

# BEST OF THE WEST

NORTHSTAR WAS AN UNDER-THE-RADAR **LAKE TAHOE RESORT** THAT HAS BECOME THE HOT PLACE TO SKI FOR THOSE IN THE KNOW—CONSIDER YOURSELF IN THE KNOW



above: Powder hounds hit the pristine slopes

In 2010 Vail acquired the Northstar resort and took what nature created—an 8,610-foot peak and miles of glades and rolling groomed runs—and glammed it up with a \$100 million renovation that includes everything from high-speed lifts to swank on-mountain restaurants. The resort even brought in snowboarding phenom and Olympic gold medalist Shaun White to design a twenty-two-foot half-pipe for the terrain park. Not surprisingly, it regularly makes the Top 10 Terrain Parks in North America list. (Don't worry, we did our journalistic due diligence, and the terrain park isn't just for kids.) Here's what you should know to get the most out of your next ski-West adventure.

## GREENWICH SKIERS: LOOKING FOR A NEW SKI SHOP?



One of the best ski shops in the country  
is just 15 minutes from Greenwich.

Learn more at [HickoryandTweed.com](http://HickoryandTweed.com)

- Save 10% on all buying over \$500!
- Carry Hoka & Treadillo forward and you'll save 10% on all and mountain leading equipment now through October. And there's no deposit required.
- Check our on-site special merchandise, including:
  - 60-year Iron Horse, Black-Crown, Downcast, Longs, Nordic, Techno, Summit, etc., boots and French snowboards.
  - 60-year Iron Horse, Redwood, Spidee, Holly Hocks, Jackson, Cheaper, Fox Owl, Pampas, Marmot, Regatta, American, Pampas, North Pole, Downcast and Iron Horse.



ESTABLISHED  
Celebrating our 40th Year

440 Main Street, Forest, VT 05741 • 802.255.1997 • [HickoryandTweed.com](http://HickoryandTweed.com)  
Maple, VT 05647 • Snow 888 • Tel: 802-255-1997 • Open Weekdays 10-4



NORTHSTARCALIFORNIA.COM



go

# THE QUICK RUNDOWN

### WHERE IT IS

Northstar is in the California High Sierra mountains just outside the small town of Truckee. Fly into the Reno, Nevada, airport and after you give the slot machines at the gate a whirl, the drive is just an hour. The resort is on Tahoe's north shore with stunning lake views. **(Fun fact:** Lake Tahoe is so deep, you could sink the Empire State Building in it and not see the top.)

### WHERE TO STAY

The ski-in/ski-out Ritz Carlton is the only AAA Five Diamond property in the region and offers luxury amenities like a slope-side spa and a mountain concierge. There's a variety of upscale condos in the village. For best mountain access, stay at One Village Place at the base. The gondola to mid-mountain starts there, and guests have VIP access and skip the often long wait. Another reason to stay in the village is the skating rink surrounded by cozy fires, lounges with live music and complimentary passed s'mores. For the kids there's tubing—for the adults a cocktail bar that serves creations like The Dirty Snowman and The Hotty Shotty. Restaurants in the village range from pizza to fine dining.



**top:** You'll find some of the best snowboarding for everyone from the littlest enthusiasts to expert boarders. **bottom:** A club level guest room

### IT'S EPIC!

**The Vail Epic Pass** is essentially a giant season pass for all the best mountains across the country. **Northstar** is on the Epic Pass along with **Stowe** and **Okemo**. At press time Vail was in the process of purchasing all seventeen peak resorts, which would add nearby **Mt. Snow** to the pass. The pass is \$939 for the season with no restrictions and no black-out dates. A one-day lift ticket bought at the window on-mountain at Northstar is \$179, so they aren't exaggerating when they advertise that the Epic pass pays for itself with five days of skiing.



**above:** Fireside bubbles and snacks atop a mountain—what's not to love?

## Go Platinum, Baby!

Membership does indeed have its privileges

**1** We know skiers who hire private instructors just to cut the lift lines. But for an additional \$150 per lift ticket per day, Northstar sells Platinum Lift Line Access (which has priority over the ski school line). The upgrades are sold on the mountain, so you can decide if it's worth the cost once you see the lines.

**2** To ride the coveted first chair and be the first one down a virgin slope usually means jostling in the early morning line and getting one glorious run before the hordes descend. Northstar offers Platinum First Tracks, which allows a maximum of twenty-five people the ability to ski the entire upper mountain for an hour and a half. You don't just get first tracks—you get first tracks on as many runs as

you can take in ninety minutes. As of press time, Northstar has not announced the dates or prices for the coming season, but last year the cost was \$200 and included a gourmet breakfast at Zephyr Lodge and Platinum Lift access for the rest of the day.

**3** There's even a Platinum option for ski and snowboard lessons. For just shy of \$1,200, you and up to two other skiers or boarders get a six-hour experience with a world-class instructor, this season's demo ski or snowboard equipment, platinum lift access, preferred parking, and best of all, a reserved table at Zephyr Lodge for lunch. Any skier who has ever circled an overpacked lunch room hoping to score a seat knows how push it is to have a reserved table with your name on it. Lift tickets and instructor tip not included.

**4** Northstar is home to Lake Tahoe's only ski-up bar. Each day at 2 p.m., they pour complimentary glasses of bubbles for skiers who line up to "Tost." Book a Platinum Tost experience, and you'll glide past the line to your private firepit kitted out with Adirondack chairs, bean bags and blankets. Instead of a plastic glass of generic bubbles, you'll enjoy a chilled bottle of Veuve (or Dom), charcuterie board and s'mores—all served by a champagne butler. They call them a Tost master, but we prefer champagne butler. There's no foot traffic—you have to ski or snowboard to the site. The cost is \$200 for up to three people and \$500 for four to six people. (Bottles of Dom Perignon are an upgraded price, but we're pretty sure you guessed that already.)

NORTHSTARCALIFORNIA.COM

# The world's leading cancer breakthroughs. Close to home.

At Memorial Sloan Kettering, we're bringing the future of cancer care to your neighborhood. From our groundbreaking treatments to our dedicated cancer specialists, we're here to serve your community.

[MSKCC.ORG/WESTCHESTER](http://MSKCC.ORG/WESTCHESTER)

**MSK Westchester**  
West Harrison, NY



**Memorial Sloan Kettering**  
Cancer Center

**MORE**  
SCIENCE.  
**LESS**  
FEAR.