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WHIMSICAL WILDERNESS

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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Enjoy our perfectly curated, locally sourced "wish list" to get you in the holiday spirit. Pg. 53



DECEMBER 2020

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statistics

WINTER IN COLORADO

56.5

Inches of average snowfall in Denver.

32

Total Colorado ski resorts.

12

million average ski resort visitors per year.

12,998

feet of the highest chairlift.

63

Most consecutive days of snow on the ground.

46,000

Jobs the ski industry supports year-round.

8.5

Acres of largest outdoor ice-skating rink, Evergreen Lake.

-29°F

Lowest recorded temperature in Denver.

1982

Year of most recorded snow in Denver.

4.8

billion annual economic impact generated by ski industry.

4,406

feet of largest vertical ski drop without hiking.

Sources: Weather.gov; Colorado.com; Coloradoencyclopedia.org; Skifederation.org; Uncovercolorado.com



three questions with

DR. SAVITA GINDE, the Chief Healthcare Officer with STRIDE Community Health Center which operates 16 health clinic locations across Denver. Dr. Ginde has been leading pertinent initiatives through the pandemic, providing drive-thru COVID-19 testing and outpatient care for positive cases. She shares her advice on how to host a safe, socially distanced holiday dinner.

- 1. What are your tips for throwing a successful dinner party this year?**
 “If you want to entertain a large group of people, consider breaking them up and having small groups of people come over to spend time in shifts. This option would give you time to sanitize between visits. A second option could be to keep families together at tables and give them smaller bowls and plates of food from which they can serve themselves. If you can manage any portion of your evening with time outside, that’s even better.”
- 2. What about serving food?**
 “The reason most buffets have been closed due to the pandemic is because of the shared tongs or serving spoons. A designated person can wash up, put on a mask, and then plate everyone’s food per their order. Maybe a youngster can take orders on what and how much each guest wants. Also, while we all love to be surrounded by our friends and families during the holidays, it will be important to space out your guests at the dinner table. I suggest multiple dinner tables rather than having everyone sit at one big table.”
- 3. Anything specific for the little ones?**
 “The holidays are going to be different this year but take the opportunity to have some fun. Engage the kids with their tech prowess to help create menus that can be texted to guests so they can respond with their order. They can also use their art skills to create signs reminding guests to sanitize and hand wash. Also, plan a movie that the kids can watch in a socially distanced fashion that will keep them occupied during any adult social time. Have a sharpie available to clearly mark whose drink is whose so there isn’t any chance of someone drinking from someone else’s glass.” —*Kerrie Lee Brown*

stridechc.org



5 best

PLACES TO GO TUBING

The snow has fallen, meaning it’s time to break out the snow gear, grab a tube, and have fun. Try out these five popular tubing hills in Colorado.

- 1. COCA-COLA TUBE PARK, WINTER PARK** With three lanes of tubing to fit your comfort level, each lane is formed with fun banks and smooth curves to get the best thrills. And on your way back up, enjoy the covered conveyor belt ride. winterparkresort.com
- 2. COLORADO ADVENTURE PARK** The locally owned Colorado Adventure Park is widely known for being the fastest and largest tubing hill while remaining the safest for families. coloradoadventurepark.com
- 3. FRISCO ADVENTURE PARK** This hill offers both mellow and adrenaline-rush tubing with multiple lanes of fixed steepness. Go down alone or linked as a group, then rest your legs on the surface lift that takes you back up for round two. townoffrisco.com
- 4. THE MEADOWS AT ELK CAMP, SNOWMASS VILLAGE** Starting December 20, tubing in Snowmass will be fun for all both day and night with multiple lanes carved into the snow. Hop on the lift for another run and endless smiles. aspensnowmass.com
- 5. ADVENTURE POINT, KEYSTONE** Just like Keystone skiing, tubing lasts from day-to-night with several lanes of absolute fun for everyone. For even more excitement, there’s a “magic carpet” to take you and your tube back to the top. keystoneressort.com

EDIT: FIVE BEST, CALLIE MILLER; STATISTICS, MEGAN HOLT
 PHOTOGRAPHY: DR. SAVITA GINDE; TUBING, ISTOCK.COM

FIVE RULES FOR... ENTERTAINING

5 Entertaining

With experience as an event planner and charcuterie extraordinaire, Melanie Flint of Cheese Meat Board, LLC offers expert tips on entertaining for the holidays.

1 UPGRADE YOUR OFFERINGS

Gone are the days of stuffy formal dinner parties; people are looking for more relaxed and informal dining styles where we can gather around a communal table and mix and mingle throughout the night. A grazing table is an elegant upgrade to a buffet and the secret is in the presentation—a beautiful charcuterie, cheese, and crudité spread creates a feeling of decadence and luxury.

2 BUILD THE PERFECT BOARD

When building a perfect charcuterie board, opt for 3-4 types of cheeses and a mix of textures and flavors. Think: Brie (soft and creamy), Manchego (firm and nutty), Aged Gouda (semi-firm and buttery), and Blue cheese (crumbly and pungent). Add some cured meat like Prosciutto and Sopressata, something savory such as olives or roasted nuts, and a variety of crackers and breads. Pro tip: skip the dip if you're worried about carpet stains.

3 AESTHETIC IS EVERYTHING

Don't stress about everything matching! Strategically placed food looks beautiful served on mismatched vintage platters. Utilize a stack of books or an upside-down wooden crate as risers to add varying heights to the aesthetic. Save time and hassle by laying out your platters and serving utensils the night before.

4 BE BAR-SMART

For the bar, plan for one-to-two drinks per person per hour, but don't feel the need to be fully stocked. Limit the selection to beer and wine and make a batched specialty cocktail like a Cranberry and Spiced Rum Punch.

5 DRINK FOR EVERYONE

Be sure to have non-alcoholic options that are more than just for "the kids." A Sober Curious trend is on the rise and people are looking for the cocktail experience without the alcohol. A seasonal favorite could be a warm spiced cider or a sparkling blood orange "mocktail." cheesemeatboard.com

EDIT BY ERICA BUEHLER

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