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AN INTRODUCTION TO THE FORTIFIED SPANISH WINE

TALES OF TRIUMPH:
NORTHWEST WINEMAKERS SHARE THEIR STORIES

Chill Out: Booze-filled Slushies, Have Ice and More



Musicality and Grace Meet Guests at the Wickaninnish Inn

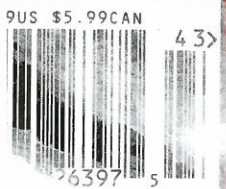


Wyoming Calling: Our Jackson Hole and the Snow King Resort

LET US BE YOUR GUIDE

Sommelier Wine Picks for Summer

APRIL 2014
JULY—OCTOBER 2014





SNOW KING RESORT

BY ERIN JAMES

A JACKSON HOLE HOSPITALITY ICON

The sun began to sit behind the Teton Range, the colossal and spectacular set of rocks that shelter the Jackson Hole valley in Wyoming like craggy guardians. Landing in the diminutive airport just hours before, my tour of Jackson Hole's Snow King Resort had consisted solely of finding a seat on the heated patio at Hayden's Post Restaurant & Bar, ordering a pint of Pako's IPA (the house draft made by nearby Snake River Brewing Company) and gazing at the famous range of epic eastern-facing elevation.

The peaks gazed back down at Jackson Hole and this awe-struck visitor, like a wise and compassionate elder, dramatically contouring the valley millions of years ago and still shaping the impact of the valley today. It was early spring, as threadbare snow began to melt into the grass and the ski-crazed mountains were set to shut down for the season the following weekend. The hushed, tranquil atmosphere was a gentle harbinger back to what this cowboy town must have once been like, pre-dating the now saturated winter-ski zone and summer sports haven.

My rubbernecking was concluded to take on an actual property tour of the Snow King Resort, a genuine ski lodge with kitsch-met-chic Western charm (front of the house men are adorned in belt buckles and cowboy hats) and newfangled updates (a \$16-million overhaul, renovating rooms, meeting spaces, building exterior, spa and more in early 2013). Snow King and its personal mountain of the same name serve as the boundary of Jackson Hole town lines, the ski hill itself known as the "local's mountain" where many residents learned to carve the hillside themselves since the 1930s. In the summer, the mountain is an alpine slide with miniature golf attractions and hiking zones.

En route via hotel shuttle to Snow King's luxury condominiums, Grand View Lodge, I encountered my first moose of the trip. This mother and her calf were on an eating frenzy in the middle of the resort's property, mowing down the lodge's well-manicured foliage and minding their own business.

"Can I get closer to her?" I asked, standing in my seat and leaning toward the window. "Not unless you want to get charged at," my driver said back, with a smirk and a wink.

"Moose are more aggressive than you think."

And that's exactly what Jackson Hole Valley is—the luminary range and its animals co-existing below, with Snow King Resort serving as the valley's wildlife liaison and gateway to the Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks.

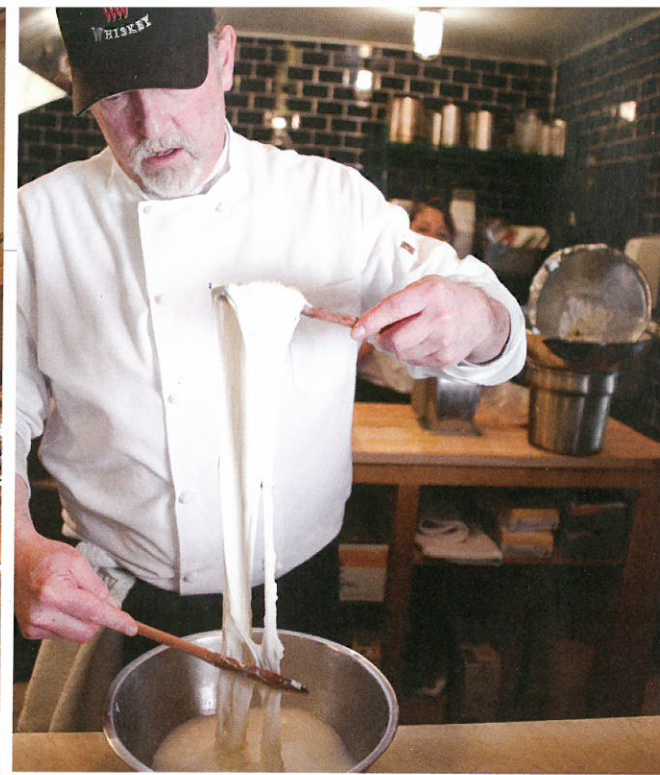
R&R IN JACKSON HOLE

Kissing the old, dated appearance of a shabby ski retreat goodbye, Snow King's facelift took this 75-year-old gal on a journey back in time—wiping away years of wear and tear and enhancing the "old west" theme into the modern era of the dapper rancher. Snow King is the town's largest full service, year-round resort with 203 rooms (two of which are suites) in the hotel and the Grand View Lodge offers one and three bedroom condominiums of alpine grandeur, as well as studio suites.

The western hospitality goes all the way from formal pleasantries at the front desk (can't recall the last time I was called "ma'am" in Seattle) to the guestrooms with rustic lodgepole pine furnishings, vintage cowboy photography and colorful, geometrically woven blankets and throw pillows. Both the king and double-queen rooms are outfitted with modern additions like an iHome, flat screen TV and wifi, along with rural effects from the wooden desk to the dresser and complete with a private restroom area stocked with Gilchirst & Soames bath products and rain showerheads. The Grand View Lodge provides its patrons with all that and then some—the condos are furnished with

PHOTOS COURTESY SNOW KING RESORT; WILDLIFE PHOTO CREDITS JASON WILLIAMS

Snow King's restaurant, Hayden's Post, embraces the soul and feel of the Old West in Wyoming.



DINING FINE

Jackson Hole and Teton Village's culinary presence is coming into fruition on the national stage—with restaurateurs galore, this town has never eaten better.

Persephone Bakery, Jackson Hole: From French-inspired pastries and artisanal breads, this downtown baked goods bistro is the master of the sweet, the savory and all that falls in between. || persephonebakery.com

Café Genevieve, Jackson Hole: Staged in a historic log cabin, this comforts-and-classics influenced eatery is best known for their breakfasts. Try the biscuits with Cajun gravy and a house Bloody Mary. || genevievejh.com

Couloir Restaurant at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, Teton Village: The white tablecloth solution for ski buffs who like to suit up while at the summit of a mountain, Couloir is all the swank but none of the pomposity. Enjoy house-smoked buffalo tenderloin at 9,095 feet. || jacksonhole.com/couloir-restaurant.html

Bin22, Jackson Hole: One of the six restaurants in restaurateurs Gavin Fine and Roger Freedman's Fine Dining restaurant group, Bin22 is the exclusive wine bar and retailer in town. Try one of the rotating wines by the glass with the in-house salami or house-pulled mozzarella. || bin22jacksonhole.com

complete chef's kitchens styled with granite countertops, whirlpool bathtubs, private balconies and more.

Once guests have counted enough cowboys in their sleep to feel rested in their plush boudoirs, they are invited to utilize the fitness center, splash around in the outdoor, heated pool and hot tub or slide onto the table at **OLGA'S DAY SPA**. Opened and operated by the Ukrainian masseuse of the same name, the spa is unassuming and her style congenial and nonchalant, offering an unconventional yet unwinding environment for guests and many regular clients.

Olga and her staff provide a number of treatments and therapy, from the Salt Glow exfoliating massage treatment and Snake River Stone Massage for penetrating heat relief on overworked ski or hiking muscles to the Tandem Four-Hands massage with two therapists ironing out the kinks of one guest. Waxing, facials and spa packages consisting of Olga-made "pairings" are also available for purchase and exploration.

POST UP

A day on the mountain—be it at Snow King or Jackson Hole Mountain, in Teton Village about 13 miles out—will leave visiting wildlife prospectors parched, for sustenance and drink. Snow King's restaurant, **HAYDEN'S POST**, embraces the soul and feel of the Old West in Wyoming, with home-style comfort grub and libations inspired by "camp fare."

A roaring fireplace gathers warmth for guests in winter where the high-vaulted and drafty lodge beams above allow for breathing room, while the bar serves as the focal point of the restaurant. As a phoenix rising from the ashes of the previous restaurant tenant (the old joint, Rafferty's, was less than favorable among locals), Hayden's Post is helping to set the bar for Jackson Hole as a dining scene. Fervently promoting their use of heirloom variety and heritage breeds, the staff and the menus are calculated and conscious of the caliber of restaurant they are now becoming.


From the bison chili to the kettle-made mac and cheese and a kale Caesar for starts to the Dutch oven stout-braised bison and the house made elk Bolognese over pappardelle, the cuisine not only has a sense of place as far as the flavors go, but the sourcing of the meats and vegetables truly reflect the season and the environment.

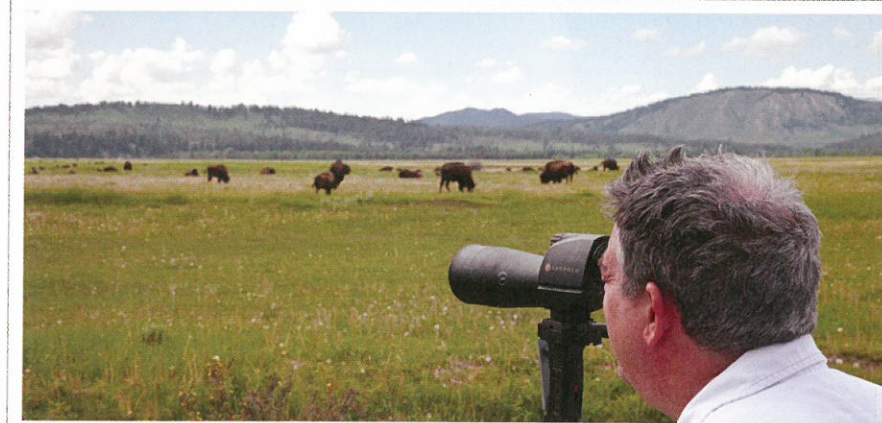
Snow King's support of local sourcing comes through in many forms, especially in the budding beer scene with the Hayden's Post tap list including a house beer from Snake River Brewing in town, along with a number of beers from **WILDLIFE BREWING** and **GRAND TETON BREWING**, both in nearby Victor, Idaho.

The town of Jackson Hole now shows off three brewpubs, which has to set some records for breweries per capita in this town of less than 10,000 residents. With

the town shuttle stop stationed in front of the Snow King lobby, hotel guests are in downtown Jackson Hole within minutes or can enjoy a leisurely 10-minute stroll to the **SNAKE RIVER BREWERY AND BREWPUB**. Producing "beers to match the scenery," Snake River kegs ales that rotate daily in the brewpub, including canned staples like the Snake River lager, a certified organic English-style brown ale (called OB-1) and a gluten-free ale aptly titled "The Glutenator." Up the street and around the corner is **THAI ME UP RESTAURANT AND BREWERY**, also known as paradise for the slightly stoned ski bum—offering their Thai-style cuisine until late, gimmicky Kung Fu movies on flat screens and 20 beers on tap, 10 of which are brewed in-house. Take the shuttle out onto the highway to **Q ROADHOUSE & BREWING CO.** and sit on the deck with a plate stacked with all-natural buffalo bone marrow, recline in the lawn or stand at the bar—either way, make sure you have a beer in hand like the Rhombus IPA or the Sacred Creed Saison and peanuts in the other. Take a sip, then throw the empty shells shamelessly to the floor.

Growing upwards and outwards, Jackson Hole and Snow King Resort might have new looks but the heart of the town and its in-house resort stays in the same place. The West might have been won by flamboyant chain accommodations and critically adorned restaurants (with mountainside Veuve Clicquot parties, I might add), but respect for the Old West mentality and hospitality is still very much alive and kicking in their boots at Snow King Resort. ●

 snowking.com



NATURAL SPLENDOR

Jackson Hole functions as the gateway into the **Grand Teton National Park** along with **Yellowstone National Park**. Visit the **National Elk Refuge** at the edge of town, where more than 10,000 elk outnumber the town's population. The reserve, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2012, provides, preserves, restores and manages winter habitat for the Jackson Elk Herd, as well as for other endangered species, large and small, in the area.

To experience it all, book a day with **Jackson Hole Wildlife Safaris**, ran by Jason Williams and his brother, Kyle, both guides having experience well into their second decade. Erudite in history and wildlife, the locally cultured guides take private tours into the greater Yellowstone ecosystem, including Jackson Hole, the National Elk Refuge, Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks to teach eager explorers how to spot wildlife.

PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: SNAKE RIVER BREWING; SNOW KING RESORT; BIN 22; WILDLIFE PHOTOS JASON WILLIAMS