

SHERIDAN ROAD

Style, Taste & Culture on the North Shore

*"Winter is an etching,
spring a watercolor,
summer an oil painting,
and autumn a mosaic of
them all."*

- Stanley Horowitz

October/November 2011

SheridanRd.com

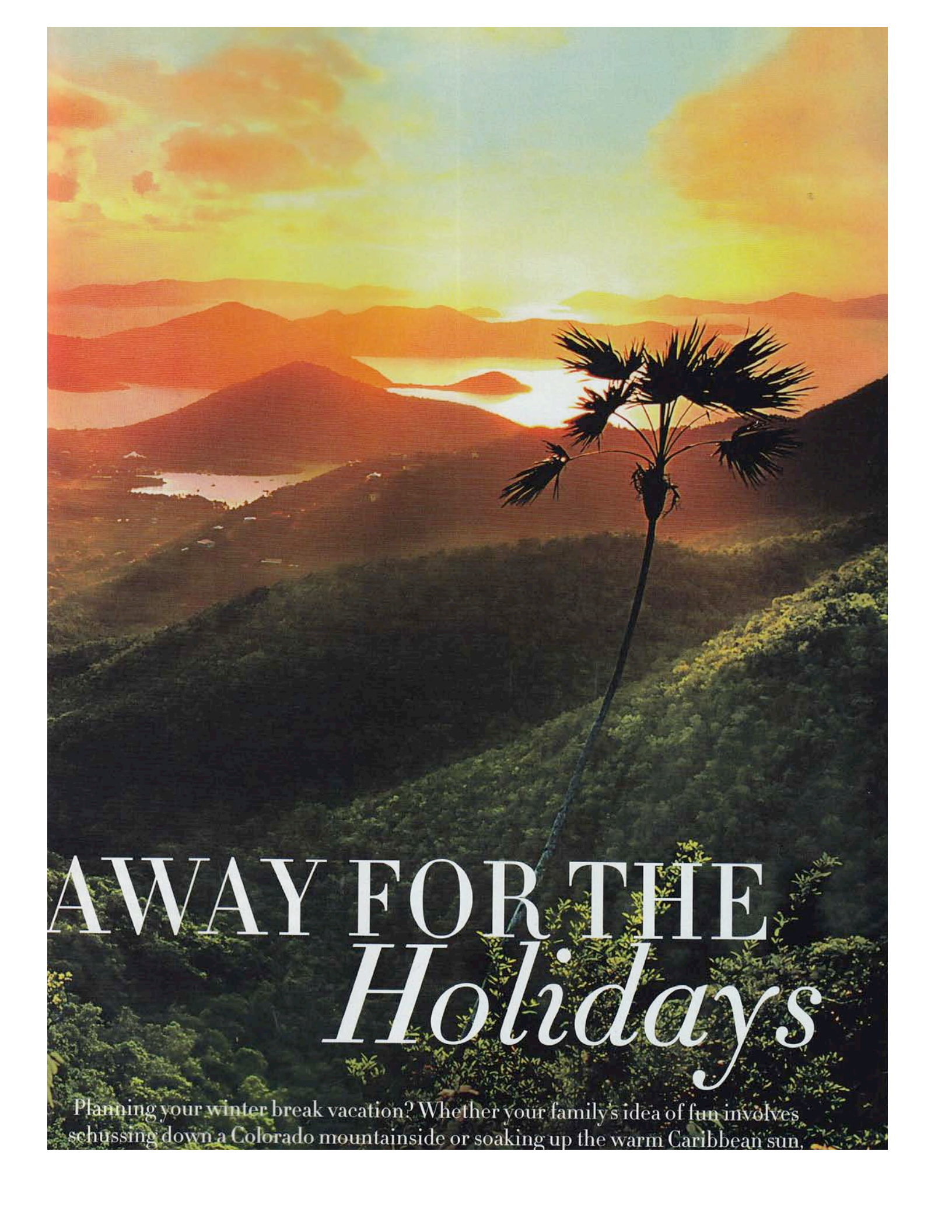


\$6 US

autumn
ARRIVES
on the NORTH SHORE



JWC | Media

A tropical landscape at sunset. In the foreground, a tall palm tree stands on a lush green hillside. The background features rolling mountains and a body of water, all bathed in the warm, golden light of the setting sun. The sky is filled with soft, orange and yellow clouds.

AWAY FOR THE *Holidays*

Planning your winter break vacation? Whether your family's idea of fun involves schussing down a Colorado mountainside or soaking up the warm Caribbean sun,

BRECKENRIDGE *Colorado*

BY ASHLEIGH MARTINEZ

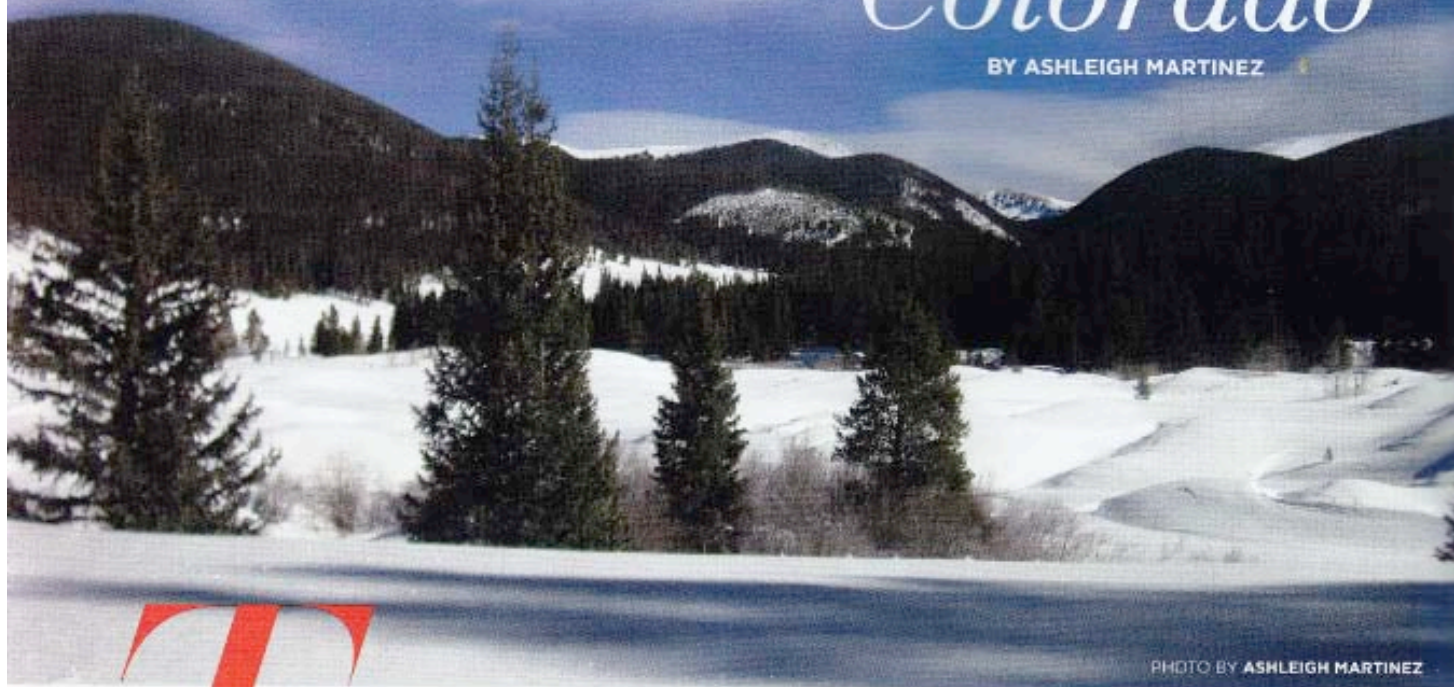


PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH MARTINEZ

There are few places on earth that actually lure crowds with the promise of snow; Breckenridge, Colorado, is one of them. Breckenridge, fondly referred to as “Breck” by the locals, has long been a favorite destination for those looking to unwind in the natural beauty of the Colorado Mountains. Founded more than 200 years ago by travelers seeking their fortunes in gold and silver, Breckenridge has evolved into what many believe to be the “perfect mountain town.” Best known for its world-class ski slopes, the town also attracts those looking for luxurious shopping, fine dining, and unique entertainment. Last winter, I packed my bags and ski gear (with first-timer jitters, of course) and set out to see what the fuss was all about. What I found in Breckenridge was unrivaled charm, breathtaking surroundings, and the opportunity to enjoy the winter weather we often run from.

With daily non-stop flights to Denver from both O’Hare and Midway Airports, the slopes of Breckenridge are easily accessible for those of us here in Chicago. Once I arrived at the Denver Airport, I opted for the Colorado Mountain Express rather than rent a car for the two-hour drive to Breckenridge, which can be rather overwhelming for someone who isn’t used to winding roads and steep inclines.

The shuttle dropped me off in front of One Ski Hill Place, a Rock-Resort that opened its doors last summer, bringing a new level of luxury to Breckenridge. The beautiful ski-in/ski-out resort sits at the bottom of Peak 8, with easy access to lifts, cross-country ski trails, and the BreckConnect Gondola, which whisks riders away to downtown Breckenridge in a matter of minutes. One Ski Hill Place offers a range of accommodations, from studios to four-bedroom luxurious condominiums. Each space boasts beautiful interiors, innovative green standards, and breathtaking views of the Continental Divide or the snow-covered slopes. The resort’s location is supreme and with a fine collection of family-friendly dining options

and amenities, including a billiard room, private movie lounges, and a two-lane bowling alley aptly named “The Mine Shaft.” One Ski Hill Place is truly a cut above the rest.

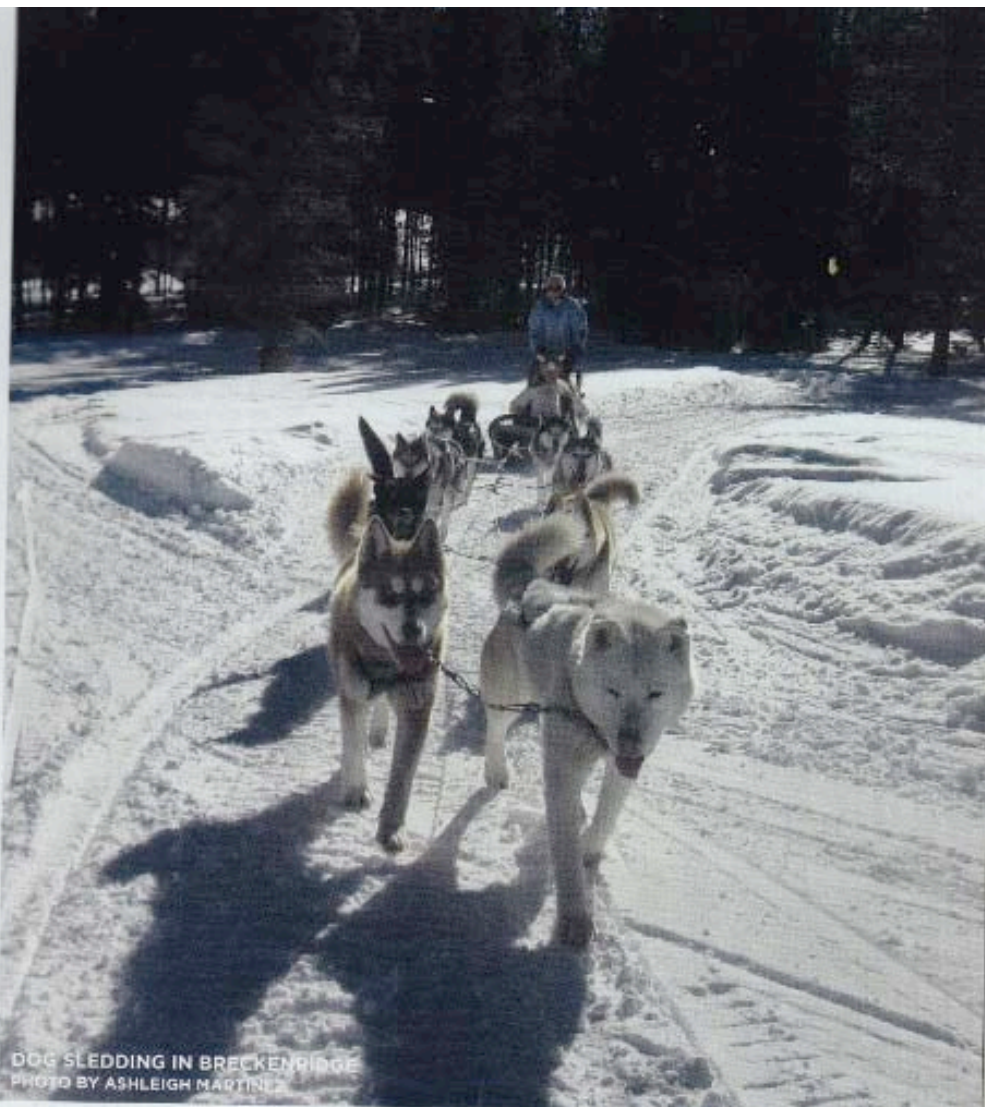
Mornings are not often welcomed in my book, but after a good night’s sleep, I awoke to a breathtaking view of the snow-covered peaks, painted orange and pink by the rising sun. I was even a bit jealous of the people I saw making their way up to the peak, sans lift, but I figured I would save that for next time—perhaps after my first lesson. By the time I made it over to the lifts to meet my ski instructor, Doug from Breckenridge Ski & Ride School, the sun had come out, making for what was going to be a gorgeous day on the mountain.

Knowing that I had never skied before, Doug started me off on the bunny slopes. Thanks to his patience and experience working with skiers at all levels, I soon found myself taking on the intermediate runs with the “big guys,” along with a few youngsters who fearlessly cruised down the mountain behind their own patient instructors. I spent the rest of my afternoon on the intermediate lifts, much to the chagrin of the daredevils who planned to take on the Imperial Express SuperChair, which sweeps skiers 12,840 feet above sea level, making it the highest chairlift in North America.

After a beautiful day on the mountain, I headed over to One Ski Hill Place’s Aquatic and Rejuvenation Centers, an absolute must for après-ski relaxation. The Aquatic Center’s panoramic glass walls and ceiling allow you to enjoy the gorgeous view while taking a dip in the pools or hot tub. The Rejuvenation Center offers an array of massage and spa services, enabling you to unwind after a day on the mountain. I opted for the outdoor hot tub and watched my fellow skiers take to the slopes while the fire pit crackled beside me. That evening, I made my way into “Downtown Breck” and dined at Relish, a local haunt that boasts a warm atmosphere and a collection of savory Colorado-inspired dishes. After dinner, I walked around town and checked out the International Snow Sculpture Championships, held every January at the Riverwalk Center.

While in Breckenridge, I also did something very few have the opportunity to do in a lifetime—"mushing" or dog sledding. A visit to Good Times Adventures is a must for those looking for a unique way to take in the beautiful Colorado scenery. The tour, which lasts a little over an hour, gives members of the group the opportunity to switch off between riding on a small passenger sleigh with the guide, sitting in the dogsled, and getting behind the "wheel" (if you may) to run the dogs. There are plenty of trails for all ages and comfort levels; our guide told us 4-year-olds have even taken to this exhilarating outdoor adventure. The quiet calm of the snow-covered forest was only ever interrupted by the laughter of us trying to master mushing while the dogs playfully jumped in nearby snow piles.

This year, Breckenridge Ski Resort will be celebrating its 50th year of bringing friends and family out of their winter burrows to enjoy the charming town and its magnificent peaks. Why not try something different with your family and embrace the winter weather, rather than escape it? With all it has to offer, One Ski Hill Place will not disappoint, and the town of Breckenridge is sure to be a favorite family retreat for years to come. □



DOG SLEDDING IN BRECKENRIDGE
PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH MARTINEZ



A VIEW OF ONE SKI HILL PLACE