

fresh air: pretty patios for dining alfresco

denver life[®]

Colorado's leading lifestyle magazine

the food issue

spring greens

Savor the season with
fresh, light salads
from three favorite Denver
restaurants



Mercantile Dining & Provision's Spring Legume Salad is dotted with feta cheese from Fruition Farms. Recipe, p. 73

plus

- Counting sheep** Top Denver chefs dish on Colorado lamb
- Party thyme!** Impress guests with this perfect herb-infused cocktail
- Counter culture** A restaurateur shares her kitchen makeover
- DIY beauty** Make your own masks with ingredients from your pantry
- How devilish** Lola's recipe for decadent lobster deviled eggs

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ROAD WARRIOR CYCLING THROUGH ASPEN IN THE LATE SPRING? BLISS.

CLEAR AS MUD

Where to take advantage of great spring deals at luxe mountain resorts

As the snow begins to melt and the ski resorts close for the season, you may notice an almost eerie quiet in Colorado's mountain towns in late April and May. But mud season shouldn't scare you away from a trip up the hill. Sure, some trails may be a bit messy, and it could be windy and cold. But it could also be sunny and warm, and you know how to dress in layers anyway. Yes, some restaurants will be dark, but plenty remain open. And the crowds? What crowds? Best of all, you can score great deals at some of the state's most luxurious resorts. Here are five to book now. Mud season, here we come! —A.G. ERICSON

The Ritz-Carlton, Bachelor Gulch

The special: The popular Mountain Mindfulness package includes luxury overnight accommodations, a welcome amenity and, per night, a group wellness class, recreation activity for two, two 60-minute spa treatments, a visit for two to the Oxygen Bar and free valet parking and resort fees. Pricing varies. **Info:** ritzcarlton.com

The Hotel Telluride

The special: This dog-friendly hotel's new Best in Show pet package will seriously pamper your pet, who will receive a personalized welcome note at the front desk's doggie chalk board, a welcome amenity of homemade treats, a plush dog bed, an in-room custom place mat and food and water bowls and a canine amenity including a tennis

or bouncy ball (dog's choice), a Kong Wild Knots chew toy, a Night Ize flashlight collar clip, eco-friendly pet disposal bags and a list of nearby dog-friendly activities. Prices start at \$499. **Info:** thehoteltelluride.com

The Westin Riverfront Resort & Spa

The special: Head to Vail Valley for the 2 for 1 Spring Getaway package—book a one-

bedroom condo between April 1 and May 21 and you'll automatically be upgraded to a two-bedroom condo (which includes a full kitchen, living room and dining room). Rates start at \$259 per night. And don't forget to ask about the resort's Colorado resident rate: Get 20 percent off your stay this spring with a valid Colorado driver's license. **Info:** westinriverfront.com

The Lion Vail

The special: At this new luxury property located 350 yards from Vail's Eagle Bahn Gondola, spring for the Spacious Spring Upgrade offer. Book a studio suite and get upgraded to a one-

bedroom residence. Rates start at \$220 per night.

Info: thelionvail.com

Hotel Jerome, Lime-light Hotel, The Little Nell

The special: Head to Aspen for great offers for locals: The Jerome opens mid-May with a special Local Love package, with rates starting at \$225. The Little Nell (closed April 15 to May 15) will offer a \$199 Colorado resident rate. The Limelight Hotel will offer residents of the state a local rate of \$155 per night.

Info: hoteljerome.aubergeresorts.com; thelittlenell.com; limelighthotels.com **DLM**