



GET STEEPED

Make like Alice at an unusual Scottish tea party
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SECTION T SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2010

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PICK YOUR POISON IN COLORADO



Expecting only cookie-cutter resorts and Prada-clad vacationers? At the state's top ski destinations, the Wild West frontier mentality shines through
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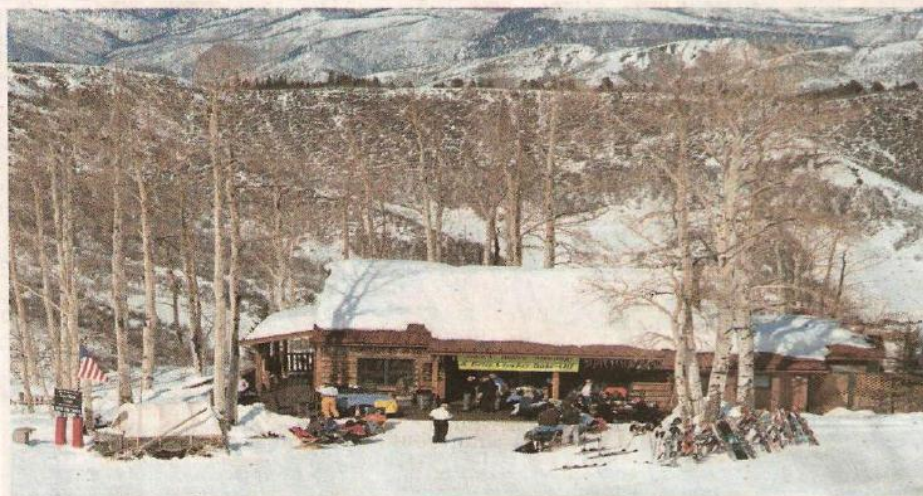
Telluride at sunrise: In Colorado, you'll find colorful locals, cheap beer and old service that's as street as it is luxe as sets your style. www.globeandmail.com

TAKE THE KIDS

Perfect powder demands a March Break on the mountain

Put down your swimsuit and pack up your long johns to take in the powder skiers are raving about. We sent a team of downhill devotees to top resorts

— Ski Canada editor **Iain MacMillan** to Le Massif, writer **Dick Snyder** to Aspen and **Lori Knowles** to Sun Peaks, Globe Sports editor **Tom Maloney** to Smuggler's Notch, and Globe Travel's **Catherine Dawson March** to Vail — to find out what's afoot for families in 2011



Stop and refuel at the Lynn Britt cabin, an on-mountain eatery. DANIEL BAYER

Aspen Snowmass

HIGHLIGHT

This hill is nirvana for families. Check out: 1) All-day daycare and ski school at the Treehouse Kids' Adventure Center; 2) Alpine gourmet dining on-mountain at the Lynn Britt Cabin, where you can while away a three-hour lunch as kids enjoy above; 3) New terrain park with a superpipe and a mini-pipe, where older kids can get their ya-yas out.

TERRAIN

Everything from bunny hills to "extreme" double blacks. Lots of long, wide, groomed cruisers make it easy on old knees and young tots. But challenges abound too: Snowmass has the most vertical feet of all U.S. hills, with 90 trails served by 23 lifts.

KID STUFF

A \$17-million project opened in 2007, the Treehouse Kids' Adventure Center is a 25,000-square-foot snow school headquarters, rental and retail facility, family-après entertainment centre and daycare for children ages 8 weeks and up. Themed rooms and activities cater to specific ages, and there's a large family-friendly climbing room.

APRÈS FOR KIDS

The Sweet Life, a locally owned ice cream bar and candy store in the Base Village, features a

s'mores table and outdoor fire pit. (Good enough for Tom Cruise and family.)

APRÈS FOR ADULTS

The Eight K Restaurant and Lobby Bar in the luxury Viceroy hotel, which opened last season, has fine-dining options all day so après can begin any time. Cozy up in a fireside leather club chair and peruse a library of books and magazines.

LIFT TICKETS

\$99 basic lift (reduced rates available with packages); kids 6 and under ski/ride free.

WHERE TO STAY

The Snowmass Inn offers economy lodging for serious skiers. It's 50 metres from the slopes and right next to the Village Mall. Included: continental breakfast, fridge, coffee maker, free wireless Internet. Rooms from \$131.

In March and April, free ski and stay for kids 7 to 12 with adult purchase of lodging and lift tickets (minimum four day/five nights) at Snowmass Inn. From \$1,868 for five nights for two queen beds, lift included; 888-649-5982.

VERDICT

For its wide range of services and entertainment for kids of all ages, plus pampering and activities for adults of all appetites (and budgets), Snowmass rates a Triple A. aspensnowmass.com

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