

# Don't Forget to Make Stories

BY BILL KEARNEY, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

## EDITOR'S LETTER

It's funny how some memories stay clear while others blur. Vast swaths of my adult life are in soft focus, but I can precisely recount tales from childhood summer camp. With that in mind, I recently took part in an informal version for adults, "Camp Astor," at The St. Regis Aspen Resort: I sabered a bottle of Champagne, nearly bounced off my whitewater raft, passionately debated s'more methods, caught wild trout and won a dessert-making contest with my fiancée. I have a feeling those memories will stay diamond-sharp.

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## The mountains are becoming open-air museums

Luxe ski resorts are enhancing the experience with vibrant shows in the snow.



**While you're swooshing down the slopes, art may not be foremost on your mind. However, ski resorts across the world have been introducing aesthetic experiences into their winter offerings, via oversized sculptures, illustrated lift tickets and painted gondolas—transforming mountains into open-air museums.**

In Courchevel, one of the poshest mountain playgrounds (and part of Les Trois Vallées in France, the largest ski region in the world), skiers encounter an ever-changing assortment of pieces. The resort's L'Art au Sommet program began in the winter of 2009 with an exhibition of 14 sculptures by Salvador Dalí, commemorating the 20th anniversary of his death. Each year since then, artists have displayed work on the summits of Courchevel, including (several times) Richard Orłinski and Julien Marinetti. This season, nine of their sculptures will dot various elevations, among them *Kong*, *Horse* and *Tiger* from Orłinski and multiple pandas from Marinetti. Courchevel also invited graffiti artists such as JonOne to paint their cable cars and gondolas, and added a pop-up exhibition by artist-fabricator Rébecca Fabulatrice, who wraps old chairlifts, gondolas and skis in bright bra straps.

In Colorado, the Aspen Skiing Company and Aspen Art Museum partnered on a program called Art in Unexpected Places, which each year invites artists to embellish the resort's ski-lift tickets. The current season features multimedia artist Paula Crown's depictions of crushed Solo cups, a commentary on the American ideal of fun, consumerism, FOMO (fear of missing out) and environmental awareness. Past contributors include Takashi Murakami, Laura Owens, Carla Klein, Mamma Andersson, Mark Grotjahn, David Shrigley, Mark Bradford and Anne Collier. The program extends into the physical at Elk Camp on Snowmass Mountain, which hosts temporary art installations. This winter, painter Sarah Cain has produced a large-scale, site-responsive work utilizing found objects and recycled materials.

While contemporary art tends to be the order of the day, one of the oldest pieces at a ski resort can be found in Chamonix, France, where a stained-glass scene by Louis Balmat at the church Saint-Michel commemorates the first Winter Olympic Games, held there in 1924. An hour away, the resort Flaine is making a comeback. The area was pioneered in 1959 by geophysicist Éric Boissonnas, who hired Bauhaus architect Marcel Breuer (who also designed the UNESCO headquarters in Paris) to create a cultural snowscape and mountain museum. When it debuted in 1969, Flaine featured outdoor sculptures by Pablo Picasso (*La Tête de Femme*), Jean Dubuffet (*Le Boqueteau*) and Victor Vasarely (*Les Trois Hexagones*), as well as Breuer's precast concrete buildings (which are now listed in the French Historical Monuments Survey). After years of neglect, Flaine is again being recognized for its Brutalist architecture: A new hotel, Terminal Neige Totem, recently opened in one of Breuer's original structures.

And at Sleeping Lady, a mountain resort in Leavenworth, Washington, glass artist Dale Chihuly—famous for his sculptures in destinations such as the Citadel Tower of David Museum in Jerusalem, the waterways of Venice, and London's Kew Gardens—created his first permanent outdoor installation. The *Icicle Creek Chandelier*, standing nearly nine feet tall and composed of 1,060 spikes, is a favorite of skiers and aesthetes alike.

## Rocky Mountain Highway

A four-wheel adventure through Colorado's premier ski towns proves you don't need skis to enjoy the slopes



Encased in an Ermenegildo Zegna-designed interior of robust leather and Mulberry silk, I entered a meditative state. The snow-covered valley was at peace. That is, until my co-pilot, Nick, told me to give it the boot. The 400-plus-horsepower Ferrari V6 engine roared to life, breaking the morning silence. A rooster tail of snow kicked up from the rear tires. As we began to slide, the Maserati's Q4 all-wheel drive sent signals to the front wheels, keeping us — and the 2016 Ghibli S Q4 — out of the snowbank.



I left the springlike weather of Texas in February for the heart of the Colorado Rockies and moments like this. As a lover of four wheels (and not necessarily two skis), I came here to see why luxury-sports-car giant Maserati has chosen ski country to show off its latest Italian imports. I figured an all-wheel-drive Subaru or Volvo would be the car of choice for a weekend through the slopes, but following their first winter drive event last year, Maserati has returned to Aspen and Snowmass Village to showcase their take on downhill adventure. I'm along for the ride — or in this instance, the driver — as Nick and I surge forward and head toward Snowmass Village.

#### THE SNOWMASS APPEAL

While Aspen gets the most love when it comes to ski towns, Snowmass is an amalgamation of resort life with mountain-village vibes just 10 miles west of Aspen. I've decided to stay at the Westin Snowmass Resort for its easy location: The hotel anchors the village with ski-in/ski-out access, gear outfitters and basically anything you need — restaurants, shops, cafes — within walking distance of the property.

Over the next 24 hours, I and other auto aficionados will be exploring the Roaring Fork Valley from the sleek cabins of a Maserati. But before setting out on a 100-mile, round-trip journey to the historic village of Redstone, our group heads to the Viceroy Snowmass' Nest Public House. Situated in the heart of town and surrounded by slopes, a warm bowl of tomato soup and soft pretzel bites on the outdoor patio is the perfect comfort fuel before getting behind the wheel. Seat belt on, sport mode and manual shifting activated ... the engine lets out a low grumble as Nick and I take off on the road again.

Cruising through the serpentinelike mountain roads, reminiscent of the Italian Dolomites, the Ghibli moves with ease below the snowcapped peaks. The mountain-goat-like sure-footedness of the Q4 system keeps the car in line (and myself in check) on the slick, weathered roads as we head into Redstone. The tiny village — home to a turn-of-the-century coal-mining operation — is on the National Register of Historic Places for the empire that started here in 1892.



Taking a respite from the road, we stop for tea at the restored Redstone Inn, a Swiss-chalet-styled living monument to the town founded by robber baron John Cleveland Osgood in 1925. Originally a bachelor pad for Osgood's single employees, the inn — along with 84 homes for employees with families — was outfitted with luxuries like running water and electricity as a social experiment by Osgood.

Inside the lodgelike den, the scent of fresh-brewed coffee and tea welcomes us into the space. We explore the 36-room inn, including a cozy hideaway suite in the working clock tower and Landmark rooms on the second floor in the original structure of the inn. The hotel manager notes that the next time we cruise into town, we should plan accordingly: Redstone is a winter wonderland of unplowed roads for cross-country skiing and challenging ice climbing on nearby cliffs.



#### THE ALLURE OF ASPEN

Arriving in downtown Aspen, the roots of the town are visible today. Inspired by the 1932 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, New York, Walter Paepcke, an industrialist from Chicago, and his wife, Elizabeth, arrived in Aspen looking to create an alpine-skiing destination in the U.S. in 1938. Teaming up with former 10th Mountain Division member Friedl Pfeifer, they began purchasing land around the area to create a place for people “seeking renewal of their mind, body and spirit” — referred to as the Aspen Idea. When the town hosted America’s first world-skiing competition in 1950, word spread quickly that Aspen was the hot winter destination.

The hard work of the Paepckes and Pfeifer still resonates through the red-brick-building-lined streets. The sidewalks are teeming with pedestrians shopping and catching up in cafes. The slopes buzz with bunnies zigzagging their way down to the base of Aspen Mountain past newbies trying the “french fry” and “pizza” techniques.

Nick and I pull past the mountain to the 39 Degrees Lounge at Sky Hotel. Inside, the striped banquettes are packed with people enjoying après-ski (or, in my case, après-drive) drinks from the mixology wizards behind the bar. For myself, a Mountain Mayhem: a mixture of rye, grapefruit juice, honey and cinnamon with a little sugar around the rim of the glass.



When it's time for dinner, we head to the fine-dining restaurant, L'Hostaria, a short walk from the lounge past the illuminated facade of the Aspen Art Museum. Under the glow of candlelight with the scent of handmade pasta wafting through the air, I am once again transported back to the Italian daydream from earlier: tagliatelle blended with cherry tomatoes, fresh mozzarella and a bright marinara followed by a light arugula-and-pear salad and plenty of Sangiovese to toast to the day.

Although my time with the Ghibli S Q4 has come to a close, there is one last trip as the driver pulls up in my car to take me back to Snowmass. Getting in the passenger seat, I watch the lights of Aspen disappear behind the trees. The snow-covered valley is at peace. I turn to the driver. "Give it the boot," I say. The engine roars back.

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## Beyond the Slopes

### STAY

#### **The Little Nell**

Aspen's first and only five-star, five-diamond hotel opened its doors in 1989 and was the first hotel to offer ski-in/ski-out access. The property recently debuted a fresh, sophisticated style with famed interior designer Holly Hunt leading the way. [TheLittlenell.com](http://TheLittlenell.com)

#### **Hotel Jerome**

As the first hotel west of the Mississippi to have an elevator, running hot water and full electric lighting, the 127-year-old Hotel Jerome has long been a staple of Aspen. Located right at the base of Aspen Mountain, the 93-room hotel maintains its historical roots with modern luxuries. [Hoteljerome.aubergeresorts.com](http://Hoteljerome.aubergeresorts.com)

#### **Westin Snowmass Resort**

Sit back and relax by the slopeside heated pool at the massive 254-room hotel, or indulge in a hand-crafted cocktail while gazing out at the mountains from the Vue Lounge. [Westinsnowmass.com](http://Westinsnowmass.com)

### PLAY

#### **Aspen Art Museum**

In 2014, the museum reopened downtown with an innovative architectural design blending art with sweeping mountain views, bridging the gap between inside and out. Rotating exhibits include international contemporary artists and interactive experiences. [Aspenartmuseum.org](http://Aspenartmuseum.org)

#### **Ice Climbing**

Less than an hour from Aspen in the village of Redstone, daunting ice walls tucked among the sandstone cliffs provide numerous climbing routes. [Aspenexpeditions.com](http://Aspenexpeditions.com)

#### **Snowmobile Tours**

The T-Lazy-7 Ranch in Aspen has been offering snowmobile tours for more than 45 years. Try a trek through the White River National Forest on the Maroon Bells tour out to Maroon Lake for Insta-worthy moments of the famous Maroon Bells peaks. [Tlazy7.com](http://Tlazy7.com)

## *DINE*

### **Cache Cache**

With an inventory of more than 5,000 bottles, Cache Cache's wine selection is legendary. Under management of Jodi Larner since 1989, the restaurant infuses classic French Cuisine with seasonal ingredients. [Cachecache.com](http://cachecache.com)

### **Matsuhisa**

For his first venture outside of Beverly Hills, chef Nobu's downtown restaurant resides in a 120-year-old house. Matsuhisa brings the chef's signature Japanese cuisine to the American West. [Matsuhisarestaurants.com](http://Matsuhisarestaurants.com)

### **Little Mammoth Steak House**

Tucked within Snowmass Village, Little Mammoth takes fillets to the next level. In-house, dry-aged cuts like the bone-in rib-eye are served atop slabs of pink Himalayan salt blocks. [Littlemammothsteakhouse.co](http://Littlemammothsteakhouse.co)

## SHARE

DAVID HALLORAN

is the photo editor for Celebrated Living. After taking on Aspen sans skis, he gave in, hit the slopes for the first time ever and managed to only have one major face-plant captured on film. Email him for outtakes.

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## **From the Platinum List, Celebrated Living**

The Little Nell, Aspen, CO

**Sitting at the base of Aspen Mountain, this legendary property caters to both snow-junkies and après-ski lovers alike with a complimentary ski concierge and posh restaurant.**

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

