

# MANSION GLOBAL

## Chasing a Low-Key Mountain High—Four Luxury Ski Hubs That Aren't Aspen

Beyond the marquee names, 'epic yet refreshingly uncrowded' towns have serious ski cred to lure upscale home buyers

BY MARGARET HEIDENRY | ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED DEC 7, 2025, 8:40 AM EST | [MANSION.GLOBAL](#)



Telluride, Colorado, is known for its steep plunges and expert bowls.  
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As the last fall foliage drops, snowfields and ridgelines take over, drawing winter travelers to rugged terrain, deep powder, and towns where the luxury real estate dazzles as brightly as the sun on fresh drifts.

Take Aspen, Colorado, where Amazon founder Jeff Bezos hit the A-List slopes earlier this year with wife Lauren Sanchez.

Indeed, the glitterati have long strapped on carbon-tipped skis to hit above-the-fold resorts like Colorado's Aspen Mountain and Vail's groomed runs at Blue Sky Basin. Rounding out the best-known ski resorts is Jackson Hole, Wyoming, with its slopes as famous as the valley's chalets.

Yet other U.S. towns tucked in forested landscapes are quietly ascending to the summit station, boasting world-class skiing, snow-covered mountain peaks, and luxury multimillion-dollar properties, minus the snow-goggled crowds.

Hugging the Rocky Mountains, these ski towns form a spine of luxury enclaves across the Mountain West, united by pristine powder and distinct downtowns.

## Telluride, Colorado



*Julie Soefer*

“When it comes to skiing in Colorado, the usual suspects often steal the spotlight, but Telluride still plays in a league of its own,” says Jason Vargas, general manager for Telluride’s Exceptional Stays, part of Nocturne Luxury Villas. “Telluride delivers a ski experience that feels both epic yet refreshingly uncrowded.”

What sets Telluride apart from its neighboring ski areas? Renowned terrain that skiers say delivers some of the finest-groomed runs in the San Juan Mountains, with snow lit by 300 days of sunshine.

There are steep plunges and expert bowls, such as Palmyra Peak and Revelation Bowl, as well as rolling corduroy cruisers and moderate bumps for intermediates. Additionally, there are runs for beginners.

And perhaps because the area is less known, a true skier’s dream: “nearly nonexistent lift lines,” Vargas adds.

Once skiers hang up their poles, this former mining outpost drops them directly into the historic mountain town via gondolas.

“My favorite part of Telluride is the lifestyle,” says luxury interior designer Kara Childress.



Sundance Lookout, a 10-bedroom rental in Telluride, features interior designs by Kara Childress.  
*Julie Soefer*

Indeed, residents can take a heated snowcat to Alpino Vino, the second-highest-elevation restaurant in North America at 11,966 feet, for a multicourse wine-pairing dinner, which is “an unforgettable experience,” Childress says.

Yet what’s really “incredible,” Childress adds, are the homes that are “slope-side, with views that make you pinch yourself.”

Epic yet cozy estates here regularly sell for eight figures. One \$15.6 million home offers south-facing decks overlooking dramatic alpine views from floor-to-ceiling windows. Heated outdoor living spaces and private wellness areas provide a balance between seclusion and easy access to the mountains.

Buyers may also be tempted to buy at the Four Seasons Resort and Residences Telluride, the region’s first luxury development in 15 years, which offers updated luxury condominium residences.

“Homeowners are drawn here because they want properties reminiscent of the communities found in the Alps,” says Bill Fandel of Compass, who has lived in the area for 30 years. “Unlike busier U.S. mountain resorts, there are no theme-park crowds, just understated sophistication, vibrant culture, and a true sense of place.”

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