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TRAVEL+ LEISURE

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SWEEPSTAKES
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WINTER ESCAPES

ROMANTIC HIDEAWAYS
FROM PARIS TO POSITANO

PLUS
CAMBODIA
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URUGUAY
ASPEN VS. VAIL

5 COZY INNS

How to Avoid
Baggage Nightmares

ASPEN VS. VAIL

ONE IS THE EQUIVALENT OF ST.-TROPEZ-ON-SNOW; THE OTHER, A FAMILY-FRIENDLY, MODERN BAVARIAN VILLAGE. T+L HELPS YOU DECIDE WHERE TO SKI AND BE SEEN STATESIDE THIS WINTER. **BY STACEY BRUGEMAN**



ASPEN



VAIL



Discerning skiers are heading to the **St. Regis Aspen Resort** (877/787-3447; stregis.com; doubles from \$799), which is fresh off a redesign that gives the modern rooms a touch of Gilded Age opulence.

Updated last year, the 45-room **Hotel Aspen** (800/527-7369; hotelaspen.com; doubles from \$299) is a hip alternative for travelers looking to save their money for lift tickets or late-night magnums of *Veuve Clicquot*.

The younger bump-skiers take over the banquettes at the **Kimpton's Sky Hotel** (800/546-7866; drinks for two \$20); a quieter scene unfolds on the fireside couches of the **Little Nell** (970/920-4600; drinks for two \$30).



Cache Cache (970/925-3835; dinner for two \$150) is still the choice reservation, but townies are flocking to casual newcomer **Justice Snow's** (970/948-9209; dinner for two \$60).

Look for gorgeous gemstone jewelry at **Maja DuBrul** (970/920-1133; majadubrul.com), run by the granddaughter-in-law of Walter Paepcke, who founded modern-day Aspen.



Owen and Luke Wilson, Antonio Banderas and Melanie Griffith, Jack Nicholson—and their pilots, of course.



HOT HOTEL

After several years and a \$2 billion investment, Vail's village redevelopment is complete; the **Four Seasons Resort Vail** (800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$635)—with its claw-foot tubs and 75-foot heated outdoor pool—is the crown jewel of this renaissance.

LODGING FOR LESS



Vail is surprisingly short on affordable rooms; the best place for deals on rentals and hotels (including the new Sebastian Vail) is vailonsale.com.

APRÈS-SKI SCENE



The Arrabelle at Vail Square, a RockResort, has given new life to the village's Lionshead base area, with everyone from Mexican power brokers to Denver day-trippers heading to the sunny patio at the hotel's **Tavern on the Square** (970/754-7777; drinks for two \$20).



COVETED TABLE

Elway's (970/754-7818; dinner for two \$120) just opened at the Lodge at Vail, a RockResort; its house-cut prime steaks and 350-bottle wine list are giving competition to the area's other hot spots, Kelly Liken and Larkspur.

BRING IT BACK

Don't miss a stop at **Gorsuch** (970/476-2294; gorsuch.com), the legendary family-run boutique where coyote-fur boots and turquoise belt buckles set the bar for mountain fashion.



CELEBRITY SIGHTINGS



Michelle, Malia, and Sasha Obama; local Olympian **Lindsey Vonn**; and fund managers on corporate retreats.

ASPEN: FROM TOP: MARTHA CAMARILLO; COURTESY OF STARWOOD HOTELS & RESORTS; COURTESY OF THE LITTLE NELL; COURTESY OF CACHE CACHE; COURTESY OF MAJA DUBRUL; RD/KIRKLAND/REINA LTD/CORBIS; VALERIE MACON/GETTY; SCOTT McDERMOTT/CORBIS; VAIL: FROM TOP: KEVIN COOLEY; COURTESY OF THE SEBASTIAN VAIL; COURTESY OF BRECKENRIDGE BREWERY OF COLORADO; COURTESY OF ARRABELLE AT VAIL SQUARE