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Avon calling: Sink into lap of luxury

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WARREN EPSTEIN
 THE GAZETTE

In Colorado, luxury usually means rustic, log-cabin-y luxury that can take scuffs well from clumsy ski boots. But the gorgeous new Westin Riverfront Resort & Spa in Avon goes the other way, with sophisticated, urban elegance. So if you're looking for a Vail Valley ski/spa getaway with style, and you're willing to pay for it, this new resort might be the ticket.

GREEN, ON THE SIDE

Westin is promoting this gorgeous hotel, built within casting distance of the Eagle River, as Colorado's newest "green" resort, with guest recycling stations on every floor, preferred parking for hybrids and an on-site organic garden. Little of that emphasis on environmentalism gets in the way of the posh resort experience (except for the bathtubs, which, to use less water, are uncomfortably compact).

PLAY IN THE SNOW

The resort's location isn't quite ski-in/ski out, but it's darned close. Right outside the entrance is a new gondola, which can take you to the Beaver Creek base in five minutes.

CHOW DOWN

Many great restaurants, inside and outside of the resort, beckon. One of my favorites is Larkburger in the Edwards Village shopping center; Larkburger has THE best cheeseburger (topped with truffle aioli) I've ever eaten.

IF YOU GO

Directions: Take Interstate 25 North to C470 West and take it to Interstate 70 West. Take 70 to Exit 169.

Cost: In the off-season, the rates start at just over \$100 for a studio. During ski season, it's about \$300-\$350. For a two bedroom, in season, expect to pay close to \$1,000.

Deals: The "Tomorrow Is Looking Up" promotion offers 50 percent off every second night booked at the regular rate. It requires a Sunday-through-Wednesday arrival. Valid for stays now through March 31. Mention promo code ZBT.

Booking: Go to westin.com and search "Colorado" or call 1-866-716-8137.

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Courtesy of Westin Riverfront Resort & Spa
 The new Westin Riverfront Resort & Spa makes no attempt to be rustic: This resort in Avon is all about luxury for guests seeking a special ski/spa getaway.

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