

THE FAMILY ISSUE

SKI

THE MAGAZINE OF THE SKI LIFE

HOW TO RAISE A SKIER

11 COOL
Kids Programs

14 TIPS
on How to Save
Your Family Ski
Vacation

46 BEST RUNS
for Young Skiers
(and Parents, Too)

YOUR KID'S
**MOST
IMPORTANT**
PIECE OF
SKI GEAR

NOVEMBER 2010



**> WIN HIS AND
HER JACKETS**

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY
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OLD-SCHOOL,
NEW ATTITUDE
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**> ASPEN
VALLEY**
SKIING'S
ULTIMATE
DESTINATION
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Après on Ice

● BELVEDERE ICE ROOM, WHISTLER, B.C.

No worries about coming overdressed to this bar. In fact, you might want to keep your base layer and ski pants on when visiting the Belvedere Ice Room at Whistler, B.C.'s popular Bearfoot Bistro. "It's a really cool place," says Jean-Sebastian (J.S. for short) Dupuis, bartender and co-creator, along with flamboyant owner André Saint-Jacques, of Canada's first subzero vodka room. "No pun intended."

Nightly, up to eight people at a time don Canadian goose down parkas, provided by the restaurant, and pile into the zero-degree pint-sized room (think walk-in freezer with a custom bar carved from blocks of ice) to sample four different vodkas. "Belvedere and Chopin are standards," says J.S. "The other two can be chosen from 50 different vodkas from around the world."

Of the 50, some of J.S.'s favorites are Schranz, a small-batch vodka distilled in nearby Pemberton from 100 percent organic potatoes that he describes as "a whiskey drinker's vodka"; Khortitsa, a sweet-tasting vodka from the Ukraine; and Wydorowa, a single-estate rye vodka touted as earthy and smooth.

Tastings, which last about 15 minutes and cost \$48 per person, can be paired with oysters or caviar from the restaurant's raw bar. Guests can also do half-tastings of two vodkas for \$28 or a single tasting for \$20. Just enough to chase the chill away. *Located in Whistler Village; bearfootbistro.com*



Deals

Topnotch Resort and Spa, Stowe, Vt.

● **Skiers looking for a midweek New England getaway** are in luck: Book a room at **Topnotch Resort and Spa** and they'll throw in a pair of lift tickets to Stowe, about a mile away. The package includes accommodations at the luxurious Topnotch, with its newly renovated 35,000-square-foot spa, fitness center, solarium and three pools, plus two adult lift tickets to Stowe. Also included is Topnotch's Ski Concierge Service, which means your lift tickets will be delivered to your room, you'll get shuttle service to and from the slopes and complimentary ski cleaning and storage upon return. *\$250 per room, per night; available mid-week, all season; topnotchresort.com*

GADGETS

JOBY GORILLAPOD

It's about time someone reinvented the tripod. The Gorillapod has over two dozen leg joints, allowing it to bend every which way, and rubberized grips that keep it stable on any surface. Wrap it around a tree branch, balance it on a window sill—there are few places it can't go. The Gorillapod comes in five versions (and seven colors) and can hold up to 11 pounds of camera, but for most of us the Original, for compact cameras and camcorders, should do the trick. After all, you belong in the vacation album, too. *\$20-\$100; joby.com*

