



# Alta Lodge News

Alta's Traditional Mountain Lodge

2019-2020 - THE WOMEN'S ISSUE



PHOTO: John Shafer

## AUTHENTICALLY ALTA AT THE HEART OF SKIING

As the days get shorter and the peaks are white with early season snow, we're looking back on a really good 2018-19 ski season, and looking forward to the coming winter.

The total snowfall last season was 626 inches, and even better, the snow came continually throughout the season. Thanksgiving was early, but the snow started right on time and then kept coming.

By our count, we had at least 80 days of real snowfall (accumulation of more than a half-inch) in Alta last season. The snow came consistently, steadily and right side up (creamy on



PHOTO: Diego Valladares

the bottom and light on top), making for countless days of brilliant Alta powder skiing. The mid-mountain snow depth topped out at 180 inches. At that depth, the mountain changes. It softens up in

places, and the deep snowpack opens up some lines we don't often get to ski.

Alta Lodge President Cliff Curry said, "I'd rather have four ten-inch storms than one forty-inch storm, and that was how the season came through – with day after day of great skiing." Cliff added, "We'll never lose sight of what this is all for. It's not for ski industry mergers and acquisitions, more and more development, or growing

the mass market. For us, it's always about the Wasatch, the mountain, the snow, our ski culture, and the skiing. It's always about the skiing. Our part in this is to make a warm, authentic Lodge setting, with great food, a spot in the Sitzmark, and a place for the whole family at the end of the day. If we know anything about skiing, there's a place for Alta Lodge at the heart of skiing.

"When I joined Alta Lodge in 1997, I was impressed by the Lodge's depth of women in management. Today, that is stronger than ever. With Mimi Levitt as a constant in our ownership group, Rosie O'Grady as Vice President and Maren Askins as General Manager, the women who are at the center of our management are essential to our humanity and to the identity of Alta Lodge. They make us who we are."

As of 2019, the Levitt family have owned and operated Alta Lodge for sixty years, and continue to guide the vision and the values of the Lodge. Our purpose is to make a wonderful and authentic mountain lodge experience for you in Alta. The values that advance that purpose are: dedication to excellent dining and lodging; genuine empathy and care for our guests; good faith and integrity in all of our relationships; diligence and faithfulness to making a great future for the Lodge for our ownership, our guests and our employees; and care for our environment and community.

We hope to see you this winter.



## JEN SCOTT ALF ENGEN SKI SCHOOL

Jen Scott is pursuing her 20-plus year passion for ski coaching at Alta's Alf Engen Ski School. She's also an ambassador for the Tecnica/Blizzard Women to Women (W2W) project. "The revolution of women in the ski industry is a dream come true. I love contributing to the success of women on skis! Having the ability to influence the design of women's specific boots and skis has been an amazing experience."

Jen's love for mountain adventures began in her childhood in Montana as a ski racer. Jen went on to become a PSIA Level 3 instructor for Alpine and Telemark skiing and is a Level 2 instructor for Nordic. As a certified climbing and ski guide, Jen has guided mountain adventures in Europe, Canada, and South America.

As Head Coach for Powder Tracks and all our Women's Ski Camps, Jen has been there from the beginning, designing the successful instructional format for our technically-based ski programs to help skiers make significant progress in a short period of time. Jen's focus in ski camps is to add to each skier's skill set in a fun and encouraging environment while guiding skiers through Alta's spectacular terrain.



**FRIENDS  
OF ALTA**

Friends of Alta is Alta's local land trust and environmental nonprofit, devoted to protecting Alta's environment and beauty since 1981. To learn more about Friends of Alta, their impact and importance in our community and the little corner of the world we all hold so dear—and how you can get involved—please visit their website at [friendsofalta.org](http://friendsofalta.org).

# 2019 2020 SKI ADVENTURES

If you are looking to up your game this season, look no further than an Alta Lodge Ski Adventure! In partnership with Alta's Alf Engen Ski School, you'll enjoy the comforts of a stay at Alta Lodge paired with top-notch coaching from Alta's finest. These immersion programs are designed to help you take your skiing to the next level. Coached by certified instructors and joined by other pas-

sionate skiers, you'll improve your skills and confidence while experiencing a rewarding and fun ski vacation.

With over 70 percent of our program participants returning each season, these programs tend to fill up quickly. Please call our Reservations team at 800-707-2582 to inquire today!

## CO-ED PROGRAMS

### INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED:

**Powder Tracks**

January 5 – 10

**Alta Breakthrough Camp**

March 8 – 12

### ADVANCED TO EXPERT:

**Alta Performance Ski Camp**

*(Book both December Camps for a full ski-week experience!)*

December 4 – 8

December 8 – 12

February 9 – 13

April 3 – 7

# ALTA LODGE IS FOR WOMEN WHO SKI



## WOMEN'S SPECIFIC PROGRAMS

### INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED:

**Women's Skills Camp (NEW)**

December 12 – 16

**Women's Intermediate to**

January 23 – 27

**Advanced Camp**

March 1 – 5

### ADVANCED TO EXPERT:

**Women's Advanced to Expert Camp** January 11 – 15

*"The Bentley of the many clinics, lessons and camps offered throughout North America" – New York Times, 2018*

## NEW WOMEN'S SKILLS CAMP

**DECEMBER 12 – 16, 2019**

This early winter program is an excellent way to kick-off your best ski season ever! The Women's Skills Camp is designed to empower you as a skier, by fine-tuning your technical skills, learning how to optimize the performance of your equipment, and meeting other women who love skiing as much as you do.

Led by top instructors from Alta's Alf Engen Ski School, you'll work on honing foundational movements through on-snow drills, daily video review, indoor technical pre-

sentations, and of course, plenty of ski time! You will be coached with a daily on-snow focus while enjoying fantastic camaraderie along with the comforts of an Alta Lodge ski vacation.

Whether you are comfortable cruising the blues or you are accomplished on black terrain, this program is for intermediate to advanced skiers looking to achieve a new level of confidence and excitement on snow.





## DOOR-TO-DOOR WITH EASE YES, PLEASE!

The Alta Lodge experience is all about a classic ski vacation. We recommend keeping the logistics simple, so you can enjoy what you love about Alta and the Lodge – skiing, eating, relaxing (and repeating). No car is needed!

The snow and conditions that make Alta a skier's heaven can make the canyon road feel like the other place. Avoid the white-knuckle winter driving road adventure and book with Alta Shuttle. Our staff is happy to make reservations on your behalf, and you'll meet your shuttle at baggage claim. Then sit back, relax and enjoy the ride. You'll be delivered stress-free, safe and sound to the Lodge.

## THANKSGIVING TRADITION

Thanksgiving in Alta is a cherished Alta Lodge tradition. It's family time on and off the slopes, without the crowds, hustle and bustle of the holiday season. It's a time to slow down and give thanks for the people and experiences that shape, fuel, and delight us. If you're looking for a new Thanksgiving tradition, join us for an alpine holiday. You'll have plenty to give thanks for, with early season lodging rates (and Kids Stay Free!), short lift lines and the excitement of the season, not to mention chef-prepared meals (including a Thanksgiving feast), and all the comforts of an Alta Lodge stay.

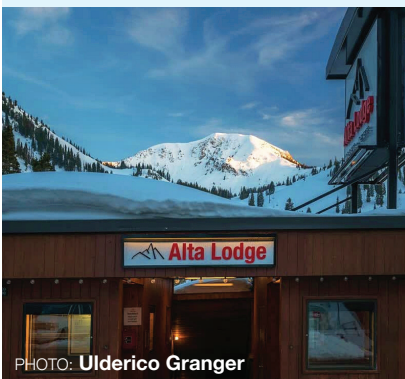


PHOTO: Ulderico Granger

# DEAR FRIENDS

It's hard to believe winter is just around the corner. On the heels of what many called the season that never ended, it seems incredibly soon. But the excitement from last winter is still with us, and we're looking forward to Mother Nature bestowing more of the "greatest snow on earth" upon us again this season.

Offering an authentic Alta experience is what we love to do. It doesn't get much better than seeing our guests share their passion for skiing with others in the Sitzmark bar, around the fire, or in the Dining Room enjoying dinner with family and friends - knowing that they have experienced some of their best and most memorable ski days during their Alta Lodge vacation.

As we celebrate our 60th season with the Levitt family

as proprietors and reflect on the Alta Lodge legacy, it's wonderful to know the generations of families who have found the Lodge to be a home away from home. Our passion for skiing and time at the Lodge have connected us, community and friendships have been cultivated, and lifetimes of memories have been made. This year, we have a special focus on the women of our ski world; from our beloved guests to our employees, to others in our Alta community - all of whom contribute to the experience here. We hope you enjoy learning about these ladies and their role in this special place we call Alta.

**- Marcus, Mimi  
& the Alta Lodge Staff**

## LEADING LADIES

Alta's unique history from a mining town to an epicenter of powder skiing is legendary, as are the people who call Alta their home mountain. Alta is for skiers. We salute these lady skiers who pushed the envelope and ventured up the canyon in 1939. Not that we condone breaking the rules. But we're sure glad these women did!

Today, we continue to celebrate the ladies on the hill – from the little ones of the group, working on their French fries and pizzas, to those who have earned a lifetime badge of honor and ski Alta for free. All of you continue to inspire us in the sport we love!



# MIMI LEVITT

## PROPRIETOR

Some may say Alta flows through Mimi the same way Mimi gracefully flows through Alta. Hailing originally from New York City, Mimi came to Alta as a young woman, and it has been her home for the majority of her life. With her father Nickolas Muray on the go as a famous portrait photographer, (capturing now-iconic images of Greta Garbo, Claude Monet, Frida Kahlo, and others), Mimi headed off to the North Country School near Lake Placid. Luck would have it that her school curriculum required that she learn to ski. As a natural on the slopes, falling in love with the sport was inevitable.

Fresh out of college, Mimi found herself, like many, with her sights set out West. In true Alta fashion (through a college friend with Alta connections), Mimi found herself a spot as a "Deskier" (Front Desk staffer) in January of 1966. This move was the catalyst for Mimi's life here in Alta. As Mimi will tell you with a smile extending through her eyes, "Everything just kind of fell into place; I found a home here."

Mimi moved from Deskier to Reservations Manager, a position which she held for several years. She quickly connected with Lodge guests through their regular stays at the Lodge. Mimi took a central role in the Lodge through her relationships with guests, and she continues to guide



PHOTO: Hart and Col

the Lodge today as a member of the Levitt family ownership group.

In addition to building community with Lodge guests, Mimi also connected with the owner of the Lodge, Bill Levitt, during her early days in Alta. Bill and Mimi eventually married and were partners on the slopes, in the Lodge and for life.

In the 1970s, with the opening of Snowbird and popularity of Little Cottonwood Canyon increasing as an epicenter for alpine skiing, things began to change at the top of our beloved box canyon. Development

on the bypass road and in Alta was inevitable, and Mimi and Bill started their conservation work with the Alta Defense Fund (now known as Friends of Alta) to maintain the sustainability and uniqueness of our treasured Alta for generations to come.

Mimi continues to guide the vision of the Lodge and Friends of Alta. She splits her time between her home in Moab (in southern Utah) and here at the Lodge. During the winter, you'll often find Mimi dining with guests, or with her dog Indy sharing stories at tea time or in the Lobby. And if you're lucky, you'll get to make a run with her (just ask!), or at least catch a glimpse of her as she elegantly floats down Corkscrew.

FAMILIES WHO SKI TOGETHER

# KIDS STAY FREE

Families who ski together know that skiing is not always easy – and that goes from planning your vacation to challenges on the hill. As a family-owned and operated Lodge, we get it. And we're all about trying to make it easier and more fun for the entire family. Imagine a vacation where you don't need to rent a car, haul gear, or plan meals. With a shuttle to the Lodge, our perfect ski-in/ski-out location, and breakfast and dinner included, you get maximum ski and relaxation time. It really is just that easy!

While you can, avoid the hassle and crowds of the traditional peak holiday seasons and join us during Early Season (November 22 – December 17, 2019) and Spring Season (April 5-18, 2020). You'll save on already lower lodging rates and benefit from our Kids Stay Free program, where children 12 and under eat and stay free in the family's room. Call our Reservations team to book your stay today!



PHOTO: Hart and Col



## COMPLIMENTARY KIDS' CLUB

Don't forget to take advantage of our complimentary Kids' Club during your stay. Kids' Club is geared towards children 12 and younger, and the whole family benefits! We offer a complimentary shuttle to and from Alta's Alf Engen Ski School or the Alta Children's Center for our young guests, along with fun, supervised apres-ski activities and an early dinner just for kids. Balance out family time with time dedicated to every member of the tribe. Your little ones will have a blast, and you'll have the opportunity to enjoy a cocktail in the Sitzmark Club and date night dinner.

# ROSIE O'GRADY

VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF SALES & MARKETING

**WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO ALTA LODGE?** Moving from Arizona to Minnesota in elementary school, I put skis on for the first time in Junior High – night skiing, in literally ice-cold conditions. Contrary to Lindsey Vonn's experience at Buck Hill; skiing at that time was more about the camaraderie, French fries, and hot chocolate. It wasn't until after college on a trip to Steamboat Springs, that I had my first powder skiing experience. Needless to say, it left me wanting more!

Giving life to my passion for the mountains and skiing, I ventured from my first career job in the late nineties and moved from Chicago to Durango, Colorado. Two years later, in search of more snow, I moved to Salt Lake City. I worked at Snowbird seasonally, spending winters in Utah and summers in Maine. In 2007, I started living in Salt Lake year-round and working at Alta Lodge. Reflecting back, Utah was never on my list of places to go, let alone live. But after being here for over twenty years, working at the Lodge for the past twelve of them, and raising a daughter in Alta, one might say I grew up skiing Alta. It will always be my home mountain.

My career here at the Lodge has grown considerably over the past decade. I was originally hired as the Group Sales Manager, booking groups for our summer season. A few years later, I also assumed responsibilities as Reservations Manager. In my role as Reservations Manager, I gained a deeper appreciation for the Alta Lodge experience. Between working Reservations and hosting our Ski Adventure programs, I have been able to connect more closely and share in the experience with



the Lodge family as a whole – from our staff to our winter guests and throughout the Alta community, which is a highlight of my job. I became the Director of Sales and Marketing two years ago and was honored to assume the additional role of Vice President last year.

We all find our way here because we love skiing Alta and appreciate the traditional Lodge ambiance that allows and encourages us to connect. It's incredibly fun and rewarding to share in the experience with our guests and staff, as well as with my daughter. I love that you walk in the door and become part of one big skiing family.

**FAVORITE ALTA LODGE MEAL:** Are you kidding me?

It's always a treat to eat at the Lodge, and usually, I have a hard time deciding on an entrée let alone picking a favorite. Dessert complicates it further. But if pressed, I love our Miso-Sake Sable Fish and Moroccan-Spiced Lamb. The Almond Cake is a gold standard tradition in my book.

**FAVORITE SKI RUN:** That's a hard one also – there are too many variables. I tend to find my bliss in moments and turns rather than runs.

**WOMEN IN SKIING WHO INSPIRE ME:** It has been exciting to share time on the hill with so many women. I am continually inspired by the gamut of amazing humans (not just women) who I've met here. We have handfuls of guests who have skied far enough into their lives where they enjoy free skiing at Alta. Humbled and inspired, you bet! I have also had the sheer joy of watching my own child grow on skis since she was 16 months old. There is no shortage of stories and inspiration here.

## MAREN ASKINS GENERAL MANAGER

**WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO ALTA LODGE?** Born and raised in Maine, I grew up skiing Sugarloaf. Alta was this mythical place that only existed in Powder magazine or in ski movies. My first time powder skiing was at 18 in Big Sky, when I was looking at colleges out west with my family. Despite the alluring idea of heading west for school and skiing more powder, I stayed close to home at Bowdoin College, where I raced for the Nordic ski team.

I met Wilson Dipppo, Marcus and Cassie's son, skiing for Bowdoin. I ventured out to Alta with Wilson over spring break of my junior year to ski and visit my brother, Sam, at Westminster College. The Levitt family was gracious enough to put the three of us up the night before a powder day. I remember jolting awake, startled by the bombs, and waking my roommates in alarm. The boys just laughed at me – as I know now, it's commonplace to be awakened by avalanche control artillery. That was the day I learned that when you wake up to bombs, it's going to be a great ski day. After that, I wanted to wake up to bombs every day. At graduation, Marcus told me I should go home and apply, which I dutifully did. I spent that summer working and skiing in New Zealand, and then I was on to Alta for my first winter at the Lodge.

I'm headed into my eighth year at Alta, and each one is more exciting and different than the last. I started my first few years at the Front Desk as a "Deskie," followed by four years as the Wedding Coordinator and Manager on Duty. Last November, I was bestowed the honor and responsibility of becoming General Manager of Alta Lodge. My feeling then and every day since is that I am the luckiest woman in



the world, to be able to live and work in the greatest place on earth, and ski the "greatest snow on earth." I am humbled by the trust the Levitt family has put in me to help manage the Lodge, and it is something I take to heart each day.

Alta Lodge is a special place. The people who come here – guests and employees alike – are the most unique and genuine people from a vast range of backgrounds, and they are all brought together by one common bond: skiing. Every time I leave Alta, I come home thinking, "these are my people, this is the place I belong," and I am incredibly lucky to have found that in life. I'm also fortunate that my brother has made his home at the Lodge as well, not to mention that I get to ski to and from work! With that, I am proud to serve Alta Lodge and the Alta community, and I hope to do it for years to come.

**FAVORITE ALTA LODGE MEAL:** Spaghetti Day

**FAVORITE SKI RUN:** Eddie's High Nowhere

**WOMEN IN SKIING WHO INSPIRE ME:** The most influential women in my ski career were my teammates throughout high school and college. I was fortunate to have incredible captains, female mentors, and talented teammates who have gone on to ski professionally, and they are women who will be a part of my life forever. The camaraderie and growth you experience from a team of women pushing and supporting each other to perform at our very best is so powerful, and it shaped me into the woman and skier I am today.



# CHEF'S CORNER

## MIMI'S FAVORITE DINNER ENTRÉE

Mimi Levitt is the heart and soul of the Lodge. She is the den-mother of our giant scout troop, obsessed with making both guests and employees feel welcome. Because Mimi is unfailingly gracious and supportive of all our efforts in the kitchen, it has taken me years to figure out her favorites, one of which is the House-Smoked Salmon with Cider Syrup. It's a pleasure to share this recipe with our guests. You can thank Mimi for its regular appearance on our menu.

### HOUSE-SMOKED SALMON (4 servings)

1 lb salmon, portioned into 4 oz servings.  
1/2 C cumin, 1/4 C brown sugar, 3T smoked or regular paprika, salt and pepper. Combine into dry rub and uniformly coat salmon filets.

1 qt apple cider or apple juice. Reduce to 1 C over medium heat, stirring occasionally (about 30 mins).

Lightly smoke the filets for 20 minutes (omit this step if you don't have a smoker).\*

Transfer filets to a pre-heated nonstick pan over medium-high heat and sear for approximately 3 minutes per side to produce a nice crust.

Finish in a 325 oven for 5 minutes (10 minutes if you haven't pre-cooked with a smoker).

Spoon the reduced cider over the fish and serve.

*\*We use a traditional smoker with hickory chips. You can experiment on the grill or just skip this step. The end result will offer less of a deep and smoky profile, but will still be wonderfully flavorful and delicious.*

—Chef **Sam Wolfe**

# OPENING DAY

The stoke is on for Alta to fire up the lifts for opening day of their 82nd season on Saturday, November 23. We're right there with them and will be opening for our guests on Friday, November 22. That means you can plan your trip to be here, rested and ready to kick off the many "firsts" of the season. Start your winter right by booking an early-season vacation to Alta. Maximize that season pass of yours, experience the mountain in a whole new way, and get the winter's best lodging rates.

# FAREWELL TO GREGG DAVIS

At the close of our summer season, we said goodbye to our long-time Dining Manager, Gregg Davis. As a member of the Alta Lodge family for over 15 years, he has become a familiar face for our guests.

Gregg has contributed to the authentic Lodge experience by sharing his genuine enthusiasm, expertise, and passion with guests and staff - from handpicking wines on our wine list inspired by his travels around the world, to stargazing nights, and full moon backcountry adventures. Gregg will be missed in the day-to-day at the Lodge, but we wish him and Sheridan all the best as they pursue adventures around the West and beyond, and enjoy life semi-retired.



# SARA GIBBS

## ALTA COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT

Sara Gibbs is the Executive Director of Alta Community Enrichment (ACE).

ACE was established in 1995 to provide professional coordination of grassroots events in Alta. Sara became involved with ACE in 2001 and has been Executive Director since 2006.

ACE strengthens and enhances our community by bringing people who live, work and play in Little Cottonwood Canyon together to share the arts, cultural events, and education, with over 130 annual hosted events. ACE offerings are a great way to develop new friendships and strengthen current ones while furthering one's well being. Locals and vacationers alike are invited to get enriched with ACE this winter!

# NANCY DUNLOP GUEST PROFILE

**WHEN DID YOU FIRST START COMING TO ALTA, AND WHAT KEEPS YOU COMING BACK?** Although I had skied Alta in the early '90s, I was first introduced to Alta Lodge in 1999, and have managed to make multiple visits each season since. One of the reasons I enjoy returning each year is that the Lodge is truly my ski home. It's like walking into a big hug where each member of the Lodge greets you with a welcoming spirit. The familiarity is another plus as I know the location of my favorite room, where the yoga mats are stored, what time the coffee comes out in the morning, and the best seats to enjoy the sunset in the Sitz. The Lodge is also a place where one can come alone and almost immediately feel a sense of connection with guests and staff. Over the years I have made more than a few lifelong friends - individuals I would never have met otherwise (affectionately referred to as "Friends of Nancy" - FON). We often refer to this as the "magic" of Alta Lodge.

**WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT AN ALTA LODGE SKI VACATION?** I love the history of Alta Lodge and the number of long-time employees and returning guests. It's wonderful how many of the staff return year after year. Another thing to love about the Lodge is the short commute to the mountain from the SLC airport, the ski-in/ski-out access, as well as the staff's ability to help you figure out and solve any problems you may have - from purchasing lift tickets to organizing a massage and everything between. Coming back to the Lodge for lunch, or in the after-



noon for teatime and discovering what treats have been freshly baked are other favorites.

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SKI RUN?** Pretty much any run on a powder day, but my favorite is exploring Catherine's.

**FAVORITE MEMORY?** The first time I brought my husband Joe to the Lodge. I had surprised him with the trip and he fell in love with Alta Lodge. Although he preferred a sunny beach to the mountains, he always looked forward to our time together at the Lodge.

**FAVORITE FOODS AT THE LODGE?** I enjoy checking out the menu each morning to see what the Chef is preparing. My favorite meal is dinner, and I especially love the soups. There are always plenty of choices at dinner and the biggest challenge is deciding between the offerings. I appreciate when the kitchen can accommodate our request for an entrée to "share" with the table. Desserts never disappoint, but I'm partial to coffee ice cream with chocolate sauce (in case anyone in the Kitchen or Dining Room was wondering).

# ALTA LODGE IS FOR SUMMER

Our roots run deep as a traditional ski lodge. But they don't stop there. You'll hear staff members say that they "came for the winter, stayed for the summer, and never left." Those of us fortunate to be here year-round keep busy at the Lodge as we host conferences, weddings and special events for locals and destination guests.

*"This is an excellent hotel in every way and we have never seen a wedding handled more graciously and well. The food is excellent and the attitude of the staff is exemplary, very kind and competent. The setting is magnificent and makes an excellent base to explore the mountains. It is to be highly recommended and ideal for families."*  
— Douglas D



PHOTO: Stuart Ruckman



PHOTO: Alexa Miller

Our favorite wintertime slopes reveal lush mountainsides covered in wildflowers, while bluebird skies and wildflowers are abundant. The same qualities

that draw our guests for the winter offer summer guests an authentic Lodge experience with comfortable overnight accommodations, fine dining, and outstanding service. And all of this is within an hour from Salt Lake City International Airport.

If you are planning an event for the summer, keep us in mind. You'll love summertime in Alta.

Contact Rosie at [rosie@altalodge.com](mailto:rosie@altalodge.com) to inquire.



We are happy to be honored again with the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence for 2019. This designation is made to the approximately 10% of businesses on TripAdvisor that have consistently achieved great reviews over the past year. Offering a welcoming and comfortable stay, combined with excellent dining and service in a genuine Lodge environment is at the heart of what we do. We appreciate your guest reviews and "excellent" rating. We thank you, our guests, for this honor and we hope to continue the tradition of this award in the years to come, as you continue to share your Alta Lodge experience with other travelers.

**[altalodge.com](http://altalodge.com)**  
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