

HIGH ROLLING ON A BUDGET IN THE ROARING FORK VALLEY

By Savannah Nelson

For many, the concept of Aspen and the Roaring Fork Valley might conjure images of jet-setters, five-star ski lodges and champagne après-ski scenes. But there's another side to the RFV: a seasonally savvy, locally loved and surprisingly affordable one.

Between shoulder-season specials, Colorado resident discounts and year-round value stays, luxury can be surprisingly attainable in the Roaring Fork Valley. Whether you're craving a fall foliage retreat, a spa escape or a cozy winter staycation, here's how to "high roll" without breaking the bank.

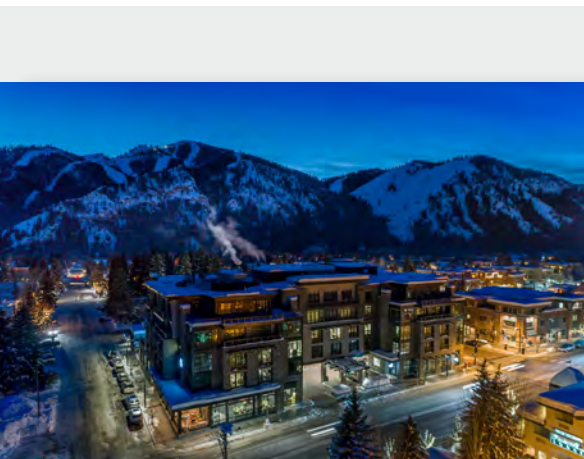


Photo Credit: Limelight Hotels



Photo Credit: The Gant Aspen

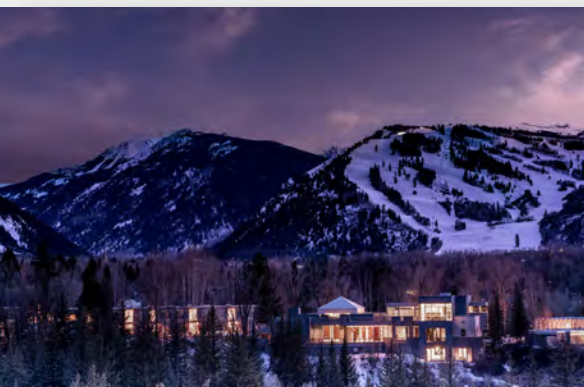


Photo Credit: Aspen Meadows

Limelight Hotels (Aspen & Snowmass)

At the Limelight Aspen and Limelight Snowmass, Colorado residents can save up to 30% off on select room types, with complimentary parking included—a perk that's especially appreciated downtown. Rates start around \$250–\$350 per night, depending on the property and season.

For late-summer or early-fall travelers, the Golden Hour package offers even more savings: 30% off stays of three nights or longer, a welcome gift, daily breakfast and a \$100 food and beverage credit—perfect for lingering over a mountain-view brunch or an après-ski cocktail.

Don't skip The Lounge Happy Hour—in Aspen, that means \$15 house cocktails and \$6 Limelight Lagers from 3–6 p.m., while in Snowmass, locals sip \$10 margaritas and \$6 craft beers between 4–6 p.m. It's a rare chance to enjoy a five-star atmosphere with a local's tab.

The Gant Aspen

A favorite among returning visitors, The Gant proves that Aspen's luxury doesn't always have to come at a luxury price. With its Guaranteed Get-away offer (30% lodging discount) and Season Pass Holders Special (25% off specific dates for ski pass holders, including Aspen Snowmass, Mountain Collective or IKON), guests can access prime lodging for less.

Another perk is the Gant Crafted Experiences—locally led workshops, tastings and guided adventures designed to connect guests to Aspen's creative spirit. This year's highlight, Rolling Canvas: Art in Motion, transforms the resort's fleet of vans into moving works of art by four local artists.

Aspen Meadows Resort

A modernist haven tucked into Aspen's quiet West End, Aspen Meadows Resort brings high design and holistic wellness into an accessible package. Colorado residents receive 20–25% off select dates; with the discount, rates during the off-season are from \$319/night.

The on-site restaurant, West End Social, turns après hour into an art form. During shoulder season, the Après Menu shines with deals like \$14 wines by the glass, \$12 martinis on Mondays and "Bottle and Boards" Wednesdays—pairing wine with charcuterie at a steal.

Wellness seekers will appreciate new barrel saunas and recovery programming, which can best be taken advantage of in the offseason, plus free in-room Three Sages programming (yoga and breathwork). Complimentary Hyperice recovery kits and Hydrow workout equipment allow guests to curate a personal spa experience from their suite.

There are also pickleball, padel and tennis courts, which are much easier to use during slower times. And the resort always has a fleet of bikes for guest usage, perfect for zipping into town or along the Rio Grande Trail.

Aspen Square Condominium Hotel

Sometimes value means simplicity. At Aspen Square Condominium Hotel, the hotel skips the seasonal promo codes in favor of consistently reasonable pricing, especially midweek in the off-season. With full kitchens, fireplaces and a prime location in the heart of town, it's one of Aspen's quietest value wins.

W Aspen

For those who crave a high-energy stay, W Aspen delivers with modern flair and mountain views—often at prices far below peak-season norms. Off-season rates start around \$399 per night, with an additional 20% discount for stays of four or more nights. For the best available staycation rates (keep an eye out!), guests are encouraged to check out the latest offers online.

Locals are rewarded, too: from October through late November, Roaring Fork Valley locals (Aspen through Parachute) enjoy 20% off all food and beverages with a local ID.

When ski season begins, W Aspen's "Ski and Stay" package bundles lift tickets and lodging for one-stop winter luxury.

Mollie Aspen

MOLLIE brings boutique style and minimalist beauty to Aspen's lodging scene, offering a more design-forward but approachable experience. Fall nightly rates start at \$224 in September, with two popular promos: Colorado Residents Rate (promo code COLO at time of booking) and Weekday Wanderlust (promo code MOLLIE), both offering up to 30% off on Sunday-Wednesday stays.

While the hotel's restaurant transitions this winter to become Petit Trois' newest outpost, guests can enjoy the serene Scandinavian-inspired interiors and thoughtful amenities that make MOLLIE a chic yet practical stay.

St. Regis Aspen

In Aspen, a standout luxury parent of the valley is The St. Regis Aspen Resort, located at the base of Aspen Mountain. This resort delivers mountain elegance with signature St. Regis rituals—from the daily champagne sabering to the Afternoon Tea in its refined lounge spaces.

While peak-season nightly rates can be steep, savvy visitors can find better value in the shoulder seasons—for example, booking a mid-week stay in October or May, when deals tend to surface.

For a more budget-conscious stay, travelers can still enjoy standout amenities such as the Remède Spa (complete with steam caves, hot tubs and alpine treatments) and the heated outdoor pool with a fire-pit terrace.

Viceroy Snowmass

At Viceroy Snowmass, Thanksgiving rates hover around \$380 per night, dropping further for locals with a 20% discount, remaining one of the valley's most beloved for its balance of sophistication and slopeside convenience.

Timberline Condominiums

For travelers seeking slopeside comfort with a homey twist, Timberline Condominiums offers ski-in/ski-out access and early season pricing starting at \$256 per night between November 27 - December 12, making it an excellent option for an early season staycation to take advantage of early season lift ticket rates.

At the on-site Edge Restaurant, the daily *Après Ski* runs from 4-5 p.m., featuring discounted drinks and a rotating special cocktail.



Photo Credit: W Hotel Aspen



Photo Credit: Nicole Franzen



Photo Credit: The Gant Aspen



Photo Credit: Limelight Hotels



Photo Credit: Jason Dewey



Photo Credit: Limelight Hotels



Photo Credit: Glenwood Hot Springs Resort



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The Villas at Snowmass Club

If your dream escape includes mountain views and resort amenities, The Villas at Snowmass Club delivers a sweet spot between comfort and luxury. Fall rates (through mid-December) start around \$343 per night, heavily discounted from the winter rates that start at \$940 per night.

The Hoffmann Hotel Basalt, Tapestry Collection by Hilton

New to the valley's hospitality scene, The Hoffmann Hotel in Basalt offers some of the most wallet-friendly rates around—\$149 per night during off-season windows (mid-October to early December, and again from mid-April to June 1).

Add in a stellar happy hour, half off “apps and taps”—appetizers, beer, and wine from 4–6 p.m.—and you’ve got one of the best deals in the Roaring Fork Valley.

Avalanche Ranch Cabins & Hot Springs

Down the road in Carbondale, Avalanche Ranch remains a local favorite for its rustic beauty and unbeatable soaking experience. Day passes to the scenic hot springs are \$34 for a four-hour soak, while overnight stays in cozy wagons start at \$140 per night—a rate that includes full hot springs access from check-in to check-out.

Wellness fans can take advantage of the Massage and Soak Package year-round: \$162 for a 50-minute massage and a four-hour hot springs session.

Hotel Colorado

Grand, historic and ideally situated, Hotel Colorado remains a cornerstone of Glenwood Springs' staycation scene. Weekday nights (Sunday–Thursday) offer the lowest rates, allowing guests to enjoy elegant accommodations without the weekend crowds.

The on-site Baron's Restaurant features a beautiful dining room with an indoor waterfall, and the cozy Polo Lounge offers a full bar and comfortable seating. Guests can enjoy an array of signature breakfast, lunch and dinner dishes from Executive Chef Terry Allen. He and his team offer an elevated dining experience from local and regional seasonal offerings in a family-friendly environment.

Legends Coffee Shop, located in the lobby, offers a more budget-friendly option in the morning with barista-prepared hot and cold drinks and a nice selection of pastries. At lunchtime, two people can each order a cup of the soup du jour and split one of the hearty sandwiches for a quick and more affordable meal. The Polo Lounge at Hotel Colorado offers a daily happy hour from 4–6 p.m., with rotating food and drink specials.

Hotel 1888

In Glenwood Springs, a stylish new boutique lodging option recently debuted: the Hotel 1888 at Glenwood Hot Springs Resort, located within the historic Stone Bath House.

With just 16 guest rooms, Hotel 1888 brings an intimate, design-forward feel to a landmark hot-springs destination. Guests enjoy unlimited access to the resort's seven mineral-rich pools, complimentary breakfast in the 1888 Bistro and access to the on-site Athletic Club.

Making the Most of the Off-Season

Between leaf-peeping season and early ski openings, fall and spring offer some of the Roaring Fork Valley's best-kept secrets. Travelers can book upscale accommodations at a fraction of peak prices, while locals can enjoy their favorite properties crowd-free.

From Aspen's cosmopolitan corners to Glenwood's historic heart, high rolling on a budget is well within reach.