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# SKI

THE MAGAZINE OF THE SKI LIFE

## TOP 50 RESORT GUIDE

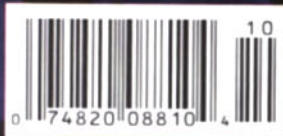
DEER VALLEY  
VAIL  
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AND MORE



● **COOL NEW GEAR!**  
PAGE 230

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# 2008 READER RESORT SURVEY

PLAN YOUR PERFECT WEEK, WEEKEND  
OR SEASON WITH OUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO NORTH  
AMERICA'S TOP RESORTS, RANKED AND RATED BY  
THE EXPERTS—YOUR FELLOW SKIERS.

## West 120 East 148

Planning a trip? Start with the Vital Stats chart on page 164. Eastern readers will find resorts Nos. 11–20 in our Eastern regional section, which follows page 240. And the entire Resort Guide, with rankings in all 18 categories, can be found online at [skinet.com/resorts2008](http://skinet.com/resorts2008).



COURTESY OF DEER VALLEY RESORT



# 01

## DEER VALLEY, UTAH

'PAMPERED SKIING. THE BEST RESORT. NOTHING ELSE COMES CLOSE.'

In this year's survey, readers rave about terrain, lodging and lifts at resorts all across North America. But there is only one resort that had a stack of endorsements dedicated solely to the superiority of its carrot cake. Because at Deer Valley, it's the little things that matter, and those little things ("free ski-check" for one) add up to a lot: the No. 1 ranking. Deer Valley makes skiing what it's supposed to be: a vacation. From taking your skis off the car the moment you arrive to re-grooming trails midday, the staff earns the No. 1 spot for Service year after year. "They'll pretty much ski for you if you want them to," jokes a reader. "Wonderful service, great attitude from all personnel. Feels like skiing wrapped in fur!" says another. More accurately, due to DV's No. 1 ranking in Grooming, it "feels like skiing on a golf green." The resort also ranks No. 1 in Weather—300 inches of fluff somehow combined with perpetually blue skies—and No. 2 in Lifts (11 high-speed quads). And with a cap of 6,500 tickets sold per day (not to mention a ban on boarders), there's room to rack up vertical. You'll need to after that second bowl of the signature turkey chili. Or, for that matter, marinated New York strip smothered with béarnaise. Or penne pasta swimming in a shiitake Alfredo sauce with fresh basil pesto. Or everything from arugula salad to mozzarella with caper berries—and that's just lunch at the Silver Lake Lodge. Not surprisingly, DV ranks No. 1 in On-Mountain Food. This splendor comes at a price, which was a chief complaint. But most readers don't mind shelling out for a week in paradise: "Pricy, but what did you expect?" Another complaint was "boring terrain for experts," though the Daly Chutes are plenty steep. And to top it off, it's a quick 36-mile ride from airport to slopes—and a sweet slice of carrot cake. Some skiers have all the luck. —*Kimberly Beckman*

### TOP RANKINGS

**1** GROOMING  
**1** SERVICE  
**1** ON-MTN.  
FOOD

### THE LATEST

The Lady Morgan Express quad opens 200 additional acres in Empire Canyon.

**THE DEAL** Three nights at The Lodges at Deer Valley and two days' skiing for two adults starting at \$277 per night. **DON'T MISS**

The turkey chili is even better poured over crispy fries.

**LOCAL SECRET** To get fresh tracks after the rest of the mountain is bumped up or groomed flat, head to Sunset or Triangle Trees.