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## Powder Play: New resorts, lifts planned for 2009-10 ski season

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wlroessing@cs.com

Six upscale ski resort hotels plus at least four new major lifts are expected to be operational for the 2009-10 ski season.

Dakota Mountain Lodge, part of the Waldorf-Astoria Collection, will be the first of two luxury flagship hotels to debut in **Park City** later this year. Dakota's five-story building with 201 guest rooms will open this summer at the Canyons Resort. Phase I encompasses a Golden Door Spa and Spruce Restaurant. Later, guests will have access to the ski slopes by boarding Dakota's new Frostwood transportation gondola, which will take them to the ski area's Flight of the Canyons gondola. Phase II will break ground this year.

Another plush Park City slopeside resort nearing completion is the 11-story St. Regis Deer Crest with 181 guest rooms, 67 condo-hotel suites and 26 private residences. Situated on Deer Valley's slopes, the resort will offer 24-hour butler service, ski valets, a Remède Spa, restaurant and the only funicular ski lift in North America.

Four Seasons Resort Vail, at **Vail Village's** main entry, will be an intimate 120-room resort with 16 private and 19 fractional residences. Planned amenities at Colorado's first Four Seasons are a full-service spa, fitness club, restaurant, conference facilities, après ski lounge and children's activity center. Ski and snowboard valet service will be available to guests at the base of the Vista Bahn Express chairlift.

Gearing to open [Thanksgiving](#) Day at **Snowmass-at-Aspen** is the 152-room Viceroy Resort Residences. Among amenities at the condo-hotel lodging will be a spa, fitness center, restaurant and ballroom. The Viceroy, slated to be the signature property in Snowmass' new Base Village development, will offer skiers and riders access to three nearby lifts.

Opening in the fall, the 170-guest-room, five-story [Ritz-Carlton](#) Highlands, Lake Tahoe, sits at midmountain at the **Northstar-at-Tahoe** ski area. It will feature ski-in and ski-out access, ski valet services and an intermountain gondola connecting guests with Northstar Village. The high-tech Ritz will have a spa, fitness center, kids program, club level, 24-hour room and concierge service, 23 private residences and 25 fractional-ownership units.

At British Columbia's **Revelstoke Mountain Resort**, the second building (56 units) at the contemporary alpine-style Nelsen Lodge condo-hotel has a fall opening, too. Guests can walk from their hotel suites in

the new base area onto the gondola.

In addition to the aforementioned new lifts, **Marmot Basin** in Jasper National Park will open the longest (7,500 feet) high-speed quad chairlift in the Alberta Rockies.

Something else new

Downtown Park City soon will have the world's only **ski-in distillery**. High West, Utah's first legal whiskey distillery since Prohibition, is near completion in the renovated 100-year-old National Garage. The structure is across from the Town Lift.

Super season passes

Some resorts already are selling 2009-10 season passes.

The Epic Season Pass, offering unlimited, unrestricted skiing and snowboarding all season for \$579, is good at all **five Vail resorts** (Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Keystone and Heavenly). Details: [www.vailresorts.com](http://www.vailresorts.com).

Then there's the Rocky Mountain Super Pass with unlimited skiing and riding at **Copper Mountain** and **Winter Park** plus six days at **Steamboat** for \$399. Details: [www.skicolorado.com](http://www.skicolorado.com).

Late-closing dates

**Colorado:** April 19, Copper Mountain, Silverton, Winter Park/Mary Jane; April 18-19, 25-26 Aspen Highlands; May, Loveland, Echo Mountain; June, Arapahoe ... **Utah:** April 19, Alta, Brighton, Powder Mountain, Snowbasin; [Memorial Day](#), Snowbird ... **California:** April 19, Northstar; April 26, Sugar Bowl; Memorial Day, Squaw Valley; July 4, Mammoth ... **Nevada:** April 19, Mount Rose ... **British Columbia:** April 19, Big White; April 18-19, Fernie; April 26, Whistler Mountain; May 18, Blackcomb Mountain ... **Alberta:** April 26, Marmot Basin.

*Walt Roessing is a freelance writer in California.*