

# FOUR SEASONS

MAGAZINE



ISSUE TWO 2011 • Stylish Adventure in Santa Barbara • Buenos Aires Tango • Paul Theroux on Travel • Hong Kong Noodles





# Colorado Bound

By combining stays at **Four Seasons in Denver and Vail**, guests can easily enjoy urban sophistication and mountain resort living on a single trip. | By Larry Olmsted

If there is a better vantage point from which to observe Denver's coming of age as a world-class city than Coors Field, I have not found it. Clean and welcoming, the baseball stadium was the first step in the city's downtown revival when it opened in 1995. Yet the team's name, the Colorado Rockies, is a reminder that one of Denver's greatest charms is the towering mountains to the west. **Four Seasons Hotel Denver** and **Four Seasons Resort Vail**, just a 90-minute drive from each other, showcase Colorado's unique tourism one-two punch. ♦ Denver may be the gateway to mountain grandeur and recreation, but it's also a destination in its own right. The city has witnessed a dramatic return-to-downtown phenomenon, causing the area's population to grow twelvefold. Today, four pro sports stadiums, a new park, the new Museum of Contemporary Art >>>



## Four by FOUR SEASONS

### **Best Happy Hour**

Every Thursday evening, the third-floor outdoor pool and bar at Four Seasons welcomes the city for a poolside gathering you might expect to find in Miami or Los Angeles, but certainly not Denver—until now.

### **Ease Into Altitude**

To help guests acclimate to high altitude, the Denver Spa has a three-hour Signature High Altitude Revitalizing Gemstone Ormus Ritual, while Vail's Spa offers a choice of 50- or 80-minute High Altitude Adjustment massages.

### **Après-Ski Delicacies**

Since Vail is modelled on a Swiss mountain resort, the Fireside Lounge serves raclette, a Swiss melted cheese specialty, during après-ski at the Resort. If you feel more like having Colorado fare, order lake trout fish tacos or bison rolls.

### **Residential Opportunities**

Discover Four Seasons Private Residences in Denver and Vail, and fractional ownership at Four Seasons Residence Club Vail. Each offers a service-rich lifestyle and access to the best of their destinations. Visit [residences.fourseasons.com](http://residences.fourseasons.com) for details.

### **Downtown Lounge**

The inviting lobby at Four Seasons Hotel Denver has oversized windows and an expansive floor plan.



Denver and a new wing on the Denver Art Museum are located there.

After the game, I stroll past the shops, bars and eateries of LoDo (Lower Downtown) back to Four Seasons, which sits across the street from the Denver Center for the Performing Arts and is within walking distance of most downtown attractions. The wide sidewalks with outdoor cafés create a lively atmosphere. In Denver, al fresco dining is possible nearly any time of year.

Later, I check out the nearby 16th Street pedestrian mall and Larimer Square with its many restaurants. Yet no restaurant is as hot as EDGE, the Hotel's contemporary urban steakhouse. Before dining there, I stop by EDGE Bar and sample its signature wild game Rocky Mountain Sushi, which pairs peppered elk with spicy tuna and coats seared slices of grass-fed Colorado beef with a chilli soy glaze.

While Denver exudes urban electricity, the energy at Four Seasons Resort Vail is physical, since many guests come for outdoor pursuits, though it is possible to simply relax, enjoying the views from the year-round outdoor pool. Like its urban sibling, the Resort features a deluxe steakhouse, Flame. I decide on a duck confit flatbread appetiser—topped off with Brie and arugula—and short ribs, cooked for eight hours and paired with a gorgonzola bread pudding.

In winter, Four Seasons has an in-house rental shop and deluxe slopeside ski concierge service, and the excellence of Vail's skiing is no secret. But what is more surprising is the wealth of summer activities, and when speaking to locals I often hear the same refrain: "I came for the winter but stayed for the summer."

As a Resort guest, I enjoy special access to the private Red Sky Ranch Golf Club. I play a round and find one of the highlights is hitting career-long drives, thanks to the thin air at this altitude. While in Vail, I also discover another favourite: exploring Vail's traffic-free bike paths. These begin just outside the Resort's door. Other summer outdoor activities include fly fishing and horseback riding.

Summer also means performing arts, including the six-week Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival, which brings major symphony orchestras to town. From spring to fall, the calendar is jammed with festivals, athletic competitions and culinary events.

Denver delivers one of the world's great cosmopolitan experiences, while Vail soothes the soul with its natural beauty. Best of all, Denver and Vail are so close together that it's easy to combine the two destinations in a single trip—with breakfast in downtown Denver just a prelude to a fondue lunch surrounded by snow-capped mountains in Vail. For additional Hotel or Resort information, go to [fourseasons.com/denver](http://fourseasons.com/denver) or [fourseasons.com/vail](http://fourseasons.com/vail). **4S**

*Vermont-based freelancer Larry Olmsted has written for numerous publications, including Outside and Inc.*

#### Colorado Living

*clockwise from top:* Horseback riders near Vail; the Frederick C. Hamilton building of the Denver Art Museum; EDGE Restaurant; heated outdoor pool in Vail.







Photography (clockwise from top) Jack Attleck, John Klafner/Photolibary, courtesy Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts, Jeff Scroggins

