

City Watch

The best places to eat, drink, stay and play

Aspen

Photo: Daniel Bayer

By Robyn Parets

What comes to mind when you think of Aspen, Colorado? Probably a premier spot for downhill skiing, celebrities and high-end shops. True, Aspen has its share of famous visitors as well as some of the nation's top ski resorts. But this city, which also boasts a rich mining history, is much more than that. Next time you think of Aspen, think of Aspen *and* Snowmass, neighboring mountain towns that create a regional mecca of arts, culture, dining, shopping, nightlife and of course, downhill thrills.

Where to Eat

Casual yet elegant, **Cache Cache** (205 S. Mill St., 970-925-3835) is a French-American bistro not to be missed. Featuring an outdoor patio for the warmer months, Cache Cache also touts an extensive wine list.

If you're looking for food from the Far East in the West, you can't go wrong with Nobu Matsuhisa's **Matsuhisa** (303 E. Main St., 970-544-6628). This Japanese hotspot features gourmet seafood and sushi and is a favorite among locals.

Talking about hot spots, **Sage Restaurant** at the Snowmass Club (970-923-0923) is heating up with the arrival of new Executive



Photo: Daniel Bayer

Chef Ronald Jackson, who oversees the casual "American bistro" menu. Located in Snowmass Village, Sage offers entrees fresh, Colorado-grown ingredients, such as aged rib-eye steak and slow-smoked baby back ribs.

Where to Stay

Seeped in tradition, Rock Resorts' **Hotel Jerome** (www.hoteljerome.com; 970-920-1000) is located smack in the

Hotel Jerome



heart of Aspen. The stately and elegant hotel, first opened in 1889, is a landmark in this city and is known as one of the country's top boutique hotels.

St. Regis Resort (www.stregisaspen.com; 970-920-3300) is all about delivering personalized service and offering the ultimate in mountain resort amenities. Be sure to pamper yourself at the hotel's new Remede Spa.

When it comes to location, The **Silvertree Hotel** (www.silvertreehotel.com; 970-923-3520) is the top pick. Located in the thick of the action in Snowmass Village, you can walk to shops, restaurants and more from this ski-in/ski-out hotel.

Where to Shop

Western wear shops thrive in Aspen's downtown historic shopping district. But so do outdoorsy stores and art



Silvertree Hotel

galleries. Moving away from the main downtown area, check out the **Aspen Artists Cooperative** (www.aspenart-coop.com; 970-920-4278) at the base of Aspen Highlands ski resort. With 60 artists showing their wares, you'll find a variety of artwork including paintings, photography, sculpture and

more. Open every day from noon to six p.m. In Snowmass, you can find shopping galore at the **Snowmass Village Mall**. Be sure to check out **Grain Fine Foods** (970-923-4105), specializing in a wide array of organic foods. Nearby, stop into **Bright and Shiny Things** (970-923-4666), which offers the largest selection of specialty jewelry in the area. For local flair, don't miss **Collections** (970-923-2134), a Snowmass mainstay boutique featuring home furnishings and jewelry made by local artists.

What to Do

Skiing and snowboarding, of course, are main attractions. **Aspen Mountain, Aspen Highlands, Buttermilk** and **Snowmass** (www.aspenskiingco.com) keep visitors happy in the winter, as well as year-round when outdoor lovers take to

hiking, backpacking, mountain biking and more. If you're looking for a particular reason to visit this beautiful mountain destination, Aspen and Snowmass tout year-round events and festivals to suit just about every interest. In the winter, Aspen throws its annual **WinterSkol**, which dates back to 1951 when locals decided to celebrate mountain lifestyle with a weekend of festivities. Today, the four-day event features a parade, fireworks and all kinds of mountain activities. In the summer, there's no better place to re-energize than at the **Snowmass Wellness Experience** (www.snowmasswellness.com), one of the nation's largest holistic health festivals featuring wellness experts and motivational speakers, cooking

demonstrations, yoga classes and more. Of course, no summer trip to Aspen would be complete without attending an **Aspen Music Festival** concert (www.aspenmusicfestival.com; 970-925-9042.) The internationally renowned classical music event runs for nine weeks

from June through August, and features more than 350 concerts, classes, lectures and events around town.

For a listing of year-round events in Aspen and Snowmass, go to www.aspenchamber.org and www.snowmassvillage.com.



Snowmass Mall



Music Festival

Photo: Patrick Collins



Photo: www.photoeverywhere.co.uk

By Chanize Thorpe

Hong Kong is a heady mixture of ancient Eastern tradition and 21st century trappings. An obsession with both lends a mysterious air that permeates, incense-like, from the tops of feng shui'd buildings on Manhattanesque Hong Kong Island and across the river to the culturally rich streets of Kowloon peninsula's Tsim Sha Tsui district. Its 6.9 million denizens mingle with curious tourists, delighted to decipher Cantonese signs or share their favorite dining or shopping spots, all shared in lilting Queen's English—a nod to the metropolis' previous British rule.



Photo: www.photoeverywhere.co.uk

of the more formal Langham, across the road in the heart of the shopping-heavy Mong Kok neighborhood. Tech-types enjoy the hotel's dedication to in-room technology—Cisco IP phones, plasma TVs, iHome MP3 players and WiFi.

Where to Sleep

InterContinental Hong Kong (www.ichotelsgroup.com; 18 Salisbury Rd, Kowloon; tel. 011-852-2721-1211)

The hotel's sleek, Victoria Harbour-view rooms proffer the city's most stunning waterfront scenes, and watching authentic junk boats, the Star Ferry and Hong Kong Island's awesome Technicolor skyline is best seen by fully opening the floor-to-ceiling windows. Indulge at the tranquil I-Spa and with 24-hour room and butler service.

Langham Place Hotel (www.langhamplacehotels.com; 555 Shanghai Street, Kowloon; tel. 011-852-3552-3388) This 42-story contemporary gem is the spunky two-year old sister

Where to Eat

Yung Kee (32-40 Wellington Street, Central; tel. 011-852-2522-1624) No Hong Kong trip is complete without a dim sum (also known as yum cha) brunch. Rub elbows with locals and fellow tourists alike in this raucous eatery, while indulging in plates of steamed barbecued pork buns, shrimp-stuffed dumplings and copious amounts of hot, freshly brewed tea.

Hutong (1 Peking Road, Tsim Sha Tsui; tel. 011-852-3428-8342) This hotspot has a super-cool interior and specializes in creative northern Chinese cuisine like drunken raw crabs and crispy duck filet. Both pair well with the 28th floor restaurant's breathtaking view.

Where to Drink

Kee Club. (32 Wellington Street, Central; tel. 011-852-2810-9000) Private clubs are a part of Hong Kong

nightlife, but non-members who exude a certain je ne sais quoi can infiltrate sophisticated Kee, whose mature crowd sips fine cognacs and champagne while sitting in cozy, Picasso-laced nooks.

Dragon-i (60 Wyndham Street, Central; tel. 011-852-3110-1222) The martini culture, albeit with a lychee or sake twist, is alive and well and the cocktails are just as cool as the models and socialites that frequent this bar/club.

Where to Shop

The bustling streets of both **Central** and **Causeway Bay** are great to check out elegant stores like Shanghai Tang for unique Chinoiserie as well as outdoor markets where stalls burst with look-alike handbags, cheongsam dresses and jade jewelry. Step through the snake-skin embossed doors at Kou Concept Store on Connaught Road and a hodgepodge of fun awaits. Every item in each room, from the rabbit-fur lined lighter to the Paresia lingerie, is for sale.

And with the help of a good hotel concierge who can direct you to the best tailor, a custom-made suit can be yours in a snap.

What to Do

The Hong Kong Museum of History (100 Chatham Rd South; tel. 011-852-2724 9042; www.hk.history.museum). A thorough and fascinating journey through prehistoric Hong Kong, about 6000 years ago, to the territory's return to China in 1997.



Photo: www.photoeverywhere.co.uk

Kowloon Walled City Park (Tung Tau Tsuen & Tung Tsing Rds; tel. 011-852-2716-9962; www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/ls_park.php) Surrounded by walls that once enclosed a notorious village, this gem is now home to beautiful pavilions and ponds, turtles, goldfish and exquisite flora.

Man Mo Temple (124-26 Hollywood Rd.; tel. 011-852-2540-0350) One of the oldest and most famous temples in Hong Kong, the Man Mo is dedicated to Civil and Military deities.

Victoria Peak (Mt. Austin Rd.; tel. 011-852-2522-0922; www.thepeak.com.hk). At 1,810 feet above sea level, the Victoria Peak offers the most stunning views of Hong Kong, most notably the business district, Victoria Harbour and Kowloon. See it both in daylight and at night.



Langham Place Hotel