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Snowmass opens Nov. 23 with plenty of snow, specials, and new resort amenities

(Snowmass, Colorado). The second largest ski resort in Colorado opens in less than a week with lodging specials, Thanksgiving dinners, and a special comedy night to top off the spectacular early season snow. Check out the news and Thanksgiving deals from Snowmass this season.

The Slopes:

With over 6 feet of pre-season snow and a huge storm dumping over a foot just this week, the Snowmass season looks better than ever. Snowmass plans to open access to 462 acres on November 23 with the Village Express, The Big Burn, and the Sky Cab lifts.

Thanksgiving Weekend Events:

Comedy at the Cabaret Room: Hilarious stand-up comedy returns to Cabaret Room at the Silvertree Hotel on Friday, November 24. Veteran Denver comedian Steve Gastineau, voted one of the Top 4 Comedians in Colorado by 9News, opens this PG-13 show at 8 p.m. Headliner Louis Johnson, voted "Funniest Person in America" in a Showtime Networks contest, follows with a performance sure to tickle a turkey bone. Tickets to the show are only \$15 at the door or \$10 in advance before November 20 by contacting 970-923-8254 or e-mailing concierge@silvertreehotel.com. The show is for ages 21 & over.

Sirius Satellite Radio Aspen Winternational Audi FIS Women's Ski World Cup. It sounds like a mouthful but promises an eye-ful November 25-26 when the world's best women racers descend on Aspen for a weekend of nonstop action and entertainment including two days of Giant Slalom and Slalom competitions, a free outdoor concert by English Beat, après-ski parties, and the only chance this season to see such American favorites as Olympic Gold Medalist Julia Mancuso, Lindsay Kildow, Resi Steigler and Stacey Cook compete on U.S. soil. Come ski & stay in Snowmass then easily check out this hot racing action on the RFTA bus between the two towns which is free 8 a.m.-4:30pm and only \$3/one way afterwards.

Thanksgiving Dinner

Those worried about missing Thanksgiving dinner can satisfy turkey cravings right off the slopes. The Brothers Grille (970 923-8285) offers a traditional Thanksgiving buffet for \$40/ person, while The Artisan Restaurant (970 923-2427) at the Stonebridge Inn and Sage Bistro (970-0923) at the Snowmass Club also honor the turkey with special gourmet flare. If you're trying to catch the Broncos game, head to the bars in the same three restaurants for this 6pm game.

Thanksgiving & Early Season Lodging Specials:

Book 4 nights at the Snowmass Inn or the Pokolodi Inn 11/22-12/14 and receive 10% off. Stay 5 nights and the 6th is free. (www.stayaspensnowmass.com, 1-800-SNOWMASS)

The Mountain Chalet offers Thanksgiving specials that include traditional Thanksgiving Dinner with all the fixings on 11/23 plus a daily full hot breakfast and hot soup lunch. Rate is \$94/night double occupancy for 2 night minimum, \$84/night double occupancy for 3 or more nights. (www.mountainchalet.com, 800-843-1579)

The Silvertree Hotel offers Thanksgiving Packages starting as low as \$151/night for two people and includes 2 days of skiing, minimum 3 night stay 11/22-30. (www.silvertreehotel.com, 800-837-4255)

The Timberline Condominiums offers a First Tracks Special. Book 3 or more nights and get your last night free 11/19-12/22. (www.timberline.com, (970) 923-4000)

Stay & Ski Package: The Snowmass Inn offers a \$74/person rate and the Pokolodi Inn offers \$79/person rate, both of which include lodging and lift ticket (2 night minimum, double room 11/23-30) (www.snowmassinn.com, 800-635-3578 and www.pokolodi.com. 800-666-4556)

New In Snowmass this Season

The Entry

This \$21 million project in 2006/2007 includes a paved 300-plus space free parking lot with shuttle service to the slopes, a new recreation center with a 2,500 sq. ft. fitness facility and four outdoor pools, and a new 3,000-sq-ft transit depot building with a manned visitor information booth and a state-of-the-art information Kiosks which can translate maps, lodging, dining menus, and more into 13 languages.

The Mountain

In 2006/07, the new 8-passenger Elk Camp Gondola due to open December 16 will whisk riders from Fanny Hill to Elk Camp in 7.5 minutes. The superpipe and terrain parks are receiving upgrades, as has the Assay Hill chair, which is now a fixed grip quad.

The Lodging

By December, lodges will have spent over \$35 million this year in renovations on everything from exterior work to new conference facilities to updated room interiors.

The Mall

Snowmass welcomes new shop Wienerdog Kids Toys to the Snowmass Village Mall this winter. An offshoot of its popular Basalt, Colorado, location, Wienerdog specializes in unique and specialty toys from around the world such as Melissa and Doug, Haba, Lego, Carrera, and Jam Town, in addition to selling favorite retro candy like Mary Janes.

Friendly Faces

Snowmass & Aspen have launched a new customer service initiative to ensure visitors have the best experience ever. In its first year, the plan aims to benchmark guest services in the community, create tools for local businesses, establish an award program for outstanding guest service, and implement a service recovery program. Keep your eye out for How To Aspen/Snowmass, a new booklet due out this year with suggestions, factoids, bargains, service stories and more helpful tidbits about the area.

Event News

On February 20, 2007, Snowmass' **Mardi Gras festival marks 25 years** with the biggest Fat Tuesday celebration in the mountains. Founded by New Orleans natives themselves, this purple & gold fete includes a costumed uphill race, wild parade, bead throws, crawdad boil, mask making, and much more. For more information, [CLICK HERE](#)

Ski Tour 2007, North America's new elite skiing competition, heads to Aspen/ Snowmass as part of its 4-stop tour that features the world's best halfpipe & skiercross skiers competing for \$125,000 per competition. BaseCamp Music Experience will feature big-name music acts alongside a multi-day alpine festival including photo competitions, film festivals, street bonfires, rail jams, and countless parties. Four hours of network television coverage is planned for The Ski Tour as well.

For media information on Snowmass Village this winter, visit www.snowmasspress.com.

