

## Hot Tickets: Sun and ski destinations

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Among the beauties of travel is the fact that any climate is just a flight away. January too cold? Think Caribbean, or even more southerly. Seeking snow? Head north. The following offer new incentives from opposing poles.

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### SUN

### NEAR

Until now, Nevis, the smaller of the two islands that make up St. Kitts and Nevis, has cornered the luxury market. But St. Kitts' new Belle Mont Farm resort rearranges the pecking order. Designer Bill Bensley, best known for his lush Asian spas, riffs on Caribbean architecture with 91 peak-roofed, shingle-sided cottages, each with a plunge pool and outdoor shower. The 400-acre property encompasses an 18-hole golf course, and edibles planted around the property are used in the restaurant. Rooms from \$2,250 per double, all-inclusive; 855-846-3951, [www.bellemontfarm.com](http://www.bellemontfarm.com).

## FAR

Art collectors and hoteliers Alex and Carrie Vik have virtually put José Ignacio, Uruguay — the bohemian alternative to glitzy Punta del Este nearby — on the map with their collection of art-filled boutique hotels, including Playa Vik and Estancia Vik. Their newest, Bahia Vik, just opened with 37 rooms scattered among the beach dunes. The 10-acre spread features four granite pools. Contemporary art fills public and private spaces, including guestrooms splashed in custom murals. Guests can dine in or hit the boho-chic La Susana seafood grill next door, also owned by the tasteful Viks. Rooms from \$800; 011-598-94-60-5212, [www.bahiavik.com](http://www.bahiavik.com).

## EXTREME

Pack for the wilds of Namibia in southern Africa, where Wilderness Safaris' new Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp recently opened, offering unique residential access to the shipwreck-lined Skeleton Coast. Accessible only by light aircraft, the solar-powered camp features eight tents, each with en-suite bathrooms and outdoor decks. The main lodge hosts a swimming pool, lounge, library and dining room. But the central attraction is the diversity of safaris available — by foot, vehicle or air — and wildlife in the area, including desert-adapted elephants. Overnights from \$487 per person, double occupancy, all-inclusive; 011-27-11-807-1800, [www.wilderness-safaris.com](http://www.wilderness-safaris.com).

## SNOW

## NEAR

In Colorado, indulge in the ultra-inclusive White Glove Winter Package newly offered at Beaver Creek. With it, you and three besties will be flown to the Vail-affiliated resort first class (from anywhere in the lower 48) and then transferred to the resort via helicopter. For the next five nights, move into ski-in/ski-out Trappers Cabin, staffed by your own concierge and chef. Rental skis and boots will be delivered to the four-bedroom log cabin. Gain access to the slopes before they open, take a private ski lesson, get a massage and take a snow CAT tour to dinner on a mountain at Beano's Cabin — all for \$50,000 for four; 877-774-6223, [www.beavercreek.com/whiteglove](http://www.beavercreek.com/whiteglove).

## FAR

St. Moritz, Switzerland, will celebrate 150 years of winter tourism in the Alps, begun, allegedly, when Johannes Badrutt wagered a group of summering Brits that if they stayed the winter and didn't enjoy it, he would refund them. He won the bet, and his Badrutt's Palace Hotel remains a centerpiece of the posh mountain scene. On Feb. 7, the resort will pay homage to those original English guests with a *Downton Abbey*-themed curling tournament, pitting locals dressed in 19th-century garb vs. guests. Of more contemporary appeal, the new seasonal pop-up Matsuhisa@Badrutt's Palace from chef Nobu Matsuhisa will serve through March 14. Rooms from \$474; 011-41-81-837-1000,

## EXTREME

This year, Four Seasons Resort and Residences Whistler will do something it's never done before: make guests uncomfortable – upon request. The Canadian resort will offer a series of backcountry adventures, including heli-glamping near the Pemberton Ice Cap in the Coast Mountains. A helicopter will whisk campers to the ice field, where a temporary “snow hotel” awaits with outdoor hot tubs and prewarmed down duvets. Four Seasons staffers provide massages and gourmet meals – the glam in glamping. Sleepover out? Other options include hot springs visits, ice field hikes and snow biking, all with helicopter transfers. Rooms from \$310; winter adventures from \$11,264; 604-935-3400, [www.fourseasons.com](http://www.fourseasons.com).