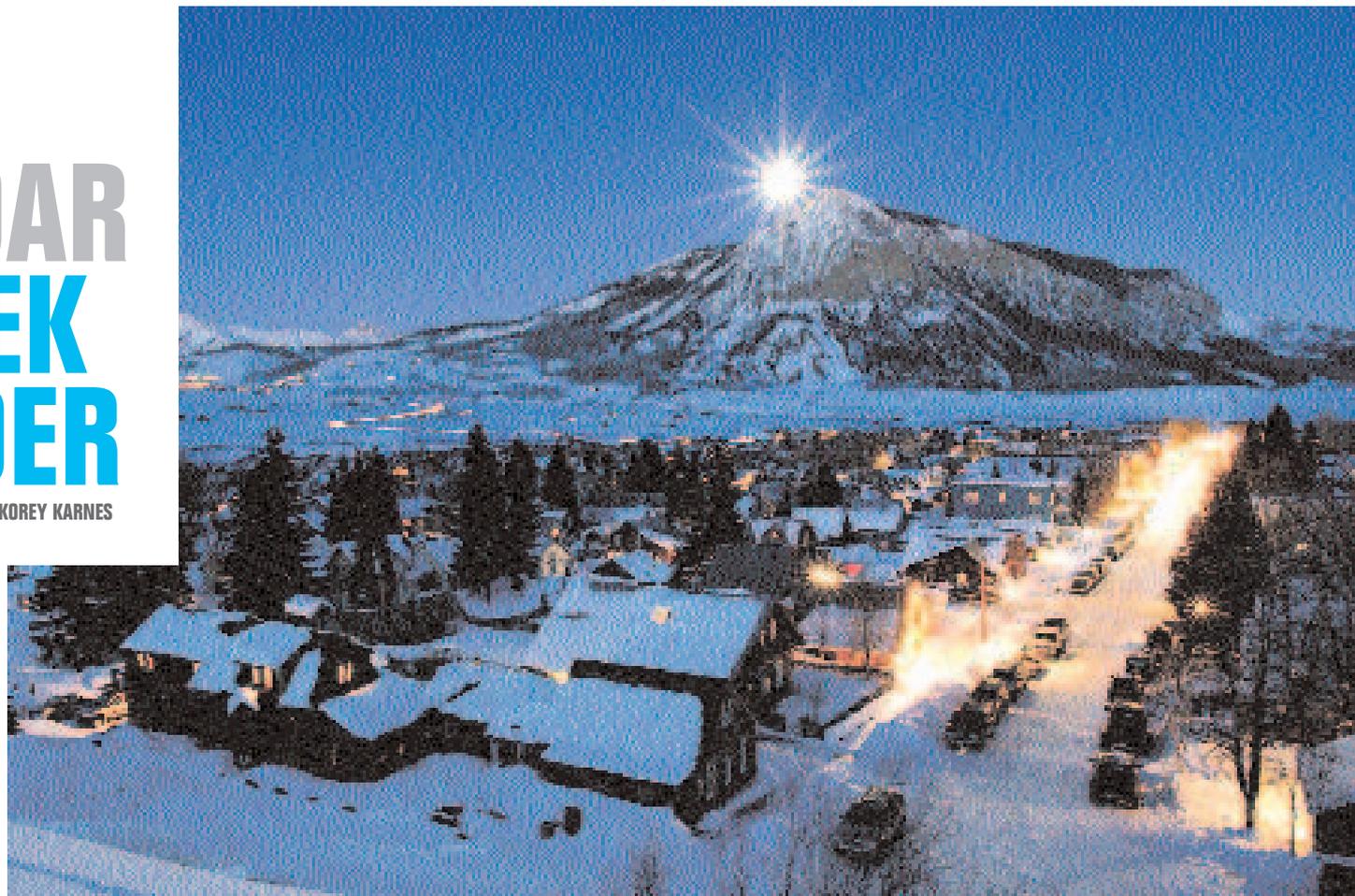


THE RADAR WEEK ENDER

BY SARAH GLEIM AND KOREY KARNES



Top: The town of Crested Butte at night.
Above: A room at Arrabelle in Vail.

THE WILD, WILD WEST

Heading to the mountains this winter? Here's everything you need to know before you hit the slopes.

New luxury hotels, high-end restaurants and challenging runs reachable only by foot are heating up ski destinations in Colorado and Utah this season. Sure, the beach may be warm, but there's something about the snow that keeps us coming back for more. Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

ELEVATION, CRESTED BUTTE

Just a few years ago, Crested Butte (it's about 30 miles north of Gunnison in southwest Colorado) was still a sleepy ski town. Not anymore: The secret is out on this historic mining town's extreme terrain and small crowds. And now that CB is on the radar of most ski bums, Mount Crested Butte's base area has seen an explosion of multi-million-dollar improvements, like the \$200 million Mountaineer Square that includes a new hotel, transit center, restaurants and retail shops. But when it comes to luxury accommodations, the Elevation Hotel and Spa is the newest (old) kid on the slopes. Formerly Club Med Crested Butte, the Elevation just re-opened last month after a \$25 million renovation. It's now the only four-star, ski-in/ski-out hotel located at the ski base, and is literally steps away from the Red Lady and Silver Queen high-speed quad chairlifts. The hotel's 260-plus condominium suites have all been completely refurbished with high-end stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, custom furniture and linens, soaker tubs and balconies with mountain views. www.elevationhotel.com.

ARRABELLE RESORT, VAIL SQUARE

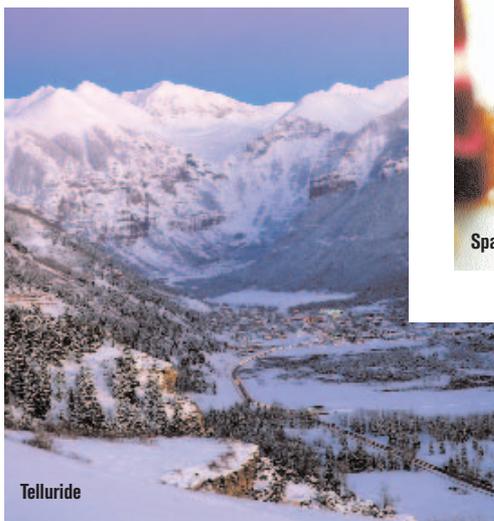
As the popularity of Vail and Beaver Creek continues to grow, new resorts and developments are popping up to quench the constant demand for rooms. The latest destination? The new ski-in/ski-out Arrabelle at Vail Square, which is scheduled to open in January at the foot of the gondola at Vail Mountain. With 36 luxury hotel rooms—boasting elegant built-in wood closets, fireplaces, lounge chairs and flat-screen TVs—plus more than 50 for-sale condos, the Arrabelle is the first luxury hotel to open in Vail Valley in more than 25 years. Based on the Biedermeier design style—an early 19th-century German architecture

CONTINUED...

CRESTED BUTTE PHOTO BY TOM STILLO

...CONTINUED movement that evokes simplicity, elegance and functionality—the intimate destination gives some European attitude to the oh-so-American Rocky region. On-site amenities include a 10,000-square-foot spa and dining at the mountainside French-brasserie Centre V. www.rockresorts.com.

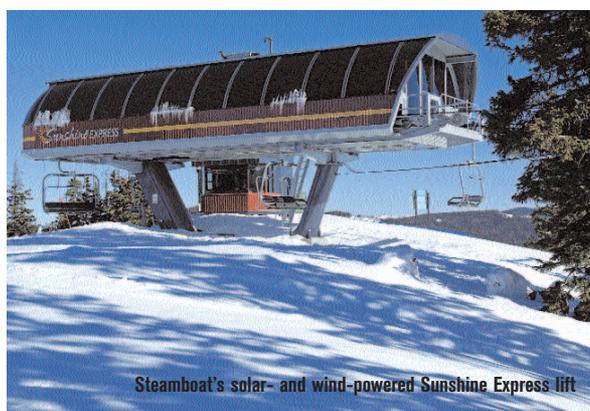
BLACK IRON BOWL, TELLURIDE If you're one of those crazy people who thinks that the plain old lift-ski-lift lifestyle isn't enough adventure, here's a way you can add some excitement to your vacation: Telluride has just opened its Black Iron



Telluride

SPAGO, THE RITZ-CARLTON, BACHELOR GULCH Superstar chef Wolfgang Puck has just opened a glitzy new 4,400-square-foot Spago outpost at the Ritz-Carlton in Bachelor Gulch, Vail Valley's swanky and secluded AAA Five Diamond resort. The Tony Chi-designed spot has intimate booths, an open kitchen, and a bustling bar and lounge. www.ritzcarlton.com.

THE CLUB AT SOLARIS, VAIL Colorado's latest vacation home hotspot is the Club at Solaris, a shared-ownership community opening winter 2009/2010 that will offer 19 three- and four-bedroom residences for a very limited number of lucky members. With the Epiphany Guarantee, owners are promised access to a luxury home anytime during the year (yes, even the holidays) along with perks including an SUV waiting at the airport, annual ski passes, a private concierge and full member privileges to The Club at Cordillera. Prices start at a cool \$1.9 million. www.clubatsolaris.com.



Steamboat's solar- and wind-powered Sunshine Express lift

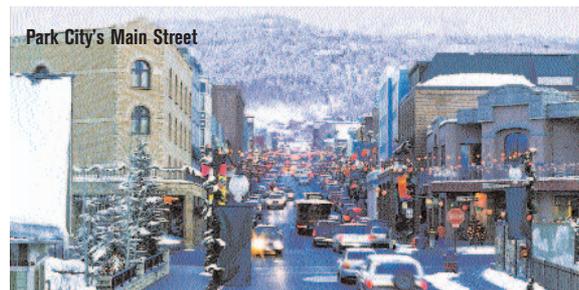


Spago's goat cheese and beet layer cake

Bowl, eight runs of hike-to-skiing available to anyone that dares. Skiers and snowboarders take a ride up the lift and then hike further up Prospect Ridge. After anywhere between 10 to 30 minutes of hiking time, skiers can drop in along the ridge for up to 1,000 vertical feet of expert skiing. www.tellurideskiresort.com.

GREEN IS THE NEW BLACK!

Colorado has always been ahead of the curve when it comes to going green, so it's no surprise that the state's top ski resorts are eco-friendly, too. **It's a Breeze:** Eleven Colorado ski towns are leaders when it comes to harnessing wind energy. Aspen, Beaver Creek, Vail and Crested Butte all offset 100 percent of their energy use by purchasing 300,000 mega-watt hours of wind power annually. That's the same as taking 40,000 cars off the roads. **Power Lifter:** Last year, Steamboat opened the Sunshine Express, which runs on solar and wind power—the only high-speed quad lift of its kind in the country. **Reduce, Reuse:** What's used in Colorado is recycled in Colorado, at least at the ski resorts. Keystone's massive compost program recycles three tons of food waste every month during the busy season; Vail has one of the largest such programs in the country, recycling 62 percent of on-mountain waste; and, believe it or not, the entire ski area at Silverton Mountain was built with recycled products. **Do Your Part:** For just \$2 per lift ticket (or \$20 per season pass), skiers at Aspen/Snowmass can purchase a SkiGreen Tag to help offset their travel-related carbon footprints. **A**



Park City's Main Street

UTAH BOUND!

So Utah may be farther away than Colorado, but you can still be on the slopes by noon if you leave Atlanta in the morning (there are 11 resorts within 40 miles of downtown Salt Lake). And things are hot on the Utah ski scene!

THE SKY LODGE, PARK CITY Opening December 26, the Sky Lodge is Main Street's new 22-condo boutique hotel. With its loft-meets-mountain décor, plus a seafood restaurant, bistro and bar with an outdoor fire pit, we predict this will be Park City's hot new hangout. www.theskylodge.com.

WOMEN'S SKI CAMP AT ALTA Who needs show-off boys? Grab some gals and head to Alta for three days of top-flight ski clinics. Then, after a day on the slopes, enjoy après-ski at the Sitzmark Club bar and a nightly four-course dining experience. January 24–28. Prices begin at \$1,809. www.altalodge.com.

MT. SUPERIOR RESIDENCE CLUB, SNOWBIRD Snowbird's first real estate development in more than 20 years, this 20-unit luxury residence club is ski-in/ski-out and has all top-of-the-line amenities. Three- and four-bedroom units are available, as is shared ownership. Prices for full homes start at \$500,000. www.mtsuperiorclub.com.

COED STEEP SKIING CAMPS, SNOWBIRD Join professional skier Kim Reichhelm for a five-day extreme clinic that involves steep skiing lessons and video instruction, plus the necessary daily après-ski. February 10–15. \$1,350. www.skiwithkim.com.