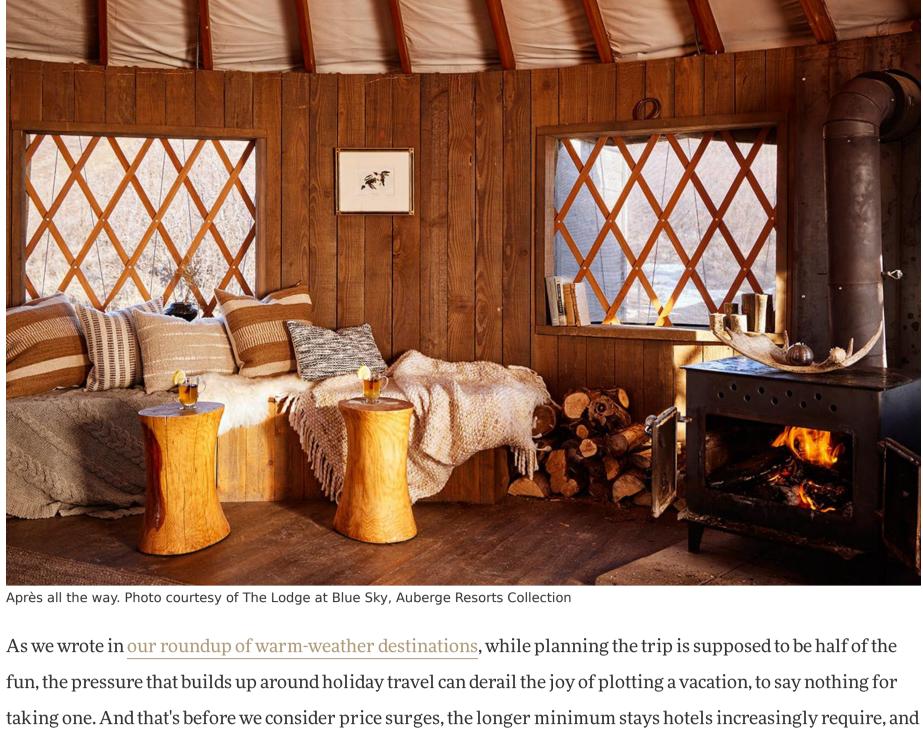
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The Roundup

Some Like It Cold: 10 Cozy Winter Vacations for U.S. Travelers by Team Fathom



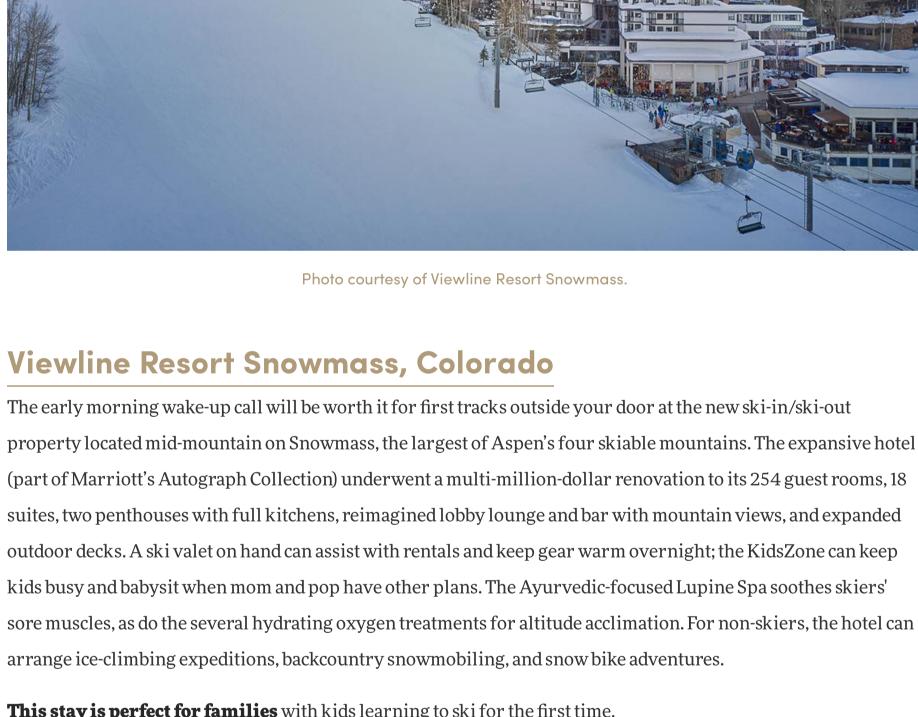
some hotels and destinations already sold out and others still showing availability. Our best travel advice might be obvious to regular Fathom readers: If you can avoid traveling between Christmas and New Year's and other big winter holidays like President's Weekend, you'll be rewarded with lower prices and more options. If your vacation thrills run towards the chills, the forecast is in: Snow has dusted the Rockies, the Northern Lights are aglow, and skiers are already taking their first tracks of the season. If you're ready to embrace the best of the Northern Hemisphere's polar options, we've rounded up ten excellent spots for dreamy winter wonderland escapes in the United States and Europe.

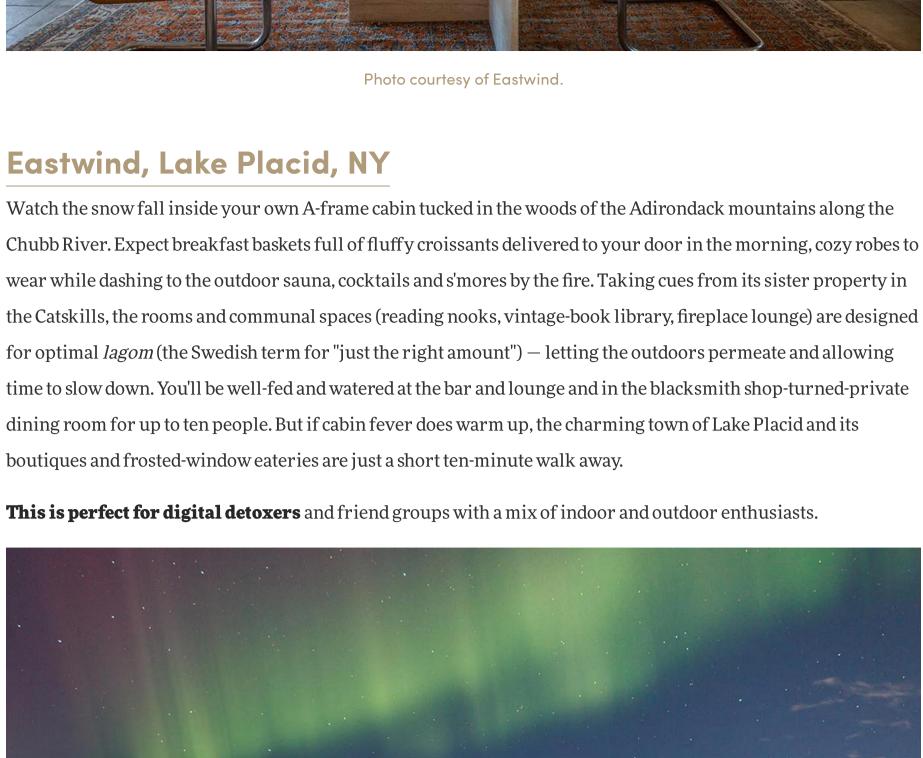
Utah Utah's premiere basecamp for nature adventures is debuting a new backcountry skiing experience this winter, in partnership with the guide company Inspired Summit Adventures, that will take guests deep into the Uinta Mountains via snowmobile for pristine powder and zero crowds. After hours in the powder, the hotel will set up a private après at one of the resort's two mountainside yurts with fondue, champagne, and a cozy fire for optimal

and treatments like the High West Whiskey rubdown — a massage and salt and sage foot soak paired with a shot from High West, the whiskey distillery next door. This is perfect for adventurous couples or groups of skiiers who want to take their skills up a notch. Bonus

points for Blue Sky's many social purpose initiatives, such as rescuing traumatized horses and providing

health care for the uninsured population of Summit and Wasatch counties.





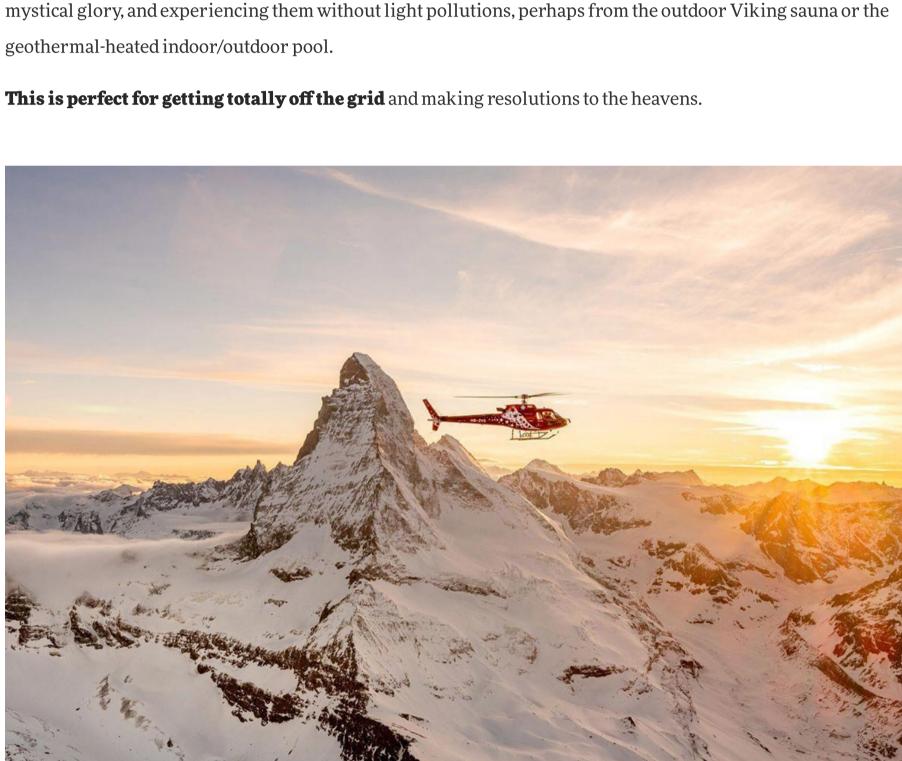
way up north, a remote destination much less frequented than Reyjvjvik, which, at 235 miles to the south, seems almost tropical in comparison. This is where you'll find Eleven Experience's Deplar Farm, a 13-bedroom lodge available as a buyout or by the room. Activities around here include skiing, sea kayaking, and whale-watching in fjords, as well as exploring Iceland's otherworldly geography. But the better reason to come here between

November and March is the an astral adrenaline rush of seeing the Northern Lights in all their multi-hued,

Deplar Farm, Iceland

Photo courtesy of Deplar Farm/Eleven Experience.

There are northern destinations, and then there's Iceland. And then there's Ólafsfjörður on the Troll Peninsula



Le Coucou, Méribel, France The Alps are home to a slew of glam ski towns with perfect French accents, one for every personality. We'll pass on in-your-face bling and opt instead for the chic, contemporary style of Le Coucou in Méribel. The family-run hotel, part of the Maison Pariente group, ticks all the right boxes, starting with striking chalet style by designer Pierre Yovanovitch, whose cozy rooms and suites mix natural materials — light woods, grey stones, textiles in warm ochres, blues, and reds — to great effect. Two chalets with fully equipped kitchens and a private hammam, indoor pool, and sauna can accommodate up to twelve. The in-house restaurants include an outpost of the cult-ish French steakhouse Beefbar, Biancaneve for Italian fare, and Le Fumoir for local Savoyard specialities. Bar des Pistes overlooking the slopes is a great spot for drinks and games après ski or anytime. A Tata Harper spa and the indoor/outdoor pool will revive muscles aching from a day of skiing, snowboarding, and snowshoeing. Ah, yes,

the skiing: Le Coucou offers brilliant on-piste ski-in, ski-out access to an extensive network of slopes for all levels

Also worth noting is the staff, who treat guests with the kind of warmth and care that you only get at a family-run

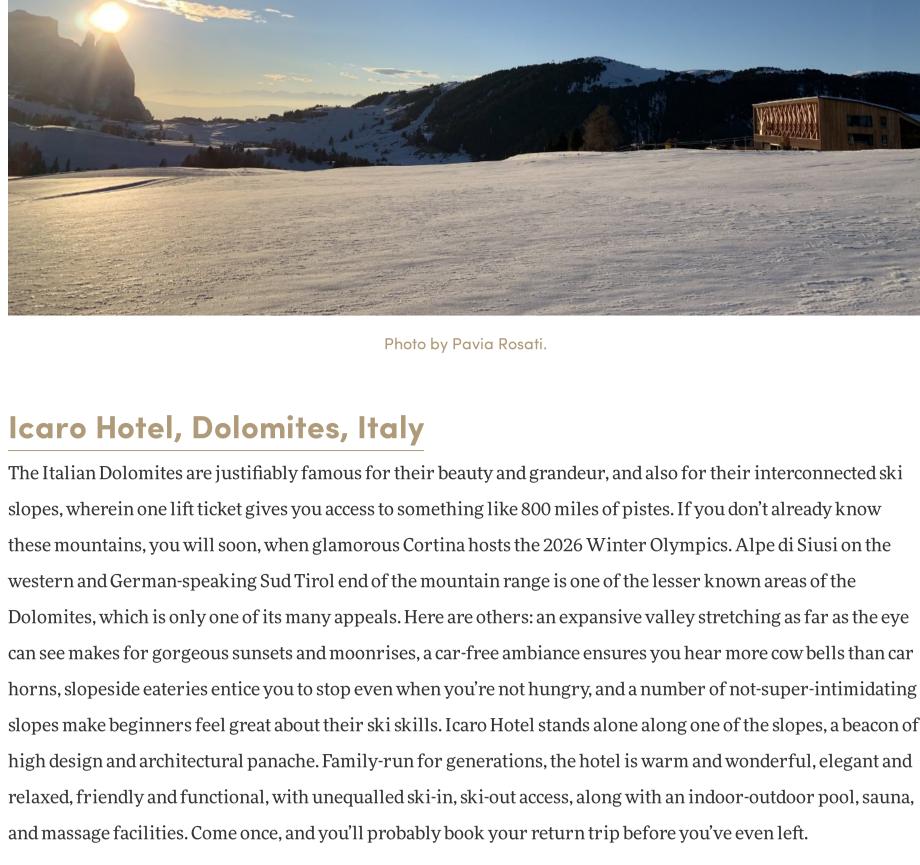
This is perfect for design-conscious snow bunnies and those who want an effortless, all-under-one-roof ski

experience. **Bonus points for the Kids Club and Teens Lab**, possibly the coolest we've ever seen, which has Petit

and has its own well equipped on-site shop that can outfit you from helmet to skis, with everything in between.

VIP certification, ensuring staff have mastered the art of responsibly caring for the junior set.

hotel.



This is perfect for those who want to ski Italy without the crazy scene that can go with skiing throughout

Europe. Bonus eco points: Icaro has been carbon neutral since 2010, the first hotel in the Dolomites to do it.

access to Palazzo Fiuggi's extensive and state-of-the-art spa facilities, which includes an infrared sauna, steam room, frigid plunge pool, indoor and outdoor pools and jacuzzis, and a fitness center in the former ballroom. This is perfect for a health and wellness reboot especially if you like your reboots to have a dash of dolce vita style.

Photo courtesy of Gleneagles. Gleneagles, Scotland If you've ever wanted to indulge in a great British country weekend, the one where you move into a castle-like mansion they charmingly call a "house" and spend days roaming hundreds of acres of woodlands and gardens in the snowy hills of Scotland, this is your place. You'll spend days sharpening (or debuting) your skills at falconry, clay shooting, fishing, horseback riding, ziplining, and off-road cruising — or maybe you'll just take a nice, long walk and stare out into the green, green horizon. Go ahead and pretend you're a long-lost member of the royal family (one of the good cousins): Everyone else is probably doing the same. Edinburgh and St. Andrews are close

enough to combine into a lovely Scottish vacation, and if you come for the holidays, you'll learn what Hogmanay is,

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perhaps over a Hansel & Gretel-themed afternoon tea. Leave the kids in their disco and settle in for a long night.

The kitchen will revive you with a late-night snack served until 3 a.m. Oh, and do pack the tartan.

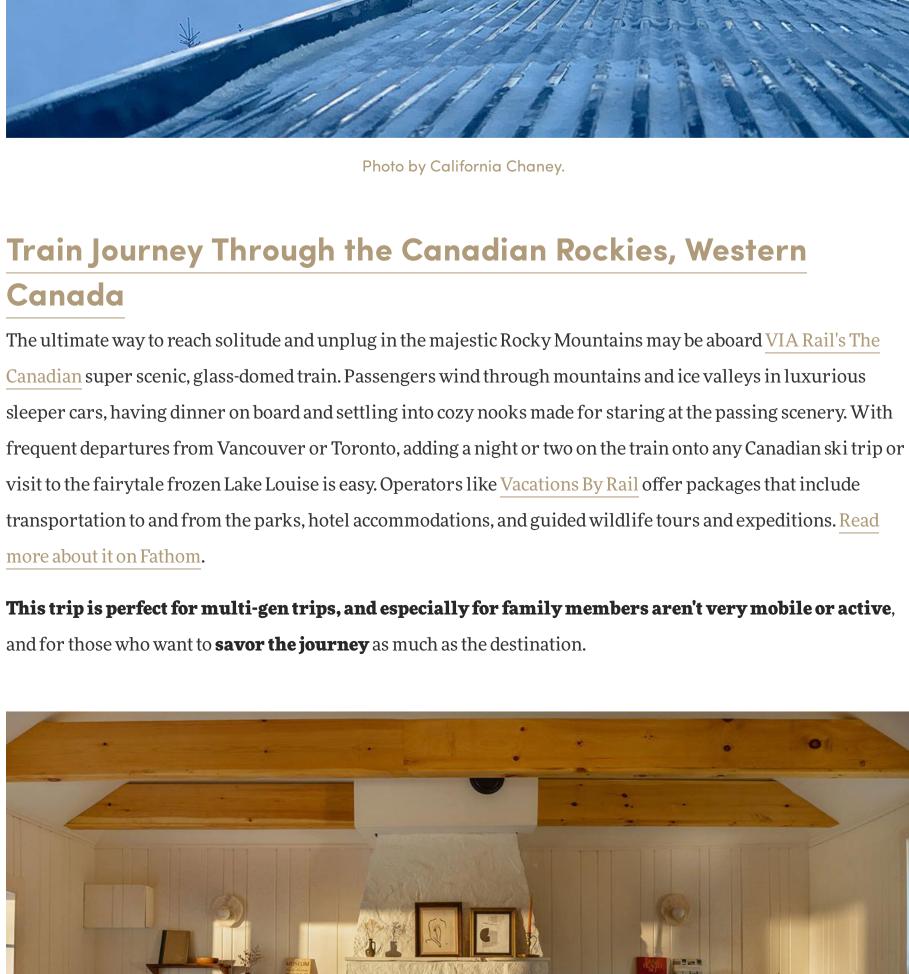
Want More Vacation Ideas? Warm-Weather Destinations for This Winter The World's Best New Hotels (All of 'Em)

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We make every effort to ensure the information in our articles is accurate at the time of publication. But the world moves fast, and even we

the subpar experiences all too common on airlines. We've seen conflicting trends for this holiday season, with The Lodge at Blue Sky, Auberge Resorts Collection, Park City, defrosting. Those who prefer their pampering off the slopes will revel in the hotel spa's guided meditations, yoga,

This stay is perfect for families with kids learning to ski for the first time.



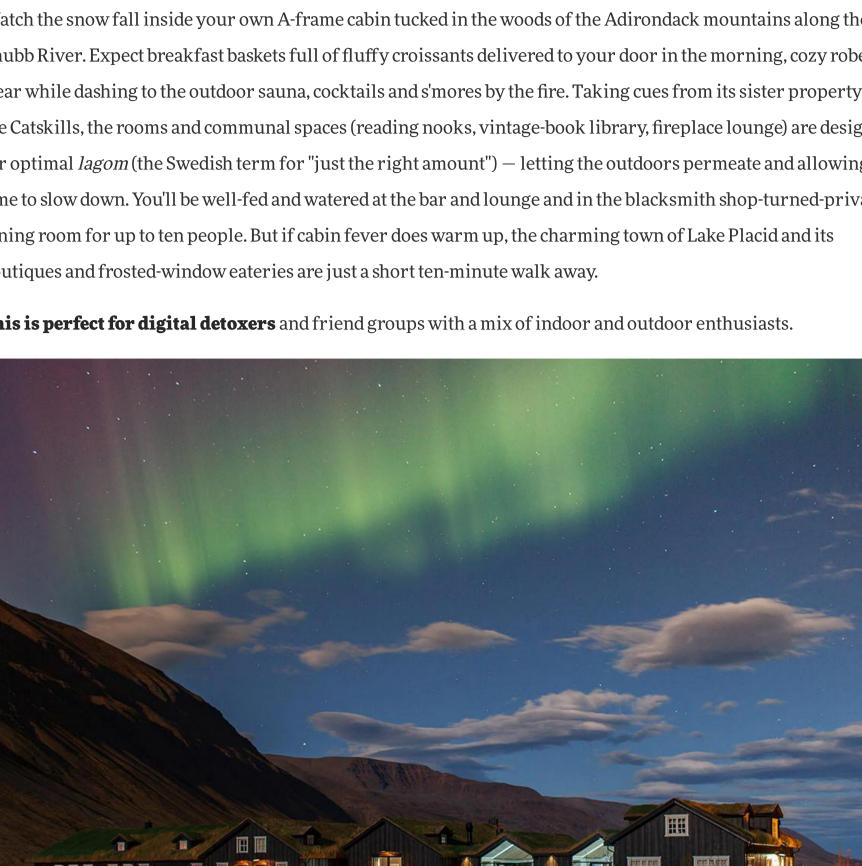


Photo courtesy of Schweizerhof Zermatt. Schweizerhof Zermatt, Switzerland Pair views of the Matterhorn with bubbling fondue and mulled wine, and you've got the perfect Swiss fairytale. Add on the best skiing in Europe (you can even ski across the border into Italy), a buzzy dining scene with several Michelin-starred restaurants, and a frosted, car-free village of wooden chalets, and you've gone to heaven. For 140 years, Schweizerhof Zermatt, a 95-room alpine chic retreat, has been making this dream a reality, combining the town's classic charm with modern interiors dressed in fleece, leather, and marble. Fireplaces roar with the clink of cocktails in the hotel's grand dining space, as skis are tuned overnight by the ski concierge and in-house ski instructor who preps the lesson plan for the following day. For non-skiers, the hotel can arrange a trip aboard the Gornergrat train, one of the world's highest, open-air trains with panoramic views of the Monte Rosa Massif, the second largest glacier in the Alps, and the surrounding peaks over 13,000 feet. This place is perfect for first-timers to the Swiss Alps and adventurous families.

Photo by Pavia Rosati.

There's more to winter fun than skiing. When you're itching to swap your skis for a pair of hiking boots and

snowshoes, head an hour southeast of Rome to Fiuggi, home of the healing water that throughout the centuries

has revived everyone from randy popes and a beleaguered Michelangelo. The Ranch, of Malibu hiking retreat

fame, launched a version of their results-driven wellness program earlier this year within Palazzo Fiuggi, the

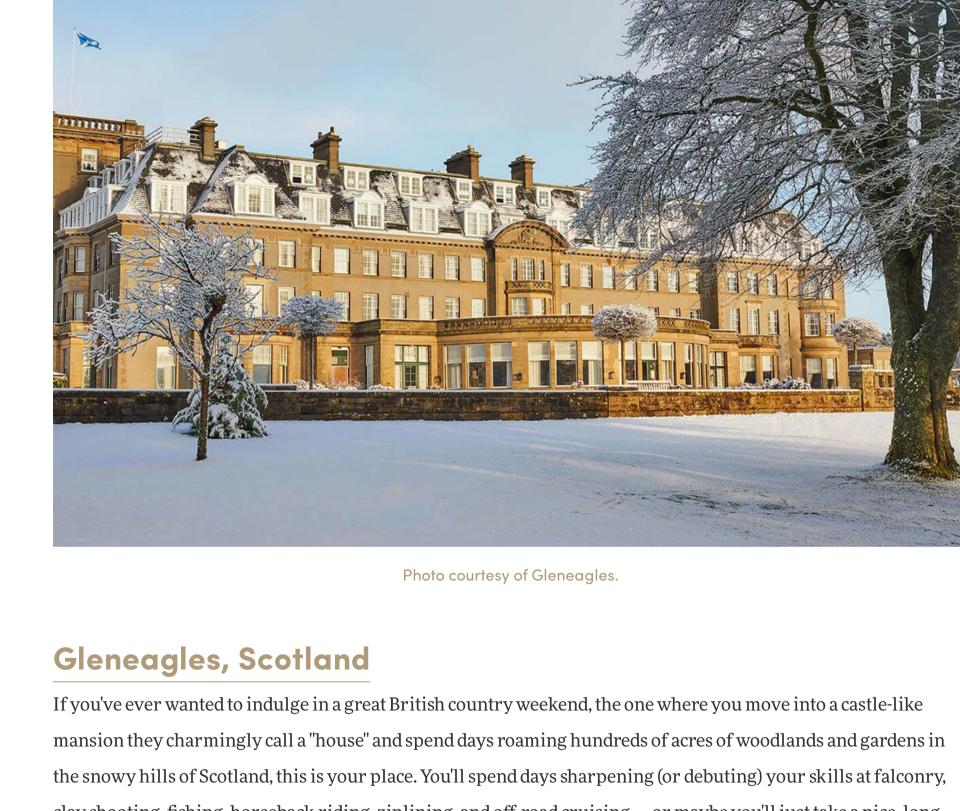
intense, with 5:30 wake-up calls, four hours of hiking before noon, afternoon workout and yoga classes, daily

massages, and an all-vegan, no caffeine, no sugar, no alcohol diet. (They're not kidding about the results.) The

exhilarating hikes take guests through hills and forests, past medieval towns and wandering cows. Guest have

recently converted medical/wellness spa hotel. The four- and eight-day programs are offered year-round and are

The Ranch Italy, Fiuggi, Italy



This is the place for Downton Abbey addicts who still can't believe there aren't new episodes and outdoorminded Anglophiles.

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