



2009 Best Places to Ski & Stay in North America

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In our fourteenth annual survey, our readers share their peak experiences—from the mountains that are tops for terrain to hotels that provide the softest of landings

It seems that nothing—short of moving the mountains themselves—can slow down skiers and snowboarders. Even with last winter's economic challenges, U.S. ski resorts tallied more than 57 million visits, making it the fifth busiest season on record. Abundant powder is key, of course, but abundant fun depends on much more: well-groomed terrain and spiffy lifts with speedy lines, ample après-ski options, and a comfortable place to hit the hay. For maximum pleasure, from schussing to sleeping, you voted the resorts and hotels on these pages tops this year.

Methodology The results for *Condé Nast Traveler's* poll of ski resorts and hotels were derived from our annual Readers' Choice Survey. The questionnaire was available to all readers through a secure Web site. The final tabulation of 25,008 responses was done by Mediamark Research, Inc., of New York City. Ski resorts were rated on a five-point scale: excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor on the criteria of Terrain & Conditions, Lifts & Lines, Après-Ski/Activities, Local Dining, and Local Ambience; ski hotels were rated excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor on the criteria of Rooms, Service, Dining/Food, Location, Overall Design, and Activities/Facilities. Criterion scores, which represent the percentage of respondents rating a ski resort or hotel excellent or very good, were averaged to determine the overall score. Only ski resorts and hotels that received a required minimum number of responses were eligible for inclusion in these rankings.

TOP 20 SKI RESORTS



1	Whistler Blackcomb, B.C.	15%	55%	30%	91.1	93.5	84.5	93.9	89.6	93.7
2	Telluride, Colo.	23%	36%	41%	89.6	93.7	89.4	84.4	86.5	94.0
3	Deer Valley, Utah	27%	41%	32%	88.3	93.2	90.5	82.0	86.6	88.9
4	Beaver Creek, Colo.	19%	43%	38%	87.7	92.1	89.2	83.8	85.2	87.9
5	Vail, Colo.	18%	29%	53%	87.5	94.4	74.8	91.8	88.9	87.5
6	Jackson Hole, Wyo.	10%	40%	50%	87.2	92.5	79.8	84.6	85.5	93.3
7	Aspen, Colo.	0%	48%	52%	86.9	88.9	77.0	90.4	89.5	88.7
8	Sun Valley, Idaho	36%	42%	22%	84.9	77.9	85.1	79.1	89.7	92.5
9	Park City, Utah	17%	50%	33%	82.8	87.3	75.2	82.8	82.7	86.2
10	Steamboat, Colo.	14%	42%	44%	80.5	91.3	81.1	75.8	72.1	82.4
11	Aspen Highlands, Colo.	18%	30%	52%	79.6	89.4	84.8	71.2	77.3	75.0
12	Crested Butte, Colo.	23%	57%	20%	79.3	87.3	83.0	70.1	70.7	85.4
13	Mont Tremblant, Quebec	17%	33%	50%	78.8	79.8	69.7	84.0	75.9	84.4
14	Sun Peaks, B.C.	10%	58%	32%	78.7	88.1	88.1	77.6	67.2	71.9
15	Snowmass, Colo.	6%	50%	44%	77.9	93.3	82.3	69.5	70.7	73.6
16	Breckenridge, Colo.	14%	31%	55%	75.9	81.3	66.7	77.0	73.2	81.4
17	Whitefish Mountain, Mont.	20%	50%	30%	75.0	85.7	85.7	60.7	67.9	75.0
18	Mount Bachelor, Ore.	15%	25%	60%	74.0	86.1	76.7	63.7	67.3	76.2
19	Lake Louise, Alberta	25%	45%	30%	73.9	83.6	76.2	63.9	69.0	76.7
19	Squaw Valley, Calif.	25%	45%	30%	73.9	84.1	70.5	74.4	65.2	74.9

Beginner Trail
 Intermediate Trail
 Expert Trail
 Overall Score
 Terrain & Conditions
 Lifts & Lines
 Après-Ski/Activities
 Local Dining
 Local Ambiance

TOP 50 SKI Hotels



1	Amangani, Jackson Hole, Wyo.	96.0	100	96.0	96.0	88.0	96.0	96.0	\$565–\$1,700
2	Arrabelle at Vail Square, Vail, Colo.	94.3	96.8	93.5	89.7	100	93.5	93.5	\$295–\$2,075
3	Fairmont Banff Springs, Banff, Alberta	93.9	87.9	97.0	87.9	97.0	100	93.9	\$265–\$655
4	Little Nell, Aspen, Colo.	93.0	89.1	91.1	86.7	100	93.2	97.8	\$261–\$644
5	Fairmont Chateau Whistler, Whistler, B.C.	92.0	85.4	89.6	89.6	97.9	91.7	97.9	\$216–\$975
6	Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, Lake Louise, Alberta	91.9	90.9	97.0	87.9	93.9	93.9	87.9	\$233–\$724
7	Four Seasons Resort, Jackson Hole, Wyo.	91.7	96.3	96.3	85.2	94.4	88.9	90.6	\$175–\$1,225
8	Summit at Big Sky, Big Sky, Mont.	89.7	92.0	88.0	72.0	96.0	92.0	92.0	\$192–\$506
9	St. Regis Aspen Resort, Aspen, Colo.	89.5	89.7	90.9	80.4	94.4	91.1	90.9	\$299–\$1,970
10	Sundance Resort, Sundance, Utah	89.4	90.2	80.8	90.6	94.3	88.7	90.4	\$379–\$569
10	Teton Mountain Lodge & Spa, Jackson Hole, Wyo.	89.4	92.5	86.8	73.1	94.3	94.3	92.5	\$199–\$349
12	Rimrock Resort Hotel, Banff, Alberta	89.1	86.3	89.0	88.9	90.4	91.8	83.6	\$132–\$378
13	Post Hotel & Spa, Lake Louise, Alberta	88.8	94.9	94.9	94.7	84.6	92.3	82.1	\$275–\$390
13	Snake River Lodge & Spa, Jackson Hole, Wyo.	88.8	85.7	80.4	82.5	96.4	87.5	89.7	\$162–\$686
15	Four Seasons Resort, Whistler, B.C.	88.4	91.4	89.1	83.7	81.7	89.2	87.1	\$280–\$1,100
16	Stein Eriksen Lodge, Park City, Utah	87.6	80.6	87.1	87.1	93.5	83.9	93.5	\$750–\$1,160
17	Ritz-Carlton, Bachelor Gulch, Avon, Colo.	87.4	89.2	85.1	83.8	87.8	87.8	90.4	\$269–\$1,199
17	Westin Resort & Spa, Whistler, B.C.	87.4	93.8	81.3	75.0	96.9	87.5	90.3	\$319–\$1,299
19	Hilton Whistler Resort & Spa, Whistler, B.C.	86.6	87.2	89.4	72.3	93.6	83.0	82.6	\$135–\$745
20	Rusty Parrot Lodge, Jackson Hole, Wyo.	85.8	88.0	92.0	87.5	80.0	84.0	75.0	\$230–\$525
21	Lodge & Spa at Cordillera, Vail Valley, Colo.	84.7	85.4	80.5	85.4	78.0	82.9	87.8	\$189–\$399
22	Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge, Jasper, Alberta	84.5	79.4	81.4	78.4	94.1	86.3	86.3	\$200–\$493
22	Sonnenalp Resort of Vail, Vail, Colo.	84.5	83.7	88.2	83.7	87.1	79.3	82.8	\$280–\$615
24	Beaver Creek Lodge, Beaver Creek, Colo.	84.4	83.9	87.5	71.4	96.4	80.4	87.0	\$159–\$999
25	Canyons Grand Summit Hotel, Park City, Utah	83.8	92.0	75.0	72.0	88.0	80.0	95.8	\$140–\$700
25	Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu, La Malbaie, Quebec	83.8	87.0	87.0	83.3	87.5	91.7	75.0	\$134–\$336
25	Sun Valley Lodge, Sun Valley, Idaho	83.8	74.2	83.9	83.3	93.5	77.4	90.3	\$139–\$349
28	Peaks Resort & Golden Door Spa, Telluride, Colo.	83.2	76.9	80.8	57.7	100	92.3	92.3	\$109–\$419
29	Park Hyatt Beaver Creek Resort and Spa, Beaver Creek, Co.	82.1	76.9	78.5	71.9	95.5	83.3	86.2	\$179–\$1,499

Bold-faced scores are the highest for their criterion. Rates quoted are for doubles during the month of December.

Overall Score
 Rooms
 Service
 Dining/Food
 Location
 Overall Design
 Activities/Facilities
 Rates



30	Vall Mountain Lodge & Spa, Vall, Colo.	82.0	85.3	82.4	73.5	88.2	76.5	79.4	\$195-\$875
31	Sugarbush Inn, Warren, Vt.	81.9	64.0	84.0	84.0	92.0	68.0	83.3	\$109-\$180
32	Timberline Lodge, Timberline, Ore.	81.8	57.9	70.7	75.9	100	93.0	84.2	\$110-\$290
32	Village at Squaw Valley, Lake Tahoe, Calif.	81.8	71.7	73.9	71.1	97.8	80.0	84.8	\$129-\$379
34	Banff Park Lodge, Banff, Alberta	81.4	76.6	79.4	73.0	93.8	76.2	78.1	\$149-\$289
35	Pan Pacific Whistler MountainSide, Whistler, B.C.	81.0	83.0	80.9	57.4	91.5	83.0	78.7	\$219-\$919
36	Mirror Lake Inn Resort and Spa, Lake Placid, N.Y.	80.9	78.1	79.5	78.1	84.7	78.1	73.2	\$195-\$435
36	Sunriver Resort, Sunriver, Ore.	80.9	69.2	70.5	66.3	86.5	83.8	92.8	\$169-\$304
38	Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Resort, Spa & Casino, Incline Village, Nev.	80.2	77.5	77.5	73.9	87.6	83.1	81.0	\$165-\$545
39	Killington Grand Resort Hotel, Killington, Vt.	80.1	80.0	76.7	46.7	93.3	90.0	89.7	\$135-\$350
39	Omni Mount Washington Hotel, Bretton Woods, N.H.	80.1	56.0	78.0	77.8	91.2	87.9	82.2	\$199-\$594
41	Fairmont Tremblant, Mont Tremblant, Quebec	79.9	78.1	73.8	64.5	92.2	80.0	87.5	\$174-\$532
42	Topnotch Resort & Spa, Stowe, Vt.	79.8	75.0	83.3	75.0	83.3	75.0	81.3	\$195-\$645
43	Vall Cascade Resort & Spa, Vall, Colo.	78.7	76.6	80.9	72.9	77.1	75.0	89.6	\$109-\$609
43	Woodstock Inn & Resort, Woodstock, Vt.	78.7	83.3	77.8	81.9	93.0	82.6	47.7	\$185-\$459
45	Balsams Grand Resort Hotel, Dixville Notch, N.H.	78.6	63.0	79.6	81.5	81.5	68.5	82.6	\$118-\$573
46	Lodges at Deer Valley, Park City, Utah	78.4	86.4	79.7	61.1	79.7	75.9	78.9	\$290-\$760
47	Lodge at Vall, Vall, Colo.	78.3	70.0	77.1	75.7	85.7	78.6	77.9	\$229-\$1,149
48	StoweLake Mountain Resort & Spa, Stowe, Vt.	77.7	76.0	76.0	69.6	80.0	80.0	84.0	\$224-\$424
49	Lake Placid Lodge, Lake Placid, N.Y.	77.6	74.4	79.5	71.8	84.6	79.5	66.7	\$550-\$1,550
50	Resort at Squaw Creek, Lake Tahoe, Calif.	77.4	69.7	66.7	57.6	93.9	78.8	75.8	\$159-\$522

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