



## Best of the High Country



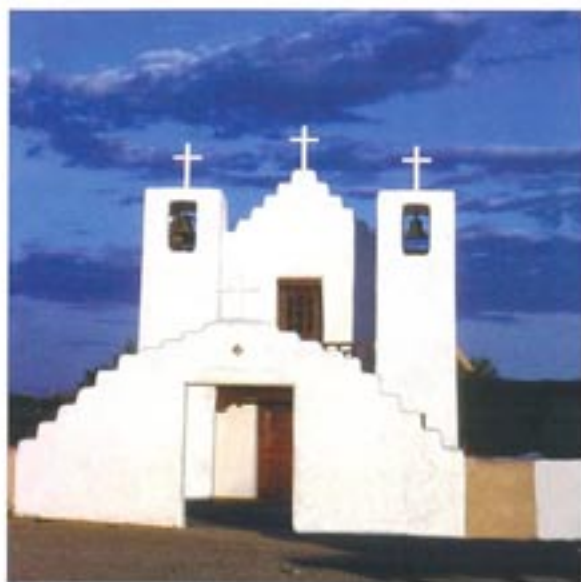
Welcome to the 7th Annual Best of the High Country. Each year we ask our readers to tell us what they love best about the mountains. In this issue we feature your top picks—everything from romantic weekend getaways to luxurious ski resorts, from scenic golf courses to the greatest restaurants, shops, hotels, art galleries, undiscovered towns and much more.

There's so much to love about the mountains—the clean air, the wide variety of outdoor activities for singles, couples or families, the abundance of wildlife, great hikes, incredible sunsets and where else can you roll in a snowbank on the 4th of July? One of the best things about this annual issue is that it reminds us of what makes life in the mountains so magical. We hope the next few pages will help you discover new places or reconnect with old favorites.

Compiled by Cyndia Zwahlen

# 10 Top Undiscovered Towns

- 1 **Mesilla, New Mexico** Known for its art scene and the prettiest town plaza in the state, 1-square-mile Mesilla sits due south of Las Cruces.
- 2 **Red Lodge, Montana** A freestyle form of living and incredible outdoor recreation define this former mining town, known for its nine-day Festival of Nations held each August.
- 3 **Redstone, Colorado** Perched on the edge of the White River National Forest, this tiny alpine village offers plenty of dining, shopping and adventure opportunities.
- 4 **Solvang, California** Known for looking more like Denmark than Denmark, this Santa Ynez Valley town is home to stunning Danish architecture.
- 5 **Bisbee, Arizona** Turn-of-the-century homes, a historic district filled with art galleries, antique stores and museums, and the vast Lavender Pit Open Mine, make for a memorable visit.
- 6 **Virginia City, Nevada** Once "The Richest Place on Earth," this historic landmark maintains the flavor of its early gold and silver mining days.
- 7 **Donnelly, Idaho** Historic railroad town overlooking Cascade Lake, this town's the latest draw is snowcat ski haven Tamarack Resort with more than 300 inches of snow per year.
- 8 **Saratoga, Wyoming** "Where the trout leap in Main Street" is the (once-accurate) motto of this town, known for its hatchery, hot springs, scenery and genuine Western character.
- 9 **Forks, Washington** Visitors brave the often rainy weather for instant access to a mind-boggling array of outdoor recreation opportunities and the town's vibrant arts scene.
- 10 **Nelson, British Columbia, Canada** A summer arts fair, the scenic Lakeside Park, standing-room hockey games and a classic main drag draw visitors to Nelson, rated the top small arts community in Canada.



## BEST PLACE TO BUY LAND

**TAOS COUNTY, New Mexico** Wide-open spaces and gorgeous scenery make this a popular area for equestrian properties. Easy access to ski slopes and Santa Fe, as well as a growing number of fine art galleries, adds to the appeal. [taosguide.com](http://taosguide.com).

**TUOLUMNE COUNTY, California** Nestled in the foothills of the Sierra Nevadas, this area is the gateway to Yosemite National Park. An emerging wine region, wine properties are still available at reasonable prices. [tuolumne-county-relocation.com](http://tuolumne-county-relocation.com).

**PARK COUNTY, Wyoming** Stunning distant-mountain views and plentiful rivers and creeks perfect for fly-fishing create a sublime natural setting for the many ranch properties and sprawling land parcels offered in this county. Check out the Cody area for great deals. [Codywyoming.net](http://Codywyoming.net).

**GRAND COUNTY, Colorado** A mountain-rimmed valley easily accessible from Denver, Grand County is home to local favorite ski resort, Winter Park, and Grand Lake, the west entrance to the Rocky Mountain National Forest. [grand-county.com](http://grand-county.com).



## EDITOR'S PICK

**AJ'S FINE FOODS, Phoenix/Tempe, Arizona** An upscale gourmet market experience in a boutique-like atmosphere. Stop in to start your day with a latte and muffin from the boulangerie, or enlist the expert staff to cater an elegant soirée. [ajsfinefoods.com](http://ajsfinefoods.com).

## BEST FRACTIONAL OWNERSHIP

**ROARING FORK CLUB, Basalt, Colorado** This invitation-only club offers cozy residences inspired by Adirondack Great Camps. 1/6-deeded-interest, 2-bedroom suites; and 1/6, 1/4, 1/3, 1/2 deeded interest or full-ownership. 3-bedroom log cabins offer stunning interiors. \$225,000 to \$1.3 million; (970) 927-2907, [roaringforkclub.net](http://roaringforkclub.net).

**THE TETON CLUB, Jackson Hole, Wyoming** Located trailside at the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, each 2- or 3-bedroom residence is elegantly furnished and features spectacular views. 2- to 12-week usage, \$40,000 to \$500,000; (877) 838-6677, [tetonclub.com](http://tetonclub.com).

**TONOPALO, Lake Tahoe, California** Perched on 270 feet of white sand beach on the shore of North Lake Tahoe, 19 three- and four-bedroom residences offer luxe appointments and spectacular lake views. Six-week minimum usage, \$379,000 to \$800,000; (866) 866-6725, [tonopalo.com](http://tonopalo.com).