

Our lowdown on the UK capital: a new place to shop and stop, a fast-rising new bakery-cum-restaurant in east London and the White City Gallery worth trumpeting.



**Here to stay:** Gallerists Iwan and Manuela Wirth are best known for their world-famous galleries but the latest addition to their collection is a soulful Scottish bolthole named The Fife Arms. Elsewhere we make a reservation at a chalet in Chamonix and appraise a new opening in Graubünden in the rugged Swiss Alps.

# FACE IN THE CLOUD

Why are powder buffs racing to Wyoming? We visit Jackson Hole to see how the resort transformed itself from a backwater to the US's most promising ski haven. *See page 38*

WRITER Mary Holland IMAGE Tristan Greszko

## SNOW-CAPPED WEST

Once a cowboy town, now a stunning ski resort with a blooming cultural and dining scene, Jackson Hole in Wyoming is becoming the go-to destination for those looking for a unique skiing experience.

WRITER Mary Holland

Europe has some of the best ski resorts in the world so why are so many people making the journey to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, to go skiing? "The terrain is truly phenomenal," says Jimmy Chin, professional climber, skier and photographer – who moved here from California in 1999. Home to more than 1,200 hectares of back-country skiing and some of the most dramatic mountains in the US, Jackson Hole isn't your average American ski resort.

Located on the western edge of Wyoming, 2.5 hours from Yellowstone and a short drive from Grand Teton National Park, Jackson's access to pristine wilderness feels limitless. "I'll never get tired of skiing, climbing and adventuring here," says Chin. Come springtime the snow thaws and the jagged ice-capped peaks reveal innumerable hiking and biking trails. It's this year-round accessibility that's attracted people from outside the region who now call the small town home. "You come for the winters and stay for the summers," says Ali Cohane, co-owner of restaurants Persephone and Picnic. Cohane moved to Jackson from Colorado to work a ski season after college and never looked back. "It has an immediate connection to the Wild West and is one of the last great Western ski towns to be developed. It wasn't long ago that this was a town of cowboys."

Before Jackson became a ski resort, the area's great swathes of land drew nomads, ranchers, traders and adventurers, some of whom still live there today. It's one of the last remaining authentically Western places in America. You only need to drive past the ranches peppered with horses and barns, or swing by the Million Dollar Cowboy Bar, to see that Jackson's cowboy culture is alive and kicking. Unlike ritzy Aspen it hasn't yet become a celebrity playground but it also isn't all cowboys and cattle. "There's a convergence of different people coming here for the same great things, whether in a camper van or private plane," says Cohane.

In the past few years the town has seen the opening of small businesses that are both sophisticated and deeply rooted in local culture. "The town is large enough to host cultural events, such as the New York City Ballet at the arts centre, but small enough that people enjoy and appreciate the personal interactions with shop-owners," says Christian Burch, co-founder of furniture and homeware shop Mountain Dandy. Jackson's restaurant scene has also transformed in recent years. "When I first moved to town there was little diversity in the food offerings and restaurants were either high-end or casual," says Gavin Fine, who has been instrumental in shaping the town's food culture through his Jackson-based restaurant group Fine Dining. "Now the restaurant scene offers everything."

Landing in Jackson Hole you can see the monumental mountains rise from the flat valley, the jagged peaks ascending in all their glory. "It really is a unique setting that calls to the wide gamut of American culture," says Cohane. Yet maintaining Jackson's beauty and small-town feel doesn't come without its challenges. As tourists discover the fierce beauty of the Wild West, the numbers of visitors will continue to rise. But Cohane believes the townspeople will maintain Jackson's distinctive culture. "We are fighting to keep this unique character."

## Meet the villagers

### Gavin Fine Co-owner, Fine Dining Restaurant Group

"It's impossible to ignore the beauty of this town," says Gavin Fine, whose restaurant group is responsible for opening some of the town's finest food joints. Places such as Bar Enoteca, Bin22 and Roadhouse Brewing Pub are responsible for Jackson's exceptional dining scene, which has transformed over the past decade. "When I drove out here after college I remember turning the corner in my Buick LeSabre and catching a straight-on view of those mountains," he says. Since 2001, Fine Dining has opened six restaurants and one speciality grocer here.



### Where to eat

#### Bar Enoteca

A Mediterranean-style restaurant and wine bar from Gavin Fine, the menu at the shiny Bar Enoteca features tasty bites and a solid wine and beer list. Set at the base of the mountain, it's one of the more upmarket après spots.

[enotecajacksonhole.com](http://enotecajacksonhole.com)



### Where to drink

#### Bin22

Tucked away at the back of a bottle shop, Bin22 is ideal for a casual après-ski glass of wine and selection of tapas. It also serves as a wine shop and grocer.

[bin22jacksonhole.com](http://bin22jacksonhole.com)