



DEER VALLEY:

A HOT DESTINATION ANY TIME OF YEAR

From fine food to friendly faces, this Utah resort has a unique way of rolling out the welcome mat.

By Cathie Arquilla

>travel near: **deer valley**

HOSPITALITY AT ANY AGE:

From breakfast to après-ski and every step between, Deer Valley is all about authenticity. The 36-year-old resort seems to hire people anywhere from 19 to 90 years young, and they genuinely care about you and your good time. Griddle jockeys with decades of experience hand over French toast with banana butter orders to guests eager to get on the slopes. The staff at Snow Park Lodge Rental Shop cheerfully slices guests through the rental process like butter – we’re talking boot fittings to ski adjustment in less than 20 minutes. In-charge lift line operators bid good morning, good day and good run, keeping the crowds moving, in check and upbeat. This same commitment to customer service spills over to the summer season as well. Rent mountain bikes and hit the trails with or without an instructor. And if hiking, fishing or horseback riding is your thing, a Deer Valley host is your welcome guide to mother nature, your way.

Spend some time here and you’ll understand why Deer Valley has a 65-75 percent retention rate for seasonal employees and 90

percent retention rate for those working year-round. Heck, I was here for just three days and I didn’t want to leave either! The staff is just one reason for my newly found Deer Valley addiction.

IF YOU’VE HEARD THAT DEER VALLEY IS A “SKI ONLY RESORT,” I COUNTER THAT IT COULD BE CALLED A “FINE FOOD ONLY RESORT.”

During the winter months, the parade of magical meals includes the turkey chili at Silver Lake Restaurant, Fireside Dining at Empire Canyon Lodge and the Seafood Buffet at Snow Park Lodge. In summer order a Gourmet Picnic Basket from Deer Valley Grocery-Cafe and head for the Snow Park Outdoor Amphitheater. Enjoy headlining musicians and local bands under the stars while you nosh al fresco.

Put Deer Valley Fireside dining on your wintertime bucket list. It’s a phenomenally romantic dining experience attributed to the Alpine shepherders of the Middle Ages. It begins with a first course of Swiss raclette cheese, accompanied by a buffet of



Royal Street Cafe_Deer Valley Resort



Snow Park Seating at Deer Valley Outdoor Concerts



Fireside Dining the Stew Station



Fireside Dining



Leg -OH - lamb, Fireside Dining

fixings. Each guest collects this gooey smelly cheese from the first of several huge stone fireplaces where it is melting off half-rounds in front of the flames. The dining experience continues this way, with stews of veal and wild mushroom at the next fireplace, and so on. Roasted lamb legs are literally hanging and spinning at the third fireplace. Dessert fondues of chocolate, caramel and white chocolate Grand Marnier bubble-like molten lava for a grand finale at the last fireplace. It’s a one-of-a-kind dining experience worthy of a fireside selfie, but don’t, you might break the spell.

Travelgirl tip: Deer Valley Resort acquired Solitude Mountain Resort in May of 2015 and is bringing the same quality and consistency to that property. Solitude is located in Big Cottonwood Canyon, Utah and offers winter and summer sports and recreation.

SETTING A SKI CHECK EXAMPLE IN THE WINTER AND RAISING THE BAR ON MOUNTAIN BIKE RENTALS AND TRAILS IN THE SUMMER

Deer Valley has a place to check your skis right at the base of the mountain, about 20 paces from where you put them on – and it’s complimentary! This is such a no-brainer, I can’t image why more resorts don’t do it. Any skier knows that the schlepping involved in the sport can curb your fun. Here, you carry your skis (or a valet will do it!) from the car to the mountain, or the rental area to the mountain, just once for the duration of your ski trip. Halleujah.



Atop Beloved Stein's Way Run

>travel near: deer valley



Kids Bike Lesson Deer Valley Resort



Guiding Hiking at Deer Valley


When it comes to mountain biking in the summer, Deer Valley yet again makes it really easy! From bike rentals at the base, to lift-served single track trails, to wider, easier, “flow” trails, they’ve made the sport less hassle and more fun.

COMPLIMENTARY GUIDED TOURS OF THE MOUNTAIN

Not only is the staff exceptionally nice at Deer Valley, but you’ll also discover that the other skiers are too. Many are return guests who gladly share pictures and comments on where to #SkiTheDifference. But you don’t have to rely only your map or social platforms for Deer Valley advice. The resort has a team of official Mountain Hosts who give tours daily, covering terrain, history and fun facts along the way. It is an excellent way to get a feel for the mountain and all that Deer Valley has to offer.

Deer Valley feels “out west” in winter and summer, but if you really want to get your cowgirl - or boy - fix, saddle up! One hour to full day trail rides with spectacular Deer Valley views can be organized through Boulder Mountain Ranch. Again, trail rides include guides that behave more like hosts, concerned about your good time. For a cowboy summer food experience, check out a chuck wagon hayride or western style bar-b-que dinner.

DEER VALLEY HAS AN EXTRAORDINARY SUMMERTIME BUCKET LIST TOO

Besides mountain biking and horseback riding, Deer Valley has stand up paddle boarding and of course plain old hiking. These experiences may or may not include instruction, guides, or creative food pairings to round out the adventure. Deer Valley is home to the Utah Symphony’s Music Festival and they have a line up for 2017 that will give you listening goose bumps; consider strings and horns to Patti Austin singing Ella Fitzgerald, The Music of Prince, Ben Folds and The Beach Boys. Purchase tickets online at www.deervalleymusicfestival.org 



A Utah Symphony Vantage Point at Deer Valley

INSIDER TIPS

We asked Deer Valley Senior Communications Manager Emily Summers and Senior Marketing Brand Manager Susie English to give us the inside scoop on what should be on a must-see list for a Deer Valley visit.



FAVORITE DEER VALLEY RUN

Susie – Triangle Trees
Emily – Steins Way (Note: Emily wanted to say Triangle Trees too, but she explained, Susie has the trees and I have the groomer, but they both have the same view.)

CHILI OR CLAM CHOWDER

Susie – Chili
Emily – Clam Chowder

BEST ADVICE FOR BOOT COMFORT

Emily – Get them fitted by someone who does boot fittings at a ski store in a mountain town, and go back and tweak them several times.

Deer Valley’s most fun event

Emily – Dual Moguls, during The World Cup – very intense, gets the biggest crowds; head to head competition and it’s on the 2002 Olympic mogul run.
Susie continues – There is drinking, music, fireworks and it’s free!

FAVORITE BAR OFF SITE

No Name Saloon (Both concur)

BEST BREAKFAST OPTION:

Emily: We like French toast at the Snow Park Restaurant at the base. It’s house-made challah bread with banana butter and fruit compote.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FANTASY SKI OUTFIT? MONEY IS NO OBJECT.

Susie: I like really simple: The North Face and Patagonia, pieces, with technical details.
Emily: We both like Eider, a nice, fancy top-of-the-line collection. (Eider is a French Alpine specialized sportswear company started in the 60s. An eider is a “protected” migrating duck from the North coast of Europe whose feathers were once used in duvets and clothes.)

ULTIMATE APRÈS SKI ACTIVITY

Susie: We like the St. Regis bar! You can ski right to it and then you can take the funicular down to the parking lot. They give you rosemary truffle popcorn at the bar and it’s addictive!
Emily: I like a hot toddy and my favorite is the High West Rendezvous Rye, with the popcorn of course.

MOST FUN IN THE SUMMER

Susie: Outdoor concerts. We have up to four different concerts per week and they are free on Wednesdays. Concessions are open, but you can also bring your own wine and food. The stage is at the Snow Park base, and the seating is on the beginner slope above. It’s very social and festive.
Emily: Mountain biking. We’ve been working with Gravity Logic, who is considered the best in mountain bike trail building. In 2015 we opened a blue (four feet wide-intermediate) flow trail that was incredibly well received. We added a green (beginner) flow trail in 2016 and this summer we’re psyched about our two-mile Tsunami expert-level black flow trail! At 900 vertical feet, with step downs, tabletops, and jumps it really is a Tsunami!

YOUR FAVE DEER VALLEY FOOD EXPERIENCE

Susie: I love the Seafood Buffet at Snow Park and Fireside Dining, but the turkey chili (sometimes on nachos) during the day is awesome too!
Emily: Fireside Dining

FAVORITE ACTIVITIES FOR NON SKIERS

Susie: Spa! The Montage (Spa Montage Deer Valley) is the most stunning in terms of the views, the artwork, the facilities, the pool. But folks love The Spa at Stein’s as well (Stein Eriksen Lodge).
Emily: Main Street! We are one mile from Main Street, where there are galleries, restaurants, bars and a really cool museum about how Park City, originally a mining town, was founded (sounds boring, but it’s REALLY cool!).

OTHER UNIQUE HAPPENINGS WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT?

Emily: Snowshoes to S’mores! All Seasons Adventures has a desk in the main lodge and they can let you know about this, and more things to do whatever the season—dog sledding, cross-country skiing, fly fishing, paddle boarding and snowmobiling. www.allseasonsadventures.com