



TRAVEL

By Mike Cohen

THE RESORT TOWN OF STOWE

If you are thinking about a vacation in Vermont this summer, why not consider a resort in the Stowe area?

Stowe is an internationally renowned four-season destination. Stowe Mountain Resort (www.stowe.com) and majestic Mt. Mansfield are filled with activities for every season: golf, tennis, hiking, fishing, skiing, snowboarding, world-class dining, shopping, spas and much more. Stowe's historic village, combined with Vermont's most spectacular landscape, creates the quintessential New England getaway.

Stowe Mountain Resort's summer attractions open towards the end of June, with daily service from 10:30 am – 4:30 pm through Labour Day. The activities will then be open weekends through the end of October. From the historic Auto Toll Road to Stowe Mountain Resort's new mountainside luxury hotel and spa, summer at Vermont's highest peak offers fun for the entire family.

Try Stowe's Bungee Trampolines and the alpine slide - an exhilarating 2,300-foot ride down Spruce Mountain on luge-style tracks where you control the speed, depending on your own comfort level.

The Mt. Mansfield Auto Toll Road is over 150 years old. The 4.5-mile unpaved road begins next to the Inn at the Mountain and climbs to an elevation of 3,850 feet. The road ends at a parking lot next to the Mt. Mansfield Summit Station. Tolls are \$24 per car (\$7 per person over six people). Bikes and motorcycles are not allowed. The road's upper terminus presents spectacular hiking options.

An equally spectacular mountain ascent is provided by the Gondola Skyride. The comfortable, eight-passenger gondolas depart from the Gondola Barn, which is served by its own access road and parking lot approximately ¼ mile north of the historic Mt. Mansfield Base Lodge. While the Auto Toll Road ends at the Nose, the gondola terminates at Stowe Mountain Resort's newly renovated Cliff House Restaurant, which is open daily for lunch. From there, the Cliff Trail and Long Trail both provide short hikes to the Chin and Mansfield's true summit. A daily **Children's Summer Mountain Adventure Camp** is offered at the mountain for kids aged 4-12. Daily and flexible five-day passes allow you to choose the dates. Camp hours are 8:30 am to 3:30 pm every day through the first weekend in September.

Stowe boasts two of New England's finest golf courses, both on and off the mountain. In the heart of it all you'll find the Stowe Country Club. With its beautiful undulating fairways and manicured greens, the public country club occupies what was a turn-of-the-century dairy farm.

RESORT ACCOMMODATIONS

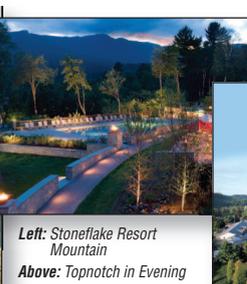
Stowe Mountain Lodge

(www.stowemountainlodge.com) is still relatively new, having opened in June 2009. Built in the new "Vermont-Alpine" style, Stowe Mountain Lodge offers a truly luxurious setting, while still paying respect to the Vermont traditions of utilizing local artisan products and embracing the tranquility of nature. The six-storey, 139-room lodge draws on the architectural tradition of turn-of-the-century summer camps created by the great families of New England. The lodge's exterior features a picturesque façade of woven timber and shingles that draw upon the natural harmony found in nature, as well as stone veneer created from local quarries, and expansive glass to bring the beauty of the lodge's outdoor surroundings to the indoors.

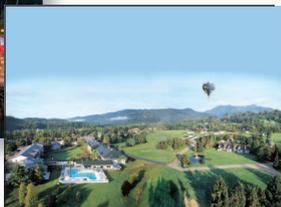
Smugglers' Notch (www.smuggs.com), a year-round mountain vacation resort on 3,000 acres, is located 30 miles east of the Burlington International Airport and five miles south of Jeffersonville on Route 108. Summer programs run from June through September. Smugglers offers a complete Mountain Village with convenient restaurants, lounges, entertainment, sports shop, 12 tennis courts, a driving range, courtside pool, mountainside pool, Rum Runners' Hideaway reservoir, Notchville Park, five playgrounds, woodland miniature golf course and disc golf course, a full service conference and banquet centre, U.S. post office, a real estate office, a country store, Treasures child care centre, a welcome and reservation centre, and two teen centres.

Topnotch Resort and Spa in Stowe

(www.topnotchresort.com) offers a wide array of indoor and outdoor pursuits on a 120-acre estate at the foot of Mount Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak. Renowned as one of the country's top rated tennis academies, this four-diamond property is equally celebrated for its full-service, award-winning spa and fitness centre. Topnotch offers 68 guest rooms, including eight suites, all dressed up in European country manor style. Topnotch also has 40 luxurious resort homes



Right: Family Trapp Lodge
Below: Stoneflake Areal



Left: Stoneflake Resort Mountain
Above: Topnotch in Evening

scattered across the property, all within a short walk of the hotel. A large heated indoor swimming pool is available year-round.

The **Stoweflake AAA 4-Diamond Stoweflake Mountain Resort & Spa** (www.stoweflake.com) offers the ultimate, year-round vacation experience.

With its celebrated www.stoweflake.com/spa.aspx world-class spa, www.stoweflake.com/accomodations.aspx luxurious accommodations, www.stoweflake.com/dining.aspx award-winning restaurants and www.stoweflake.com/activities_kids.aspx

Great for kids programs, the Stoweflake offers outdoor adventure as well as romantic, relaxing escapes. Surrounded by the grace and serenity of the pristine Green Mountains of Vermont, the spa at Stoweflake mirrors its peaceful environment through custom wellness programs and natural, non-invasive treatments.

If you saw the movie The Sound of Music, then you will want to check out the **The Trapp Family Lodge** (www.trappfamily.com). The Trapp family first started welcoming guests to their 27-room lodge in the summer of 1950. Thirty-three years later, the family opened its doors to a new 93-room resort with the same country charm as the original lodge. The Lodge continues to be owned and operated by the Trapp family, the inspiration for the The Sound of Music. Today, the 2,400-acre resort with sweeping mountain views provides accommodations in an Austrian-style Main Lodge with 96 rooms and suites, 100 two-bedroom guest houses (time shared) and 16 luxurious three-bedroom villas (fractional and whole ownership).

Owned and operated by two generations of "Vermont Innkeepers of the Year", the Golden Eagle Resort (www.goldeneagleresort.com) offers mountain views, 80 acres of spacious grounds, heated indoor and outdoor pools, a huge hot tub, sauna, nature trails, fishing ponds and children's programs. There are romantic mini-suites and one - and two-bedroom

suites. Their heated indoor 20 by 50 foot pool is popular with guests.

SOUTH FLORIDA NOTES

While in Florida's trendy South Beach, my family and I had the opportunity to sample the superb cuisine of the China Grill (i), owned by prominent Jewish American restaurateur Jeffrey Chodorow. It is located at 404 Washington Avenue. Chodorow's China Grill Management and its affiliates operate 26 restaurants in the U.S., UK and Mexico. The Miami establishment opened to rave reviews in 1995 and was instantly anointed the place to "see and be seen." Virtually every dish at China Grill is prepared on the grill or in a wok, using sauces strictly for flavour. Portions are generous, and artfully presented on bold, oversized plates, and, above all, meant for sharing. On Sunny Isles Beach, the Jewish-owned Acqualina Resort & Spa on the Beach (www.acqualina.com) recently earned the prestigious AAA Five Diamond Award for 2010.

The spectacular Trump International Beach Resort in Sunny Isles (www.trumpmiami.com), owned by Tel Aviv native Michael Dezer, has launched the first phase of its new community outreach program, Make a Difference. Created in an effort to give back and serve the local community, Make a Difference interactively educates, inspires and empowers children to protect the earth's environment. The acclaimed Il Mulino New York (www.ilmulino.com) Restaurant remains a favourite spot among most of the Jewish snowbirds I spoke to. It is located within the Acqualina. The 110-seat indoor restaurant spreads onto a 24-seat veranda overlooking the ocean.

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