

## BRIDGER BOWL

**WHAT YOU'LL PAY:**

A four-bedroom house for a week is typically about \$2,400. Inns offer cheaper, though more Spartan, lodging. Flights to Bozeman are often affordable. For instance, round-trip tickets from Dallas average about \$400 year-round.

**WHEN TO GO:** Prices are consistent throughout the ski season, so there are no deals for spring skiers.

**BEST BARGAIN:** A 90-minute, private ski lesson is \$75.

**MONEY SAVER:**

Browse package deals at Bridger-Bowl.com. For instance, the Hampton Inn recently offered a four-day winter getaway, with lift tickets, for about \$585 for two.

DOUG WALES/BRIDGER BOWL



## SKIING UNDER BIG SKY

**T**HE BRIDGER BOWL resort embodies what skiing was like before resorts started charging \$7 for hot chocolate and lift lines were longer than the runs. Unlike places in Aspen and Vail, Bridger Bowl is run as a nonprofit, keeping a lid on prices. This winter, lift tickets will cost \$41 a day; comparable destinations in the Rockies will charge about twice that in peak season. Ski rentals are \$25 a day.

Susan Kamsky Sussman of Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., skied the slopes of such famed destinations as Stowe, Whistler and Beaver Creek—until she discovered Bridger Bowl, 16 miles from Bozeman,

during a business trip to Montana. For the past three winters, the retired chief executive officer of a luxury-goods company has gone there for weeklong ski trips with her husband and other family members. "There's no sense paying twice the price at a place like Aspen or Vail when the people are nicer, the lines are shorter, and the slopes are just as good at Bridger," she says.

The Sussmans like the resort's steep and deep dry powder (dubbed cold smoke). They also like the mix of slopes. About 60% are for novice and intermediate skiers. But if you can brave double diamonds, you may prefer the resort's 1,500-foot vertical drop.

CHRIS STEELE-PENNING/WAGNIM PHOTOS