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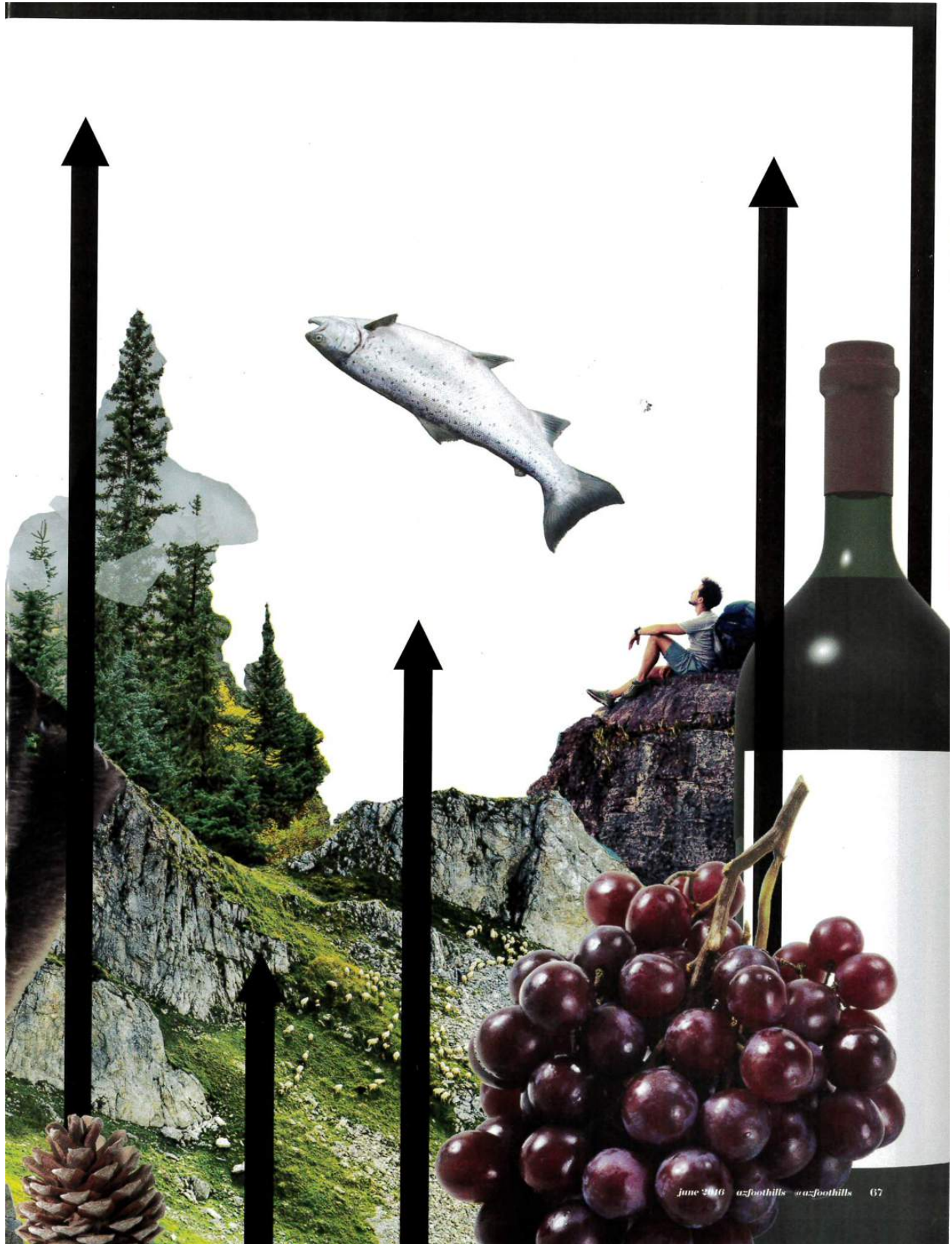
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GO NORTH

By Melissa Larsen

Though known for sprawling ski resorts, some of the most spectacular properties in the areas of Vail, Telluride and Park City, for instance, offer luxury and comfort—in less than 200 rooms. Here are some of the top boutique hotels north of Arizona that provide intimacy and exclusivity as well as allow an escape from the Valley's 115-degree summer days.





NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Suites at Calistoga Ranch include an outdoor shower garden.

CALISTOGA RANCH

With only 50 cedar-shingled, standalone guest lodges (that can span up to 3,000 square feet), Calistoga Ranch offers one of Northern California's most intimate and exclusive romantic escapes. With the feel of a sprawling wine estate in Upper Napa Valley, Calistoga Ranch guests are invited to savor a private dinner in an on-site wine cave that is carved into a hillside; take quality time in the indoor-outdoor Auberge Spa; make a splash in the just-enhanced adult pool; or get on board with a variety of adventure activities, like hot-air ballooning, biking tours, photo classes and much more. calistogaranch.com.

VENTANA BIG SUR

Though it is spread across 243 acres along the Pacific coastline, Ventana Big Sur is home to only 59 rooms (each with a private balcony or patio with ocean or mountain views), allowing an intimate romantic respite. Apart from award-winning dining options from Executive Chef Paul Corsentino at The Restaurant at Ventana and access to the full-service The Spa at Ventana, the resort has a long list of complimentary experiences for its guests including two outdoor pools with Japanese hot baths; morning breakfast; daily guided walks of the landscape; yoga, Tai Chi and Pilates classes; afternoon wine and cheese; and, at night, s'mores around the fire pits. ventanainn.com.

AUBERGE DU SOLEIL

It is no secret that Auberge du Soleil is one of Napa Valley's most specular vacation destinations. What has made the resort even more notable, however, was the unveiling of eight new guestrooms and suites in May in the Maison Menton and Maison Narbonne buildings. With some of them offering as much as 1,300 square feet of indoor-outdoor space, the new rooms feature fireplaces in the bedrooms and living spaces, floor-to-ceiling windows and some even have stand-alone tubs in private outdoor bath gardens. aubergedusoleil.com.

Auberge du Soleil's open-air gallery features 110 figurative and abstract works by California artists.



CALISTOGA RANCH



From distant ocean views to rolling meadows to grand redwood forests, Ventana Big Sur guests are given a front-row to the rugged Big Sur landscape.



*Casa Madrona
is listed on the
National Register of
Historic Places.*

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

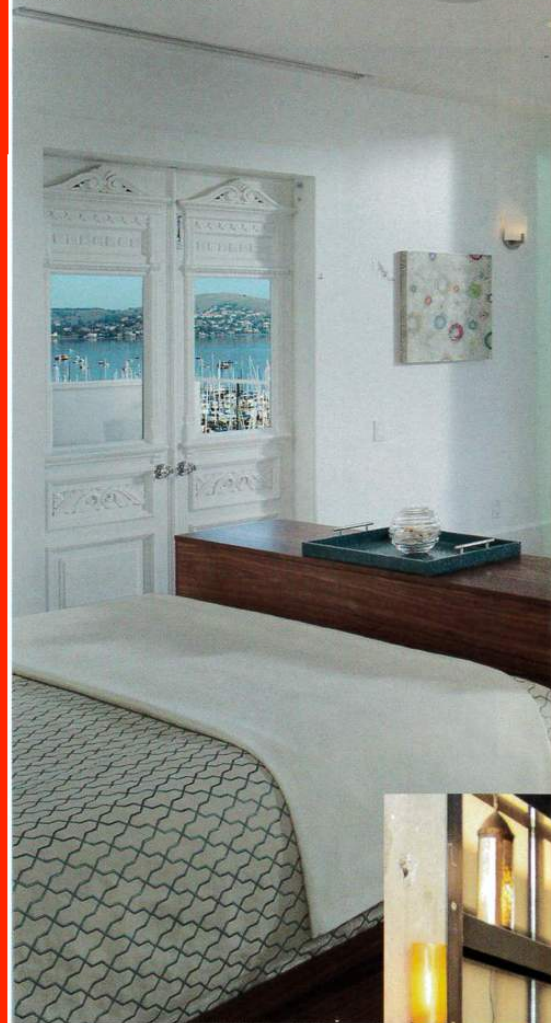
CASA MADRONA HOTEL & SPA

A 64-room luxury boutique hotel built in 1885, Casa Madrona Hotel & Spa's prime location in Sausalito provides proximity to waterfront views that include sailboats floating by, the ferry landing, Bay Area exploration (it is only five miles from the Golden Gate Bridge and 10 miles from downtown San Francisco) and much more. There are three different ways to stay on the property: in the Contemporary Building, which has standard hotel rooms; in standalone hillside cottages; or in the Mansion, the hotel's signature luxury residence. casamadrona.com.

THE CITIZEN HOTEL

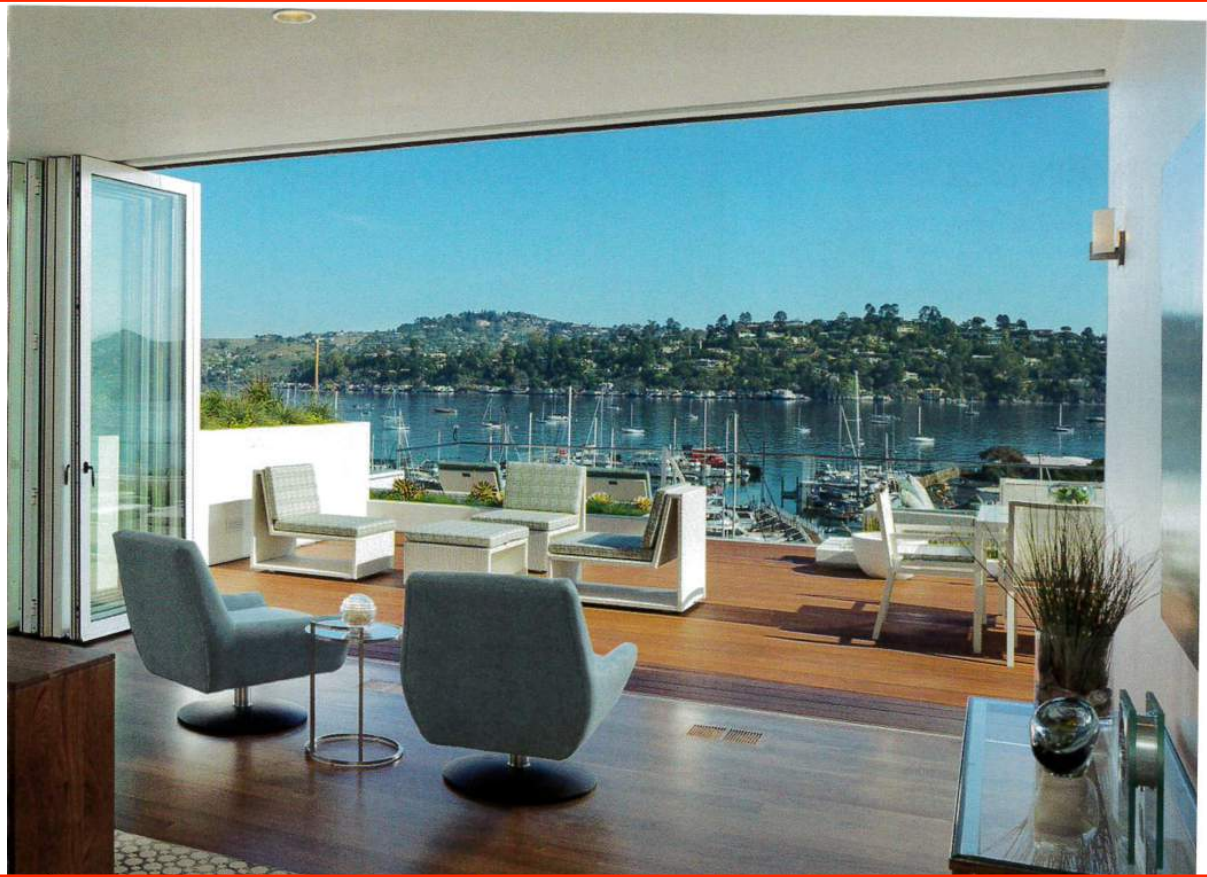
Found in the historic 1920's California-Western States Life Insurance Building in downtown Sacramento, The Citizen Hotel is an ode to the Roaring Twenties that is full of references to California's political history (look for political humor inscribed in the elevators and protest photographs that hang in the hallways). Even the rooms—there are less than 200 of them—at the boutique property are adorned with vintage political cartoons. At Grange Restaurant & Bar, dig into farm-fresh ingredients and seasonal menus where you may find the likes of Passmore Ranch trout with California wild rice or spring veggie risotto. thecitizenhotel.com.

CASA MADRONA HOTEL & SPA



*No two rooms
in The Citizen Hotel
are exactly alike.*





UTAH

MAIN & SKY

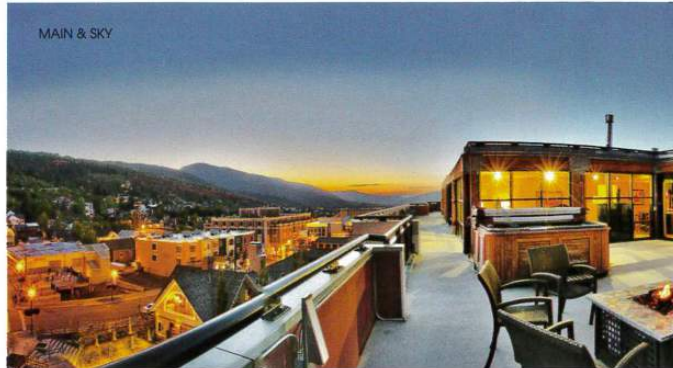
The only small luxury hotel right on Main Street in historic Park City (making it within walking distance of incredible nightlife, shopping, dining and art galleries), Main & SKY offers 33 one-, two- and three-bedroom suites that house balconies and hot tubs with incredible views of the city as well as ski slopes. Though it may be hard to imagine spending time indoors in an outdoor wonderland such as Park City, Main & SKY is home to one of the Utah town's most notable wellness programs via Sugati Spa. The spa aims to provide lasting wellness and overall transformation through Ayurveda, Eastern principles and alpine-mountain remedies. In fact, the spa hosts one of the only therapists in the area to be trained by Arun Deva, a well-known diplomate in Ayurvedic sciences and a longtime yoga therapist and teacher. skyparkcity.com.

STEIN ERIKSEN LODGE DEER VALLEY

Though it's been named the "Best Ski Hotel in the World" by World Ski Awards twice, the 178-room Stein Eriksen Lodge Deer Valley, named after Norwegian Olympic gold-medal skier Stein Eriksen, offers more than world-renowned skiing. On site, guests also have access to spa services at The Spa, Utah's only Forbes Five-Star spa; dining at the award-winning Giltfretind Restaurant and Troll Hallen Lounge; super-close access to Historic Main Street for shopping, art galleries and dining; as well as a plethora of warm-weather activities that range from fly fishing to horseback riding. steinlodge.com.

Main & SKY is home to Park City's oldest tavern since 1897.

MAIN & SKY



STEIN ERIKSEN LODGE DEER VALLEY



New this season, guests staying at Stein Eriksen Lodge get exclusive access to the private Jack Nicklaus signature course, the Park Meadows Country Club course.



WYOMING

JENNY LAKE LODGE

A luxury vacation experience meets the outdoor joys of a national park: say hello to Jenny Lake Lodge, the only four-diamond eco-resort in Grand Teton National Park. Oozing irresistible rustic charm, the lodge is home to 37 cabin rooms (which range from freestanding single-room cabins to suites with a sitting parlor and a stove for in-room meals) as well as five-course dinner menus, a daily gourmet breakfast and horseback-riding opportunities. All food prepared at the Jenny Lake Lodge is fresh and locally sourced as the chef personally goes to the Jackson Farmers' Market to hand-pick ingredients that will be used in many of his house specials that evening. The park lodging is open seasonally, June to early-October. gtlc.com/lodges/jenny-lake-lodge.

Daily programming at Jenny Lake Lodge may include stargazing, yoga, croquet with wine and more.

COLORADO

LUMIÈRE HOTEL IN TELLURIDE

A luxury boutique hotel in the mountain town of Telluride, Lumière Hotel is home to only 11 hotel rooms and 18 residences, resulting in an intimate setting in which the staff knows each guest's name and when they will be arriving and departing. In addition to being a central location to countless hiking and biking trails, golf, art walks and a variety of other summer activities, Lumière Hotel provides all the necessities for an enjoyable time of doing nothing at all: take a soak in the outdoor hot tub under a blanket of stars, relax in a hot air balloon floating over Ridgway Valley, book an in-room massage or enjoy a fine-dining experience at Bijou restaurant (think duck confit empanadas and dried-cherry-braised short ribs). lumieretelluride.com.

THE LODGE AT VAIL, A ROCKRESORT

Utterly elegant yet with the charm and warmth of a Rocky Mountain lodge, The Lodge at Vail, A RockResort, is a AAA Four-Diamond Award-winning hotel with 165 hotel rooms, suites and residences. The Old World-style architecture and world-class amenities put it among the most stellar spots to stay in Vail while still maintaining a level of intimacy found in a boutique property. To soak in the Rocky Mountain air, The Lodge at Vail is home to Pool One, Vail's very first pool featuring two hot tubs, a fire pit, surround sound and a full-service bar. lodgeatvail.rockresorts.com.

THE LITTLE NELL

The Little Nell, Aspen's only five-star, five-diamond ski-in/ski-out hotel, packs in quite a bit of luxury in a space that houses less than 100 rooms (52 guestrooms, 26 premium guestrooms, eight suites and six specialty suites, to be exact). Guests can expect an award-winning wine program, a five-star restaurant dishing out New American cuisine, an adventure center for arranging open-air escapades and much more. This summer, The Little Nell is home to a three-part Barbecue Series with live music, drinks and barbecue fare; the Ride & Dine Dinner Series during which guests journey from the hotel on bike to a destination farm-to-table feast; and the five-day Clip-in with Christian Cycling Camp, giving cyclists the chance to ride with former pros through Aspen's most famed roads. thelittlenell.com.

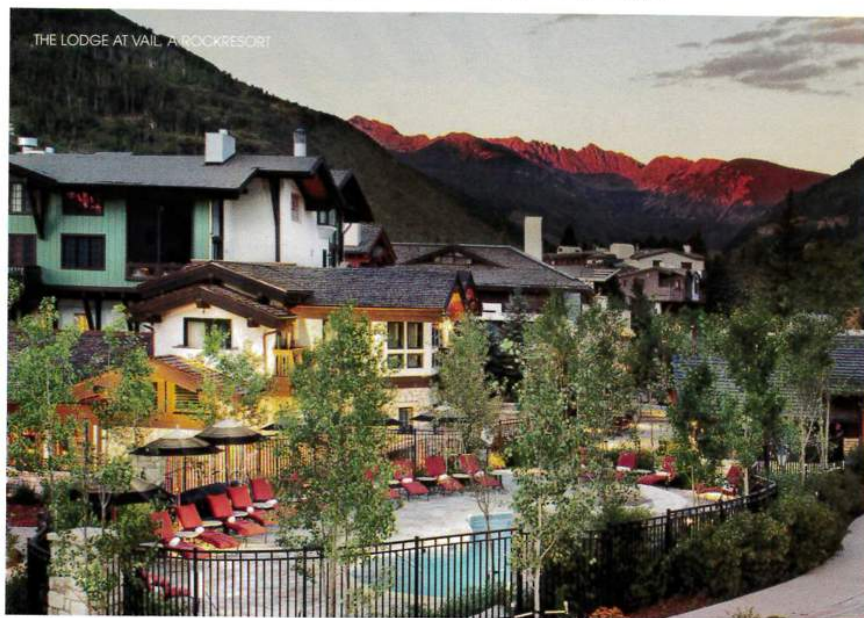


Visiting Lumière in the winter? The ski-in/ski-out hotel partnered with Black Tie Ski Rentals to create a seamless ski valet and equipment rental experience.





The Lodge at Vail is pet friendly, offering a faux Sherpa-lined dog bed, a map of dog-friendly destinations, locally sourced dog treats, as well as in-room and terrace dining doggie menus, which include house-made doggie biscuits, grilled chicken with brown rice and steamed carrots.



Cheers! There are 39 sommeliers on staff at The Little Nell, and its subterranean wine cellar houses more than 20,000 bottles.