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TRAVEL

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Winter 2007/

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(Backcountry for Everyone)

JACKSON HOLE, WY

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE an expert mountaineer to ski the backcountry anymore. Since Jackson Hole initiated an open backcountry policy in 1999, skiers at nearly all skill levels can test their mettle on ungroomed, unmarked terrain beyond the ropes—with a 2,800-foot boost from the gondola ski lift. The difficulty ranges from highly demanding wilderness skiing in neighboring Grand Teton National Park to jog trot, pseudo-backcountry within the resort's boundaries. The terrain and untouched powder around 10,450-foot Rendezvous peak is reminiscent of legendary backcountry resorts like La Grave, France, and Verbier, Switzerland. Most runs, like the couloirs in Granite Canyon or treed bowls in Rock Springs, require less than a 30-minute hike. With a private guide, first-timers can quickly learn how to fend for themselves.

Yet for all its renegade attitude, Jackson was long ago discovered by the Aspen set, so you might find yourself seated across from Harrison Ford or Dick Cheney at the upscale **Rendezvous Bistro**, a local institution since 2001. The chipotle-grilled quail and meat loaf are crowd favorites, as is the irresistible mac and cheese.

MAKING IT HAPPEN ★=Smart Splurge ✓=Great Value

WHERE TO EAT

Rendezvous Bistro 380 S. Broadway,
Jackson Hole, WY; 307/739-1100;
entrées from \$15; rendezvousbistro.net

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