

## JACKSON HOLE, WYO.

“One of the best. A big-time mountain that will kick your butt.”

### IF FRANK SINATRA HAD SKIED, JACKSON HOLE WOULD

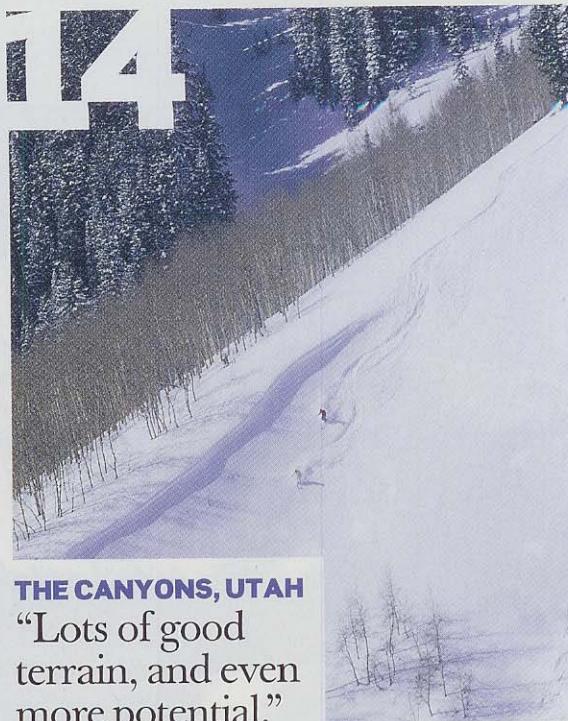
have been his favorite hill. In other words, if you can make it here, you'll make it anywhere. Many mountains thump their chests, but Jackson backs it up. From classic leg-burners like the Hobacks to the newly opened Craggs, Jackson earns its No. 1 ranking in Challenge the old-fashioned way: by humbling the unwary. But from defeat comes strength. “Jackson Hole schooled us,” one reader proclaims. “It makes you get better.” With the new Sweetwater chair linking the beginner area to midmountain intermediate slopes, Jackson continues its push to attract skiers of all abilities. Good luck. “I love the mountain so much, I skied it with a torn ACL that was operated on a month later,” explains a typical Jackson fanatic. Apres Vous Mountain does offer a range of tame groomers upon which the buffaloed can roam, but with the opening of the luxe slopeside Four Seasons Hotel, it's off-hill where Jackson has been most successful at sanding down its rough edges. Purists need not fret. The Mangy Moose bar is as gloriously mangy as ever,

and the town of Jackson remains more duct tape than diamonds. The troubling news out of Jackson is that the resort can't afford \$20 million to replace its aging tram and that the iconic lift will be shut down next summer. We think a rugged resort like Jackson can't afford not to have a tram, and hope a solution will be found. —G.D.



**THE LATEST** The Sweetwater triple chair serves intermediate midmountain terrain. There's a new cafe at the Bridger Gondola base. **DON'T MISS** Grab a beer at the VC (Village Café). The guy next to you has probably starred in a ski flick.

**LOCAL SECRET** Before Cheyenne Gully, take North Woods Traverse (not on the map) through the woods (on the right). You pop out onto North Hoback, with untracked lines to the base.



## THE CANYONS, UTAH

“Lots of good terrain, and even more potential.”

### WITH NEIGHBORS LIKE PARK CITY AND DEER VALLEY,

it's not surprising that The Canyons is often bypassed by skiers streaming into Park City. That's a shame, though it's OK with some readers, like the one who pleads, “Can we keep this resort a secret for a while longer?” Sorry guys, The Canyons moved up further than any other resort this year, jumping eight spots to No. 14. The secret's out about a resort where “You can't get bored.” Indeed, the incredible variety of terrain might well be The Canyons' biggest virtue. Its 3,500 skiable acres has “something for everyone,” one reader confirms, from bunny bumps and broad boulevards to bowls and chutes. At Utah's largest resort, experts beeline for Ninety Nine 90, Tombstone and Super Condor while their intermediate siblings have seven other peaks on which to frolic. Such variety inspires one reader to compare skiing at The Canyons to “going on a snow safari.” Apart from “a bottleneck leaving the gondola,” crowds are rarely an issue. And proximity to Salt Lake City means easy traveling. But navigating around the mountain earns demerits, as does on-mountain food is. These complaints should be addressed with the \$400 million expansion that starts this season, including three new lifts. As for those who carp that “nothing happens after 4 p.m.,” be thankful that Park City is just a short shuttle ride away. —Everett Potter



**THE LATEST** Upgrades to snowmaking and learning center. Three new lifts are planned in the next three years. **DON'T MISS** For \$50 plus a lift ticket, get First Tracks at The Canyons followed by breakfast at Red Pine Lodge. **LOCAL SECRET** Head straight for Peak 5 on powder days, where the trees hold stashes that are out of reach of all but the hardy and the well-informed.