



ARLBERG HOSPIZ HOTEL

ARLBERG HOSPIZ HOTEL AUSTRIA

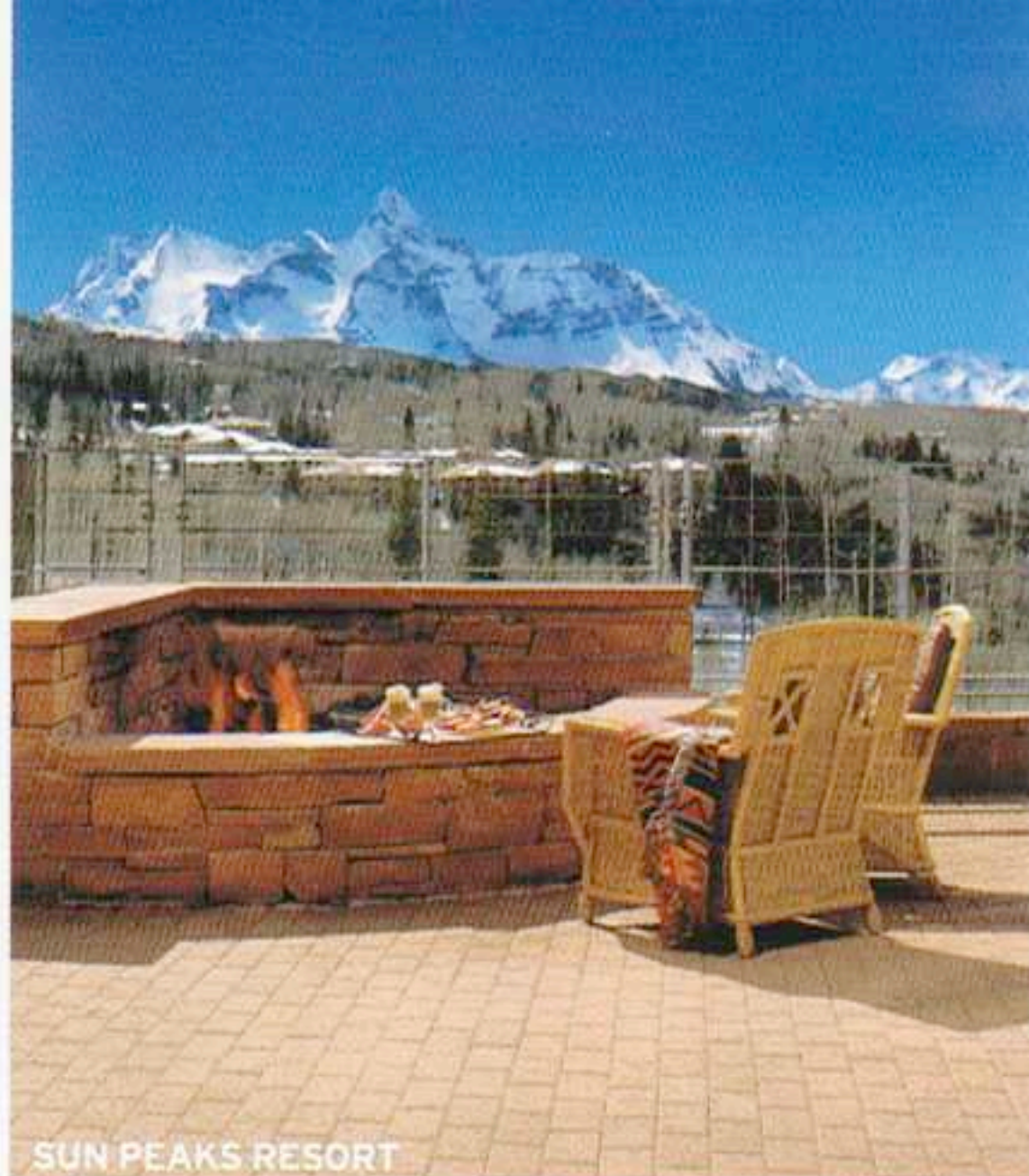
With a reputation as one of the best but most underrated wine producers in the world, Austria has already established itself as a leading culinary destination. Undoubtedly the most esteemed gourmet ski resort area in the Austrian Alps is around St Christoph in the Tyrol region. The five-star Arlberg Hospiz is the town's most famous hotel and home to a Michelin-starred and Gault Millau award-winning restaurant where the menu combines Austrian mountain food with richer Italian sauces - the border being just 30 miles away.

Hearty appetites will be satisfied by spring venison in parsley pancakes with beetroot puree and walnut gnocchi, while the lighter palette can enjoy Brittany sole with three kinds of spinach, and truffle sauce. Even weight-watchers can justify the fried vanilla parfaits after an active day burning calories on the endless pistes.

After dinner, the hotel sommelier gives nightly tours of the huge wine cellar that holds hundreds of local vintages, rare Margaux and one of the largest collections of Bordeaux outside France.

For relaxed dining, Arlberg's more informal sister hotel, Hospiz Alm, is a little higher up the slopes and has waiters in traditional calf-length trousers serving potent local beer and rich stews that will warm you up even on the coldest winter night.

hospiz.com



SUN PEAKS RESORT

SUN PEAKS RESORT US

Telluride is one of America's most established and extensive ski towns. In 1889, it became famous as the first place to be visited by a celebrity outlaw, Butch Cassidy, robbed a bank. These days, it's a favorite of resident Hollywood stars like Tom Cruise and Oprah Winfrey, who have given the town a much better reputation as a friendly and high-end ski resort.

One of the star attractions is the Sun Peaks Resort, due to re-open in December 2007, following a \$2m facelift for its vast spa. With the help of Golden Door, a luxury spa operator with an award-winning resort in California, it has literally taken the superlative, Japanese-inspired wellness concept to a new level - 5,000ft to be precise. The comprehensive package includes rejuvenating and beautifying skin and facial treatments, like oxygen facials that replenish your skin cells and focused deep tissue massages to help tired and aching muscles back onto the slopes. For proactive wellbeing, Golden Door's fitness centre has daily Hatha and Vinyasa yoga classes, Pilates and even a meditation class.

This being America, there is also a Dog Spa on-site where your four-legged friend can be bathed, massaged and groomed while you tackle some of the best skiing in the Rockies.

sunpeaksresort.com



LE LODGE PARK

LE LODGE PARK FRANCE

Hotels rarely come more sensual or romantic than this. In fact, such is the sybaritic comfort of Le Lodge Park's interiors that it takes some convincing to leave the building in winter and actually go skiing. Overlooking the picture-postcard village of Mégeve, the most stylish of French ski resorts, this lavish mountain lodge tweaks the wood-and-stuffed-deer-head interiors by injecting modernity through rich fabrics, black lampshades and stone fireplaces in every room.

For pre-après-ski, the chic spa is designed and textured to bring nature in from outside: granite plunge pools, beechwood furniture and white fur walls beckon. An expert massage in one of the bark-walled treatments rooms is one of the most sensual and cossetting spa experiences you will ever have.

With sister properties in Provence and St Tropez, Le Lodge Park takes eating and drinking very seriously. The fresh seafood - tuna, seabass and lobster - comes from the Riviera coast, just a four-hour drive away, while house wines (red, white and rosé) are produced in their own Provençal vineyards.

lodgepark.com