

PRIVATE AIR

LUXURY HOMES

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A NEW FORCE
IN THE ART WORLD
KELLY YING

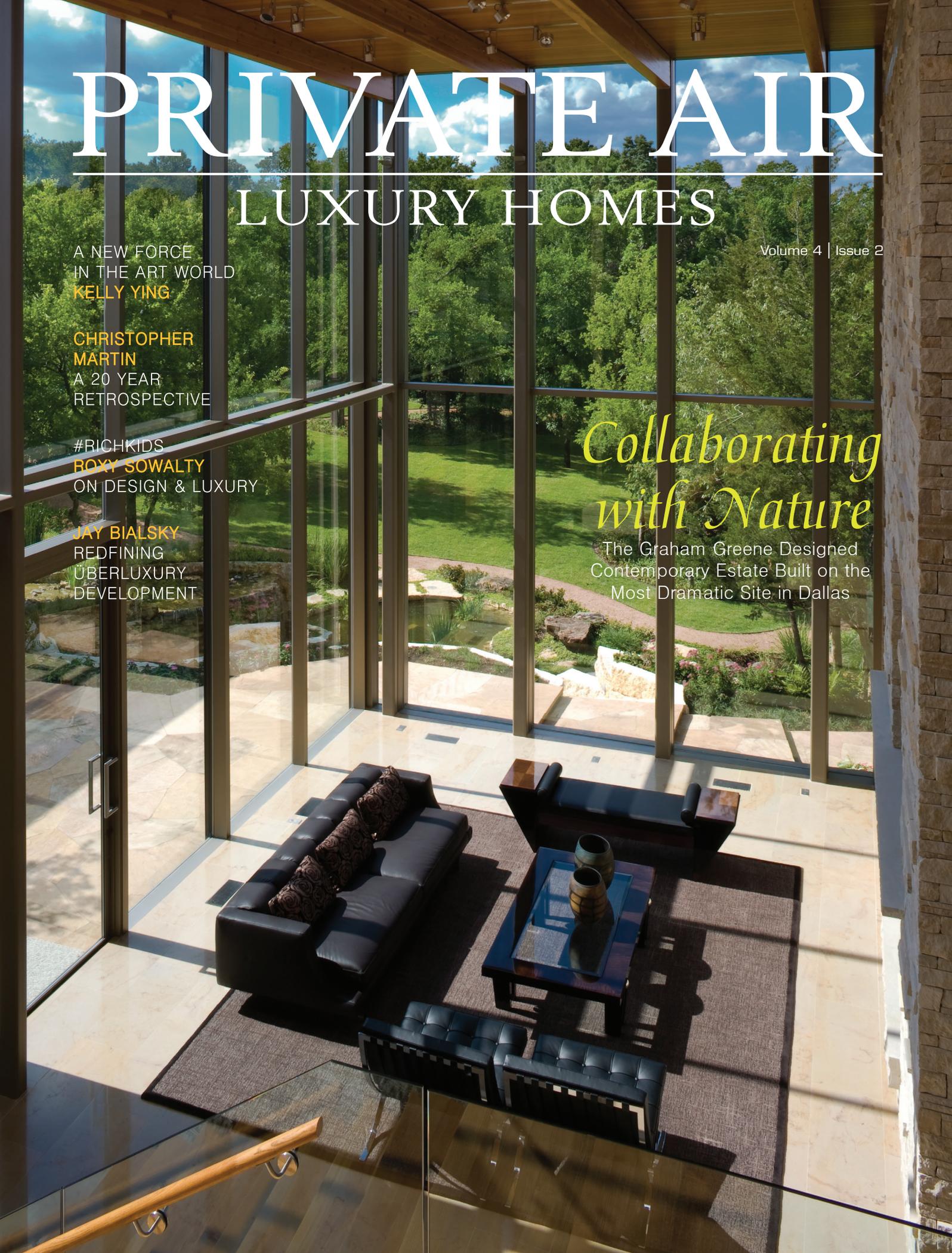
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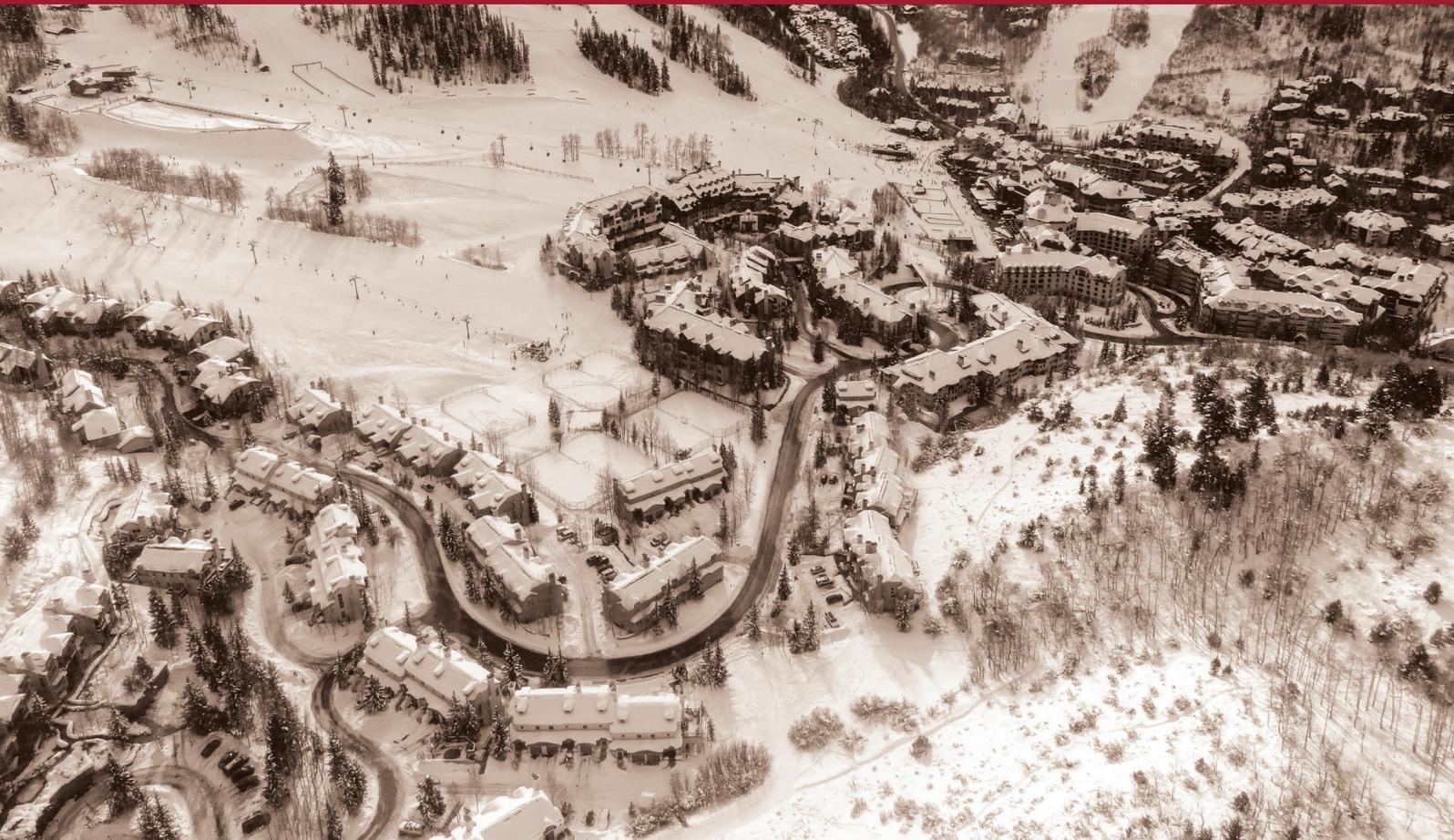
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ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH





Experiencing The Epitome of White Glove Luxury in America's Heartland

By: Gina Samarotto



Opposite Page : A private jet readying for takeoff at Vail/Eagle Airport and the View of Vail as seen from helicopter (Photography courtesy of Gina Samarotto)

This Page: Ritz Carlton Bachelors Gulf (Photography by Gina Samarotto) and Snowshoers in Beaver Creek (Photography by Jillian Hunter)



Colorado is a land of superlative beauty. From the majesty of the Rockies rising from the Continental Divide to a sky that appears both bigger than life and closer to Heaven. From the snow capped mountains that grace the landscape in winter to the wildflower strewn fields that explode in color all summer long; this is a land that showcases the powerful beauty of nature in a way no other can. This is Vail, Colorado where beauty - both natural and created - collides with luxury in a deliciously distinctive way that makes this all-American beauty one of the worlds most coveted holiday destinations.

In the heart of Colorado's central Rocky Mountain Region is a picturesque resort known as Beaver Creek. Don't let the seemingly rustic name fool you, though. Beaver Creek is a four-season homage to casual elegance, an idyllic village surrounded by mountains and an impeccably designed outdoor playground. With shops, slopes, restaurants and accommodations, Beaver Creek is a veritable wonderland where outdoor sports are elevated to art forms and the après scene is the apotheosis of privileged indulgence. While the beauty of this area transcends all seasons, there is no doubt that Beaver Creek is a quintessential winter escape. Home to the 2015 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships, the resort is a snowy dream for skiers and snowboarders who share a love for both pristine slopes and impeccable service. It is also home to the White Glove Getaway; a wholly indulgent, impossibly chic way to experience a ski vacation unlike any other.

As a dedicated "city girl", I'd never been on skis before. Well, to be completely truthful I had been on skis before. Once. That debut was nearly thirty years ago and ended rather abruptly when I managed to lose my balance and tangle myself into a heap while waiting for a chair lift - taking a few other unsuspecting skiers with me. Given that inaugural and very inelegant experience, I was understandably hesitant when approached with the prospect of trying the sport again. Ultimately, though, the overall lure of Beaver Creek's White Glove experience, which included the promise of a ski concierge and private instructor won out and I found myself flying over the Rockies on route to what would be a completely wonderful foray to the slopes.

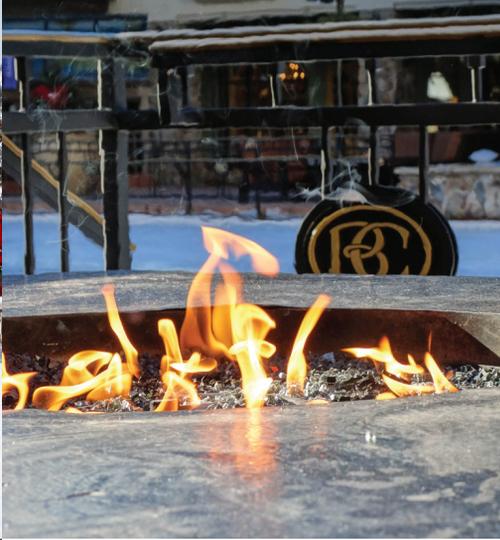
The White Glove Winter Getaway curated by Beaver Creek is a comprehensive collection of indulgences that begins with first class airfare to Eagle Airport (though the facility is well equipped to welcome private craft as well). Upon arrival, White Glove guests are met by private helicopter to be flown over the stunning landscape before finally arriving at the nearby world famous Beaver Creek.

"We've brought together the best of what Beaver Creek has to offer with the White Glove package," explains Beaver Creek's Public Relations Senior Manager, Jen Brown. Herself an avid skier, Brown's current career comes on the heels of her formidable run as an international downhill racer. "The package is inclusive of everything a skier could possibly need along with all the luxury anyone could possibly want."

Accommodations for White Glove guests are within the private, secluded Trapper Cabin. Tucked away in the mountain, the cabin is a four-bedroom four-bath picture of rugged elegance replete with a personal "Cabin Keeper" concierge and private chef. Once arrived, guests are greeted with chilled champagne and warm cookies as well as a luxury ski apparel package including a limited edition ski jacket from Helly Hansen. On arrival, guests are also fit for ski equipment by a member of the Beaver Creek Ski Concierge staff or have their own equipment tuned and readied for the slopes. The cabin, as well as the hotels that dot Beaver Creek's valleys, are truly ski in / ski out to allow guests to enjoy more time swooshing down the slopes rather than traveling to them.

Among the other features included for White Glove guests are not only lift passes, but a "Golden Ticket" - an exclusive pass allowing First Track access and putting them on untouched runs well before lifts are open to the public. Private instruction with a top pro from Beaver Creek's Ivy League of Ski Schools and a Ski Concierge to help skiers with their equipment is also included. "First Tracks, ski concierge services, lift line privileges, ski in/ski out... these are all elements that make the White Glove package very special for our skiers," explains Brown. "It puts them on the mountain faster, lets them stay there longer, and allows them to make use of all the perks and services we've designed to help heighten their experience."

Photo courtesy of Beaver Creek Resort



Clockwise from Top Left: A rainbow cloud makes an appearance near Trapper's Cabin, Soaring windows in the main dining room of Saddle Ridge, Elk Carpaccio served over baby greens at Saddle Ridge, Gina Samarotto and Alex Pasquariello getting ready to leave for Beaver Creek by helicopter, Ski Ambassadors welcome Beaver Creek's White Glove guests with their famous warm chocolate chip cookies and chilled champagne, A musician in Beaver Creek Village treats the crowd to some alphon (labrophone) notes, Apres ski in Beaver Creek, and A warming fire pit at the edge of the Beaver Creek Village Ice Rink (Photography courtesy of Gina Samarotto)





Après ski evening offerings
(photo courtesy of Beaver Creek Resort)

As a non-skier, I had more than a moment of trepidation when I first saw the lifts and trails and imagined myself on them. My worry was quickly put to rest, though, by the expertise and skill offered by Georgia Norgren, my instructor and a member of the Ivy League Ski School faculty. Georgia quickly assessed my skill - or lack of, as the case may be - gave me the basics of ski safety, checked that my equipment was properly sized and worn correctly and away we went. A licensed physical therapist as well as a ski pro, Georgia instantly saw my caveats - including a penchant for throwing my weight to the right, thereby upsetting my center of balance. Georgia taught me the fundamentals, reminded me to keep breathing (I was, literally, holding my breath) and had me moving, albeit slowly, in no time at all. "Anyone can ski if they are taught well," Norgren explained. "It's a sport that is as much mind set as it is physical ability." By the end of the day I was able to say that not only had I skied Beaver Creek, but also made a lovely friend in the charming and talented Ms. Norgren.

While care and attention for the non-skier is plentiful, Beaver Creek's ski pros are a valuable asset to more adventurous and advanced downhillers, too. From helping them to perfect their form to coaching them through their first set of moguls, from beginning to expert there is a ski pro for every level of skier at Beaver Creek.

When the last lift closes there is no shortage of options in this charming mountain resort. Après is serious business with decadent spas, snowshoe outings, skating, shopping, bistros and bars all vying for attention.

Dining choices in Beaver Creek run the gamut from five-star degustation menus to freshly made crepes served "to-go" along with cups of steaming cocoa. A truly exquisite and unforgettable option for dinner is Beano's Cabin. Accessible in the winter only by snow cat; the evening begins with an open air, starlit ride where guests are tucked beneath blankets as they travel up the mountain to the remote yet elegant cabin. Once arrived, guests may shuck their snow boots in favor of slippers, take a seat by the fire, enjoy the live music and indulge in a five-course menu accompanied by Beano's expansive wine list. Another stellar standout is Saddle Ridge where notable cuisine is served amidst one of the finest collections of Western artifacts in the country. If you prefer to dine in the village, no snow cat required, Toscanini offers spectacular Italian specialties served in a casually chic setting.

Perfect for friends, couples or families looking to hit the slopes or simply savor the beauty, Beaver Creek is more than just a destination - it's a lifestyle where outdoor fun, decadent indulgence, and white glove service all come together under one unbelievably big, glorious sky. ✈