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**MOUNTAIN ESCAPES**

# A Taste of Telluride

Embark on a culinary tour of this beloved mountain town.

BY SUSAN B. BARNES

**T**ruly a destination for all seasons, the picturesque town of Telluride isn't just charming, but filled with loads of adventure as well as culinary and cultural opportunities.

If it can be done in the snow, you'll find it in Telluride. Ski, snowboard or snowshoe the Telluride Ski Resort's 2,000 plus acres set amid a scene of magnificent mountain ranges. Take your skis to new heights with heli-skiing, and snowmobiling, horseback riding, ice skating and sleigh rides are also accessible around the area.

Nestled down the mountain in Telluride, hotels and restaurants await to aid in recovery from a day of adventure. Telluride is reveling in a gourmet food growth spurt. Just how good is the dining scene? Readers of *Condé Nast Traveler* recently named Telluride as one of America's Best Cities for Foodies, so there's no chance of going hungry here. Chefs have settled in, boasting culinary experience from top restaurants in New York, Napa and New Orleans.



TOP: Guests savor exquisite Italian fare and breathtaking views at Alpino Vino—the highest-altitude restaurant in the U.S. ABOVE: The Cosmopolitan's Seafood Stew

**EAT**

The French cuisine at La Marmotte is a Telluride favorite. Inside the historic Ice House building, Chef Mark Reggiannini crafts French bistro classics with a contemporary edge, such as Pallaird of Pork Tenderlion Wrapped in

Prosciutto with a green pea risotto, golden raisin sauce and apple butter. Or, dine a la France on the mountain at Bon Vivant. Another on-mountain option is Allred's, which boasts floor-to-ceiling views of Box

TELLURIDE SKI RESORT, TONY DEMIN, ALPINO VINO; THE COSMOPOLITAN, ALAN CUENCA



Enjoy spectacular view Telluride's Allred's located at the gondola's mid-station.

Canyon and the valley 1,800 feet below from its gondola mid-station spot. Accessible to skiers and pedestrians alike, Allred's has arguably the most popular après-ski hour (daily from 3 to 5:30 p.m.) as well as fine dining evening favorites such as elk carpaccio and Colorado rack of lamb.

Foodies flock to The Cosmopolitan for its fusion of flavors. Though its name may seem ill-fitting in such a rustic mountain town, Chef Chad Scothorn creates modern, playful dishes that convince diners otherwise. After spending time in Argentina, Paris and Sicily, Scothorn moved to Telluride to bring his fusion-forward vision to life. Must-try menu items include Lobster Corn Dogs and Seafood Stew with prawns, barramundi, lobster tail, crab and scallops in a tomato saffron broth.

Open only in the winter, Alpino Vino is a European-style chalet set at nearly 12,000 feet; the highest-altitude restaurant in the U.S. With only 26 seats, the on-mountain chalet serves a flawless Italian prix fixe multi-course menu for dinner by reservation only. Guests sit outside in front of Alpino Vino's wine bar or inside near the wood-burning fireplace and savor cheeses, soups, sandwiches, antipasti dishes and more. Another spot that will make you say *buon appetito* is Telluride Bistro, just off Main St. The restaurant uses fresh, local and organic ingredients, serving delicious bruschetta, pasta and pizza to name a few.

For an intimate dining experience, try Rustico Ristorante—a charming family-owned venue located in the heart of downtown Telluride offering authentic Italian cuisine complemented by more than 1,000 bottles of Italian wines from every corner of Italy. Stone walls,

**ICY ESCAPADES**

About an hour from Telluride sits the quintessential Western town of Ouray (“yer-ay”), known as “the Switzerland of America.” With a little more than 1,000 residents, this little town is home to the Million Dollar Highway, a stretch of highway connecting Ouray to Silverton and Durango and is known for being one of the most beautiful roads in the U.S.

The most renowned activity within

the town is ice climbing. More than 200 named ice and mixed climbs are accessible within a 15-minute walk of the Ouray Ice Park entrance.

Beginners can take lessons with an outfitter such as Peak Mountain Guides, and onlookers enjoy the world’s premier ice climbing festival, the Ouray Ice Festival, which takes place during January each year.

Off the ice, Ouray is warm and welcoming. The historic Beaumont Hotel has been named the “#1 Hotel in the West” and one of the Top 500 Places in the World by *Condé Nast Traveler*. Built in 1886 and recently restored to its original splendor, the boutique hotel combines modern amenities with a timeless ambiance. If an overnight stay isn’t on your agenda, stop by for lunch or dinner to enjoy this iconic Ouray space.

[ouraycolorado.com](http://ouraycolorado.com)



The Butcher & Baker Cafe

a fireplace and enclosed veranda create a cozy ambiance that easily transitions from romantic evenings to family dinners.

Hungry visitors seeking a more casual environment should head to The Butcher & Baker Café, which filled a baked goods void in this ski town. A relaxed environment and warm atmosphere sets the tone for savory breakfast sandwiches, homemade bagels and soft pastries as well as soups and sandwiches; the Pork Shoulder Sandwich with caramelized onions, pepper jelly, spinach and cream cheese is a must-taste. For the ultimate on-the-go snack, stop by Over the Moon, a specialty food shop stocked with cut-to-order artisan cheese and charcuterie as well as French truffle honey, Tate’s cookies, D’Artagnan duck fat, Vosges chocolate and more. Assemble your own basket of goodies to savor as you sightsee.

**DRINK**

Though all the aforementioned eateries offer well-crafted cocktails and curated wines,

there are some special spots to take a sip.

Side up to the Historic Bar at the New Sheridan Hotel downtown, just as guests have done since 1895. The bar itself remains with its original lead glass divider panels, mahogany wood and light fixtures. A cherished spot among locals, this is the place to sip on an old-time cocktail and enjoy the venerable atmosphere.

‘There...’ (yes the bar is called There...) is an unconventional bar serving tapas and warm-you-up après ski drinks. The avant-garde cocktail menu includes “Jam Drinks” in which you select Maine blueberry jam, red pepper jelly or pumpkin jam, and then pick your spirit for a refreshing sipper. And you can’t leave a Colorado ski town without sampling at least one local beer. Head to Smuggler’s Brewpub and order a tasting flight of the award-winning brewery’s year-round favorites and seasonal offerings.

**STAY**

A comfortable boutique hotel amidst the others is The Hotel Telluride, perfectly situated within walking distance of downtown, yet on the outskirts enough to provide a quiet atmosphere. If the days get the best of you, The Hotel Telluride offers a complimentary shuttle into town and back again, giving you the ultimate excuse to try all the top-spots in town. **DLM**



**NEED-TO-KNOW INFO**

Learn about all things Telluride at [visittelluride.com](http://visittelluride.com)

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

Beaumont Hotel  
[beaumonthotel.com](http://beaumonthotel.com)

The Hotel Telluride  
[thetelluride.com](http://thetelluride.com)

Fairmont Heritage Place Franz  
Klammer Lodge  
[fairmont.com](http://fairmont.com)

Telluride Ski Resort  
[tellurideskiresort.com](http://tellurideskiresort.com)

**SIP & SAVOR HOT SPOTS**

Allred’s  
[telluride.com/allreds-restaurant](http://telluride.com/allreds-restaurant)

Alpino Vino  
[telluride.com/alpino-vino](http://telluride.com/alpino-vino)

Historic Bar  
[newsheridan.com/historic-bar](http://newsheridan.com/historic-bar)

La Marmotte  
[lamarmotte.com](http://lamarmotte.com)

Rustico Ristorante  
[rusticoristorante.com](http://rusticoristorante.com)

The Cosmopolitan  
[cosmotelluride.com](http://cosmotelluride.com)