



## TO THE NINE(S)

Aspen Highland's iconic midmountain restaurant gets significantly spruced up for the season

BY CINDY HIRSCHFELD

It's hard to imagine that Cloud Nine Alpine Bistro, the midmountain former ski patrol hut-turned-Euro-style restaurant, could possibly get any cozier. This fall's \$1.1 million interior renovation proves otherwise. A new dining alcove features a perfectly framed view of the Maroon Bells and can be partitioned off for private parties. Restrooms have been relocated and upgraded, and the open kitchen streamlined for efficiency. In architectural terms, the reno also highlights the building's midcentury Pan Abode construction—essentially a prefab log cabin—that's considered historically significant to Aspen. Emphasizing elements like exposed beams and knotted wood panels "was really central to the character we wanted to keep," says project architect Amanda Christianson of Aspen design firm Rowland and Broughton. In addition, the charming but eclectic decor, like patrol sleds hanging from the ceiling and vintage ski photographs, has been made more cohesive, "We wanted to make sure the atmosphere was still that of a homey cabin while adding a more uniform Alpine feel across the board," notes Christianson. What hasn't changed: the menu's focus on traditional Alpine fare like raclette and roasted meats (\$47 two-course prix fixe), and the chic clientele-well known to luxuriously linger from lunch through après ski with a bottle or two of Champagne. Just remember to make reservations at this popular spot in advance. Dinners via snowcat ride (\$140 per person without drinks) are also scheduled on Wednesday and Thursday nights throughout the winter. 970.923.8715, aspensnowmass.com

UPLIFTED

Iiterally—with a new and improved **High Alpine lift**. Now a high-speed quad, the lift has also been significantly realigned. A new, lower loading station sits at the egress from the Cirque and Rock Island, allowing skiers descending from those areas to ski directly to the lift (the former route required skiing all the way down to the Alpine Springs chair and riding it first). A new unloading station to the right of the old one lets skiers and riders hit Upper Green Cabin without having to pole across a lengthy traverse. Sure, we'll miss the old two-seater lift and the one-on-one conversations it allowed, but we'll gladly trade that for a ride time that's almost cut in half—anything to get to the steeps of the Hanging Valley Wall quicker on a powder day, aspensnowmass.com—CH

BY THE NUMBERS

## Cannabis Count

Since Colorado Amendment 64
passed in 2014, allowing legal
possession of an ounce of marijuana,
recreational use continues to be the
topic du jour around town, whether
from curiosity or the desire to
partake. We decided it was high time
to take stock. –BP

6

Recreational pot shops in Aspen (as of press time)

21

Minimum age to buy and consume marijuana

0

Pesticides used at High Valley Farm, the Basalt-based grow house for Aspen's Silverpeak Apothecary

6,745,297

Dollars in taxable marijuana sales in Pitkin County over a 12-month period ending in May 2015

75.4

Percent of citizens who voted to legalize recreational cannabls in Pitkin County in 2014

18

Dollars on average for a gram of marijuana at Aspen's recreational dispensaries

77.6 million

Dollars of Colorado tax revenue brought in by pot through August 2015

FASTER TO FRESHIES

speeds up access to the

Hanging Valley Wall.

An upgraded High Alpine lift at Snowmass