

TOP 5: TREES

Ten turns down Steamboat's Closet, I flushed a grouse, its wings beating a pattern into a foot of new snow as it took flight in crystalline dust before settling in a Douglas fir and picking at needles and old buds. I stopped, staring into the bird's vacuous black eyes for a few

minutes as a galaxy of fat flakes muted even the whistling of my lungs. Skiing is more than the whir of the rotor, the crack of the gates, or the hard scraping and stacking of the terrain park. Listen for the rhythm of your pulse, in the hush of the forest, in a winter storm. —Marc Peruzzi

	RESORT	YOU SAY	STATS
1	STEAMBOAT, COLORADO	<p>"Steamboat's legendary tree skiing may change your life."</p> <p>"Once you step into those bindings, you're not going to want to take them off until the lifties kick you off the mountain."</p>	<p>ACRES OF GLADES: 1,790</p> <p>TOP TREE RUN: Closet</p> <p>LOCAL TIP: Look ahead between the trees, not right at them.</p>
2	JACKSON HOLE, WYOMING	<p>"Simply the best all-around mountain in the U.S., with a lot of trees."</p> <p>"When there is decent cover there is no better place to ski."</p> <p>"Many steeps and trees to choose from."</p>	<p>ACRES OF GLADES: The resort doesn't glade. The terrain is naturally forested.</p> <p>TOP TREE RUN: Cheyenne Woods</p> <p>LOCAL TIP: Nobody skis the lower mountain on a powder day.</p>
3	SCHWEITZER, IDAHO	<p>"The best tree skiing in the Northwest."</p> <p>"I love the variety of terrain!"</p> <p>"As good or better than any of the Utah or Colorado greats."</p>	<p>ACRES OF GLADES: 1,200</p> <p>TOP TREE RUN: Australia</p> <p>LOCAL TIP: Wide skis keep you on top of the snow. Use them.</p>
4	FERNIE, BRITISH COLUMBIA	<p>"Great steep bowls and trees. Reminds me of a smaller Snowbird."</p> <p>"Best tree skiing I have ever seen."</p> <p>"Excellent snow, huge quantities, and a lot of tree stashes."</p>	<p>ACRES OF GLADES: Approx. 720</p> <p>TOP TREE RUN: Concussion</p> <p>LOCAL TIP: Fernie's known for being friendly. Befriend a local to find the goods.</p>
5	CRESTED BUTTE, COLORADO	<p>"Most people talk about CB's steeps. I love the trees."</p> <p>"Fast lifts, beautiful mountains, great trees."</p> <p>"I love the variety of this mountain."</p>	<p>ACRES OF GLADES: 100 acres of brush-cut glades</p> <p>TOP TREE RUN: Crystal</p> <p>LOCAL TIP: Find untracked in the trees on Sunset Ridge, off the Silver Queen lift.</p>