

Winterskol

The Ultimate Winter Festival

Celebrate the coldest season of the year in Aspen, Colorado.

In Aspen, winter is a grand affair, not just a season that happens once a year.

This chilly, Rocky Mountain community known for its killer skiing becomes a winter wonderland, thanks in part to its annual “toast-to-winter” festival, Winterskol.

In 1951, local lodge owner Jack DePagter came up with this snow-filled celebration, which this year is scheduled January 13–16, to attract tourists and keep locals entertained after the ski lifts closed. Now, the lifts stay open, and Winterskol takes over the communities of downtown Aspen, Snowmass, Aspen Mountain, Aspen Highlands, and Buttermilk, giving locals a reason to still fete their town 60 years later.





The four-day affair includes parades, a huge fireworks show over snowy Aspen Mountain, a torchlight descent, and live music concerts. Fashionistas can enjoy a stellar fashion show—for both humans and canines. For winter-sports lovers, there's ice skating, on-mountain activities such as skiing competitions, and a hockey tournament. And if you've ever wanted to try your hand at snow sculpting, now's the time—there are tons of opportunities, including snow-sculpture contests. And to satisfy appetites after a day on the slopes, there are bonfire dinners and restaurant specials. One of the most popular events of the festival is SoupSkol, a soup contest that has restaurants competing for the Soup Bowl Trophy.

Make sure to wear your Winterskol button—it gets you discounts at restaurants and shops. But fear not, many of the events and happenings surrounding Winterskol are free.

And if you can't make it to Aspen to celebrate Winterskol, that's OK. Try some of our fabulous cold-weather soup recipes from Seasonal Delights that will help make your season cozy.

Contact the Aspen Chamber Resort Association at 970-925-1940 or www.aspenchamber.org.

Where to Stay

Here are some 2011 Winterskol lodging specials. Contact Aspen Snowmass at 888-667-5666 to book any of these special deals.

Independence Square Hotel

(2-night minimum)

Standard hotel room:

Thursday through Sunday, \$335/night

Deluxe hotel room:

Thursday through Sunday, \$365/night

Premier hotel room:

Thursday through Sunday, \$395/night

Hotel Lenado

All rooms include a full gourmet breakfast.

Deluxe Larkspur rooms: \$300/night, plus tax (offered in either a twin- or queen-bedded room)

Superior Smuggler rooms: \$370/night, plus tax (offered in either a queen- or king-bedded room)

Hotel Jerome

Deluxe king: \$450/night

The Gant

2-bedroom deluxe: \$724/night

2-bedroom premier: \$911/night

Hearthstone House

Queen and twin standard: \$209/night

Aspen Square Condominium Hotel

(5-night minimum)

Studios: \$359/night

One bedroom: \$419/night

Two bedrooms: \$589/night

Sky Hotel

Deluxe and premier: \$375/night

Limelight Lodge

(3-night minimum)

Run of House, king: \$289/night plus tax and \$30 nightly resort fee

Run of House, 2 queens: \$399/night plus tax and \$30 nightly resort fee

Aspen Meadows

Junior suite: \$199 Saturday, January 15, only