

News

Alta's Traditional Mountain Lodge



Photo: Noah Wetzel

The Soul of Alta Endures

On a cool early September morning as we are writing this, the summits of Baldy and High Rustler are white with new snow. As the cold air brings an end to summer, it also calls back the familiar feeling of excitement and anticipation for skiing. Looking toward the coming winter season, we stop and reflect on the past year, so full of highs and lows. We are grateful to our guests and our staff for a **2019-2020 winter season that was wonderful while it lasted** and will not soon be forgotten.

It will go down in history as only the second time Alta Ski Area ceased skiing operations early (the first time was World War II), yet we will also remember what an epic season it was from November through March. The Lodge brimmed with excitement as day after day turned out to be the best day ever. After Alta opened in November amid a 70" storm, we experienced brilliant skiing in December, and a holiday season complete with all **our favorite traditions**. The skiing conditions in January were all-time with near-record snowfall. A once-in-a-lifetime storm cycle in February kept the town of Alta on Interlodge restrictions for nearly 52 hours as crews worked to keep the town safe.

While at first it seemed like a faraway threat, in February we began tracking news of a new virus more closely. The Lodge took new measures daily to maintain the safety of our guests and staff. As the pandemic began to take shape, we followed the lead of Alta Ski Area and decided to end our season on March 16 to protect our guests, employees, and the Alta Lodge experience for the future.

Since our early closure, we have been working tirelessly to modify our operations so we can open safely in the Covid-19 environment without compromising what we all love most about Alta Lodge - a comfortable and welcoming mountain lodge experience. There is much that will be familiar this winter - the promise and thrill of skiing, a community of good people, and a vibrant and authentic Lodge to host our guests through it all. There is also much that will be new. However, the important things that brought us here and keep us connected will remain. That is our promise. We have never been more excited to welcome you back for another stay.

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Baker's Corner TIRAMISU

(10 Servings)

4 oz Egg yolks
3/4 C Sugar
1 lb 4 oz Mascarpone cheese
3/4 C Cream
1/4 C Marsala wine

1 1/2 C Coffee, cooled
1 Espresso shot
1/4 C Heavy cream
Ladyfinger cookies
Chopped bittersweet chocolate

Whip yolks and sugar in a mixer until light and creamy. Add Mascarpone cheese and whisk until uniform.

In a separate bowl, whip heavy cream and Marsala wine until stiff. Fold both cream mixtures together and set aside.

Dip ladyfingers in the coffee mixture and line the bottom of the serving dish. Spread half of the cream mixture evenly over cookies. Add another layer of cookies and cream mixture.

Top with chopped chocolate. Refrigerate at least several hours, preferably overnight.

Pastry Chef Jim Hilding

STAFF PROFILE:

Jim Hilding-Pastry Chef

It is always a treat to connect with Jim through his work, but likely most of our guests have not had the pleasure of meeting him. From cranberry orange scones at breakfast, house-made sandwich buns, blueberry tea bread after skiing, to the nightly dessert special, our Pastry Chef Jim Hilding has been expertly baking behind the scenes, starting in the early morning hours, for the past decade.

Starting in Connecticut, Jim took a circuitous route through several states before moving from Chicago to Utah in 1980. "I thought I had fallen off the edge of the earth, which, if you saw Utah in 1980, isn't so far from the truth. Although I skied Snowbird (and occasionally Alta) throughout high school, I couldn't wait to get as far away as possible." After graduation, Jim headed to San Diego, where he earned a bachelor's degree from UCSD in asset decimation (aka history). From there, he traveled around the world for a year and returned stateside only after being deported from the UK for working illegally in Edinburgh, Scotland, as a cook in a Mexican restaurant. Back in Utah, Jim headed to the mountains and Snowbird, where he worked as a ski instructor, teaching children how to make pizzas and French fries.



After meeting his future wife, Emily, at the Bird and concluding there must be someplace better than Little Cottonwood Canyon (LCC), they ventured to the wind-scoured steppes of Red Lodge, Montana, for six years. It was here that Jim discovered his passion for baking and learned to tell a Burgundy from a Bordeaux by the shape of the bottle. With Ethan, their first child in tow, they then moved to Sun Valley, Idaho. Not wanting to work three jobs to make ends meet following the birth of their daughter, Ruthie, Jim and Emily returned home to Utah once again, realizing there isn't any place better than LCC on a powder day, summer day, or most any other day.

Jim has been baking in Alta since 2006 and has been Pastry Chef at the Lodge since 2010. "I wish I could tell you my favorite baked goods to prepare, but it truly is like picking a favorite child." Jim, like his Swiss mother (who waited tables at the Sun Valley Lodge when she first came to the US in 1952) appreciates the opportunity to work in a place that has held on to the timeless feel of a European lodge, especially in the rapidly changing ski industry. And nothing makes him prouder (nor terrifies him more) than seeing his kids grow up (and even work!) in the Lodge.

SKI ADVENTURES

With the introduction of our flagship Powder Tracks program in January 2002, we have been hosting **Ski Adventures** for our guests for almost twenty years. Our programs and camp community have grown throughout the past two decades. We are excited to offer a solid line-up of Ski Adventure programs again this season.



We've got something for everyone! Both co-ed programs and women-specific camps offer adventures directed towards those who want a refresher on skills to those who want to challenge themselves to ski at their highest potential, along with everything in between. In these multi-day immersion programs, you'll benefit from unrivaled instruction from Alta's Alf Engen Ski School's elite coaches, and you'll be surrounded by like-minded skiers with shared pursuits, enjoying Alta and "the greatest snow on earth" as your classroom. With Alta Lodge as your home base, your experience will be rounded out with an authentic mountain lodge atmosphere, comfortable accommodations and outstanding dining. Come see for yourself how this unique and special combination of on and off snow activity creates an incredible environment to meet your skiing goals and form lasting relationships and memories.

2020 - 2021 Ski Adventures

2020-2021 Co-Ed Adventures

Alta Performance Ski Camp: December 5 – 9, 2020 (advanced to expert)

Alta Performance Ski Camp: December 9 – 13, 2020 (advanced to expert)

* Book both December Performance Camps back to back for a full ski-week experience!

Powder Tracks: January 4 – 9, 2021 (intermediate to advanced)

Alta Performance Ski Camp: February 7 – 11, 2021 (advanced to expert)

Alta Breakthrough Camp: March 7 – 11, 2021 (intermediate to advanced)

Alta Performance Ski Camp: April 4 – 8, 2021 (advanced to expert)

2020-2021 Women's Specific Adventures

Women's Skills Camp: December 13 – 17, 2020 (intermediate to advanced)

Women's Advanced-Expert Camp: January 10 – 14, 2021

Women's Intermediate-Advanced Camp: January 24 – 28, 2021

Women's Intermediate-Advanced Camp: February 28 – March 4, 2021

BOOK NOW – PARTICIPATION IS LIMITED AND THESE PROGRAMS FILL UP FAST!

DEAR FRIENDS:

A Letter From the Family

We are approaching the six-month mark since the unexpected early closure of Alta Ski Area and Alta Lodge in mid-March. Although in many ways it seems like yesterday, much has changed in our world during this time, prompting us to slow down (even if we found ourselves busier) and focus on the fundamentals of our collective well-being and family - from the immediate to universal.

It has been heartwarming to hear from so many of our valued guests checking in to see how the Lodge has been faring, along with sharing perspectives and questions for the coming winter season and the future. The ongoing communication speaks volumes to the "home away from home" experience we continually aspire to provide, and a feeling that we are all part of an extended Lodge family. We, too, have been thinking of our guests, hoping that you are all well, and excited for your return.

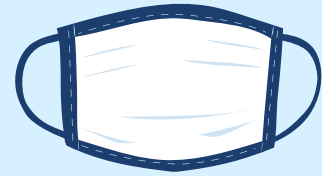


Photo: John Shafer

We understand travel decisions are more complicated and difficult for many. Please know that the well-being of our guests, employees, and community is paramount. We have been working to ensure that the Lodge continues to offer a safe, comfortable, and genuine haven not only for this coming winter season but for generations to come. Our health and safety protocols have been carefully thought out from arrival to departure to optimize your safety and preserve the experience for you and our employees.

We invite you back to enjoy the magic of Alta, complete with all the beauty and excitement of the mountain, lots of fresh air, and of course, your home away from home at Alta Lodge.

-Marcus, Mimi, Toby, and the Alta Lodge Staff



HEALTH AND WELLNESS FOR THE 2020-2021 SEASON

Having the summer to implement new Covid-19 safety measures and practice our updated sanitation protocols has been an invaluable opportunity for us as we continue to prepare for our winter guests. As we look forward to welcoming you back, we want to share with you the steps we are taking to ensure care and cleanliness throughout your stay. Review our detailed Health and Safety guidelines from arrival through departure [here](#).

New things have been added to allow for increased levels of comfort for all our guests:

- Dining room reservations and extended dining hours
- Complimentary room service
- Grab and go lunch options
- Virtual yoga option
- Increased wifi bandwidth throughout Lodge
- Updated deposit/cancellation policy

The fundamentals of our success in staying well this season also include our individual, collective efforts - we are all in this together. We ask that all our staff and guests alike follow these guidelines:

- Stay home if you are not feeling well
- Wear a mask while in public spaces
- Wash or sanitize your hands frequently
- Respect physical distancing

BE OUR GUEST:

Franziska Schoenfeld

With her incredible charm, wit, and boundless energy, Franziska Schoenfeld lights up every room when she walks in. Franziska first skied Alta and stayed at Alta Lodge in 1965 with her husband, Bob. From that year forward, Alta has been their “home base” for skiing, and Franziska has been venturing back to Alta Lodge annually for the past 55 years.

While Franziska has skied many other resorts across the west, and abroad, Alta has always felt like home. From their first stay at Alta Lodge in 1965, Franziska and Bob felt immediately welcome. While much has changed in Alta and at the Lodge in the last 55 years, there is even more that has remained the same. In reflecting back on what made Alta Lodge feel like home, it was the people here that Franziska remembers the most. Whether it be fellow guests or Lodge staff, she recalls that everyone was always so interesting, educated, and friendly. Franziska was impressed with the hospitality of the Lodge owners, Bill and Mimi Levitt, and how their evening ritual of waltzing through the dining room and stopping to chat with each and every guest, really made her feel at home.



[Click here to read the full story and learn more about her love affair with Alta!](#)

EXTENDED STAYS - THIS IS THE SEASON!



Are you and your family working and learning remotely this year? There has never been a better time to take an extended ski holiday and cozy up in Alta Lodge for a week or two – or three. With upgraded high-speed wi-fi available throughout the Lodge, you can ski on your schedule, and still make it to your Zoom meeting or virtual classroom. You can also take advantage of non-peak season pricing, by planning your trip for a time when you traditionally would not be able to get away from the office or take your children out of school.

Staying in Alta for ten days or longer also comes with more flexibility with your ski time – a season pass costs less than ten days of lift tickets. And that is just if you are accounting for yourself – with Family Season Passes, the trade-off comes even earlier. Explore [Season Pass](#) options and find the best choice for you and your family.

And don't forget about our [Kids Stay Free](#) program during the early season (opening day – December 17) and springtime (April 4 – 17)! You can get the most of what Alta has to offer with shorter lift lines and fewer skiers during the weekdays and non-holiday travel times. If there is any silver lining to come out of 2020, it might be more time spent in Alta than ever before!

Call or [email](#) us today about extending your Alta Lodge stay!



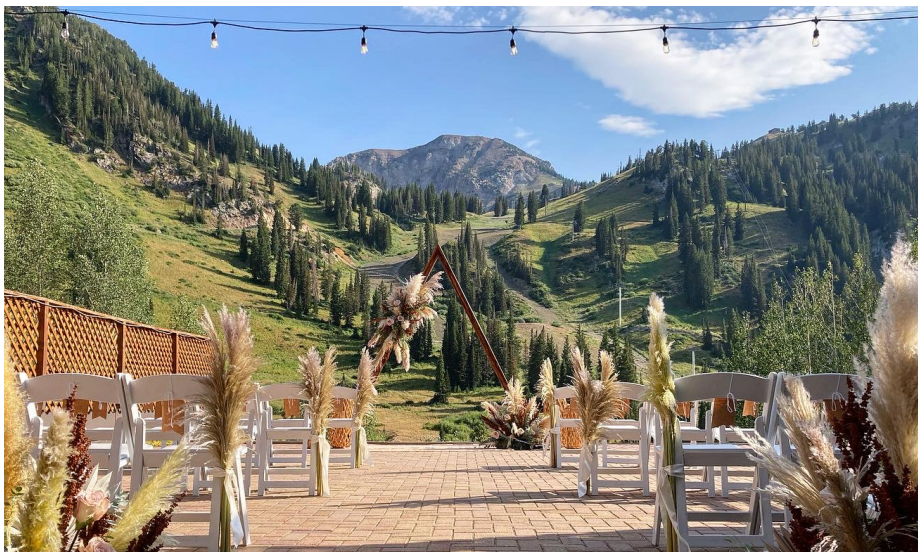
We were honored to receive the **Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Award** this year. Tripadvisor gives this award to accommodations that consistently earn great reviews from travelers and are ranked within the top 10% of properties on Tripadvisor. Thank you to our new and returning guests for sharing your Alta Lodge experience with other travelers!



Our transportation partner, **Alta Shuttle**, is also hard at work preparing for a safe guest experience this winter. In addition to shared and private airport shuttle service for those of you who will be flying in for your ski vacation, Alta Shuttle is also working to provide services for those of you who may be driving. With limited parking in the canyon, we encourage guests to park your vehicle in the valley and let Alta Shuttle safely transport you and your gear up the canyon.

SUMMER IN ALTA:

Weddings, Wildflowers, and Weekend Dining



Each spring, Alta Lodge closes for about a month-long interim period between our winter and summer seasons. We use this time to deep clean the entire Lodge from floor to ceiling, and allow our staff to reset and prepare for the busy summer ahead. Our regularly scheduled interim was extended this year, as we closed a month early for the winter season and were unable to open as usual in June due to local restrictions.

We were excited to open our doors to the public on August 1 with weekend dining service. We also hosted our **first wedding of the summer** on opening day! We have been fortunate to work with some fantastic couples this summer, who kept their wedding dates and were more than willing to make the changes necessary to provide a safe and welcoming environment for their friends, family, and our staff. Throughout the summer, we have learned a lot about hosting groups and that a dream wedding is still possible amidst a global pandemic.

Weekends this summer were busier than ever in Little Cottonwood Canyon, and our Saturday Lunch and Sunday Brunch have been a welcome treat for locals. In addition to our usual Saturday menu, we added a takeout option and box lunches, perfect for mountain picnics! Our Sunday brunch buffet was converted to a "touchless buffet" and proved to be just as popular as ever. Brunch guests are treated to live jazz music, fresh mountain air with outdoor dining, and stunning Alta views in addition to our classic brunch menu.

