



ELITE RECOMMENDS

MOUNTAIN MEADOW/ VAIL

SUMMER IN THE MOUNTAINS

Your favorite ski destination doesn't hibernate for the summer. In fact, many of the most acclaimed resorts, from the Rockies to the Alps, turn into vibrant warm-weather destinations complete with arts festivals, great dining, outdoor pursuits and their own sun-kissed take on après ski. When you are seeking an escape from this summer's stifling days, head for the luxurious heights of these peak locales.

BY LARRY OLMSTED



NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC PERFORMANCE



VAIL TOWN VIEW



TEVA MOUNTAIN GAMES



ARRABELLE AT VAIL SQUARE, A ROCK RESORT

VAIL, COLORADO

SUMMERTIME VIBE

The Vail Valley has a lot of full-time residents, golf courses, recreational facilities and special events, so summer has an energetic, electric feel. The mood is warm and the climate is cool. Vail sits higher than most ski towns, allowing temperatures to drop into the 50s. Late afternoon thunderstorms are common enough to make early tee times very desirable.

MOUNTAIN HIGHS

The Vail Valley offers a full gamut of outdoor recreation—almost every pursuit imaginable—but where it stands head and shoulders above its peers is in the depth and breadth of its golf offerings, with several of the world’s highest ranked mountain courses (including the Greg Norman and Tom Fazio layouts at **Red Sky Ranch**, the Fazio and Nicklaus courses at **Cordillera**, and the two acclaimed courses in **Keystone**). Vail also excels at guided hiking programs through the **Beaver Creek Hiking Center**, the only one of its kind in the nation (ask for Director Nate Goldberg, [970] 754-5373, nateg@vailresorts.com), and whitewater rafting. Celebs like Martha Stewart go with **Blazing Adventures** and its top guides Hilary Garner, Rich Zelter, Scotty Gibson or Talbott Walker (contact them at [970] 923-4544, info@blazingadventures.com, www.blazingadventures.com). Road cycling is also very popular, especially around **Vail Pass** and **Copper Mountain**.

CULTURAL CALENDAR

No ski resort in the U.S. puts on the range of summer events that Vail does. The **Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival** (July 1 to August 4) and **Vail Interna-**

tional Dance Festival (July 27 to August 11) offer more than 70 performances throughout the summer from the likes of the New York Philharmonic, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, New York City Ballet and many more. Pop music gets its due in the weekly **Bud Light Hot Summer Nights** free concert series at the Gerald Ford Amphitheater. The **Teva Mountain Games** in Vail are the largest alternative multi-sport festival in the nation (June 4 to 7). Other popular events are the Beaver Creek rodeo every Thursday night, and Colorado’s largest farmers market every Sunday.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The new **Arrabelle at Vail Square, A Rock Resort**, has arrived on the scene as the most deluxe in a town full of great hotels. The five-bedroom **Penthouses** can accommodate up to 12, come with butler service, Jacuzzis, steam showers, Viking kitchen appliances and large terraces (from \$1,450 per night), all in the village’s best location. The small hotel has a huge new spa and an upscale French brasserie called Centre V.

Contact: General Manager Jeannette Schulze, [970] 754-7777; jschulze@vailresorts.com; www.arrabelle.rockresorts.com

JETTING IN

The **Vail Valley Jet Center** is located at the **Eagle County Regional Airport (EGE)**, 35 miles west of Vail.

Contact: Customer Service Director Susan Lucas, [970] 524-7909; slucas@vvjc.com; www.vvjc.com



CHEF SCOTT MILLER



SIGNATURE FILET MEAL / AIR CULINAIRE

AIR CULINAIRE: THE BEST IN JET SET CUISINE

A CONVERSATION WITH CHEF SCOTT MILLER, BLUE SKY CAFÉ, ASPEN, AND AIR CULINAIRE HEAD CHEF

Q: You've gotten a great reputation via the Blue Sky Café in Aspen. How would you compare the demands of high end Aspen diners with the expectations of private jet travelers?

A: Patrons of the high-end restaurants in Aspen are definitely looking for sophisticated and, in some ways, complex cuisine in a chic atmosphere. When they fly on their planes, they seem to be looking for more "comfort cuisine."

Q: Wholesome local produce, a little regional flair...these are things most diners expect from better cuisine. How do you go the extra mile for Air Culinaire clients.

A: I definitely focus on fresh quality products and, whenever we're able, we like to highlight all of our local Colorado products. We have a shorter growing season than most places but our farmers' markets, local vineyards, organic local growers and ranchers produce some of the finest products around.

Q: The private jet world generates a lot of "going above and beyond" stories. Can you tell us about a recent time you and your staff "achieved the impossible"?

A: Last year, when then Senator Obama was campaigning through Colo-

rado, we were asked to provide his plane with catering. His campaign stop on the first day was Grand Junction, which is 128 miles from Aspen. We prepared the food for the plane back in our kitchen in Aspen and then drove it all to Grand Junction. The next day his campaign office called to ask if we could cater for his departure out of Denver, as well, which is approximately 220 miles away. Driving fresh meals around the mountains of Colorado and getting them to your destination in good shape is quite a challenge.

Q: What are some of the trends you see in private jet cuisine?

A: We notice more and more that our clients are asking for healthier and more organic items than before. They seem to be very aware of all the current trends in the culinary world, which makes our jobs much more interesting and keeps us on our toes.

Q: If a client isn't really sure about what to order for a flight, what's your go-to-recommendation for a dish? Can you tell us a little bit about how you prepare it?

A: We like to encourage our clients to experience some of our local flavors like wild game (elk, buffalo, venison, ptarmigans and so on) along with fresh samplings from our local organic growers and a bottle of our local wine from our wineries in Grand Junction or Paonia.



ASPEN'S BLUE SKY CAFÉ
119 AABC, Suite A
Aspen, CO 81611
(970) 920-9090
www.aspensblueskycafe.com

MONDAY – FRIDAY:
10:30 am – 10:00 pm
SATURDAY:
4:00 – 10:00 pm

When traveling to Aspen, stop by the newly renovated **Aspen's Blue Sky Café**. Located across from the airport, it now includes a full service bar, multiple large-screen TVs and heated patio seating. Blue Sky Café offers our famous Breakfast Burritos, Philly Cheese Steaks and Pastrami Reuben Sandwiches, plus our extensive selection of freshly made salads at great prices. Check out our new "American Comfort" dinner menu and join us for Sports Nights and daily Happy Hour specials from 4-6pm.



LITTLE NELL HOTEL



PFEIFER SUITE / LITTLE NELL HOTEL



ASPEN IN SUMMER



HISTORIC DOWNTOWN

ASPEN, COLORADO

SUMMERTIME VIBE

Of all U.S. ski towns, Aspen has the most “see and be seen” winter attitude, and its seasonal second home community includes countless Fortune 500 CEOs. But in summer, things also take a decidedly *gourmand* turn, as the **Aspen Food & Wine Festival** is one of the most noted foodie events in the country with every celebrity chef and noted restaurateur making an appearance. The weather is mostly warm and dry, and can be surprisingly hot for the mountains, topping 90 degrees regularly.

MOUNTAIN HIGHS

Aspen offers the most popular summer mountain adventures, including hiking and mountain biking, but the standout attractions here are white-water rafting and fly fishing. Class IV and V waters run just minutes outside of town, including famed **Slaughterhouse Falls** and **Pine Creek (Aspen Whitewater Rafting)** owner Jim Ingram offers private guiding, (970) 920-3511, info@aspenwhitewater.com). Gold medal trout streams in these parts include the **Roaring Fork** and **Frying Pan** rivers, and **Aspen Fly Fishing’s** Kenny Smith and Chris Lemons have led numerous VIP clients, including actors Chris O’Donnell, Don Johnson and singer James Taylor (contact them at (970) 920-6886, aspenflyfishing@gmail.com). Another local summer highlight is hot-air ballooning.

CULTURAL CALENDAR

One of the most popular summer activities is the weekly **Aspen Music Festival** concert series. Ride the **Silver Queen Gondola** to the peak and savor

lunch on the sundeck while enjoying a Sunday concert, always bluegrass, atop Aspen Mountain. Another huge draw is the **Aspen Ideas Festival** put on by the Aspen Institute (June 29 to July 5). Ballet, jazz festivals and art exhibits are held regularly, as well.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The top digs in town remain the famed **Little Nell Hotel**, which has just gotten better with continued improvements to the award-winning **Montagna** restaurant, now among the best in Colorado. Hotel guests have included Kate Hudson, Melanie Griffith and Antonio Banderas, Jim Carrey and Kevin Costner. The 2,000-square-foot **Pfeifer Suite**, the Little Nell’s best, is a two-bedroom accommodation with gas fireplaces, wet bar, two balconies, whirlpool tub, steam shower, and a state-of-the-art communications and entertainment system (\$3,700 per night).

Contact: Director of Sales & Marketing Justin Todd, (970) 920-4600; jtodd@thelittlenell.com; www.thelittlenell.com

JETTING IN

Aspen/Pitkin County Airport (ASE), just minutes from town, handles private jets of every size, description and country of origin. **Atlantic Aviation** is the FBO of choice there.

Contact: Customer Service Manager Amy Dengler, (970) 920-2016; asefrontdesk@atlanticaviation.com; www.atlanticaviation.com



JACKSON HOLE, WYOMING

SUMMERTIME VIBE

Don't let Jackson's Old West cowboy flair distract you. This is also one of the wealthiest towns in the world. Because it is the gateway to **Grand Teton National Park** and the southern entrance to **Yellowstone National Park**, Jackson is also one of the very few ski towns that is considerably busier in summer than winter: June through September is peak season in Jackson.

MOUNTAIN HIGHS

Sightseeing in the two national parks is the big summer attraction. Additionally, Grand Teton, one of the country's most photogenic peaks and a mountaineering classic, towers over town and has made Jackson a mecca for climbers. **Exum Mountain Guides**, based here, is widely renowned as the nation's premier climbing outfitter and offers a huge array of mountaineering experiences, including a four-day crash course (contact them at (307) 733-2297, www.exumguides.com). Fly fishing is the other world-class standout, and the most famous waterways in angling, including the **Snake, Green** and **Yellowstone** rivers flow nearby. Many homeowners here, from Tiger Woods to Dick Cheney to Harrison Ford, came for the fishing. The **Four Seasons Hotel** is the only one in the luxury brand with a director of fly fishing, 20-year-veteran Ryan Peterson, who privately guides beginners to experts in a hand-made wooden drift boat (contact him at (307) 732-5134, ryan.peterson@fourseasons.com).

CULTURAL CALENDAR

Collectors from around the world jet in for the annual **Jackson Hole Wine**

Auction, now in its 15th year (June 28). Admission is capped at 160 (\$750 a ticket) for a gala that includes a five-course dinner by **Wynn Las Vegas** star chef Alessandro Stratta and New York's Lever House chef Bradford Thompson (contact Director Carolyn Reeve, (307) 732-9962, carolyn@gtmf.org). The auction benefits the **Grand Teton Music Festival**, a series of classical performances throughout the summer that includes the New York Philharmonic and Kennedy Center Orchestra (see the calendar at www.gtmf.org). The **Jackson Hole Music Festival** is more contemporary with acts like Wilco and the Black Crowes (August 16 and 17).

ACCOMMODATIONS

In winter, the ski-in/ski-out **Four Seasons Resort Jackson Hole** is arguably the top slopeside hotel in the nation. It does not miss a beat in summer, offering a wide variety of guided and pampered adventures from its in-house activity center, Base Camp. Queen N'oor of Jordan chose the 2,200-square-foot **Presidential Suite**, with three master bedrooms, balconies, five plasma TVs, dining room, butler's pantry, fireplace, large terrace and den (\$3,700 per night).

Contact: *General Manager Vince Parrotta, (307) 732-5070; vince.parrotta@fourseasons.com; www.fourseasons.com*

JETTING IN

Jackson Airport (JAC) is home to FBO **Jackson Hole Aviation**, and is also the only commercial airport in the U.S. within a national park.

Contact: *Wendy Hamilton, (307) 733-4767; csr@jhaviation.com; www.jhaviation.com*



SUN VALLEY LODGE



STUNNING GOLF



WATERFALL CREEK RAFTING

SUN VALLEY, IDAHO

SUMMERTIME VIBE

The first destination ski resort in North America also became the first summer ski resort in North America, way back when the golf course, by William Bell (of Riviera fame), opened in 1937. Union Pacific Railroad tycoon W. Averell Harriman built **Sun Valley** as a family-friendly state-side homage to his beloved St. Moritz. Ever since then it has remained somewhat frozen in time, combining an upscale Alpine feel with a summer camp aesthetic (think Beverly Hills in the Catskills). It is located in a high desert setting and enjoys dry, warm summers that live up to its “sunny” name.

MOUNTAIN HIGHS

Despite its white glove service, Sun Valley has always been a place for action, and Olympic athletes like gold medalist and world champion skier Picabo Street and gold medal cyclist Kristin Armstrong frequently visit. Sun Valley is ideal for mountain biking in the summer season when elaborate trail networks on and around both ski mountains welcome riders. It also has a large equestrian center and a recently rebuilt full-service gun club. Sun Valley’s original golf course is the top-ranked layout in the state according to *Golf Digest*, and one of the Top 100 in the U.S. Last year it opened a second excellent course. Stanley, an hour away, is the drop-off point for the **Middle Fork** of the **Salmon River**, one of the most famous whitewater rafting runs on earth. Luxury outfitter **Far and Away Adventures** are the guys to call (contact owners Steve and Annie Lentz, [208] 726-8888; adventures@far-away.com; www.far-away.com).

CULTURAL CALENDAR

Sun Valley is home to the nation’s largest privately-funded free symphony series (July 27 to August 18), and its world-class artists performer in a new state-of-the-art, travertine marble amphitheater (schedule at www.svsummersymphony.org). A local institution, the 70-year-old **Sun Valley Ice Show**, is a throwback to the resort’s more Vaudevillian days. Every Saturday night in the summer months national team members and Olympians are joined by a visiting headliner like Kurt Browning or Sasha Cohen for a dinner exhibition tradition. Sun Valley also hosts its own opera company and one of the nation’s top writers conferences.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Sun Valley is home to two hotels—the nearly identical **Sun Valley Lodge** and **Sun Valley Inn**—plus seven deluxe freestanding cottages. Named for Sun Valley’s founding father, the private **Harriman Cottage** spans 3,500 square feet, and with five bedrooms, a large kitchen, fireplace and a location right by the stunning **Sun Valley Pavilion**, it is the town’s premier accommodation (\$1,800 to \$2,100 per night).

Contact: Director of Sales Jack Sibbach, [208] 622-2183; jsibbach@sunvalley.com; www.sunvalley.com

JETTING IN

Most aircraft landing in **Sun Valley Airport (SUN)** are private jets. It is in Hailey, Idaho, just 12 miles away. The FBO is **Atlantic Aviation**.

Contact: Tina Moruzzi, [208] 788-9511; www.atlanticaviation.com



LAKE VIEW



INTERLAKEN IN SUMMER



VICTORIA JUNGFRAU TOWER SUITE



VIEW OF THE MOUNTAINS

INTERLAKEN, SWITZERLAND

SUMMERTIME VIBE

Interlaken is the gateway to the Swiss Alps, the Bernese Oberland, and the most visited region in the nation. The famous **Eiger** towers over town, and the same ski areas that are a short excursion away in winter—**Wengen**, **Mürren** and **Grindelwald**—offer incredible scenery, tours and outdoor pursuits in summer. These pastoral mountains bloom with the famous alpine wildflowers, edelweiss and alpine snowbell, all summer long.

MOUNTAIN HIGHS

Surrounded by endless mountains, valleys and alpine villages, Interlaken offers activities for every adrenaline level, from lake sailing, golf, and horseback riding, to hiking, mountain biking, paragliding and sky diving. For the aerial pursuits, **Twin Paragliding** is the town's best outfitter. All pilots are fully licensed, but Raymont and Richi are the most popular with Americans (contact them at 41-079-622-5100, mail@twinparagliding.com, www.twinparagliding.com). This region is also a boon for canyoneering, which combines rock climbing, rappelling, swimming and hiking through slot canyons. Follow the experienced alpine guides at **Outdoor Interlaken**, where U.S. ex-pat Jon Fauver is a top canyon guide (41-033-826-7719, mail@outdoor-interlaken.ch; www.outdoor-interlaken.ch).

CULTURAL CALENDAR

Friedrich Schiller's tale of Switzerland's heroic freedom fighter, William Tell, has been performed on the same open-air theater stage in Matten's Rugen forest from June through September since 1912. July sees the an-

nual **Jungfrau Music Festival** (July 4 to 11). A must for any visitor to Interlaken is the three-stage rail trip to **Jungfraujoch**, the highest station in Europe, via a pass right through the Eiger itself. At the top you can walk on a glacier, go dog-sledding, and tour underground passages filled with ice carvings all year round. Another top sight is the **Piz Gloria** mountaintop eatery, which claims to be the world's first revolving restaurant and was the setting for the villain's lair in the James Bond film, *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The **Victoria-Jungfrau Grand Hotel & Spa** is easily the region's finest hotel and one of the best in Switzerland. A grand dame dating to 1865, it has hosted dignitaries from Mark Twain to the most recent Bond, Daniel Craig. The highlight is its spa, with treatments by ESPA, and the amazing facilities including pools, steam rooms, whirlpools, a salt water Jacuzzi and bio-saunas with light therapy. The top room choice is the 2,648-square-foot **Tower Suite**. (\$4,000 per night).

Contact: Guest Relations Manager Stefanie Jost, 41-033-828-2773; s.jost@victoria-jungfrau.ch; www.victoria-jungfrau.ch

JETTING IN

The airport in the Swiss capital of Bern, **Flughafen Bern Belp**, is 45 minutes from the hotel, and your best for private jet arrival.

Contact: Heint Kufader, 41-31-960-2131; groundservices@alpar.ch; www.talpar.ch



SAILING LAKE GENEVA

EVIAN LES BAIN, FRANCE

SUMMERTIME VIBE

Several of France's top ski towns shut down in warm weather: not Evian, the most summery of Europe's ski spots. It's location somewhat removed from the slopes may be a detraction in winter but its a key selling point for a summer escape. Evian sits on the south shore of Lac Lemman, also known as Lake Geneva, and the setting is more waterfront resort than ski town, with thermal baths, a lakefront promenade in the center of the historic old town, a new marina, three renowned spas, and of course, the source of the famous French bottled water. Between the curative waters and Europe's most important women's golf event, the **Evian Masters**, Evian attracts actresses and athletes, from Madonna to Annika Sorenstam.

MOUNTAIN HIGHS

Watersports abound in summer, with sailing, diving, fishing, rowing and water skiing on the lake, as well as white water rafting in the mountains that rise quickly from the lakefront. Sightseeing boats ply the lake and visit Switzerland on the east and north shores. On dry land, hiking, horseback riding, paragliding, road and mountain biking are all available. But Evian's claims to fame are its thermal waters fueling three major hotel spas and the finest golf course located in mountain town in Europe. Besides the **Evian Masters** course, the training center is a truly unique learning facility on nearly 40 acres. With top instructors, distinct areas for eight "training modules" and a special four-hole teaching course, it is unlike any other course earth (contact Françoise Jameux, 33-450-815-380; training.center@evianroyalresort.com).

CULTURAL CALENDAR

Les Escales Musicales (May 29 to 31) at the **Evian Royal Resort** includes performances by the Zurich Symphony, Basel Chamber Orchestra and Paris Ensemble Orchestra. This summer's exhibition in Evian's **Palais Lumière** features sculptures by Auguste Rodin (June 13 to September 20). Nearby Lausanne, reached by car or boat, houses both the **International Olympic Museum** and the famed **Hermitage Collection** of art. The **LPGA Evian Masters** is the largest women's golf event outside the United States and draws all the top players (July 23 to 26).

ACCOMMODATIONS

The lakefront **Evian Royal Resort** comprises two distinct hotels, the **Evian Royal Palace** and **Evian Royal Ermitage**, as well as the **Evian Masters Golf Club** and training center, a huge spa, casino and a dozen restaurants. The country house style Ermitage sits high, while the Palace is more formal and Baroque. The best room is in the Palace, the two-bedroom corner **Suite Edouard VII**, spanning about 1,500 square feet with great views of the lake from two angles, private lounge and Jacuzzi (\$3,300 per night).

Contact: General Manager Pierre Bord, 33-045-026-8500; royalpalace@evianroyalresort.com; www.evianroyalresort.com

JETTING IN

The airport in **Geneva** is 28 miles away. The FBO to use for your travel needs is **Jet Aviation**.

Contact: Bernard Ratsira, 41-58-158-1811; jopan@jetaviation.com; www.jetaviation.com



LECH IN SUMMER



HOTEL GASTHOF POST LECH



FESTIVAL FLOATING STAGE

LECH, AUSTRIA

SUMMERTIME VIBE

Sister city to Colorado's ultra-posh **Beaver Creek**, Lech could not be any quainter if it tried: Chalet-style buildings are laid out in a verdant valley surrounded by the towering Alps and fields of wildflowers, as if they had been planted too. The country's best skiing is found in Lech's Arlberg region. So as quiet as this town appears, it is a magnet for the European elite who also happen to be great athletes (notably royalty such as England's Prince Edward, Monaco's Princess Caroline, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and the king and queen of Sweden). The isolated spot provides a sense of security, and many VIP visitors leave their bodyguards home.

MOUNTAIN HIGHS

Like much of the Alps, the Arlberg offers a wealth of outdoor pursuits including mountain biking, paragliding, climbing, canyoneering and golf. But this region is especially famed for the excellence of its hiking trails, a virtually endless network. The **Post Hotel** offers **Hike Weeks** all summer long, led by their experienced longtime house guide, Luis Gundolf (contact him at 43-558-322-060). Fitness is a religion here, and Lech has produced more Olympic Gold Medalist skiers per capita than any place on earth.

CULTURAL CALENDAR

The **Bregenz Festival** is one of the top attractions in Europe, with five venues, including the world's largest floating stage on nearby Lake Constance. Since 1946, the month-long summer festival has offered operas, operettas, theater and musical performances. This year's highlight is *Aida*

performed on the floating main stage, but there are more than 80 performances in all, attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors (July 22 to August 23, www.bregenzfestspiele.com). Another highlight is the **Schubert Festival** in the charming village of Schwarzenberg (June 17 to 27 and August 29 to September 8, www.schubertiade.at)

ACCOMMODATIONS

Among Lech's two decadent, celebrity-laden small hotels, the **Hotel Gasthof Post Lech**, a **Relais & Chateaux**, is the only one open in summer. The 37-room property has been operated by the same family for more than 70 years. Each room is unique and decorated with original antiques, and its Michelin-starred restaurant has won numerous awards, as has the wine list. The small hotel also has a full spa and fitness facilities. The largest accommodations are the one-bedroom **Fursten Suites** at about 800 square feet, each with a fireplace, living room, private terrace and large bathrooms with steam showers (from \$600 per night).

Contact: General Manager Florian Moosbrugger, 43-558-322-060; mh@postlech.com; www.postlech.com

JETTING IN

The **Innsbruck** airport is the closest major airport to town, at an hour and a quarter drive away, though many VIP visitors arrive by helicopter.

Contact: Director Reinhold Falch, 43-512-225-251; reinhold.falch@innsbruck-airport.com; www.innsbruck-airport.com



ALPINE TRAMS



HOTEL & SPA ROSA ALPINA



LAKESIDE PANORAMA

ALTA BADIA, SELLA RONDA, ITALY

SUMMERTIME VIBE

The huge Sella Massif anchors a 15-mile ring of ski lifts and trails that is more giant ski region than resort. Its principle towns lie in four valleys radiating from the massive rock. The most elegant of these is Alta Badia, whose famed **Hotel & Spa Rosa Alpina** and the most Michelin-starred eateries of any place in the Alps attract Hollywood types like George Clooney and Tom Cruise. They don't come for glitz or clubs, but rather for the escapist, sleepily classy Italian atmosphere. Here, even die-hard skiers roll out of bed late, still sluggish from dinner the night before, and the daytime experience is as much about sipping espresso in cafes as making turns. This laid-back aesthetic gets even more pronounced in summer. Imagine Como or Bellagio transported to the foot of one of the more dramatic mountains on earth, and you have Alta Badia.

MOUNTAIN HIGHS

The Dolomites are renowned for their hiking, and for many visitors the foot trails or mountain bike paths provide enough exertion. Italy's famed **High Route**, a classic multi-day alpine trek, passes through here and two sections make for popular guided day hikes. The region is also famed for its variety of *via ferrata*, or iron paths, mountain routes that combine hiking with ascents and descents on metal rungs set into cliff faces that allow for mountaineering without any technical climbing skills. For those with skills, there is also plenty of challenging rock climbing and mixed climbing in the area. For all these pursuits, there is no one better than acclaimed local mountain guide Diego Zanesco (contact him at 39-348-798-0870, info@diegozanesco.it). For gentler treks, the owners of the luxe Rosa Alpina Hotel, the Pizzinini family, have a private mountain cabin at 6,500 feet that is avail-

able for their best clients to use for an overnight hiking escape (see below for contact information).

CULTURAL CALENDAR

Many vacationers choose Alta Badia specifically for its gourmet offerings, as its restaurants are unrivalled by any mountain town from St. Moritz to Innsbruck. The big attraction, and a prerequisite stop for every visiting celebrity, is the twice Michelin-starred **Restaurant St. Hubertus**, followed by the one-star **La Siriola** and **La Stua de Michil**. For variety, many visitors also consider a simpler traditional Ladin meal a requisite.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The **Hotel & Spa Rosa Alpina** are where Cruise and Clooney holed up on their visits, and so should you. A **Relais & Chateaux** boutique property that is a regular annual *Andrew Harper Hideaway Report* pick, it has been family-run since 1940 and features exceedingly personal service. All guest rooms are individually decorated in luxurious but local fashion. The highest end accommodations are the eight brand-new **Chalet Loft Suites** (\$1,260 per night).

Contact: Manager Hugo Pizzinini, 39-047-184-9500; info@rosalpina.it; www.rosalpina.it

JETTING IN

Bolzano (BZO) is 48 miles away and your best option for private jet accommodation.

Contact: Director Mirko Kopfsguter, 39-0471-255-207; mirko.kopfsguter@abd-airport.it; www.abd-airport.it