



| ADVENTURE |

twice as nice

perfect pairings make the most of our region's slopes and springs

IF YOU THINK you need a long, hot soak in a healthful mineral bath after a hard day of skiing, just imagine how the Native Americans of Northern New Mexico must have felt thousands of years ago after a long, hard day of surviving. Luckily, they had access to many therapeutic mineral pools—natural springs still around today that have also inspired more modern incarnations. Here are the best spots to play in the snow, then make like the ancients and find a pool of soothing *agua caliente*.

Ski Santa Fe and Ten Thousand Waves

There's a lot to love about Ski Santa Fe (505-982-4429, skisantafe.com), just a short and winding 16-mile drive from downtown. The groomer under the high-speed quad affirms its reputation as a family ski area, but tucked away in the trees are some of the best double-black-diamond runs in the Southwest Plus, the views to the Rio Grande Valley and surrounding mountains are sublime. Just beware of packed holiday weekends. Full-day tickets: adults \$54, seniors/children \$39.

Follow this with a mandatory stop at Ten Thousand Waves (505-992-5025; tentousandwaves.com), on the way down Hyde Park Road. Built to simulate a serene Japanese *onsen*, the spa's lineup of treatments, like the Flowing River Stone Massage, tubs ranging from the communal (\$19) to the super-premium private Ofuro



COURTESY SKI SANTA FE



DOUGLAS MERRILL

Fresh tracks at Ski Santa Fe; the Waterfall bath at Ten Thousand Waves

(\$59/90 minutes), and Zen-inspired guesthouses (\$99–\$299/night) can do serious damage to your Visa card. That still beats a bill from the emergency room, where you'll surely land if you keep skiing all those bumps and *don't* soak your sore bod afterward. Spa: 10 AM–9:30 PM Mon and Wed, 3:45 PM–9:30 PM Tue, 9 AM–10:30 PM Thu–Sun.

Pajarito Mountain Ski Area and Jemez Springs Bath House

Thanks to its strategic location behind Los Alamos National Laboratories, Pajarito (505-662-5725, skipajarito.com) is likely the only ski area in the U.S. where you're required to pass through a security checkpoint

upon entering. The shakedown is worth it. Pajarito is a sweet and steep little mountain run by the nonprofit Los Alamos Ski Club. For fresh tracks, head to Pajarito on a Friday. The mountain is closed Monday through Thursday (except around Christmas), which allows for big caches of snow to collect. Full-day tickets: adults \$45, seniors/teens \$37, children \$29.

The old-school charm of Pajarito may make you feel like it's the 1950s, but a drive 50 miles west to the Jemez Springs Bath House (505-829-3303, jemezspringsbathhouse.com) takes you back even further in time. In the tiny village of Jemez Springs, this historic retreat—built in 1870—has eight individual spring-fed tubs enclosed for privacy. When

hit the deck

Besides offering the chance to sip a hot toddy on a 10,500-foot-high sundeck, the popular Totemoff's Mid-Mountain Bar at Ski Santa Fe hosts *Beats on the Basin*, a performance series now in its third year. Boasting regional talent like ten-year-old reggae wunderkind DJ Zion, the series kicks off its new season in January, with shows from noon to 3 PM on select Saturdays. Plus, it's free with your lift ticket or pass. Schedule: skisantafe.com

—Marin Sardy