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1. Jackson Hole — PAF: 99.00

Jackson Hole, a perennial favorite of the PAF algorithm, celebrates its 50th anniversary this year by adding a lift that will grant easier access to its top ridge on the north end of the resort—and its high backcountry gate into Granite Canyon. Some people love this, some hate it. We will see how things turn out and report back. What's not debatable, however, is that this lift opens up more continuous vertical for skiers who might prefer to stay off of Jackson Hole's aerial tram (also known as the best lift in skiing).

The town of Jackson continues to tick up, as the eating scene is making quick work of the gap that once existed between this northwest corner of Wyoming and places like Aspen and Park City. Gavin Fine's Fine Dining Restaurant Group has led the way, with Bin22, Q Roadhouse & Brewing Co., and, our personal favorite, The Kitchen. Get the Yunnan-style Striped Bass.

Where to eat: The Kitchen is the place you should be eating.