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## PARK CITY, UTAH

“Convenient, friendly—and my favorite ski town.”

**IF HOSTING THE 2002 SALT LAKE OLYMPICS WAS PARK CITY'S GOLD-MEDAL MOMENT, MAKING IT INTO** the Top Five in this year's survey could be its Wheaties-box afterglow. Not much has changed since the pre-Games spruce-up—a lift replacement here, new grooming equipment there—but Park City is generating more national buzz, vaulting up four places since last year. (You know a resort is moving up when readers whine about “too much fur!”) With almost a thousand direct flights arriving daily at nearby SLC airport, Park City is still “painless to get to from pretty much anywhere.” The skiing can be pretty painless as well, with 50 percent grooming and plenty of that famous Wasatch light ‘n’ white—485 inches last season. (One confused reader complained of “too much snow at once.” We wish we felt your pain, buddy.) Some readers gripe that the area's seven peaks are “not steep enough” and are overrun with “too many blues.” Maybe. While Park City ain't Alta, there is plenty of expert terrain upon which to huck, bump and bruise yourself—starting with four wildly popular terrain parks. If you fear a hike to the “sweet bowls” off Jupiter Peak, try the “great tree skiing” off the Thaynes and McConkey's lifts. (Another FYI for the hardcores: They don't call it the Ski Team lift for nothing.) Sure, the “on-mountain food is mediocre,” but when you compare it to what's available on Main Street downtown—from the Easy Street Brasserie at one end up to the Wasatch Brew Pub at the other—we're not surprised. Here's a hint: Head down Quit'n Time for lunch at one of the former mining town's No. 7-rated dining options, then ride the Town Lift back to cruisers under the Payday lift. Or, of course, you could start your party early—in town, “which ROCKS!” and which is responsible for the resort's No. 7 Après ranking. Or head to any of Park City's No. 5-rated off-hill activities: Try tubing at Gorgoza Park, skating at the base village rink, or ski-jump fantasy camp at the Olympic Park. Personalized Wheaties box not included. —Philip Higgs



**THE LATEST** Improved snowmaking will allow the mountain to open earlier; Legends bar moves to the plaza level of the Legacy day-lodge. The innovative Signature Runs program grooms different double-blacks periodically to open up the tough stuff to intermediate skiers. **THE DEAL** You ski free on the day of your arrival by presenting your airline boarding pass.

**RACE READY** Get a feel for a World Cup course (all right, a little feel) by ripping Upper C.B.'s—site of the 2002 Olympic Giant Slalom—after groomers lay down a fresh bolt of corduroy.