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351500 02/01/2012 80G-240 38

P.38



Swank Factor

ONE OF THE BEST-KEPT SECRETS OF APRÈS: HIT THE HOTEL BAR FOR SOME LAID-BACK YET CLASSY HANG TIME. By Susan Reifer



BAR

> Plumpjack Bar

WHERE

> Plumpjack Squaw Valley Inn, Calif.

WHY GO

> Squaw Valley is rich in lively après-ski—but we always come back to intimate Plumpjack. Easy California chic meets a funky, postmodern décor, heavy on industrial steel. Don Julio margaritas with fresh lime, \$5 happy-hour drinks, artisanal virgin mocktails and great California wines make for a happy crowd.



BAR

> Fireside Lounge

WHERE

> Four Seasons, Vail, Colo.

WHY GO

> Wine pairings are always nice—but custom-crafted cocktails constructed with housemade infusions and paired with artful appetizers are better. Think bison, avocado and Kobe beef sushi rolls, grilled vegetable skewers in balsamic reduction and small-batch charcuterie. The vaulted room, with hammered-leather chairs and cushy couches, proffers rare sweeping views of Vail Mountain.



BAR

> The Sitzmark Club

WHERE

> Alta Lodge, Alta, Utah

WHY GO

> America's most venerable ski-hotel bar has lured the powdersated to its unpretentious slopeside environs since 1939. While Alta Lodge has modernized around it, the Sitzmark's wood-burning fireplace, slopeview windows and "pit" bar (originally dubbed J's Darkroom, after Jav Lockland. the first owner) nestle untouched by time. Fair Isle sweaters, ski boots, Sitz Party Margs and beer? You bet.



BAR

> Eight K Lobby Bar

WHERE

Viceroy Hotel & Spa, Snowmass, Colo.

WHY GO

> The mixologists at Eight K coined the term "slow booze" to describe what happens when you pair Coloradomade spirits with local ingredients. Take the Hand Warmer: smallbatch whiskey from Denver's Leopold Brothers Distillery combined with locally brewed hot cider, orange juice and a cinnamon stick. Cocktail culture with a purpose. We can get behind that.



Skipped dinner? Hotel bars tend to serve a limited menu late into the evening—after most restaurants have closed—to accommodate late-arriving hotel guests.

[38

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