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ASPEN'S NEW MOBILE CHAMPAGNE BAR

Aspen Mountain is now home to the world's highest champagne bar, The Oasis. This mobile champagne bar is transported by snowcats and relocated to a new slope every weekend in the springtime and operated by The Little Nell – Aspen's only five-star, five-diamond and ski-in, ski-out hotel – located at the base of the mountain. The bar serves up glasses and bottles of Veuve Clicquot, as well as caviar and potato chips and features umbrellas, lounge chairs, a solar-powered sound system, flags, and other eye-catching features that make The Oasis stand out as a truly unexpected and luxurious on-mountain experience. Guests can find The Oasis based on Tweets and Facebook hints sent out by The Little Nell Hotel prior to the opening of the bar each week. Follow @TheLittleNell on Twitter and become a Facebook fan at www.facebook.com/TheLittleNellAspen to stay updated on the bar's whereabouts.

X GAMES CONCENTRATING ON NORTH AMERICA VENUES

ESPN will not continue the X Games events in Barcelona, Munich, Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, or Tignes, France, saying that the overall economics of these events "did not provide a sustainable future path." Their news release stated that "the company remains fully committed to the X Games brand in Aspen, Colorado, and Austin, Texas — its newest host city — and we will continue to distribute these premier events around the world."

10 PEOPLE CAN WIN AN EPIC PASS FOR 2014-2015

Vail Resorts' new Epic Race is a season-long competition to visit all 26 resorts spread across four countries that make up the Epic Pass. The reward: The first 10 participants to complete the adventure win a lifetime Epic Pass beginning November 22, 2013. Contestants can find all the rules and register to Ski the World by visiting <http://epicrace.epicpass.com>. Each racer will need to ski or ride all 26 resorts on the Epic Pass (Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Keystone, Arapahoe Basin, and Eldora in Colorado; Canyons in Park City, Utah; Heavenly, Northstar, and Kirkwood at Lake Tahoe; Afton Alps, Minnesota; Mt. Brighton, Michigan; Verbier, Switzerland; Arberg, Austria; St. Anton, Lech, Zürs, St. Christoph, and Stuben; and Les 3 Vallées, France: Courchevel, La Tania, Méribel, Brides-les-Bains, Les Menuires, Saint Martin de Belleville, Val Thorens, and Orelle). Registration closes November 17, 2013. Epic racers will be asked to document and share their experience at each resort to be eligible to win. After all resorts have been visited, all content will be verified. Winners will be determined upon completion of the race and verification of compliance with the official rules. Registration for The Epic Race opened November 1 at <http://epicrace.epicpass.com>.

WIN PRIZES BY BRINGING A FRIEND TO LEARN TO SKI

Organizers of Learn to Ski and Snowboard Month/Bring a Friend have expanded the program to reward passionate enthusiasts who want to share their passion with others. It is the "exemplary level" of the Bring-a-Friend Challenge. Folks who help newcomers sign up for lessons from professional instructors can win prizes when they register to become an Ambassador or Champion of snow sports. Ambassadors are adults 18 years of age and older and Champions are between the ages of 13 - 17 who introduce at least three people to skiing or snowboarding this winter by helping them sign up for beginner lessons from a professional instructor.

Anyone can enter the Bring-a-Friend Challenge by introducing just one new person throughout the winter starting December 1 and ending March 15. Those who do so could win from among a number of products and trips being offered. Skiers and snowboarders who fulfill the criteria for the Ambassador/Champions program can win additional prizes. Three Ambassadors and three Champions will win a jacket from The North Face. The Ambassador of the Year and Champion of the Year will win a pair of skis from HEAD Wintersports or a snowboard from one of the LSSM snowboard sponsors and a season pass during the 2014-15. The Ambassador of the Year will win a trip for two to Salt Lake City and its nearby resorts (including airfare from a major airport). Salt Lake City was the site of the 2002 Winter Olympics. Complete details about the program are available at skiandsnowboardmonth.org. The Bring-a-Friend Challenge is hosted at <http://bringafriend.org>.

FAA LOOSENING RESTRICTIONS ON IN-FLIGHT ELECTRONICS

The New York Times is reporting that the Federal Aviation Administration will loosen its rules on using electronic devices during flight takeoffs and landings. The paper reports that the FAA plans to allow fliers to use their laptops and tablets while set to "airplane mode" during the takeoff and landing process by the end of the year but will keep its current rules in place for cellphones and smartphones. The ban on sending and receiving emails and text messages or using wi-fi during takeoff or landing will probably remain in place, as will the prohibition on making phone calls throughout the flight.

TOUR OPS DISCUSS RELEASING AIR SEATS

Several tour operators met at Beaver Creek in September to get the tour operator community to change how they acquire and release airline space for groups and to prevent tour operators from holding airline seats after they have lost the sale. Jim Barsch, of VacationRoost stated, "Technological solutions to improve efficiency at the group tour operator level and booking processes with the airlines needs to be explored, developed, and implemented." The consensus was that reviving the Partners in Groups Sales platform (PIGS) would be an excellent opportunity to pursue this and other topics, so a meeting date and location for a PIGS meeting is being proposed.

NEW RESORT PLANNED IN BULGARIA

Bulgarian media are reporting that the leading French chain Accor, which operates 3,500 hotels on five continents, is planning to spend 550 million Euros on a new ski resort in Bulgaria. The project, planning for which is said to be "at an early stage," (although with 1 million euros invested on planning to date) would see the creation of the new ski area, with 155 kilometers of piste, making it by far the largest in Eastern Europe, built near to the existing ski area of Borovets in the Rila mountains. The "Destination Rila" project would be a completely new development and offer year-round leisure facilities including an aqua center and a golf course among 80 activity options for visitors, but no formal plans have been submitted and no target opening date announced as yet.

KRONPLATZ CONNECTING NEW RAIL STATION TO SLOPES

Kronplatz ski area in the Dolomites is spending 25 million euro's on new railway station that's connected to the ski slopes with a gondola linking direct to the station platform and a new 7.2 km long ski slope reported to have been created to allow ski-in, ski-out access to and from the slopes. See <http://www.kronplatz.com> for more information.



The National Ski Club Officers' Newsflash is emailed each month to America's ski club officers by The National Ski Club Newsletter on a year-round basis to augment our four printed issues which published in November, January, March, and May. If you wish additional club officers to receive the Newsflash, please email their names, club name, their office within the club, and email addresses to wilbanks@ski-club.net.

Click on the logo below for a great video to play at meetings to help sell your ski trips to Switzerland.



<http://www.youtube.com/user/myswitzerland>



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