



BEST PLACE TO CATCH CABIN FEVER

BY LESLIE WOIT

SKOKI LODGE, NEAR LAKE LOUISE

★ Welcoming skiers since 1931, this saddle-notched log cabin was reached—then as now—by ski or snowshoe only. Between a three- to five-hour intermediate ski tour from Lake Louise, high in the stunning Rockies, Skoki offers a true slice of backcountry Canadiana. Snacks, wine, beer and a hearty dinner will greet you; a wood-fired sauna, Scrabble and interesting chit-chat are the evening's amusements. Bedding arrangements range from a number of twin rooms to a king-bedded honeymoon cabin, which must be as sweet as it comes—especially when followed by a fresh-tracks dawn.

GOOD PART:

more Canadian than Molson

BAD PART:

bit of a schlepp if you're not used to it

www.skoki.com



STORM MOUNTAIN LODGE, BANFF

★ No better place to sit out the snowstorm of the year than here. Curl up in front of a wood-burning fireplace, soak in your claw-footed tub and nestle into your log bed under a down duvet. Storm Mountain offers 14 original log cabins constructed in the 1920s, all fully restored on the inside in 2003 following a long dormancy. It's rustic nirvana—and only 25 minutes from Lake Louise, Sunshine and Norquay. Closer to home—and hearth—a five-km cross-country and snowshoe trail to Boom Lake makes a postcard-perfect way to build an appetite for the excellent dining room.

GOOD PART: atmosphere by the bucket

BAD PART: will soon be much more popular

www.stormmountainlodge.com



HOTEL QUINTESSANCE, MONT TREMBLANT

★ Something they do quite regularly in France, this circa 1885 cabin was picked up and moved from its original home in St-Jovite to its current Mont Tremblant address in 1962. Clagett's Cabin is now a charming aspect of Tremblant's most lux hotel, tucked discreetly into the adjacent woods. A real wood fire illuminates whatever prone position you may choose to adopt—whether it's splashing around in your cast-iron pedestal tub or languishing deshabelle over the expanse of the four-poster bed. Majestic Lac Tremblant—and the odd nosy deer—are right outside your window, as is the swish hotel, its spa and fulsome fine dining attractions.

GOOD PART:
all that Gallic charm

BAD PART:
For CFL players, its diminutive size

www.hotelquintessence.com



JASPER PARK LODGE, JASPER

★ The Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge may boast 446 rooms, but the best of the best come in sweet suite form. Sprinkled along the shore of Lac Beauvert are cabins of various size and grandeur. The lovers' special is secluded Athabasca Cottage: one bedroom with a queen-size bed, whirlpool and sitting room with wood-burning fireplace. For a bigger crowd, the Point Cabin is a 1928 five-bedroom log cabin with a beautiful stone fireplace in the living room and cozy dining room. Imagine, you'll be breathing the same air as Marilyn Monroe and Robert Mitchum, who relaxed there during the filming of *River of No Return*, not to mention the Queen Mum and King George V (though royal airs can be found in the Outlook Cabin).

GOOD PART: history and charm

BAD PART: cold dash to the main lodge

www.fairmont.com



EAGLE'S EYE, KICKING HORSE

★ Look up, way up. From 2,347 metres, you can peer down like the Grinch onto Golden, B.C., or better yet the Columbia Valley, the Rockies, the Purcells and the Selkirks that surround. The Eagle's Eye suites (there are two) are sanctums of solitude—and they throw in a fantastic dinner to boot. The \$875 per person overnight package includes lift tickets, first tracks, private ski instruction for the duration of your stay, dinner for two, breakfast, full personal valet service and exclusive use of the VIP gondola cabin or preferential loading. Great place for a murder.

GOOD PART: guaranteed first tracks
BAD PART: staff stay up there with you (but that's also a good part)

www.kickinghorseresort.com



EMERALD LAKE LODGE, NEAR LAKE LOUISE

★ The original guest lodge, built by the CPR in 1902, attracted visitors who arrived by rail and horse-drawn coach to a summer retreat on the shores of Emerald Lake. Today, your car can deliver you 25 km west of Lake Louise, almost to the door of one of 24 romantic cabins, newly built to reflect the traditional architecture of the lodge. Rooms have feather duvets, deep baths, balconies and wood-burning fieldstone fireplaces. Built of hand-hewn timber and featuring massive stone fireplaces, the lodge includes an elegant dining room, quiet reading and sitting rooms, and games room. The jewel in the crown, of course, is Emerald Lake itself—even shrouded in winter white.

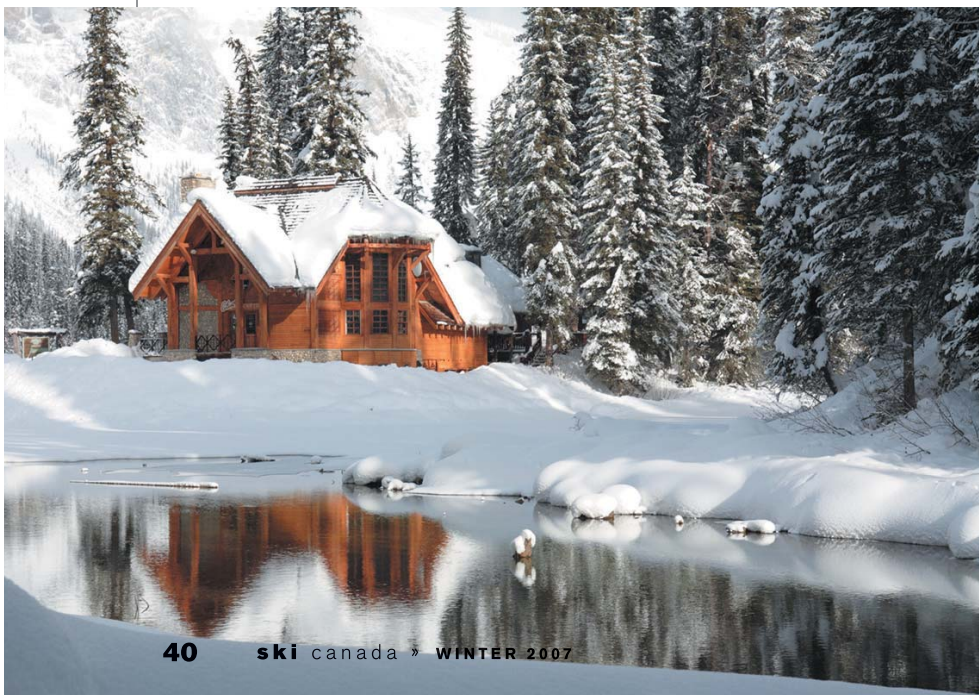
GOOD PART: snowshoe and cross-country paradise
BAD PART: 25 minutes from Lake Louise

www.crmr.com/emerald_lake_lodge



POST HOTEL, LAKE LOUISE

★ What hasn't already been said about The Post? An elegant ski lodge built by skiers for skiers. An award-winning, lovingly nurtured wine cellar. A new come-hither spa. A dining room whose delectables are without peer in western Canada. All that's true, yes, but try staying in one of the riverside cabins—once you've done that you truly have done it all. The Post is the last word in Rocky Mountain lexicon of loveliness.





GOOD PART:

who knew logs were so lovely

BAD PART:

going home

www.thepost.com



FOUR SEASONS, WHISTLER

★ Okay, so they don't call them cabins exactly, but it only takes a little imagination to see these "Two-Bedroom Residences" are the 21st-century Whistler version of roughing it. How many other cabins offer a gourmet kitchen, separate laundry and terrace, flat-screen TVs at every turn, a stereo system, high-speed Internet, two en suite bathrooms and guest powder room with shower? Don't feel guilty—it's Whistler.

GOOD PART: part hotel, part private home

BAD PART: gas "fireplace"—shame!

www.fourseasons.com

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