

MODERN LUXURY

ASPEN

MAGAZINE

HOLIDAY 2015/WINTER 2016

FEATURING
ASPEN
WEDDINGS

NEW HEIGHTS

LUXURY LOOKS FOR
TOWN & THE SLOPES

COMEBACK STORY

Outfitter Krabloonik Gets
a New Leash on Life

SEASONAL DESIRES

The Hottest Gear, Gifts,
Trends, Parties & Tickets

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GOOD GROOMING
Learn to maneuver a rig like this if you're a guest at a SkiCo-owned hotel.

PURRING ALONG

A new program gives lucky takers the chance to drive a snowcat on the slopes.

BY BARBARA PLATTS

Ever wonder how heavily skied terrain turns into fresh corduroy by the next morning? Help create those smooth lines with new **snowcat driving lessons** at Buttermilk. Guests staying at The Little Nell, The Residences at The Little Nell or the Limelight Hotel can learn how to control a Prinoth Bison 350 under the tutelage of an Aspen SkiCo driver.

SkiCo Winter Trails Supervisor Travis Benson came up with the idea to offer the lessons in response to frequent inquiries about the machines and how they work. "Everybody's always excited about the snowcats and what they do and the product they leave on the slopes," says Benson, who has worked at Buttermilk for the past decade. "This is a good opportunity to see all that a snowcat does."

Student drivers (up to two per session) spend the first 30 minutes of the three-hour experience learning the cat's wide array of controls. Both hands are required: the right controls the grooming mechanisms, and the left manages steering. Once novice drivers feel comfortable, they can put their new skills to work grooming Panda Peak—an ideal venue, says Benson, as the typically deep snow makes it easier to avoid hitting dirt. If SkiCo gets a surge in cat-driver applications next winter, we'll know why. 2:45PM, \$875, 970.920.6315, thelittlenell.com

ON BOARD

Carving Out a Niche

With a shared passion for Alpine snowboarding (i.e., riding with hardboots fastened into plate bindings), Basalt residents Jim and Angie Callen were a natural fit to purchase 23-year-old

Bomber Industries when the company's Silverthorne, Colo.-based founder decided to sell last summer. Bomber makes three styles of bindings (from \$389) and distributes the hardboots, narrow boards and snowboarding accessories that allow riders to slice through snow, their bodies verging on parallel with the slope. In addition to demo days throughout Colorado, the company sponsors the annual Aspen

Trenchin' Convention (from \$679), Feb. 6 to 12, which draws snowboarders from around the country to convene and carve. Open to all levels of riders, the event includes days at each local mountain, plus demos, après parties and an optional day with Aspen Powder Tours. You might say it showcases snowboarding from an entirely different angle. bomberonline.com —CH



RIGHT ANGLE
Hardboot snowboarding allows riders to get on edge and cleanly carve turns.

DRIVING FORCE

FAST TIMES

Navigating Highway 82 when it's snowy and icy can be nerve-racking. Navigating the straightaway at the Aspen Motorsports Park in Woody Creek in the same conditions?

Now, that's fun! Especially when your ride is a sleek all-wheel-drive **Lamborghini V-10 Huracán** or V-12 Aventador. For the second year in a row, the Italian automaker hosts its Winter Accademia in Aspen, bringing in a crew of seasoned instructors with deep racing backgrounds. The experience includes ample driving time, lodging at the Viceroy Snowmass and meals with Lamborghini execs. Feb. 25-29, price upon request, lamborghiniaccess.com —CH



RACING RED Get behind the wheel of a Lamborghini Huracán in Aspen this winter.

SNOWCAT PHOTO BY DAN BAYER

DETAILS, DETAILS

pre-wedding



ROLL WITH IT Face down those pre-ceremony jitters with DIY cocktails delivered to your room.

IN HIGH SPIRITS

Mobile bar carts are the newest perk at The St. Regis Aspen Resort.

BY BARBARA PLATTS

For a dose of liquid courage before the ceremony, or as a celebratory toast after the fact, The St. Regis Aspen now offers **Tie the Knot Bar Carts** for in-room imbibing. The bride and her bridesmaids can enjoy fine light spirits like No.3 London Dry Gin, The King's Ginger liqueur, prosecco and more. For the groom's side, the cart includes more robust spirits like Westland American single malt whiskey, Hirsch bourbon, Nikka Coffey grain whiskey, Aperitivo and more. A book of cocktail recipes comes with both carts, so a member of the bridal party can play bartender. Each cart serves up to eight people. Couples who hold their nuptials at the hotel and have reached a \$25,000 minimum on food and beverages receive complimentary bar carts; a la carte, they cost \$500 each. 315 E. Dean St., 970.920.3300, stregiaspen.com

Grooming the Groom

Girls shouldn't have all the fun. Guys can rejuvenate before the big event too, as local spas target the male demographic. —BP

To see results right after leaving the spa, indulge in the **Oxygen Facial** at **The St. Regis Aspen Resort's Remède Spa**. Consult with the esthetician to select a customized serum; then submit to a hydrating treatment that leaves the face glowing. The benefits will last past the wedding reception and into the honeymoon. Pair the facial with one of the spa's famously relaxing massages (from \$195) to make an afternoon of it before the big day. From \$250, 315 E. Dean St., 970.920.3300, stregiaspen.com

Help eliminate stress and anxiety with the **Bindi Herbal Body Therapy** at the **Aspen Club**. Your therapist first wraps you in a toasty body mask, then, afterward, exfoliates your skin using a dry brush technique. Herbal oils are then applied during a 50-minute massage. Finish the treatment by being cocooned in a warm, steamy towel. Not only will your skin be silky smooth, but your immune system will be strengthened—helpful for the festive nights ahead. \$300, 1450 Crystal Lake Road, 970.925.8900, aspenclub.com

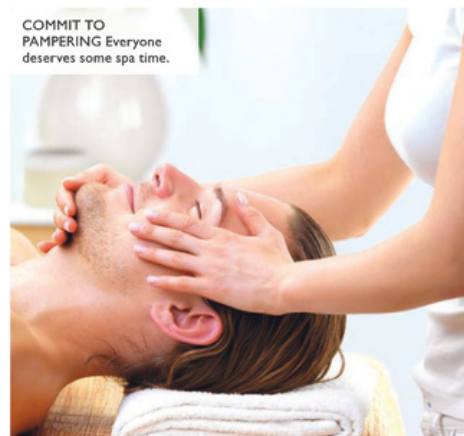
Take 45 minutes for yourself with the **Bros, Brews and Brats** treatment at the spa at **Viceroy Snowmass**. It starts with a 15-minute customized bath infused with eucalyptus and arnica oil, with a Colorado microbrew on the side. Once your mind and body are sufficiently relaxed, bliss out

further with a 30-minute upper-body massage. The grand finale: housemade bratwurst at the Viceroy's Nest Public House restaurant. \$115, 130 Wood Road, Snowmass Village, 970.923.8000, viceroyhotelsandresorts.com

Geared toward sensitive male skin, the **Mountain Man Facial** at **O2 Aspen** is just the remedy for rejuvenating the face. Consisting of botanically derived products (including a lavender mist to promote relaxation), the treatment penetrates deeply, leaving skin looking fresh and clean for the big day. Bonus points: Take a yoga class (\$20) at O2's studio downstairs from the spa. \$125, 500 W. Main St., 970.925.4002, o2aspen.com

Rejuvenate and restore with the **Arnica & Birch Deep Tissue Massage** at the **Hotel Jerome Spa**.

COMMIT TO PAMPERING Everyone deserves some spa time.



Arnica and birch, used in traditional Native American herbal treatments, help remedy muscular pain and reduce inflammation. \$185, 300 E. Main St., 855.331.7213, hoteljerome.aubergeresorts.com

UNDER HUNTER'S SPELL

Writer Cheryl Della Pietra recalls the crazy times with Hunter S. Thompson that inspired her novel, *Gonzo Girl*.

By Barbara Platts

Photography by Helen Barnard



For five intense months in 1992, Cheryl Della Pietra saw a side of Aspen that few of us ever experienced. Now, we're all invited to the party, thanks to her debut novel, *Gonzo Girl*, based on her stint as an assistant to legendary journalist Hunter S. Thompson.

Della Pietra's fictional alter ego, Alley Russo, is an ambitious, bright college grad who is trying to make a name for herself as a writer. Her job as Thompson's assistant is to help him finish a book and deliver it to his publishing company. However, he soon gets distracted by the banter of the 1992 presidential campaign and begins another book instead, the eventual *Better Than Sex: Confessions of a Political Junkie*.

Although most of the events portrayed in the book are true, Della Pietra chose to fictionalize her account. "People ask me all the time why," she says. "A memoir never occurred to me because I fancy myself a novelist."

The main difference between her and Alley is family dynamics; Della Pietra's family was much more supportive. Beyond that, the two women are similar. "When Alley went out there, she was very naive, like I was," Della Pietra says. "I think we navigated that world equally well or not well."

That world was a constant party. Working hours typically lasted from late afternoon until early morning and were accompanied by a tray of coke, unlimited amounts of booze (luckily, Della Pietra could make a mean margarita), and a smorgasbord of hallucinogens and narcotics. In addition, there were frequent outings at Thompson's shooting range with pieces from his extensive firearms collection.

Knowing when to indulge and when to hold back was a constant challenge. "Hunter didn't like to party alone," says Della Pietra. "But no one on the planet, except maybe Keith Richards, could keep up with him. It was definitely a balancing act."

Most of her time was spent at Thompson's Woody Creek property, where she lived in a small cabin. When she and Hunter did go out, they frequented just a few places. "It was a pretty insular experience," she recalls. "We spent a lot of time at the [Woody Creek] Tavern. Hunter [also] liked to go for drives."

After almost five months, Della Pietra felt it was time to go. The intensity was hard to maintain, and she was ready to work on her own career goals. She left on good terms, spending a month afterward outlining a book for Thompson.

It was an unconventional first job out of college, to say the least, but one with an invaluable lesson. "I learned the importance of having fun [in] your creative life," says Della Pietra. "As a writer, I tend to stare down a page for as long as it takes. But Hunter had a lot of fun—that was important to him—and I see now how it fueled his creativity. I remind myself of that a lot."