

THE 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL **BEST** OF ASPEN

# ASPEN

MAGAZINE

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THE LIST?

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A photograph of two skiers in a snowy landscape. One skier is wearing a black jacket and red pants, and the other is wearing a red jacket and white pants. They are standing on a snow-covered slope with evergreen trees in the background.

*We Love  
Aspen*

THE PEOPLE, THE PLACES, THE BEAUTY,  
THE SKIING, THE DINING,  
THE ARTS & MORE



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**HOT PROPERTIES**

# Another Brand of Paradise

*Resorting to new destinations for a winter getaway*

*by James Wynbrandt*



The sculptural pools at the Nizuc resort, in the Mayan Riviera.

I have a relative who, in his 70s, would ski every single day during ski season, regardless of the weather. It wasn't just that he loved Aspen's slopes, which he certainly did. Having paid for a season-long Silver Pass, he wasn't about to waste a day of it. After years of full price lift tickets, it was time for the big payback.

But no matter how deep the powder or how lively the après scene, most Aspen residents and dedicated visitors enjoy an occasional change of venue or a break from winter weather. Several premium resorts newly opened or soon to debut offer the same level of service and amenities common to the Roaring Fork Valley, while substituting sand, surf, and fairways for mountains, virgin snow, and ski trails.

**RESORT PROPERTIES**

**CANCUN, MEXICO  
NIZUC**

If you'd like to experience high-end Asian influences a little closer to home than Singapore, try Mexico's Yucatan coast, the ancestral home of the Maya, when Nizuc, a resort hotel and residential development, opens this fall. Created by Adrian Zecha of Amanresorts and GHM Hotels, with interiors by renowned Indonesian designer Jaya Ibrahim, Nizuc combines elements of Mayan architecture and style with Asian-inspired elegance. The beachfront property has 45 hotel rooms, 16 suites, and 160 residences in addition to three 11,000-square-foot beachfront villas, each set on acres of lushly landscaped grounds. Yet this secluded property, with more than a half mile of private beach, is just five miles from Cancun airport.

"The clean lines and modern décor, along with exceptional

service and location make it an ideal vacation and second-home destination for Aspenites," says Nizuc spokeswoman Jordan Frank.

A world-class spa by ESPA offers sumptuous treatments and spiritually sensitive therapies both en spa and en suite. Nizuc - Mayan for "nose of the dog," which the shape of land the resort occupies resembles from the air - also has seven swimming pools, several restaurants and cocktail lounges, and a marina. A pair of Jack Nicklaus Signature golf courses are nearby.

Reflecting a heightened interest in sustainable development, Nizuc will be the first hotel in Latin America to be fully solar powered. Resort Rates have not been set yet. Apartment residences are \$1.3-\$3.5 million and three-bedroom villas are \$10 million. [www.nizuc.com](http://www.nizuc.com).

PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIZUC

**RESORT PROPERTIES**

DENVER, CO



A rendering of the terrace pool.

**FOUR SEASONS PRIVATE RESIDENCES**

For a refuge closer to Aspen's slopes, The Four Seasons Private Residences Denver is scheduled for completion in early 2010. The residences provide all the services and amenities available to the guests of the five-star hotel, and then some, including in-residence spa treatments, maid service, pet and plant care, and 24-hour concierge. The 102 residences, ranging from about 1,000 to more than 5,000-square-feet are priced from about \$895,000 to \$7.5 million. The private residence concept has proved exceedingly popular since Four Seasons developer Isadore Sharp introduced it in 1982. The residences, accessible via private entrance, feature top-end appliances, customized interior finishings, spectacular views and a rooftop terrace atop the 45-story building. Located in Denver's vibrant theater district, a world of dining, shopping and other activities await right outside. And perhaps best of all, it's only a couple of hours from Aspen. After all, you know you won't want to stay away from your number 1 recreation destination for very long. [http://residences.fourseasons.com/private\\_residences/denver](http://residences.fourseasons.com/private_residences/denver).



A view from a bungalow suite, overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

NEWPORT BEACH, CALIF.

**The Resort at Pelican Hill**

If you can't wait for the snow to melt off the course at Maroon Creek, the new Resort at Pelican Hill in Newport Beach offers two oceanside Tom Fazio-designed golf courses as the backdrop for a magical retreat inspired by the spirit of Italian Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio.

"It's always warm, and we play golf in January in polo shirts," says GM Thierry Grandsire.

Moreover, the secluded setting and attentive service will resonate with anyone who enjoys Aspen.

"We have hills—not as big as in Aspen—but the privacy and beauty of surroundings and the sheer luxury are similar," Grandsire says.

Guest accommodations include expansive bungalows with fireplaces and ocean views. The Villa Club, a private enclave within the resort, offers residents their own staffs and

private community club house.

Three pools, two fitness centers, several restaurants, organized activities for children and teens, and quiet coves along the resort's mile of beach are among the 500-acre property's attractions. At the nearby Newport Marina, chartered boats, whale watching excursions, sea kayaking and deep sea fishing can all be arranged. And the nearby towns of Newport Beach and Laguna Beach boast high end boutiques and shops while local theater, a performing arts center, and museums offer a variety of entertainment and cultural experiences.

Rates for a bungalow this winter are \$695 per night, and a four-bedroom villa is \$2,400. [www.pelicanhill.com](http://www.pelicanhill.com)

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF FOUR SEASONS DENVER, PELICAN HILL