

VOGUE

AUSTRALIA

Wonder *women*

Miuccia Prada

Julie Bishop

Collette Dinnigan

Stella Tennant

Ashleigh Good

Victoria
Beckham

She's the business



firstCLASS

EDITOR: MARK SARIBAN

White hot

Fine dining, luxe hotels, STUNNING scenery and, of course, SERIOUSLY GOOD snow await in the mountains of Colorado and Utah.

The "Garden of Fire" at the St Regis Deer Valley, outside of Park City, Utah.



The living room in the Paepcke Suite, the largest suite at The Little Nell.



The master bedroom in the Pfeifer Suite.



The Little Nell Suite. Above: another view of the Paepcke Suite living room.



Wine director Carlton McCoy.



Dining with a view in the Little Nell Suite.

Chalet chic

At Aspen's ultra-luxurious *LITTLE NELL* you'll be pampered and indulged but still feel utterly AT HOME.

WORDS: EDWINA McCANN

I have secretly harboured a dream to become a ski bum since I first worked in the fashion cupboard at *Vogue* in my 20s, surrounded by mounds of shoes I often wished were snowdrifts. But it's getting a little late in life to fulfil that dream, mainly because these days bumming it doesn't sound quite so attractive. I'm still a passionate skier, but now I want to go home after a day of the slopes to the Little Nell, right at the base of beautiful Aspen Mountain in Colorado. It's five stars, five diamonds too, so let's call it ski-glamping, rather than bumming. The Little Nell offers the best of the best, and I'm not just talking about snow sports. Even if you never put on a ski boot you are guaranteed

a great holiday. At the Little Nell you'll find one of the world's master sommeliers on staff, the hip-hop-loving former New Yorker Carlton McCoy, who hosts special wine tastings (to music) in one of the best and most comprehensive cellars in the US, housed in the basement downstairs. There's the new executive chef Matt Zubrod, a concierge service for your skis and needs, including equipment transfers to the other three mountains that make up the Aspen Snowmass resort, plus cars on call to transport you, too.

There is back-country skiing in the private Little Nell snowcat, with champagne on hand and the most experienced guides to show you some extraordinary powder

skiing. The gondola is on your doorstep and the hotel can book you a "first tracks" outing to enjoy the corduroy-groomed snow before the lifts open. (The ricotta pancakes at Bonnie's, halfway down the mountain, are a good excuse to stop for breakfast if you are exhausted by the early start.) There's also an excellent spa.

It's worth leaving the hotel surrounds to enjoy the architectural wonder of new Shigeru Ban-designed Aspen Art Museum. While I was there the museum staged an extraordinary David Hammons and Yves Klein exhibit, and with so many wealthy collectors on the board and supporting the institution it's worth asking the concierge about what's on when you visit. I recommend a coffee or lunch on the top floor of the museum for the incredible views.

The Little Nell already had luxury ski travel covered, so true to style the Aspen Skiing Company, which owns the hotel, decided to up the ante by commissioning renowned interior designer Holly Hunt to redecorate. There are private residences on the top floor that have regularly hosted

many of Australia's wealthiest travellers. The rooms, apartments and suites now reflect the hotel's desire to have guest rooms feel like homes, albeit seriously beautiful ones. "I understand the Aspen client," says Hunt, "so I was very excited to do modern, yet warm, with a residential feel."

The brief was to avoid a commercial-looking lobby, with a roaring fire and comfortable couches in the bar as you walk in. "We didn't want too many horses, antlers and brown logs and bears," explains Hunt about her creative direction, which has achieved a modern chalet feel, as opposed to the typical Colorado look. The Aspen Skiing Company is owned by the Crown family from Chicago. Paula Crown and her husband James (Jim) are among President Obama's top campaign fundraisers, and Paula is a passionate art collector. "Paula has been very involved with the refurbishment and so has Jim," explains Hunt. "When your client is terrific it makes your job easier."

And it makes, of course, ski-glamping even more stylish.

Go to www.thelittlenell.com for details.



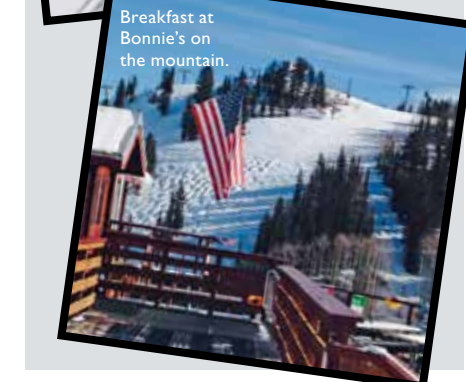
In the Little Nell's well-stocked cellars.



Making TRACKS
Little Nell's Powder Cat takes you to Aspen's remote back country for a day of skiing fresh powder, followed by lunch at its intimate mountain cabin.



Knee deep in powder on the back side of Aspen Mountain.



Breakfast at Bonnie's on the mountain.