

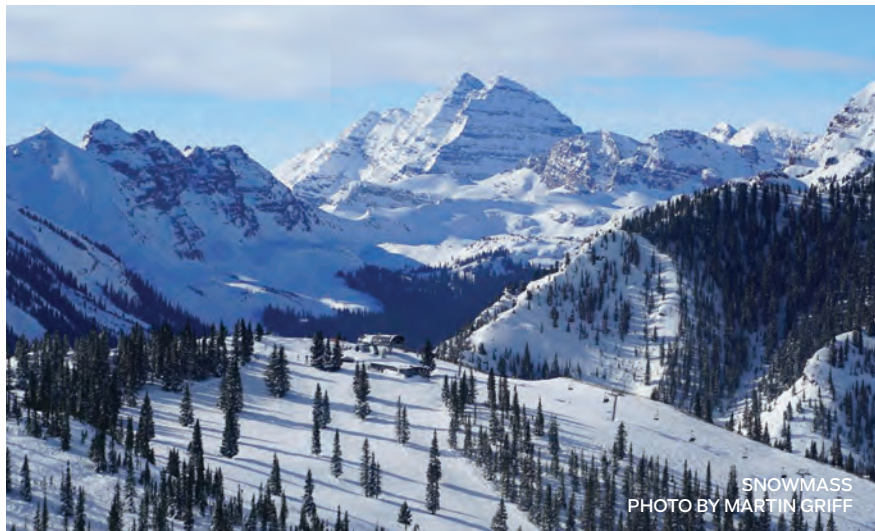
LIKE A ROLLING STONE

SLOPESIDE

# SNOWMASS

**S**TARING AT THIS PICTURE I'm inspired to write about Snowmass. Yet, sometimes I think it's better that I don't. Why spread the word and risk crowding the almost always empty slopes and non-existent lift lines? What can be better than ripping an early morning groomer or dancing through fresh powder, criss crossing your own tracks before anyone else can blemish your masterpiece? But one of the many things skiing has taught me, other than mad après-ski skills (think tequila, orange and cinnamon), is that sharing the experience is a big part of the enjoyment. So, please let me share Snowmass with you. All 3,362 acres of it.

Young families can start with lessons at the Treehouse Kids Adventure Center and learning areas around Assay Hill. Intermediates progress to wide open blue trails on the mile wide Big Burn, Elk Camp and Alpine Springs. Tree skiers like myself can dart in and out of the beautifully spaced glades like Powerline and Sneaky's. Those with resilient knees can practice their mogul skiing on bumped up trails off the High Alpine lift, Sam's Knob or the seemingly never ending Powderhorn trail. If you've heard that Snowmass does not have challenging terrain you've been misinformed. Expert skiers can enjoy a massive playground on the upper reaches of the resort. Not for the faint of heart, the headwall in Hanging Valley and The Cirque to its west challenge the most daring skiers with stomach churning chutes and leg burning steep. Two of my favorites are the remote feeling of 'The Dikes' and the narrow, knee knocking drop of AMF, which stands for Adios MF

SNOWMASS  
PHOTO BY MARTIN GRIFF

(use your imagination, please).

Along with all the great skiing, Snowmass has developed a bustling upper and lower village. The Viceroy, The Westin and The Limelight provide excellent lodging, dining and après ski options. Incredibly, 90% of Snowmass hotel and condo lodging is ski in-ski out. Add to this its proximity to the world class shopping and dining of Aspen and an airport that's only 10 minutes away. Free bus service provides easy access to the three other area mountains; Ajax, Buttermilk and Aspen Highlands, all on the same lift pass. Snowmass should be at the top of your ski destination list. Everything you need to plan your trip can be found at [aspensnowmass.com](http://aspensnowmass.com)

—Rich Silver