

# denver life<sup>®</sup>

5 fun winter festivals from Loveland to Telluride

Colorado's leading lifestyle magazine

## THE TRAVEL ISSUE

**Pick your paradise:  
Mexico, Italy, Belgium,  
Peru, plus top resorts  
here in Colorado**

**Ski legend**

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IF YOU WANT: A QUICK DAY AWAY

**GO TO** **THE SONNEALP, VAIL**

Treat yourself to a massage, lunch and beautiful views with this new package BY KENDALL KOSTELIC

**Have only 24 hours?** No problem. With The Sonnenalp's new daycation package—50-minute spa treatment, 10-minute oxygen bar treatment, lunch at the Bully Ranch (alcohol not included) and a spa-area day pass—you'll definitely feel spoiled.

**The lowdown**

The Faessler family opened The Sonnenalp in 1979; since then, the luxury alpine hotel has been famed as a hideaway. Still run by the family (there's also a location in Germany), The Sonnenalp has won more than 25 awards for its European

charm, customer service and amenities.

**What's nearby**

Vail Village, meaning that everything you could want in a mountain town is literally right outside the front door, including world-class restaurants (Kelly Liken, Matsuhisa

and Sweet Basil), boutiques and other luxury hotels housed in 1960-era buildings, and Gondola One, which takes passengers to Mid-Vail.

**Room service**

Should you decide to extend your stay (we certainly thought about it),

**The extras**

With this daycation package, you'll spend most of your time at the spa—and, after five minutes, wonder how you can move in (we'll let you know when we've got the answer). There's the fireplace lounge area, where you can browse monthly magazines, toast your feet, make friends with other guests or read a book. There are the ultra-comfortable blanket robes. There are the indoor and outdoor hot tubs and an indoor/outdoor heated pool. There's the fitness room. And there's the spa ser-

adjustments. Our favorite scent: "invigorating" eucalyptus.

**Bringing the kids?**

They'll have a blast with The Sonnenalp's Kids Club. Catered to children ages 3 to 12, the club offers fun field trips including movie nights, hikes and gondola rides. Tip: If the club knows your kiddos are coming in advance, they'll put together personalized gift bags.

**Heading to the slopes?**

The hotel's ski concierge has a private lounge, ski and snowboard rentals, jackets and helmets and gear for tuning, repairs and waxing. Explore on foot with guided snowshoe tours through Vail's surrounding White River National Forest. The Sonnenalp is the only valley hotel that has a permit to offer this service, available exclusively to hotel guests.

**Dining and drinks**

When it's time for lunch, head to the cozy and casual Bully Ranch restaurant, where comfort-food-style apps and entrées (chicken pot pie, burgers, lobster mac & cheese) and desserts fill the menu. Ask for a seat by the window: If you're lucky, you'll spot a just-married couple taking photos. Through March there's also a themed buffet experience at Ludwig's, The Sonnenalp's new signature restaurant. The menus (ranging from gluten-free evenings to the best food of the West) are created by executive chef Florian Schwarz.



there are 112 suites and 15 hotel rooms—with a view of Vail Village or Gore Creek—on property, as well as One Willow Bridge Road two- and three-bedroom condominiums and a four-bedroom penthouse, available for seven-night or longer stays, adjacent to the hotel. Opt for a suite and unwind in a large soaking tub or doze off in front of a gas fireplace. Warm your feet on the heated marble floors, too.

vices themselves. The signature seasonal body scrub, complete with a moisturizing massage, is wonderful. Rumor has it the deep therapeutic massage is life-changing, too. Finish with the oxygen bar, said to help stress, sinus problems, hangovers and altitude

**SWEET SURRENDER** TOP: THE SPA'S HOT TUB AND HEATED POOL; ABOVE: THE SONNEALP'S COZY GUEST ROOMS

THE SONNEALP

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