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A CUT ABOVE

WORDS BY **BETSY MARR**

LOCALLY CURATED ART COLLECTIONS. FINE WINE SELECTIONS AND CRAFT SPIRITS. SWEEPING VIEWS. A MOUNTAIN ALL TO ONESELF. A TWO-TIME OLYMPIC MEDALIST TO PERSONALLY GUIDE YOU DOWN THE SLOPES. THESE ARE THE NUANCES THAT MAKE A *MONTAGE* PROPERTY A *MONTAGE* PROPERTY. AND THE HOTEL COLLECTION'S FIRST FORAY OUTSIDE THE CONFINES OF CALIFORNIA WAS, IN A WORD, EXTRAORDINARY. MONTAGE DEER VALLEY OPENED ITS ALPINE-INSPIRED DOORS IN LATE 2010, IMMEDIATELY BECOMING PARK CITY'S TONICEST RESPITE. THE CRAFTSMAN STYLE LODGE'S COVETED LOCATION ATOP EMPIRE PASS MAKES FOR A TRUE ON-MOUNTAIN GETAWAY WHILE REMAINING MERE MINUTES FROM THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN. BUT THAT IS ONLY THE BEGINNING.

Stay

A cozier iteration of the Montage brand, the Deer Valley property plays perfectly into its surroundings. It's opulent, but not overdone. Luxurious without being the least bit ostentatious. As repeat visitors have come to assume, the hotel's staff is at your beck and call, eager to help in any way possible and always knowing not only your name but also your favorite cocktail and how you take your coffee. Reminiscent of the great lodges of the American west, Montage Deer Valley is every bit the warm, inviting respite you'd hope it to be, but don't expect anything resembling the trite or cliché.

All 220 guest rooms are well appointed, with even the standard quarters being rather expansive (600 square feet on average) and all boasting spa-like bathrooms, fireplaces and sweeping mountain views. If your budget allows or your brood is in tow, opt for a suite where gourmet kitchens and wraparound balconies overlooking the mountain are the norm.



Montage Deer Valley
montagehotels.com/deervalley
435.604.1300



Dine

For foodies, options are plentiful, the newest of which is **Burgers & Bourbon**. The chic but chill watering hole serves the classics - from gourmet burgers and fresh cut fries to hand spun shakes and craft spirits - or combine the two for an adult libation that's sweet as can be. The menu pays homage to local artisans and farmers and the bar boasts over 100 bourbon selections. In the winter, it turns into the mountain's Après ski hotspot. Of course, there's also **Daley's Pub**, an underground haven replete with its own bowling alley. Try the handcrafted brick over pizzas, and watch them bake in the pub's own display oven.

More fanciful fare abounds upstairs at **Apex Lounge**, Montage's fine dining restaurant and one that lives up to the hype. Relaxed yet equally refined, Apex serves inspired continental food with a seasonally fresh, farm to table menu. Opt for the pork belly to start before making your way to the risotto or Niman Ranch beef. The wine list impresses, with an expansive selection of varietals to complement Apex's cuisine.

If you're visiting during the winter months, **Yama Sushi** is also a must (the restaurant is open seasonally from December 20th on). Begin with the Japanese Wagyu Beef Hot Rock before enjoying one of the many signature sushi rolls.

Play

As one might expect, recreation is second to none on the mountain, regardless of the season. Hiking, biking, golfing and fly fishing are at your doorstep in the summer months, while Utah's finest skiing is a private chairlift ride away in the winter. What's more, the resort provides true ski-in ski-out access, complete with a ski concierge who has warmed boots ready for you as you depart and direct access to the spa for that après ski massage upon your return. But the real differentiator isn't an amenity - it's a celebrity. Two time Olympic medalist **Shannon Bahrke** is **Montage's Ski Ambassador**, hosting guests on mountain runs and offering first hand lessons for those so inclined. Afterwards, unwind with Bahrke for gourmet s'mores around the fire pit - a time honored Montage tradition.

Weather permitting, the resort's newest and most noteworthy adventure sport involves a private jet and one of America's most stunning national parks - all in a day's work. **Montage to Moab** is the property's over-the-top iteration of exploration. The trip allows lucky guests to see the state's top two attractions - Park City in Northern Utah and Moab in Southern Utah - all in a day trip, via private jet. Ski on one day and bike through red rock country the next.

If indoor sports are more your style, indulge in on-property retail therapy. From the standalone **Roberto Coin** boutique where the lauded Italian designer showcases his wares, to **Pique**, where old friends like Diane Von Furstenberg and Nanette Lepore are ready to greet you, the shopper's soul is certain to be soothed.

For Tiny Travelers

The adage is true - good things do come in small packages. Montage Deer Valley's **Paintbox** is not your run-of-the-mill kid's club, with customized programs for little ones from 5 to 12-years-old. Activities center on the resort's deep connection with the arts and are largely creative - from painting to sculpting and more. Paintbox also takes full advantage of the surrounding mountains with outdoor activities geared towards your tiny traveler's interest, age and skill level. 🍷



Unwind

Everything about Montage Deer Valley is a cut above, beginning with the luxur than luxe spa. At 35,000 square feet, **Spa Montage** is Utah's largest, with its lodge-like décor set perfectly amongst the mountain's perfect silhouette. An indoor lap pool and private sundeck are exclusive to spa guests, offering a quiet sanctuary from the busier resort pool. The typical spa trappings also abound - think whirlpool steam and sauna - yet in the most serene of settings. Treatments are all holistically focused, with the newly launched Elements of Wellness program being the menu's shining star. Pre-visit, guests complete a comprehensive profile questionnaire and a series of treatments are then prescribed to meet fitness, health, relaxation and aesthetic goals. An ideal fit for the true spa enthusiast, think of it as a "sampling" of services where, based on an individual profile, one can choose (or simply follow the therapist's recommendations) from a palette of options that includes three distinct categories: Indulge, Energize and Reconnect.



Around Town

No trip to Deer Valley is complete without a journey into downtown Park City. **Montage's Mercedes** fleet will make the five-minute run down the mountain, dropping you off for a day of sightseeing and imbibing in grand style.

Hit up **High West Distillery** for locally crafted, small batch bourbon that's both tasty and touristy. The joint stakes claim to some serious bragging rights, including the title of the world's only ski-in distillery and saloon at an impressive 7,000 feet. The classic Manhattan can't be beat. Our advice? Book ahead of time and take the Distillery Tour. High West's traditional 250-gallon copper brewing pot is a sight to be seen. **highwest.com**

When in Park City, it's sacrilege not to make a stop at The **Egyptian Theatre**. The home of all things Sundance, it's worth the photo op alone. **egyptiantheatrecompany.org**

While the town is brimming with cool galleries and plenty of art, the best exhibits are not found inside, but rather on building facades and in alleyways. Park city plays accidental host to two **Banksy** pieces, painted in 2010 when the British graffiti artist was in town for the debut of his documentary, *Exit Through the Gift Shop* at Sundance. **banksy.co.uk**

For the design lover, check out **Root'd**, the hip home décor boutique that boasts souvenirs fit for even the most tasteful travelers – from a curated collection of coffee table books, to luxury candles to textiles and one-of-a-kind furnishings. The shop will ship worldwide, so no need to hold back. **rootdhome.com**

For fashionistas, options abound but the most noteworthy is **Panache**. The aptly named shop retails wares from some of our favorite designers and is sure to uncover a gem or two. Nestled right on Main Street, Panache plays Park City hostess to the likes of Brunello Cucinelli, Current Elliott, Joie, Trina Turk and Theory. Really, the gang's all there. Also check out the baubles from Kary Kjesbo and Samaria. **panachesunvalley.com**

While in town, check out the hip **Washington Schoolhouse**. The boutique hotel is a favorite amongst design lovers and the glitterati for good reason. It's an iconic historic landmark whose 1889 structure was perfectly preserved and transformed into hospitality bliss a few years back. European antiques sit alongside modern art in a space that epitomizes mountain swank. Go for a drink or go for the weekend. Either way, you won't lose. **washingtonschoolhouse.com**