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# TRAVEL

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SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2013 SECTION H

**REMINDER:**  
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## TRAVEL NOTES

### From Glasgow with love

**RAIL** • James Bond films have always been as much about the exotic locations as the martini-mixing of their leading men.

And with the latest 007 outing Skyfall now out on DVD, the focus has shifted to the craggy mountains and baronial architecture of Scotland, where many scenes from the 23rd super-spy franchise featuring Daniel Craig were filmed.

To celebrate the Scottish connection, and to mark the release of the DVD, British rail operator East Coast Trains has rebranded its London-Edinburgh run the Skyfall service. Unveiled recently at London's King Cross station, train number 91007 has been painted in a Bond-themed livery and will whisk passengers to the Scottish capital for a limited time.

In the movie, Scottish landscapes feature prominently as Craig returns to his ancestral home in the Highlands to do battle with his enemy Silva, played by Javier Bardem.

Joining the promotion, the Balmoral Hotel in Edinburgh has updated Bond's never-stirred Vespers martini and added flavours from the many countries where filming has taken place over the 50-year cinematic history of 007.

Scenery aside, Scotland has always cast a long shadow over the Bond movies thanks to the roguish brogue of Sean Connery.

But it also features in the Bond novels, where the young James studied at Edinburgh's pre-eminent private school, Fettes College, and in scenes from The World is Not Enough and From Russia With Love.

For more information, visit [www.eastcoast.co.uk](http://www.eastcoast.co.uk) and [www.thebalmorahotel.com](http://www.thebalmorahotel.com).

### Awaken the artist within

**TECHNOLOGY** • Call it the Picasso of the pillow.

Accor Group, the world's largest hotel operator, is rolling out a "sleep art" app at its Ibis budget chain of inns.

Here's how it works: smartphone users fire up the free app and then use their iPhones as a mattress sensor to capture movements and sounds during slumber. The data is then transformed overnight into a virtual artwork.

The sleep art is stored in a gallery so that hotel guests can compare their somnambulant sketchings on a daily basis and even share the results through social media or e-mail.

"Happy sleep is the core promise of Accor's economy hotel brands," a spokesman said.



Photos: Red Mountain Resort

Red Mountain Resort is in the interior mountain ranges in Rossland, B.C., 560 kilometres west of Calgary.

## SPRING SKIING RED RISES

Secret's out on Rossland, B.C. ski resort — but there's enough snow for everyone

**PAULA ARAB**  
 FOR THE CALGARY HERALD

Apres ski is in a tiny shack, big enough for two small tables and filled to the rafters with old-world congeniality. We are sharing fondue and wine with the locals.

The attentive waitress is a lovely young woman with a French accent. The hut is dimly lit and heated from the fire of a wood-burning stove. There's no television blaring in the background. The only sound is the cadence of voices, engaged in, gasp, conversation. The snow

falls softly outside the window. You think we just spent the day skiing the white powder of the Swiss Alps, do you?

Guess again. This intimate scene, reminiscent of mountain villages in Switzerland or France, is replete with European charm but much closer to home. Red Mountain is in Rossland, B.C., and is nestled between the Selkirk and Monashee mountain ranges, in part of the B.C. interior marketed as the Kootenay Rockies. This mere seven-hour drive from Calgary, depending on the weather, is well worth the



Red Mountain Resort features more than 1,685 acres of skiable terrain, with several options at different sites on the mountain.



Red Mountain was voted Best Ski Resort by Powder Magazine.



Paula Arab and her group were treated to apres ski in one of a number of private ski shacks at Red Mountain resort.

effort. Or, as skiers might say about hiking to find new snow, the juice is worth the squeeze. "Unspoiled, uncrowded, unreal," says the town's 2013 vacation guide.

Rossland and nearby Nelson's Whitewater Resort have to be among Western Canada's best-kept ski secrets. That was until a recent flurry of international publicity at the start of this year's ski season.

In December, Facebook fans of Powder Magazine voted Rossland and Nelson, B.C., Best Ski Towns. In its November issue, Powder Magazine named Red its Best Ski Resort and Red's pub, Rafters, Best Ski Resort Bar.

Skiing magazine's November

### If You Go

■ **How to get there:** Rossland is 560 kilometres west of Calgary, off Highways 3 and 3B. Air Canada offers daily flights from Calgary to Castlegar airport, which is just 30 minutes down the highway. Kelowna's airport is three hours west of Rossland. Pacific Coastal Airlines offers daily flights between Vancouver and Trail, a 45-minute drive from Rossland.

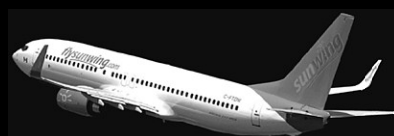
■ **Where to stay:** Aladar's Guest Cabin offers cross-country ski trails outside your door and is a short walk to the ski hill. Black Bear Inn is a late Victorian home built in 1900, and offers modern comforts with old-world charm. Rossland Log Cabin is surrounded by nine hectares (23 acres) of beautiful woods. Smith & Bean Guesthouse is a fully-equipped, four-bedroom, cedar-beamed chalet with a huge deck and an amazing view. The Prestige Mountain Resort is newly renovated in downtown Rossland, but the rooms are dark and small. Ski in and out at Slalom Creek, Red Mountain Resort Lodging.

issue named Red the most underrated ski resort.

But the biggest accolade came when the New York Times gave Red Mountain one of its coveted spots on its top places to visit in 2013 list.

SEE RED, PAGE H4

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