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big life

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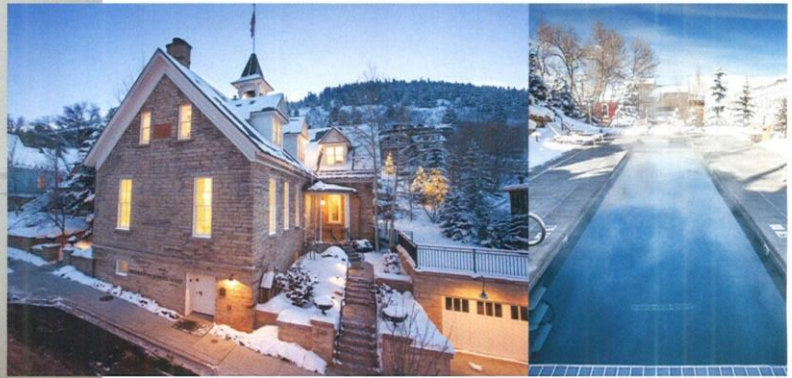
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MOUNTAIN HOT SPOTS

So when *Vanity Fair* hired Pippa Middleton, you know, the Pippa from the most famous case of maid-of-honor-upstaging-the-bride (just Google “Pippa + dress” and check out those buttons...), to give the lowdown on ski resorts around the world, we had to wonder, what, really, does Pippa know? Well, it turns out that she knows quite a bit about the best places to stay. That said, her tastes sway towards the decidedly decadent. And why not? Who doesn’t want to have their cake and eat it too? The *BigLife* where-to-stay-when-you’re-in-the-mood-to-playlist shares some of Pippa’s recommendations but, in true *BigLife* form, we get a little more adventurous and make some off-the-*Vanity-Fair*-radar suggestions. And do any of us really think that Pippa ate the maple-glazed bacon she recommends from Deer Valley’s Stein Eriksen? Take it from regular pig porkers, it’s worth a trip to Park City. Here are the *BigLife* picks for your fall getaway or the 2016 ski season.



PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL HOUSE HOTEL

PLACES TO STAY & THINGS TO DO

WASHINGTON SCHOOL HOUSE HOTEL:

Trust us. This is the place. The Washington School House Hotel, originally built in 1889, was one of Park City’s first schools. This limestone gem barely escaped the Great Fire of 1898—and was transformed from an outdated bed and breakfast to what is now a 5-star boutique hotel in 2011.

A welcoming, just-swanky-enough, modern, mostly white, stylish haven, WSHH offers hints of its history throughout the building: original moldings, high ceilings, and radiators are a few tip-offs. Equally prevalent are the comforts of a high-end hotel: a heated pool and spa, surrounded by aspens and spruce, free wifi, ski valet, and 24-hour concierge service.

With only 12 rooms, the staff

at WSHH has managed to perfect attentive service for their guests without being overbearing. Washington School House Hotel Manager Michael Gregory says, “We have all the luxuries of a 5-star hotel, but with a level of personalized service that cannot be matched.”

No two rooms here are alike: some are one level while others feature two floors connected by an iron spiral staircase. All feature exquisite white linens, flat screen TVs with 100+ channels, hooded fluffy robes, and Molton Brown Luxury bath products.

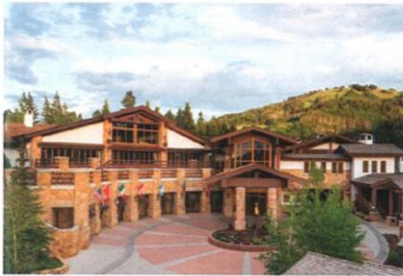
Your *BigLife* homework assignment: book in advance. With only a dozen rooms and an extraordinary product, demand is high, and supply... not so much.

You’ll get extra credit the longer you stay. [washingtonschoolhouse.com](http://www.washingtonschoolhouse.com)

The fall in Park City is all that and a six-pack of beer. Good beer—not your run-of-the-mill Budweiser. More like a cleverly named microbrew. And for winter, with a number of on-mountain, ski-in and ski-out options, *BigLife* gets a little weak in the knees over Deer Valley. But then there’s Old Town and the nightlife and cultural events happening in Park City proper. So we give you a taste of both.

PARK CITY, UT

ABOVE (left to right): Washington School House, front-and-center in Park City’s Old Town, is a gem. The dining room is sophisticated; the exterior is a meticulously-maintained historic schoolhouse; the heated pool is a definite bonus, no matter the season.



STEIN ERIKSEN LODGE: The man behind the legendary lodge is Olympic Gold Medalist, Stein Eriksen. His Norwegian roots, style, and attention to detail are just a few of the trademarks of this ski-in/ski-out 5-star property at Deer Valley. Named the "World's Best Ski Hotel" at the 2014 World Ski Awards, the charming 180-room hotel hasn't lost its touch when it comes to service. The staff is more than happy to deliver wood to your suite to heat up your fireplace (yes, fireplace—an old-school, authentic touch), and many

rooms come with a private hot tub on the deck. Dark wood furnishings with copper and wood elements can be found throughout the hotel and each room is accented by Norwegian paintings. To skip a spa service at Stein Eriksen would be a grave mistake. The 23,000-square-foot spa offers 16 treatment rooms—and a myriad of services that will make you feel pampered and restored. As for the cuisine, again—not to be missed. Stein's dedicated Chef Zane Holmquist prides himself in training an exceedingly knowledgeable staff and

creating straightforward, delicious menus. Many customers buzz about his bacon—namely, the maple-glazed bacon, served daily on The Giltretind's breakfast menu. For an over-the-top Euro ski vacation experience while at Stein's, schedule an evening horse-drawn sleigh ride. The extra touches and services you'll experience here are often referred to as "The Stein Way" by the staff. Your job as a guest is to enjoy. steinlodge.com

ADVENTURE BONUS

Hit the hills. They are alive with the sound of fat tires this fall. Want a mountain bike guide? Go see the folks at Jans Mountain Outfitters and White Pine Touring. Then eat out at any number of fantastic area restaurants and kick back at O.P. Rockwell for some good tunes or head to The Kimball Arts Center to get your culture on.

ST. REGIS DEER VALLEY: Funicular. We just love the word. But we love the ride even more—leather seats scaling a 230-vertical wall delivering you to a dream destination. What's not to love? The upper hotel section is accessible only by a private, gated road or by ski slope while the reception area welcomes guests with refined interiors. St. Regis offers a butler service for each guest and these butlers will respond to your every need. At the end of a great day on the slopes, rip down to a ski valet who will spoil you better than your grandmother. Then head up to the generous and glamorous full-service "ski beach"—a terrace with chaise lounges and a fire garden that runs for 40 feet. If you can tear yourself away from the beach, take some time to check out the 13,000-bottle wine cellar from Jean-Georges Vongerichten's J&G Grill where they delight guests by opening champagne bottles with a saber. Sounds good, right? But we haven't even begun to get to the good stuff. Each room is a sanctuary, the food is outstanding, and the spa is world-class.



But if you're going to go, there are a few things you need to know: if you want to secure a view of the slopes, request an odd-numbered room. Also, St. Regis offers a ski or sport ambassador program through which guests can order up a bespoke adventure with Olympic-caliber athletes. Now, pinch yourself to see if you're dreaming. stregisdeervalley.com



ABOVE (top to bottom): The St. Regis grand lobby; the heated bi-level pool; and St. Regis at night.

JACKSON HOLE, WY

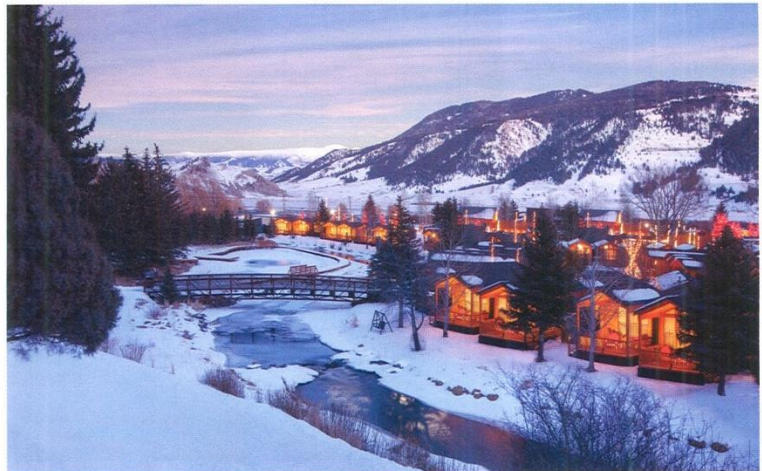
Jackson has mountains that just won't quit. The vibe in town is a mix of old and new West—cowboys and alpinists belly up to the many hip bars in town and toast to the big life together. If you hit Jackson in the fall, the summer crowds will have thinned and the foliage will be on fire. If you go for the winter, be prepared to fall in love with skiing just a little more. *BigLife* brings you a guest ranch outside of Jackson and an in-town winner. Why choose? Go to both!

WHERE TO STAY



TURPIN MEADOW RANCH: John Muir said, "Keep close to nature's heart, and break clean away, once in a while, to climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods." And for our money, Turpin Meadow Ranch is a damn good place to follow Muir's advice. A little over an hour from Jackson, Turpin Meadow Ranch is an ideal place to unwind and experience the Mountain West. This guest ranch offers three types of accommodations, all recently remodeled—the historic lodge, the guest cabins, and the chalets—and has a plethora of activities to keep you busy during your retreat

to the woods. Depending on the season (they call them the "green season" or "white season"), Turpin Meadow's expert guides and wranglers are always ready and willing to help you explore the vast wilderness surrounding the resort. Owned by two former Olympians who also own an inn in Jackson (Alpine House, also recommended, alpinehouse.com)—Hans and Nancy Johnstone—Turpin Meadow Ranch is for those of you out there who need to follow Muir's advice and keep close to nature's heart. turpinmeadowranch.com



ADVENTURE BONUS

Hunting at Turpin Meadows. With a variety of trip types, the pros at Turpin Meadows can customize your hunting experience. From first-timers and all-women trips to six-day hunts, Turpin Meadows can get you into some of the most remote wilderness in the Lower 48 and still put you up in killer digs at day's end. Not a hunter? Head to the spa at The Rustic Inn or go for a hike in Yellowstone.

THE RUSTIC INN CREEK-SIDE RESORT AND SPA: Set on 12 beautifully landscaped acres along Flat Creek, The Rustic Inn is a lavish boutique hotel experience in Jackson Hole. In addition to their log buildings and luxury guest cabins on the creek, The Rustic Inn has added the Spa Suites, exclusive accommodations that include a dedicated

butler whose job it is to make your stay at The Rustic Inn and your time in Jackson unforgettable. With an on-site revitalizing spa and seasonal cuisine served in an idyllic Wyoming setting and easy access to the best of Jackson's adventures, The Rustic Inn is a no-brainer for your Jackson stay. rusticinnatjh.com

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF TURPIN MEADOW RANCH / COURTESY OF THE RUSTIC INN CREEKSIDE RESORT AND SPA



SUN VALLEY, ID

Let it snow, but if it doesn't, you're still covered in Sun Valley. Because of the exceptional snow making at Sun Valley Resort, you can still make turns no matter what the weather gods have in store for you. That said, fresh powder is always preferable to man-made snow. With that, let the snow dance begin! If you check it out before the ski season, you won't be sorry. The fall is fabulous.

WHERE TO STAY

Knob Hill Inn:

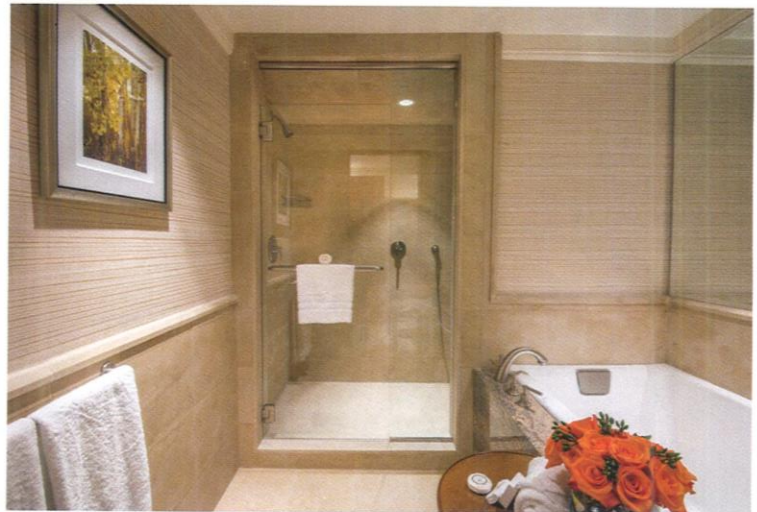
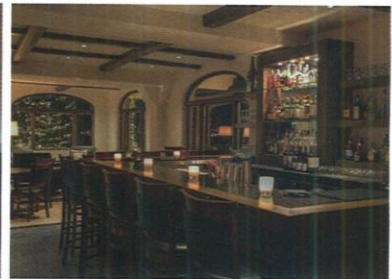
Once a study in old-world European décor, by 2011, Knob Hill Inn was on the market and outdated. Bought at auction by four investors tied to the Sun Valley area, the KHI got a facelift. The new owners hired Ketchum-based general contractor Carter Ramsay of Ramsay Solutions, Inc. and Seattle-based interior designer Cynthia Mennella to re-envision the special property. Gone, thankfully, is the overwhelming feeling that Laura Ashley had the run of the place (Not a child of the '80s? Laura Ashley was synonymous with pastel florals.); instead, you are welcomed by a sophisticated but comfortable hotel staffed by locals passionate about the Sun Valley area. With only 29 rooms and suites, Knob Hill's staff treats you like royalty. And the dining experience at The Grill at Knob Hill is memorable. In warmer months, there is no better outdoor dining than in the Knob Hill garden. And when the cold sets in, retreat to the

comfortable but sophisticated dining room. The ambiance is noteworthy, as is the food.

At today's Knob Hill, the accommodations are first-class, and the service and amenities definitely do not disappoint. The inn has partnerships with local businesses to make each stay special. Need a little R&R? As a guest of Knob Hill you can purchase a discounted day pass at Zenergy Health Club and Spa or head to the local YMCA free of charge.

No matter the season, the staff at Knob Hill is ready to help you find your next adventure. In summer and fall, arrange a mountain bike tour with their local partner, Sturtevant's. Visiting Ketchum in colder climes? Knob Hill Inn contracts with Door 2 Door ski rental service. Basically a concierge ski service, Door 2 Door will meet you at the inn, fit you for boots and skis, and you never have to put down your cocktail. Yes, please.

knobhillinn.com



PLAY HARD GIVE BACK AT KNOB HILL



Partnering with local social entrepreneurs at Play Hard Give Back, Knob Hill Inn provides guests with healthy snacks in rooms and for sale in the lobby. Play Hard Give Back, a Ketchum-based company with the mission to support athletes while supporting good causes, has been working with hotels around the country to supply healthy treats and raise awareness for athletes and their favorite not-for-profits. Check out playhardgiveback.com for more information.

SUN VALLEY LODGE:

80 never looked so good. The original destination ski resort has been reborn, revitalized, rejuvenated, and renovated—just in time to turn 80 in 2016! The rooms are bigger, the bathrooms are better, and the spa has a brand-new and very posh home. While everything at the Sun Valley Lodge has

been updated and the décor made more contemporary to appeal to modern travelers, there is still the old-world lodge feel that Sun Valley loyalists will appreciate. Gracious doormen still greet you and the Duchin Room has upped its game when it comes to the competitive cocktail culture. sunvalley.com

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF KNOB HILL INN / COURTESY OF SUN VALLEY LODGE / COURTESY OF PLAY HARD GIVE BACK