



FIVE



LIFE + STYLE

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BIGHORN



Skiing is a magical sport. It is pure, child-like adrenaline, a revisit of rushes felt careering down a hill on our bikes, head and shoulders tucked low to incite fancies of flight. Flight truer than any plane can offer the senses. Skiing takes all the thrills of our youth, blows them up and then infuses with alcohol when the day is done.

First you have the climb, immense altitude, the likes of which leaves the head dizzy and the air thin. A gradual, climatic ascent reminiscent of climbing the stairs of slide or pushing on to that higher, more tenuous branch; a fuse somewhere between the heart and the gut burning down to an explosive, inevitable 'way down'. With every rung bested you cement your fate. It appeals to the wild man in all of us and is all the more intoxicating as our lives restrict this release with every passing year. Self-destruction is the most liberating of pass times and there ain't nothing quite as self-destructive as throwing yourself down a mountain.

All the while, you have this dreamscape open up for you. Pure, untainted white from every angle; those halcyon dreams of bouncing on a cloud made a reality as an ocean of snow meets the skyline – no longer an unreachable horizon. All peppered with this crisp, freezing air acting like some sugary stimulant; driving your eyes wide and wild with fervour. It's all so hyperreal to the point of being fanciful. The rolling sheets of fluffy snow and fluffier clouds, both so uncomplicated in their whiteness, reduce everything else to a triviality.

There is only the ascent and the glory of now. Then suddenly that now is you standing atop a snowy peak with two strips of wood at your feet the only way down. Your wonderment has got the better of you all over again. You've duped yourself; gormlessly floated up the ladder, beyond the boundary of reasoning and you are at mercy to your own abandon. A cursory glance to set a path and one, slow fix of that maddening air and the now turns into go. GO.

You teeter for an instant, but you've no time for second thoughts now. An affirmative shift in body weight seals your fate and suddenly, you're flying down a mountain. Initial, wanton acceleration is quickly righted by instinct and before long you're carving your mark into the snow – blazing a trail from crest to base. The wind reaches a deafening pitch as your extremities rosy with a barrage of rushing air. You're temporarily superhuman, capable of speedily traversing an expanse where land and sky blur into a single glorious playing field.

It takes some practice to become a proficient skier (I use the term very broadly); but, just like riding a bike, once it clicks, it truly clicks and becomes second nature. It's an invigorating exercise of the instincts and fewer things are as

life-affirming. The sensation transcends age and it makes you wonder about the uncharted benefits of firing up the blood when we were young.

Aside from the act of skiing itself, an alpine holiday is always a raucous affair. Gather a group of your silliest (i.e. best) friends, make a snow-bound exodus and hilarity is liable to ensue. A ski trip is unique in the way that you're constantly dipping out of the warmth of your chalet and the mettle-testing terrain of the slopes. It's vital, then, that the luxuries you afford yourself are of the highest quality. What better choice of 'launchpad' than a place that has been voted the World's Best Ski Chalet – and retained that title for two years running.

BIGHORN IS A 5-STAR CHALET SET AT THE BASE OF REVELSTOKE MOUNTAIN RESORT, IN THE HEART OF THE WORLD'S BEST HELI-SKI TERRAIN.

Fly into the wilderness from your private helipad, or ride the lift to the top of the tallest ski hill in North America and amble or bomb down the unrivalled Revelstoke ski runs at your leisure.

The house itself features a sizeable hi-tech cinema and eight spacious guest suites, each with its own custom bathroom. A world class spa area offers everything you need to restore body and mind after a hard day's skiing, including an indoor current pool, sauna, fully equipped gym, massage rooms and a large outdoor hot tub, where you can relax and enjoy the integrated sound system and sweeping views across the valley.

The impressive timber-framed building was designed with indulgence in mind. The triple height great room, with its roaring log fire, is the perfect setting for canapés, or just for winding down after a day of skiing. Dinner can be taken in the elegant formal dining room, or in the more casual setting of the kitchen, where you can watch the chef prepare your food on the teppanyaki grill.

A ski season should be the highlight on anyone's calendar and something so integral should be done right. Bighorn is our definition of right.

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