

# HIGH-MOUNTAIN

## HANGOUTS & WINTER WARM-UPS

BY ASHLEY HUGHES

When hunger or thirst strikes — whether on the slopes or off — you'll find plenty of places to grab bites and beverages amid the Rocky Mountains.



Bread Bar

### COZY WATERING HOLES

They may be modest in size, but these establishments are big on charm and laid-back vibes.

Whether or not you dine in the **Ranch House Restaurant & Saloon** at **Devil's Thumb Ranch** in **Tabernash** (hint: you should, and try the ranch-raised Wagyu beef), at least sidle up to the wooden bar for a beverage during Social Hour.

Housed in an 1890s bakery in the former mining community of **Silver Plume**, **Bread Bar** — open Friday through Sunday — slings drinks named for historical figures of the town and region, like the Clifford Griffin: rye, Colorado amaro, lemon and a red-wine float.

Walk in the footsteps of Old-West outlaws at **The Jailhouse** in **Buena Vista**, which once served as the town's 1800s lockup. Nowadays, inmates — er, visitors — sip on an ever-rotating selection of hard-to-find craft beers from independently owned breweries across the state.

**Boulder's License No. 1**, a speakeasy-style bar located in the basement of the **Hotel Boulderado**, operates with one of the city's first legal liquor licenses, first issued in 1969. Classic potables, billiards and a photo booth are all part of the scene.

## PINKIES UP

Colorado is rich in another time-honored tradition: afternoon tea. Discover where you can get in on this classy ritual around the state.



The Brown Palace Hotel



Miramont Castle



Dushanbe Teahouse

■ **THE BROWN PALACE HOTEL, Denver:** Pile straight-from-England Devonshire cream onto your homemade scones in the presence of a live pianist.

■ **DUSTY ROSE TEA ROOM, Georgetown:** A true Victorian-era setting adds authentic character to the tea service.

■ **THOMPSON HOUSE INN TEA ROOM, Longmont:** Utilize the on-site stash of hats, gloves and pearls to really get in the spirit.

■ **CHEROKEE RANCH & CASTLE, Sedalia:** Relish royal treatment in an architectural masterpiece that echoes 1450s Scotland.

■ **QUEEN'S PARLOUR TEAROOM AT MIRAMONT CASTLE, Manitou Springs:** Choose from a variety of packages depending on your appetite.

■ **THE SWAN HOUSE, Loveland:** Pick out your own piece of fine china in the boutique after your refreshments.

■ **ST. REGIS ASPEN:** Take your spot of local loose-leaf tea as the hotel founder's mother, Lady Astor, would have in the early 1900s.

■ **DUSHANBE TEAHOUSE, Boulder:** A special Dim Sum & Oolong Tea service puts a global spin on the original.



## SKI-IN EATS

Preserving precious shredding time, you won't even need to head back to the base to refuel at these high-elevation options.

At **Steamboat Ski Resort**, the **Taco Beast** snowcat is a roving version of a food truck that's the first of its kind in Colorado. Check Twitter for its on-mountain location each day to track down lunchtime offerings like beef barbacoa and elk chorizo, plus a salsa bar.

Accessed by two lifts and an intermediate run, **Arapahoe Basin's** new **Il Rifugio at Snowplume** is a European-style bistro worth seeking out for its charcuterie and cheese pairings. It also claims the title of the highest-elevation restaurant in the U.S., at 12,456 feet.

Inside **Uley's Cabin at Crested Butte Ski Resort** you'll find a warm ambiance perfect for a mid-day break feasting on delicious dishes such as



Il Rifugio

elk bourguignon. Outside, the literally frozen Ice Bar is a scenic spot to savor a cocktail.

Long a fixture of **Keystone Resort**, **Alpenglow Stube** is open for lunch and Sunday brunch to skiers (a dinner service is for gondola passengers only) atop North Peak. Check your boots at the door and slip into the warm slippers provided — a welcome reprieve from snug bindings.



Hotel Talisa Vail

quintessential **Aspen**, from the plush arm chairs to the roaring fireplace. But the real draw is an imaginative hot-chocolate menu, with flavors like salted butterscotch and smoked cinnamon.

With floor-to-ceiling mountain views, **Hotel Talisa's Fireside Lounge in Vail** makes a strong case for your post-snow festivities. Don't miss the daily Champagne sabering, sample tasty bites while listening to live music and catch up with your companions about the day's most epic moments.

Intimate yet elegant, **Bachelors Lounge** is an adults-only haunt within **The Ritz-Carlton Bachelor Gulch**, located in **Avon** and a stone's throw from **Beaver Creek Resort**. Peruse the sommelier-curated wine selection, snack on small plates, smoke a cigar and transition right into nighttime revelry during *Après After Dark*.

## SWANKY APRÈS-SKI

There's nothing like a well-earned libation at the end of a successful powder day, especially if you can sip it in style.

The clubby atmosphere at **The Living Room** in the **Hotel Jerome** is

You know you're in for inventive fare when the kitchen and bar are referred to as "science labs," as is the case at **Breckenridge** staple **Modis**. Try soy-cured deviled eggs and a fittingly named Powder-Hound Sour with Old Overholt rye.

There are many other fun places for après ski in Colorado. Find a few more at [COLORADO.com/ApresSki](http://COLORADO.com/ApresSki).

WANT MORE? COLORADO.COM/MTNDINING

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: ZINNER/ARAPAHOE BASIN; HOTEL TALISA VAIL; INSTAGRAM/RANDOMCS; BETH SCHNEIDER; BROWN PALACE HOTEL & SPA.