

LET THE RESORT RIVALRY COMMENCE...

Are you more active in America's Aspen or cooler in Canada's Whistler? **Abi Butcher** helps you decide

John Denver wrote *Annie's song* after it came to him on the Ajax chairlift in Aspen, Colorado, and we've been loving this old mining town-turned-ski resort ever since. If you only hit the slopes in America once in your lifetime, make it Aspen Snowmass.

Dance off those ski legs

Aspen's first supper club, 7908, is a restaurant, bar and nightclub all in one. Head chef Byron Gomez spent 13 years working in New York, including several Michelin-starred restaurants, and the resident DJ Bryan Normand knows exactly how to get the wild crowd dancing on tables. 7908aspen.com

Slope to scale

It's not so much downhill as uphill these days in Aspen; join the 100 or so locals who ski-tour up the mountain every morning before the lifts open. It's on-trend right now across the world, and nowhere more than in this fitness-mad ski town.

Test yourself

The snow is always good in Highland Bowl so boot pack 45 minutes up to the peak at 3,559m, take a selfie at the top sitting on the chair and pick your gnarly route down. The steepest is Go-Go Gully, 48 degrees.

Entertain the kids

Take them to the Wapiti Wildlife Center at the top of Elk Camp lift in Snowmass, where they can learn about the different animals living around the resort – from elk to bobcats. Free, and a great break from skiing (and to warm up).

Spa bunny

It's not exactly a spa, but start your ski day with a \$5 yoga class in Sundeck at the top of Aspen Mountain overlooking the Elk Mountain Range. Strip off your ski wear and

Seafood on the slopes



« Restaurant

Clark's oyster bar, one of the latest openings in Aspen, serves oysters from Maine, Prince Edward Island and Massachusetts, as well as lobster rolls, crab and fruits de mer. clarksaspen.com

Snowmass strolls in Aspen



Après-ciating the views



THE OUTFIT



Gear up with Colorado-brand Spyder's 2019/20 FallLine GTX Infinium Down Jacket (€700), and Winner GTX Pant (€300). spyder.com



ABOVE & BELOW: Hotel Jerome

get your warrior on: the perfect way to warm up for skiing.

Adrenaline junkie

Take a private helicopter to ski Colorado's legendary Silverton Mountain. It's a 45-minute flight to Silverton, over the San Juan Mountains, and when you land there are 26,000 acres to explore – and non-skiing clients are welcome to join, too.

« Hotel to bag

Hotel Jerome, while not on the slopes, is the most historic in Aspen. Opened in 1889, it was the favourite hotel of Hunter S Thompson, and the 'Aspen Crud' was invented here at the J-Bar during Prohibition. aubergeresorts.com

Restaurant »

The Bearfoot Bistro is the ultimate fine-dining experience, complete with champagne lounge, champagne sabering classes in its underground cellar, resident jazz pianist and vodka bar made entirely of ice (Canada Goose jackets supplied). bearfootbistro.com



Bearfoot Bistro

The largest ski area in North America – with 8,171 acres of terrain – is now part of the Epic Pass, thanks to its takeover by Vail Resorts a few years ago. As well as endless cruising, steep lines and fantastic dining, this Canadian classic offers the real deal.

Dance off those ski legs

Just a few steps away from where you take your skis off at the base of Whistler Mountain, The Longhorn has live DJs at après and later in the night, live bands. gibbonswhistler.com

Slope to scale

At 11km, the Peak to Creek is Whistler's longest run and boasts the most incredible views of the surrounding Southern Pacific peaks of the Coast Mountains. Load your pockets with energy bars for the 1,530m vertical drop.

Test yourself

Head down the Saudan Couloir, a double-black diamond 'experts only' run from beside the Horstman Hut on Blackcomb's Horstman Glacier. At 2,330m, the snow's reliably good up here and with a pitch hitting 42 degrees, the Saudan is a reliable test of skills, too.

Entertain the kids

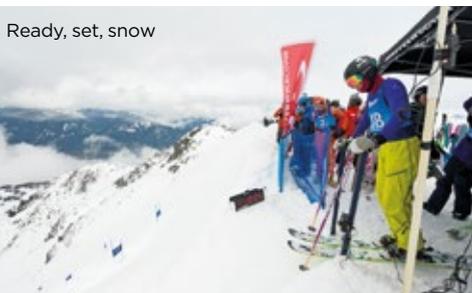
Snow tubing (essentially like tobogganing on a giant inflatable) is the thing to do in North America. Whistler does it in style at the Coca-Cola Tube Park in the Base 2 Zone at Blackcomb Mountain.

Spa bunny

Immerse your weary muscles in hydrotherapy at Scandinave Spa, set in quiet forest just outside Whistler. A range of hot and cold installations include Eucalyptus steam baths, wood-burning sauna, Nordic waterfalls, cold plunge baths and outdoor fireplaces. scandinave.com

Adrenaline junkie

Reach speeds of more than 80kph with a ride on the 2010 Winter Olympic Games Bobsleigh — or if you're feeling really brave, take your own skeleton. ■



Ready, set, snow

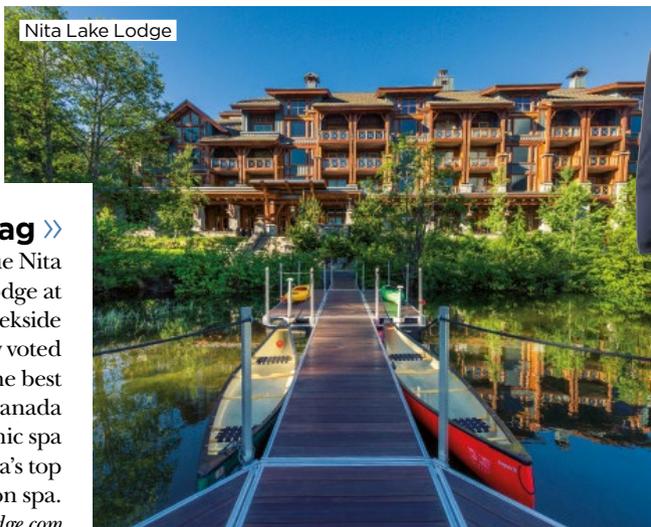
WHISTLER



THE OUTFIT



It's a serious skier's resort, so Jötnar's Ragnarök Waterproof Down Ski Jacket (£845) and Vanir Hard Shell Mountain & Ski Pant (£375) are just the ticket. jottnar.com



Nita Lake Lodge

Hotel to bag »

The boutique Nita Lake Lodge at Whistler Creekside is repeatedly voted one of the best hotels in Canada and its organic spa voted Canada's top destination spa. nitakelodge.com