

BEST ENTERTAINMENT

READERS' CHOICES AND EDITORS' PICKS OF THE VERY BEST OF THE HIGH COUNTRY



BEST MUSIC FESTIVAL

ASPEN MUSIC FESTIVAL Aspen, Colorado This summer festival offers concerts for all tastes—opera, string quartets, chamber music, solo and orchestral works. You can buy patron seats inside the Benedict Music Tent or enjoy the concerts out on the lawn where the seating is free. Take advantage of the reduced-price tickets to the dress rehearsals and ask about the artist talks. The festival also offers well-priced tour packages that include airfare, accommodations and concert tickets. www.aspenmusic.com.

PARK CITY JAZZ FEST Park City, Utah This summer concert series is a movable feast—held at the Park City Mountain Resort, at the Canyons and at

Deer Valley. Everything from professional performances by well-knowns like Winton Marsalis, Wycliffe Gordon, Spyro Gyra and Ray Charles to educational workshops and clinics are offered. www.parkcityjazz.com.

STRINGS IN THE MOUNTAINS Steamboat Springs, Colorado Enjoy everything from classical chamber music to jazz, blues, country and soul in a tent at the bottom of the ski mountain. Ask about the Encore concerts—chamber music performed in the living rooms of some of this valley's private homes. www.stringsinthemountains.org. **BRAVO! VAIL VALLEY MUSIC FESTIVAL**, Vail, Colorado The New York Philharmonic headlines this year's concerts. The Rochester Philharmonic and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra make appearances. www.vailmusicfestival.org.

GRAND TARGHEE BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL, Alta, Wyoming Music by bluegrass legends David Grisman Quintet, Sam Bush Band and Yonder Mountain String Band. www.grandtarghee.com.

BEST RESTAURANT

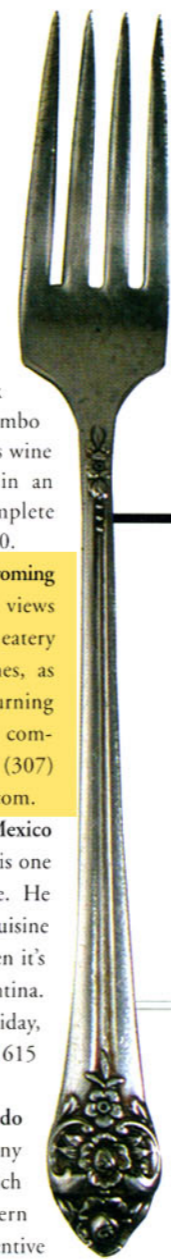
GROUSE MOUNTAIN GRILL Beaver Creek, Colorado Enjoy generous portions of regional American fare, such as their Elk Rib Chop or Pretzel Crusted Jumbo Pork Chop, as well as a world-class wine list and fabulous dessert menu in an intimate mountain setting complete with a jazz pianist. (970) 949-0600.

SNAKE RIVER GRILL Jackson, Wyoming Located on the town square with views of Snow King Mountain, this eatery offers fresh game and pasta dishes, as well as pizza from the wood-burning oven. An award-winning wine list completes the all-American menu. (307) 733-0557 or www.snakerivergrill.com.

COYOTE CAFÉ Santa Fe, New Mexico Celebrity chef Mark Miller's place is one of the most famous in Santa Fe. He serves up delicious New Mexican cuisine in this small but lively eatery. When it's warm, sit out on the rooftop Cantina. The Coyote also serves brunch Friday, Saturday and Sunday. (505) 983-1615 or www.coyote-cafe.com.

AJAX TAVERN Aspen, Colorado Plant yourself in a cozy mahogany booth and take in the celebrity-rich views while dining on northern Italian dishes served by an attentive waitstaff. You have to try the Angry Lobster, a long-time favorite. (970) 920-9333 or www.ajaxtavern.com.

STAKEOUT GRILL Taos, New Mexico Sit outside and enjoy sweeping views of beautiful Taos Valley, where the sunsets are absolutely magnificent. Dine on carefully prepared international cuisine with a Southwestern flair. (505) 758-2042 or www.stakeoutrestaurant.com.



BEST ARTS FESTIVAL

JACKSON HOLE FALL ARTS FESTIVAL, Jackson, Wyoming. More than 40 art galleries participate. Outsider art and mountain crafts are on display out on the plaza. www.jacksonholewy.net. **SALIDA ART WALK**, Salida, Colorado. Held annually in June in the mountain town of Salida—featured in the book *100 Best Small Art Towns in America*. **SANTA FE INDIAN MARKET**, Santa Fe, New Mexico. 1,200 artists from 100 tribes attract about more than 100,000 buyers every August. Quality is the hallmark here. www.swaia.org/indianmarket. **WESTERN DESIGN CONFERENCE**, Cody, Wyoming. Artists in wood, metal, hide and antler show their unique work. Some must-attend events are held at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center. www.westd.org. **VAIL ARTS FESTIVAL**, Vail, Colorado. Artists, photographers, potters and woodcarvers participate in this three-day juried event. www.vailalways.com.

EDITOR'S PICK

► BEST PLACES TO SPOT CELEBRITIES

- **CARIBOU CLUB** or the dark and cozy **J-BAR** at the **HOTEL JEROME**, Aspen, Colorado, to see Goldie Hawn, Kate Hudson, Kurt Russell, Jack Nicolson and Ivana Trump.
- **SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL** and **THE FOUNDRY GRILL**, Sundance, Utah, to see Robert Redford and lots of Hollywood bigwigs and wannabees.
- **TELLURIDE FILM FESTIVAL** and **ON THE SLOPES**, Telluride, Colorado, to bump into Tom Cruise, Candace Bergan, Oprah Winfrey, Billy Bob Thornton, director David Lynch and the film makers of tomorrow. The 2003 Telluride Film Festival will be held August 29-September 1.
- **DEER VALLEY RESORT**, Utah, not as well known as some of the larger resorts but becoming a popular playground for the stars, especially with sports celebrities like Steve Young.

BEST COFFEE SHOP

BONGO BILLY'S Salida, Colorado Relax with a cup of custom roasted, fresh-to-order coffee. (719) 539-4261 or www.bongobillys.com.

JAVA Ketchum, Idaho In addition to great coffee, Java serves yummy breakfast and lunch. (208) 726-2882.

THE BUNNERY Jackson, Wyoming A popular local gathering place, this bakery and deli also sells packaged specialty breads, coffee cakes and granola. (800) 349-0492 or www.bunnery.com.

MORNING RAY Park City, Utah

Their scrumptious made-to-order omelets are worth the wait at this popular morning spot. (435) 649-5685 or www.themorningray.com.

JITTERS Steamboat Springs, Colorado Order a breakfast burrito to go with your latte or smoothie. Jitters also serves lunch. (970) 879-2158.



BEST of the High Country

► BEST COOKING SCHOOLS

- **COOKING SCHOOL OF ASPEN**, Aspen, Colorado. Serious classes for adults; wildly popular classes for kids. www.cookingschoolofaspen.com.
- **COOKING SCHOOL OF THE ROCKIES**, Boulder, Colorado. Classes for pros and home cooks. Demos by well-knowns like Madeline Kammen and Patricia Wells. www.cookingschooloftherockies.com.
- **JANE BUTEL'S COOKING SCHOOL**, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Southwestern cooking and grilling are hot classes here. www.janebutel.com.