

Link



Crust &

Crumb





*like a hug in a mug*





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ONLY AT THE PEPPERMILL

# link

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RENO



a  
*new*  
for  
the  
Nevada  
Museum of Art

BY AMAIA CONDON

PHOTOS COURTESY OF  
THE NEVADA MUSEUM OF ART



# PTER

MONUMENT  
Gently pick.

THE CHARLES AND STACIE MATHEWSON EDUCATION + RESEARCH CENTER  
BRINGS MORE ART, LEARNING, AND COMMUNITY TO RENO.

Here's something exciting happening in Reno's art world. The Nevada Museum of Art has officially opened the Charles and Stacie Mathewson Education + Research Center, a stunning new addition that nearly doubles the museum's size and opens up fresh opportunities for learning and creativity.

The new three-story, 50,000-square-foot expansion includes a classroom, galleries, a rooftop garden, and a research library. The area is designed to make art and education more accessible to everyone.

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony, museum leaders, donors, and community members gathered to celebrate the completion of a \$60 million campaign that made this vision possible.

#### A BUILDING INSPIRED BY NEVADA

The new center was designed by Will Bruder, the same award-winning architect who designed the museum's original building back in 2003. Bruder is known for designs that reflect the surrounding landscape, and this expansion continues that tradition.

#### A SPACE FOR LEARNING AND CONNECTION

On the first floor, visitors will find the new Bretzlaff Book Shop, filled with art, design, and architecture books. Next door is the Thomas and Pauline Tusher Research Library, which holds rare and historic books focused on art and the environment. The library is open to teachers, students, and anyone who wants to learn more.

Inside the library stands *Centuries of the Bristlecone*, which is an 11-foot sculpture by artist and philosopher Jonathon Keats, inspired by Nevada's ancient bristlecone pine trees, which are symbols of endurance and time.

The ground floor also has a few updates visitors will love, such as expanded parking with new bike racks and a café operated by the local bakery Perenn. Whether you're visiting for an exhibit or just stopping in for coffee, it's an inviting spot to be.







## MORE GALLERIES TO EXPLORE

The second floor offers two new galleries — the Thomas Lee Bottom Gallery and the Jeffrey Morby Family Gallery. The opening exhibitions, *The Art of Judith Lowry* and *The Lowry & Croul Collection of Contemporary Native American Art*, highlight the talent and storytelling of Indigenous artists from across the country.

This floor also includes the Clarence and Martha Jones Family Foundation / Charlotte and Dick McConnell Art + Environment Education Lab, where University of Nevada classes are held. Students are able to explore the connection between art, science, and the environment.

Nearby, the Institute for Art + Environment archives store more than 1.6 million items, making it one of the largest collections of its kind in the world.





## Sculpture Garden

### A ROOFTOP GARDEN WITH A VIEW

The third floor is home to the E.L. Wiegand Feature Gallery, which opens with *Eternal Signs* — an exhibition of Indigenous Australian Art donated by Robert Kaplan and Margaret Levi. With this generous gift, the Nevada Museum of Art now holds the fourth-largest collection of Indigenous Australian artwork in the United States.

Just outside, you'll find the Thomas and Pauline Tusher Sculpture Garden, which is a peaceful rooftop space overlooking the city. The garden features the Great Basin Native American Basket Plantings, where regional plants used in traditional basket-making are grown. It's a living, learning garden that connects art, culture, and nature.





## NEW ART AND FRESH ENERGY

Along with all the new construction, the museum has refreshed many of its existing spaces. The atrium now features *The Power of Pollinators (And Other Living Things)*, a colorful indoor art installation by Fallen Fruit that celebrates nature and biodiversity. Outside, you can find the *Monument to Sharing*, a space for reflection and community gathering.

## WHAT IT MEANS FOR RENO

For Reno, this expansion is more than a new building; it's a symbol of how far the city has come as a growing arts and culture destination. The new Education + Research Center helps solidify Reno's place on the national arts map, which will draw visitors, artists, and educators from around the world.

It also gives locals a space to learn, create, and connect. From school field trips and university classes to weekend workshops and family programs, the museum's expansion ensures that art remains at the heart of the Reno community.



## A CULTURAL LANDMARK FOR THE FUTURE

With this expansion complete, the Nevada Museum of Art has not only grown in size but also in purpose. The new space gives visitors more ways to experience art, culture, and community — from thought-provoking exhibits to hands-on learning and quiet reflection.

Whether you're an art lover, a student, or simply curious, the Nevada Museum of Art's new spaces offer something for everyone. Stop by, explore, and see how this beautiful expansion is shaping Reno's creative future.

THE NEVADA MUSEUM OF ART IS LOCATED AT  
160 W. LIBERTY STREET IN RENO. FOR MORE  
INFORMATION, VISIT [NEVADAART.ORG](http://NEVADAART.ORG).



# DRINK

*like a local*

## RENO AND SPARKS' WINE SCENE

NORTHERN NEVADA'S WINE SCENE MIGHT NOT BE ON EVERYONE'S RADAR, BUT IT'S QUIETLY THRIVING WITH CREATIVITY, COMMUNITY, AND A LOVE FOR GOOD WINE. THESE THREE STANDOUT WINERIES OFFER SOMETHING UNIQUE, WHETHER IT'S URBAN CHARM, PLAYFUL INNOVATION, OR A HUGE SELECTION OF WINES TO EXPLORE. IF YOU'RE A WINE CONNOISSEUR OR JUST LOOKING FOR A FUN NIGHT OUT, THESE SPOTS ARE WORTH CHECKING OUT.

*by Camy Marotta*

Right in the heart of Downtown Reno's Brewery District, **Nevada Sunset Winery** is Washoe County's first full-production urban winery. Winemakers Kate Boyle MacDonald and Craig MacDonald took over the space in 2023, building on the original vision while adding their own touch.

With more than 25 years of experience, Boyle MacDonald offers expertise from her family's winery in Murphys, California, blending world-class varietals with locally sourced fruits. Their tasting room is relaxed and welcoming, which is perfect for enjoying a seven-wine flight, sipping a glass by itself, or even trying their inventive wine slushies. With events, tours, and private gatherings, it's become a true community hub.

**NEVADA SUNSET WINERY IS LOCATED AT 415 E. 4TH STREET, SUITE B, IN RENO.**

# Nevada Sunset Winery



Photos courtesy of Nevada Sunset Winery



# Engine 8 Urban Winery

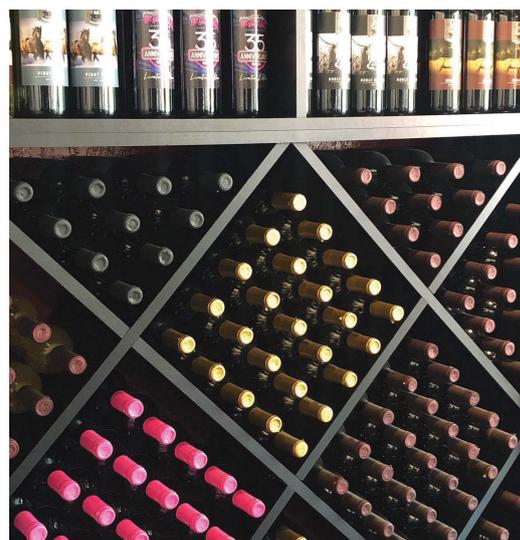
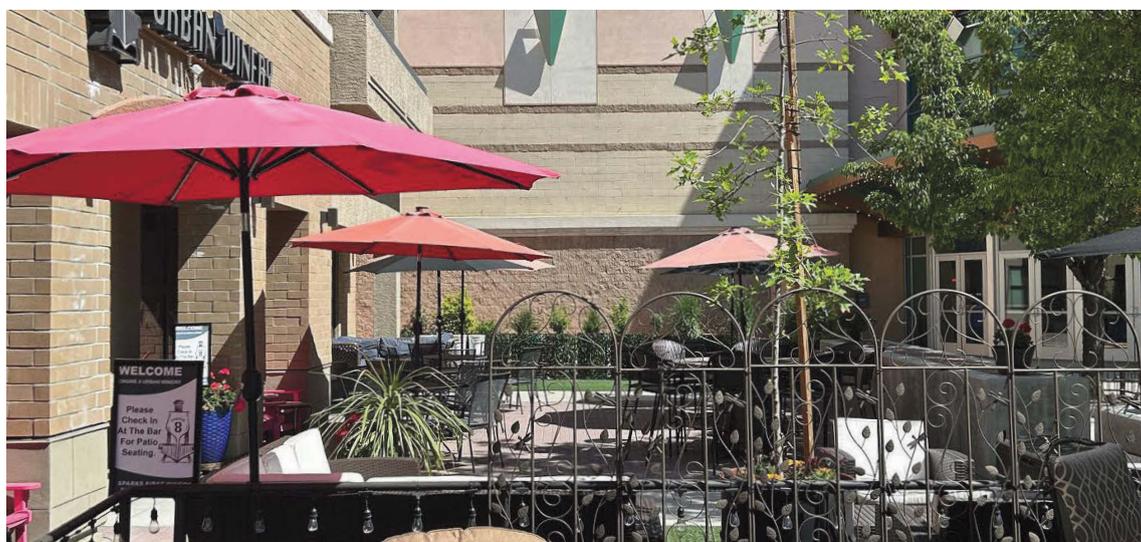


Tucked in Sparks' charming Victorian Square, **Engine 8 Urban Winery** started in 2018 when Sparks locals Mike and Wendi Rawson left the corporate world to follow their passion for wine. The winery's name honors Northern Nevada's railway heritage, specifically the storied narrow-gauge locomotive that once traversed the region.

Today, Engine 8 is Northern Nevada's largest urban winery, known for its fun, vacation-like atmosphere. Grab a pizza or some charcuterie, sample a flight, or pull up a chair on the patio for live music. It's a lively, friendly spot that's great for catching up with friends, enjoying a casual night, or exploring new wines.

**ENGINE 8 URBAN WINERY IS LOCATED AT 1260 AVENUE OF THE OAKS, SUITE 150, IN SPARKS.**

Photos courtesy of Engine 8 Urban Winery



**Whispering Vine Wine Co.** has long been a go-to for wine lovers in Reno. Part wine shop, part tasting bar, and part community gathering space, it offers thousands of bottles, wines by the glass, and small plates designed for pairing. Known for its approachable yet refined atmosphere, Whispering Vine is a destination for both seasoned collectors and casual wine lovers.

The South Creek location has a cozy interior and a spacious patio, perfect for relaxed afternoons or evenings with friends. Across town, the location on West 4th Street brings the same dedication to quality with a warm, neighborhood feel, making it a favorite for locals looking to enjoy a glass after work or discover a new bottle to bring home.

**WHISPERING VINE WINE CO. IS LOCATED AT 4201 W. 4TH STREET AND 85 FOOTHILL ROAD, SUITE 1, IN RENO.**

# Whispering Vine Wine Co.

Photos courtesy of Whispering Vine Wine Co.



# ACTIVITIES

# RENO'S

## Indoor Playbook

WHEN THE TEMPERATURES DROP AND THE DAYS GET SHORTER, FINDING WAYS TO STAY ENTERTAINED CAN FEEL CHALLENGING. LUCKILY, RENO AND SPARKS ARE FILLED WITH EXCITING INDOOR ACTIVITIES THAT MAKE COLD WEATHER A LITTLE BRIGHTER. FOR THOSE WHO PREFER WARMTH OVER WINTER SPORTS, HERE ARE SOME OF THE BEST WAYS TO KEEP THE WHOLE FAMILY MOVING AND LAUGHING THIS WINTER SEASON.

by Camy Marotta

PICKLEBALL



Photo courtesy of 3rd Shot Pickleball

# TRAMPOLINE PARKS



Photo courtesy of Fly High Trampoline Park

## Get Moving and Burn Off Some Energy

Staying active doesn't have to mean braving the cold. Indoor pickleball is rapidly growing in popularity, and spots like **3rd Shot Pickleball** give families a way to learn the sport together while avoiding the harsh weather.

For a bigger adrenaline rush, trampoline parks such as **Fly High Trampoline Park Reno Sparks**, **Urban Air Adventure Park**, and **DEFY Sparks** offer just that. With foam pits, obstacle courses, and high-flying fun, these locations are perfect for kids (and parents) to release some built-up energy this winter.



Photo courtesy of Urban Air Adventure Park

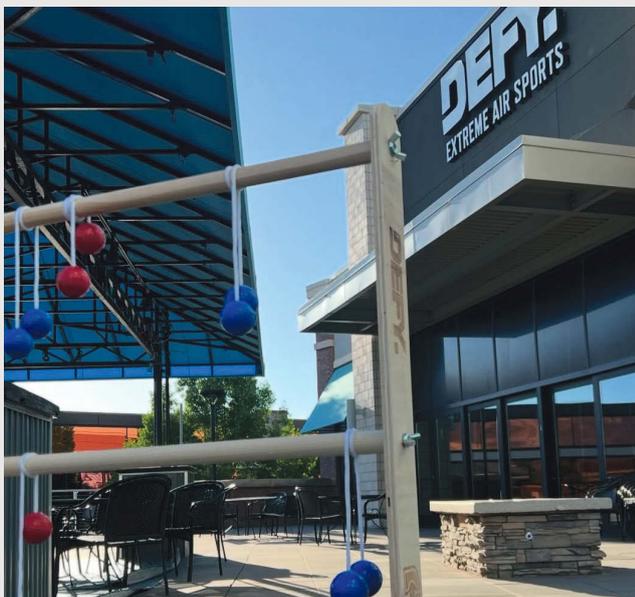


Photo courtesy of DEFY Sparks



Photo courtesy of Fly High Trampoline Park

# GOLF



Photo courtesy of Birdeez



Photos courtesy of X-Golf Reno

## Putt, Swing, and Score

Mini golf isn't just for summer. Indoor venues like **Birdeez** bring the game inside with three themed courses, each ranging in difficulty and fun. Beyond putt-putt, families can test their aim at the dart zone or grab a bite to eat, making it easy to stretch the fun into a full outing.

For more realistic swings, **X-Golf Reno** offers high-tech golf simulators that allow players to virtually tee off. It's perfect for keeping skills sharp in the off-season.



# RACE



Photos courtesy of Need 2 Speed

## Race, Bowl, and Game Away

Reno offers numerous opportunities to channel some competitive energy. At **Coconut Bowl at Wild Island**, families can mix it up with bowling, arcade games, an indoor go-kart track, and more.

For even more speed, **Need 2 Speed** takes racing to another level with multi-level go-kart tracks designed for head-to-head excitement. Together, these spots are ideal for families who want to pack variety, laughter, and plenty of friendly competition into one outing.



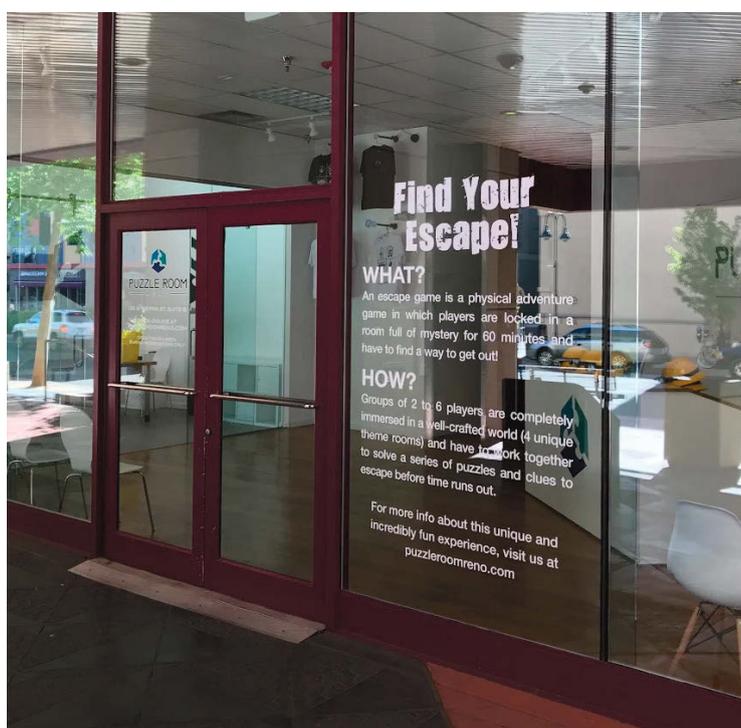
BOWL AND GAME



Photos courtesy of the Coconut Bowl at Wild Island



# SOLVE & ESCAPE



## Solve Puzzles and Escape Together

For families who love a challenge, escape rooms are the ultimate test of teamwork. Venues like **Puzzle Room Reno** and **Keystone Escape Games** create themed adventures. Think mysterious islands, secret labs, or even moon landings. Each room is designed to spark communication and teamwork under pressure and have plenty of laughs while doing it. It's a great way to trade screens for a fun activity with friends or family.

# GAME



## Retro and Modern Gaming

Sometimes the simplest joys come from picking up a controller or dropping a quarter into a machine. The Game Lab inside Peppermill Reno combines today's hottest arcade games with a nostalgic Retro Room featuring classics like Pac-Man, Frogger, and so much more. It's a chance for parents to relive their own childhood while introducing kids to timeless favorites.

COLD WEATHER DOESN'T HAVE TO MEAN CABIN FEVER. RENO AND SPARKS OFFER COUNTLESS WAYS TO STAY ACTIVE AND HAVE FUN, ALL WITHOUT SETTING FOOT OUTSIDE. WHETHER YOUR FAMILY IS BOUNCING ON TRAMPOLINES, PUZZLING THROUGH AN ESCAPE ROOM, OR BATTLING IT OUT OVER MINI GOLF, THESE ACTIVITIES GUARANTEE THE KIND OF WARMTH AND MEMORIES THAT OUTLAST ANY SEASON.

**3rd Shot Pickleball** 6895 Sierra Center Parkway, Unit A, Reno | [3rdshotpickleball.com/home-reno](http://3rdshotpickleball.com/home-reno)

**Fly High Trampoline Park Reno Sparks** 10 Greg Street, Suite 204, Sparks | [reno.flyhighfun.com](http://reno.flyhighfun.com)

**Urban Air Adventure Park** 2210 Harvard Way, Reno | [urbanair.com/nevada-reno](http://urbanair.com/nevada-reno)

**DEFY Sparks** 1330 Scheels Drive, Suite 250, Sparks | [defy.com/defy-sparks](http://defy.com/defy-sparks)

**Birdeez** 151 N. Sierra Street, Reno | [birdeezreno.com](http://birdeezreno.com)

**X-Golf Reno** 13925 S. Virginia Street, Suite 234, Reno | [playxgolf.com](http://playxgolf.com)

**Coconut Bowl at Wild Island** 1855 E. Lincoln Way, Sparks | [wildisland.com](http://wildisland.com)

**Need 2 Speed** 2863 Northtowne Lane, Suite 400, Reno | [need2speed.com](http://need2speed.com)

**Puzzle Room Reno** 135 N. Sierra Street, Suite B, Reno | [puzzleroomreno.com](http://puzzleroomreno.com)

**Keystone Escape Games** 1350 Stardust Street, Reno | [escaperoomreno.net](http://escaperoomreno.net)

**Game Lab at Peppermill Reno** 2707 S. Virginia Street, Reno | [peppermillreno.com](http://peppermillreno.com)



# & Crust Crumb

Inside the  
Peppermill  
Bread Program

by Katie Silva



LONG BEFORE GUESTS SETTLE INTO BREAKFAST OR RESTAURANTS BEGIN THEIR EVENING PREPARATIONS, A QUIET BUT EXTRAORDINARY WORLD IS ALREADY IN FULL MOTION. TUCKED BEHIND THE SCENES, THE PEPPERMILL BAKERY BEGINS ITS WORK IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING. THE OVENS WARM THE ROOM, THE SCENT OF DOUGH AND FLOUR FLOATS THROUGH THE AIR, AND THE DAILY RHYTHM OF MIXING, SHAPING, AND BAKING BEGINS.

**A**t the center of this world is the Peppermill bread program, a remarkable operation that supports nearly every dining outlet on the property. The bread program is part of the pastry department and is overseen by executive pastry chef Cindy McCormack, who has crafted an environment of creativity, collaboration, and trust. Under her leadership, the team produces an astonishing range of breads every day, guided by an approach that values tradition, quality, and passion.

The result is a bread program that is unmatched in the region, defined not only by its volume and variety, but by the people who give it life.

## A Living Craft That Starts Before Sunrise

When Ron Castro walks into the bakery each morning, he begins with the sourdoughs. After working in Peppermill's bread program for more than 25 years, Castro knows the dough, the process, and what goes into making quality products. The sourdough requires an 18-hour cycle to develop the right structure and flavor.

The sourdough starter itself is a marvel of longevity and care. It is more than 20 years old and regarded with an almost reverent respect. "We have nurtured it and taken care of it," McCormack says. "We mother it, and that is why it is called the Mother." When the bakery shut down during the pandemic, she even came in once a week in the dark with a headlamp to feed it apples. "It was so important to our program that we could not let it die."







Castro adds that about 50 percent of the bread produced in the bakery uses some amount of this starter. It enhances flavor and creates a unique signature that cannot be replicated. The team feeds it only organic stone-ground wheat of the highest grade, and even a small addition of the starter transforms pizza dough, rolls, and many specialty breads.

Bread at the Peppermill is not a mechanical process. It is a relationship. Doughs are alive, and Castro respects that reality. "All the breads we do are alive," he says. "If it is cold, you use warm water. If it is hot, you use cold water. You have to outthink it, because it is really alive. If it is moving too fast, you cannot control it. If it is moving too slow, you are in trouble."

That level of understanding is what he passes down to others. McCormack notes that even when new bakers arrive with prior experience, they still have to learn the Peppermill way. "You may know bread, but you do not know our bread," she says. Castro reinforces this by teaching the visual and sensory signs of proper dough development. "You have to feel, touch, smell, and recognize all of those things," McCormack adds.





## Bread for an Entire Resort

The Peppermill bread program is massive in scale while staying true to artisanal technique. The team produces roughly 80 percent of all bread used across the resort, as well as for their other local property, Western Village in Sparks. Working through 700 to 1,000 pounds of dough each day, they turn out everything from deli rolls, hot dog buns, rye loaves, and sandwich rolls to pizza dough and a wide range of specialty breads for nearly every outlet. All pizza dough for the property is made in-house, then rolled and baked for flatbread wraps. The team also develops Italian-style doughs, specialty Mexican telera breads, and unique items like folded pretzel breads served as appetizers at the award-winning Western Village Steak House.

Seasonal offerings are a major component of the program. McCormack encourages the team to bring ideas, explore unusual flavor combinations, and challenge themselves. “If someone asks for something, we want to do it,” she says. The team has created everything from roasted garlic and asparagus rolls to Hawaiian rolls that have become a signature item for many of the dining outlets. They often test multiple ideas, taste them as a team, refine them, and choose what best fits the season.

The team also frequently steps in to solve problems in creative ways. When a purchased dough did not meet their standards, they created their own to replace it. When biscuits were not working, they began making hundreds a day from scratch. McCormack says proudly, “We have not had one complaint about the bread or the biscuits.”

When chefs ask for new items, the bread team collaborates closely with them. Castro says, “They will come up and say, can you make something like this? And Cindy tells me what she wants, and then we work together to make it.” One such example was a truffle bread that came together in less than an hour after a surprise tasting. It was so successful that it went onto the menu at Bimini Steakhouse.





## A Team Defined by Respect, Creativity, and Trust

McCormack is clear about what makes the bread program successful. “It is not me telling them what to do,” she says. “It is a team effort. Everyone’s ideas matter.” The pastry and bread departments include 23 employees, each with an important role in shaping the daily output.

Castro agrees. “It is the freedom Cindy gives us to try new things and come up with new ideas,” he says. “She will say, go ahead, try it. Tweak it. Change it. That is fantastic. I do not know any other place that does that.”

The team dynamic is strong, partly because so much of the staff has been there for years. McCormack has been with the property since 2010, and other members have stayed for 20 years or more. The shared experience creates a family-like atmosphere, reinforced by traditions like making pizzas together at the end of a shift. “We spend more time with each other than we do with our families,” McCormack says. “It has to feel like a family.”





## Bread That Defines a Culinary Identity

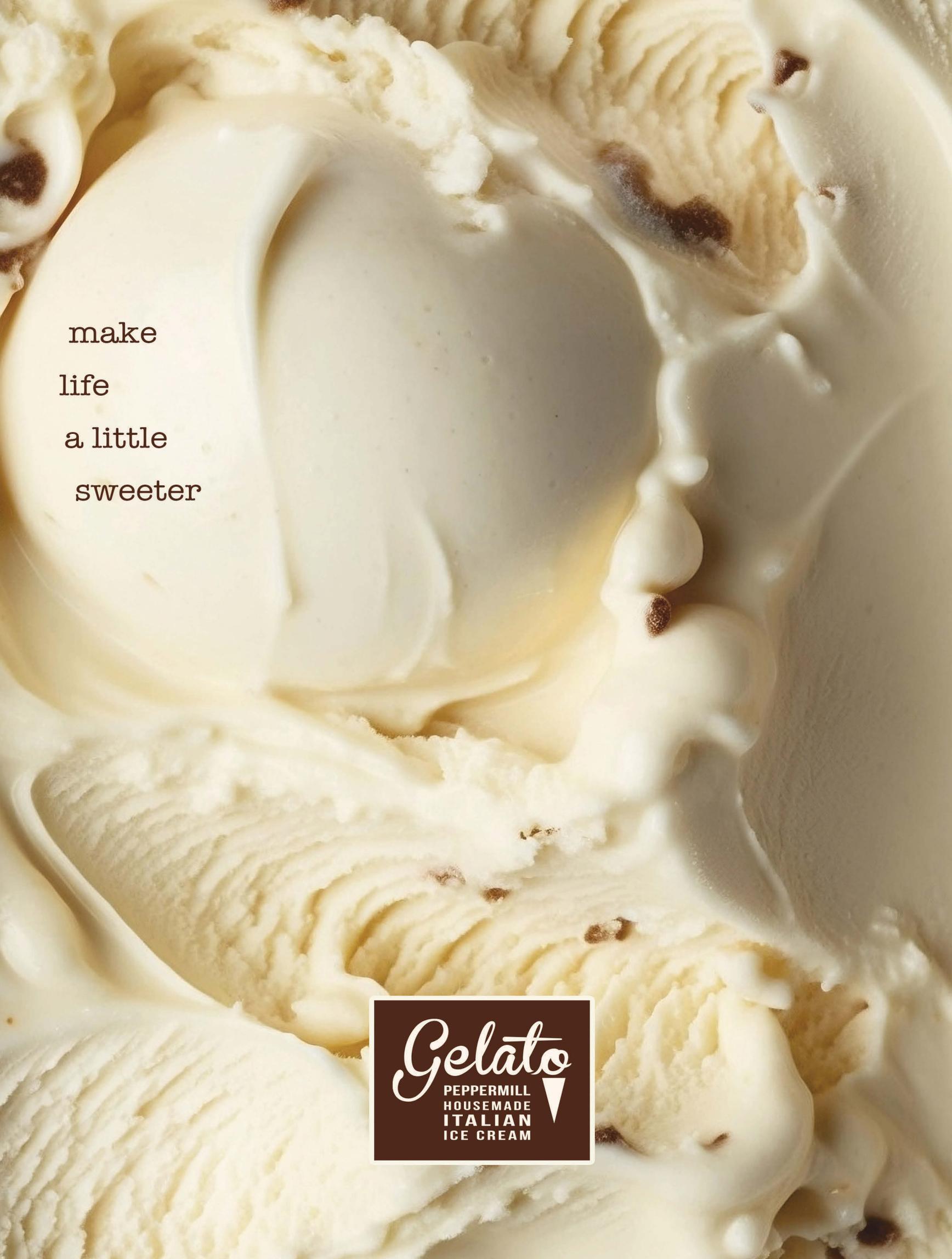
The Peppermill bread program supports more than one million meals a year. That includes sandwiches, entrée breads, basket service, banquets, and special events. Some products are held briefly to meet demand, but never beyond two days, and any excess goes to employees rather than being wasted.

Their sourdough has developed a devoted following, especially during the holidays when the team packages it with bows and recipe cards. Some items, like hand rolled breadsticks for Romanza and banquets, require a single baker to roll 2,000 sticks a day. These details illustrate the extraordinary labor behind every loaf.

Castro still finds joy in the everyday magic of bread. “When you take flour and water and everything together, and then pull it out of the oven, it is beautiful,” he says. “People look at me like I am crazy, but it is beautiful. You can eat it. It is good.”

McCormack sums up the program simply: “What sets us apart is the ingredients we use and the passion behind everything we do.”

That passion rises with the dough, moves through each pair of hands that touches it, and reaches every guest who breaks a roll or slices into a loaf.



make  
life  
a little  
sweeter

*Gelato*  
PEPPERMILL  
HOUSEMADE  
ITALIAN  
ICE CREAM



Photos courtesy of Walden's Coffee House

# Eat

## BREAKFAST

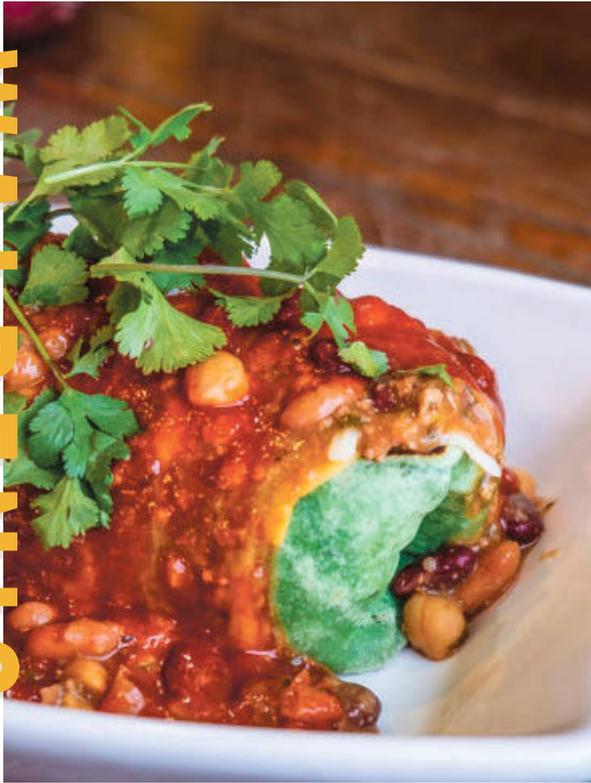
# LINK

# A

*by Camy Marotta*

START YOUR MORNING OFF RIGHT WITH HEARTY PLATES, COZY CAFÉS, AND COFFEE STRONG ENOUGH TO FUEL THE DAY AHEAD. FROM TUCKED-AWAY NEIGHBORHOOD GEMS TO ICONIC PATIOS, RENO'S BREAKFAST SCENE IS FULL OF CHARACTER.

# WALDEN'S COFFEE HOUSE



**Walden's Coffee House** has grown into a Reno staple, with multiple locations across town and a reputation for keeping mornings running smoothly. The atmosphere is casual and laid-back, making it just as good for catching up with a friend as it is for settling in with a laptop and a latte. The menu stretches from quick-grab pastries and breakfast sandwiches to hearty plates like huevos rancheros or a towering stack of French toast. A strong lineup of coffee and espresso drinks rounds it out, ensuring there is something for every type of morning mood. Whether you are starting the day early or easing into a slow brunch, Walden's has the kind of neighborhood café feel that keeps people coming back again and again.

**WALDEN'S COFFEEHOUSE IS LOCATED AT 1170 S. WELLS AVENUE, 3940 MAYBERRY DRIVE, AND 310 S. ARLINGTON AVENUE IN RENO.**



# TWO CHICKS



Photos courtesy of Two Chicks

**Two Chicks** is the sort of brunch spot that turns a regular morning into a little occasion. The menu leans into playful, comfort food upgrades, like their signature GourMelt Bene, stuffed French toast, and bright, craveable Benedicts and scrambles. It's a women-owned local favorite with a friendly, upbeat dining room that feels equal parts cozy and Instagram-ready, and there are plenty of vegetarian and vegan options woven throughout the lineup. Portions are generous, flavors are bold without being fussy, and the whole place hums with that brunch energy that makes you want to order one more pancake "for the table."

**TWO CHICKS IS LOCATED AT 752 S. VIRGINIA STREET AND 5851 S. VIRGINIA STREET IN RENO.**



# THE STONE HOUSE CAFE



Photos courtesy of The Stone House Café

Few places capture Reno's charm quite like **The Stone House Café**. Set in a historic building with one of the city's most inviting patios, it blends garden party elegance with cozy, old-home comfort. The menu ranges from traditional breakfasts to inventive dishes like smoked salmon scrambles and decadent Benedicts, with freshly baked breads and pastries that round out everything. On a sunny morning, there is nothing quite like sipping coffee under the shade of trees while flowers spill around the patio. When the weather cools, the warm interior dining rooms carry the same character, offering a setting that feels both intimate and lively.

**THE STONE HOUSE CAFE IS LOCATED AT 1907 S. ARLINGTON AVENUE IN RENO.**



# WESTSIDE CAFE

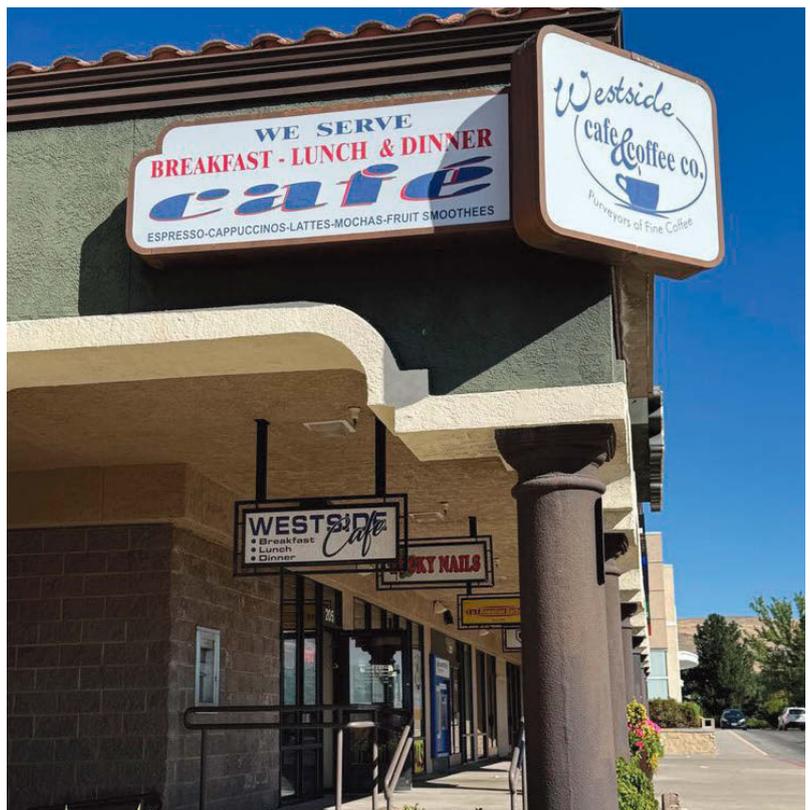


# & COFFEE COMPANY

Photos courtesy of  
Westside Cafe & Coffee Co.

**Westside Cafe & Coffee Company** is the kind of place where mornings feel unhurried. The aroma of fresh coffee drifts through the room as plates of pancakes, omelets, and breakfast burritos make their way to tables. Known for its incredible housemade salsa, Westside Cafe also shines with dishes like huevos rancheros and chilaquiles that pack bold flavor into every bite. Generous portions, fair prices, and a casual atmosphere make it easy to see why people come here for both a quick bite before work and a laid-back brunch on weekends. With friendly service and a welcoming vibe, Westside Cafe proves that breakfast doesn't need to be fancy to be memorable.

**WESTSIDE CAFE & COFFEE COMPANY IS LOCATED AT 5150 MAE ANNE AVENUE, SUITE 206, IN RENO.**





CONFECTION



PERFECTION





# Winter

adventures await in  
**South Lake Tahoe**



WINTER HAS OFFICIALLY MADE ITS GRAND ENTRANCE IN THE SIERRA NEVADA, AND THE ENERGY AROUND THE REGION IS ELECTRIC. LOCALS ARE TUNING UP THEIR GEAR, TRAVELERS ARE PLANNING THEIR MOUNTAIN GETAWAYS, AND THE TALK OF THE TOWN IS ALL ABOUT WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR, FROM UPGRADED SKI TERRAIN AND LIVELY APRÈS-SKI SPOTS TO COZY DINING, CREATIVE COCKTAILS, AND CAN'T-MISS WINTER EVENTS. WHETHER YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A QUICK ESCAPE OR CHASING THAT PERFECT POWDER DAY, SOUTH LAKE TAHOE'S WINTER MAGIC IS CALLING.

*by Amaia Condon*





## Hitting the Slopes

**Heavenly Mountain Resort** celebrated a major milestone in 2025: its 70th anniversary. Opened in 1955 with just one chairlift and a breathtaking view, Heavenly has grown into a world-class ski destination located in both California and Nevada. Today, it boasts more than 4,800 acres of skiable terrain, 97 runs, and 28 lifts. The big birthday celebration on December 20 featured live DJs and food and drink specials.

Throughout the season, **Heavenly** will host signature winter events like Toyota Air and Après, happening February 27 through March 1, a freestyle ski and snowboard show with live music. You can also check out the Celebrity Banked Slalom, April 3-4, where professional and local celebrities will race side by side for charity.

Just down the road, **Kirkwood Mountain Resort** is keeping things classic with its famous big mountain terrain. Known for its high elevation and consistent snowfall, Kirkwood offers some of the lightest, driest powder around, a dream for expert skiers and snowboarders. For beginners and families, the Timber Creek area remains a go-to zone, offering gentle slopes and great snow.

**Sierra-at-Tahoe** continues to rebuild and expand after past wildfire impacts, and the improvements are impressive. This season, two brand-new trails, Pika and Skipper, join the lineup, along with newly cleared areas that open up more space to explore. Crews planted and restored more than 16,000 trees last summer, giving the mountain a new look. The mountain now has 50 trails and roughly 2,000 acres of skiable terrain.

# Winter Fun Beyond Skiing

Not a skier? No problem! South Lake Tahoe offers endless ways to enjoy the snow without ever clipping into skis or a snowboard. Popular winter activities include:

- Tubing and sledding at several hills around town, including a slope across from the Tahoe Blue Event Center
- Snowmobiling adventures at Zephyr Cove or Hope Valley, where riders can glide through alpine meadows and take in sweeping mountain views
- Ice skating at Heavenly Village, Edgewood on Ice, or the South Lake Tahoe Ice Arena, all offering rentals and festive music
- Horse-drawn and electric sleigh rides with Tahoe Sleigh & Carriage Rides, perfect for couples or families looking for an exciting winter experience
- Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing at Camp Richardson or Kirkwood, where peaceful forest trails wind through the trees and lakeside views

Whether you're building snowmen, sipping cocoa, or chasing that perfect Instagram shot, South Lake Tahoe's winter magic is hard to beat.







## What's New Around Town

There's a lot happening off the slopes too. The **Tahoe Blue Event Center** continues to be a major entertainment hub in the area. In November, it hosted the Grand Slam of Curling, a high-profile tournament featuring Olympic athletes and world champions gearing up for the 2026 Winter Olympics. Expect exciting competition, live music, and plenty of fun activities.

Hockey fans can cheer on the **Tahoe Knight Monsters** as the team hit the ice again in October. After an impressive debut season that took them all the way to the second round of playoffs, the club's return was one of the most anticipated local events of the winter.

For some old-school fun, **Retroactive Arcade** at Heavenly Village brings back the classics with vintage favorites like Pac-Man, Donkey Kong, and Frogger. It's a great spot for families or anyone feeling nostalgic. Meanwhile, **Slime Kitchen** is a hit with kids (and creative adults), letting visitors mix, color, and decorate their own custom slime creations.

At **Hot Spot**, creativity continues with hands-on activities like pottery painting, candle making, mosaics, and fairy garden design, perfect for a cozy indoor afternoon.

# Food and Drink

When it's time to refuel, South Lake Tahoe's dining scene is heating up with fresh flavors and exciting new spots. **Cascade Kitchens**, the area's first major food hall, offers an impressive mix of global cuisines — from Korean bibimbap and Colombian arepas to Italian pastas, Mexican tacos, and classic burgers.

For an upscale experience, **The Edge Restaurant & Lounge** at Edgewood delivers seasonal fine dining, signature cocktails, and one of the most impressive wine lists around. The recently remodeled lakefront event space next door

makes Edgewood an unbeatable destination for special occasions.

**Bare Roots Coffee Roasting Company** has expanded and now serves kava kava, a soothing, non-alcoholic beverage gaining popularity for its calming effects. It's the perfect way to unwind after a day in the snow.

Other must-try spots include **Rice Thai Eatery** on Ski Run Blvd., known for comforting noodle soups and creamy khao soi, and **Kung Pao Hustle**, which blends Thai and Chinese street food into a quick but flavorful takeout experience.



# Winter's Back and Better Than Ever

With powder piling up, new flavors to try, and exciting events lighting up the calendar, South Lake Tahoe is ready for an unforgettable winter. Whether you're carving fresh tracks, gliding on ice, or simply soaking up the mountain views, the region's mix of adventure and relaxation offers something for everyone.

So, grab your gloves, bundle up, and get ready to explore. This season, South Lake Tahoe proves once again that when the snow falls, the fun truly begins.





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