

Speak of the devil



getaways

Lake Tahoe Elevated

→ You've done Tahoe; in fact, you do it every year. So, this winter why not get out of the lift lines? These five new adventures will give you a fresh perspective on your favorite winter destination.



• Get back to skiing's roots—the untracked backcountry, that is—with **PACIFIC CREST HELI-GUIDES**, the first heli-ski and snowboard operation to hit the Sierra Nevada in 40 years. What does this mean? Access to 100,000 acres of virgin powder, unnamed runs, and fresh bowls for the pioneering rider. pacificcrestheli-guides.com.

Ever ridden a snowcat to dinner? Now you can, with **ALPINE MEADOWS' CHALET DINING EXPERIENCE**, which serves up four courses (think mushroom rib eye and pan-seared trout) in a midmountain lodge. Head to the roundhouse before dinner for a champagne toast under the stars. skialpine.com.

For a bird's-eye view of the

slopes, **ZIP TAHOE CANOPY TOURS** is your aircraft. Eight zip lines whisk you across the treetops—picking up speed and duration with each run—while suspension bridges allow you to stop and wave at Kirkwood skiers below. ziptahoe.com.

Learn to read the night sky with star guide—poet Tony Berendsen



on **NORTHSTAR'S STAR-GAZING SNOWSHOE TOUR**. Berendsen will map out constellations, lead telescopic viewings, and share verses inspired by the celestial bodies overhead. northstaratahoe.com.

Alpine Skills International has taken its expertise to the slopes of Sugar Bowl. The **BACKCOUNTRY ADVENTURE CENTER** provides everything you need for an off-piste excursion. alpinestills.com.

KID-FRIENDLY FUN

Now that you've had your adrenaline rush, it's time to take the kids on an adventure all their own—on or off the slopes.

Squaw Valley has a new **Kid's Terrain Park**, where future Shaun Whites can be seen busting mini jumps, boxes, and rollers. squaw.com. → At Northstar, the **All Fired Up** pottery

studio joins creative pursuits such as jewelry design, mosaic tiling, and teddy bear making in the village. northstaratahoe.com. → Give the kids their video game fix in the free **Arcade at the Ritz Carlton**, and splurge on a margarita upstairs, since you won't have to keep doling out quarters. ritzcarlton.com. → New to Sierra-at-Tahoe Resort, **Blizzard Mountain** offers tubing and sledding for tweens, and an open play area for tiny tots to explore this new frosty medium at their own pace. sierraatahoe.com.

RECHARGE

For some much-needed fuel between runs, check out these new pit stops that offer quality grub on the go.

▼ **AVEC WINE + FOOD** is a specialty food and wine shop, offering house-made scones, locally roasted coffee, rare teas, sandwiches, salads, artisan cheese, and myriad value wines. *The Rock Complex, Truckee, (530) 304-0714, avecwineandfood.com.*

▼ **COFFEEBAR**, an Italian-inspired, eco-chic café, whips up fresh crepes, panini, juices, strudels, gelato, and fun drinks, like the chocolate mate latte and the café marocchino—layered with nutella, gelato, and two shots of espresso. *Truckee, (530) 587-2000, coffeebartruckee.com.*

▼ **THE MARKETPLACE** sells grab-and-go grocery items, Equator coffee, spirits, microbrews, wine, and locally baked bread. *Northstar-at-Tahoe Resort, (800) 466-6784, northstaratahoe.com.*

▼ **SUGAR PINE BAKERY** is a tiny joint with vintage accents, serving fresh pastries, muffins, croissants, cinnamon rolls, rustic sandwiches, and hearty cookies baked behind the counter. *South Shore, Hwy. 50, (530) 542-7000.*

—SERENA RENNER

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: JI VALENZUELA; COURTESY OF ZIP TAHOE CANOPY TOURS; TIM DOBBINS