

let it snow

Rachael Oakes-Ash lets us in on a few secrets for where to find the best downhill rush this winter season.

Deer Valley, Utah, USA

Move over Aspen, Park City is making it's celebriski mark on the world of snow. Home to Robert Redford's Sundance Film Festival each January, Park City is just 30 minutes from Salt Lake City International Airport

You don't get more exclusive than Deer Valley ski resort, 10 minutes from downtown where ski valets greet you on arrival. The resort keeps numbers on this hill down by issuing a limited number of ski passes per day. Translated? More snow for you alone.

This is a snowboard free zone, it's strictly skiers only so wear your best Prada to prance on the deck of Stein Ericksen lodge where the beautiful people and Fortune 500s congregate for burgers and fondue each lunchtime. www.deervalley.com

Check out the Dream Home in the gated Deer Crest community. This US\$18million mansion is strictly ski-in, ski-out and comes complete with it's own cinema, DJ box, day spa and gym, garage with car wash, library, wine cellar, indoor golf tee and more. www.resortswest.com



Seeing is believing at Deer Valley Utah



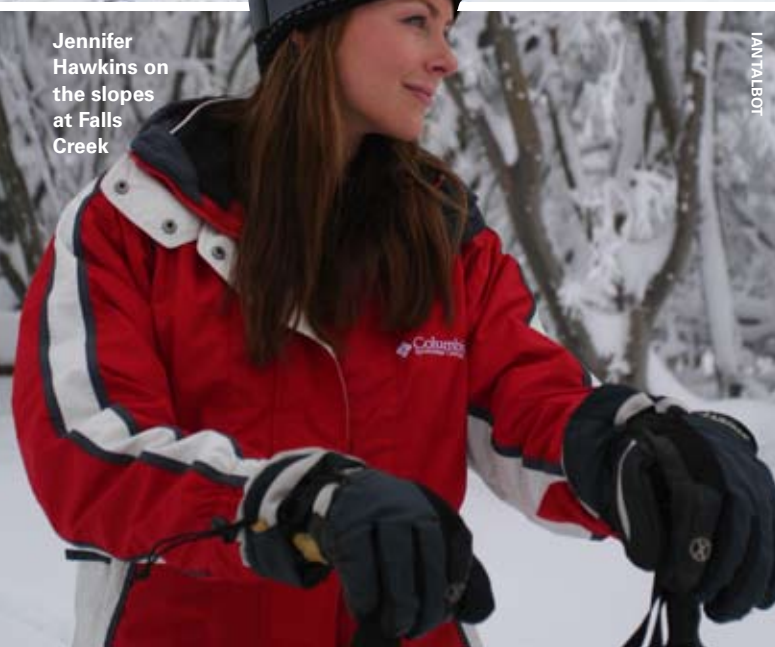
BUSINESS CLASS

St. Falls will add some serious style to this snow laden pedestrian only ski village



CHARLIE BROWN

Falls Creek



Jennifer Hawkins on the slopes at Falls Creek

LANTALBOT

Falls Creek, Australia

The prettiest ski village in Australia is about to get a whole lot swankier this season with the opening of the purpose-built accommodation and entertainment complex, St. Falls. With a plethora of restaurants, cafes, bars and luxe lodging, the Zacamoco-designed St. Falls will add some serious style to this snow laden pedestrian only ski village.

Known for its commitment to family fun, super groomed trails and a world class terrain park, Falls Creek is also a foodie's dream.

Be seen at the award winning Wallpaper* favourite Huski Apartments for pre slope coffee, ski in to Oishi Go at Silver-ski for Japanese inspired cocktails at 5pm and then degus-



Bathe in the spectacular scenery at Portillo, Chile

tation dine at Summit Ridge Lodge before supping on your choice of more than 70 vodkas at Astra Bar.

Why not take the wine trail from Melbourne on your way to Falls for some fine wining at Brown Brothers' high country estate at Milawa, sleep over at Lindenwarrah Retreat and make it the slopes for first tracks. www.falls creek.com.au

Portillo, Chile

South Americans know how to ski with passion and no more so than in Portillo, Chile – a mere two hours from Santiago. This Saturday to Saturday ski resort is all inclusive with lodging, ski passes and four meals a day laid on.

After a full day on the legendary Portillo slopes the Chileans know how to do it in style with Pisco Sours (traditional Chilean cocktail) at 5pm but the real beauty of Portillo is the "event weeks" themed for like-minded guests from around the globe to meet up.

Family weeks are from July, Chilean Winemakers week is in August for those who love Chilean wine, World Extreme Skiing champion Kim Reichelm takes a ski improvement week on August 9 or Ski with the Superstars Chris Anthony, Chris Davenport and their famous freeskiing experts from August 16.

Combine yoga with skiing from August 23 with the annual Portillo Ski and Yoga Retreat.

www.skiportillo.com





Don't be fooled by James Bond, there's no jumping from choppers with skis strapped to your feet



WHY NOT TRY . . .

→ **Nozawa Onsen, Japan.** This historic feudal village in Japan's Nagano district is home to 50 public and private hot spring onsens. It also hosts the annual Dosojin Fire Festival on January 15. Go before everyone else does. www.japanspecialists.com

→ **Steep and Deep.** Stuck in an intermediate or advanced rut? Extremely Canadian Ski Clinics run two-day ski clinics at Whistler Blackcomb guaranteed to have you skiing your best. Take it to the next level with ski week tours in Las Lenas Argentina, La Grave France, Niseko Japan and Gulmarg India. www.extremelycanadian.com

→ **Cross the Tasman** If Queenstown's four mammoth ski fields don't entice you, the 120 licensed establishments in one square kilometre will. Apres is not a dirty word in this town. Act like a movie star and stay at Villas Queenstown super luxe lodging high on the hill. www.villasqueenstown.com

→ **Italian excess.** Imagine skiing over 50 kilometres in one day through four spectacular valleys without catching the same lift twice. You can do it on the famed Sella Ronda ski route in the magical Italian Dolomites where an espresso stop is always called for. www.dolomiteskitours.com.au

Heli Ski, Canada

Don't be fooled by James Bond, there's no jumping from choppers with skis strapped to your feet. It's far more civilized than that. Step elegantly from the helicopter and let your guide carry your skis before you take on the virgin powder snow.

For serious boasting rights go with the world's best, Canadian Mountain Holidays, and book into one of their 12 remote lodges in the heart of the Canadian Rockies for a week of heli hedonism.

If you're keen for a taster then head across the Tasman to the South Island of New Zealand where Southern Lakes Heli Ski take powder fiends to the peaks of the Southern Alps a day at a time. Mental note: pack camera. You'll need evidence because words just don't do heli skiing justice.

Travelplan is the exclusive agent for Canadian Mountain Holidays (CMH) in Australia www.travelplan.com.au or www.canadianmountainholidays.com Expect to pay in excess of \$7000 for a week with all meals, heli skiing and accommodation.

Southern Lakes Heli have four run classic heli ski days from NZ\$795.00 including gourmet lunch and transfers. www.southernlakeshelisti.co.nz **L**