

# TSC NEWSLETTER

[www.texas-ski.org](http://www.texas-ski.org)

NEWSLETTER 13-14  
VOLUME 2



## THE TEXAS FACTOR TSC Texans Love to Travel Where We've Been and Where We Are Going

By Marsha Lutz — VP Marketing

The last of the 2014 trips will be departing next week to South Africa. Those that have returned said it was a great adventure and the next two groups are anxiously anticipating the same. Soon we pause most of the group travel for fall activities – football, camping, the holidays, etc. - before heading out to the great locations selected at Bid Fest for 2015. While our members are preparing for the coming season's ski trips, the vendors, tour operators and my Pre-Select committee will be working behind the scenes, preparing and reviewing bids for the 2016 season. That sounds so far away – but early planning is what is required to pull these trips together. One of the first steps is to review the most recent travel season by conducting a survey of all the clubs in the TSC to find out where they went and how they did. The survey was conducted prior to the South Africa trip, which will be included in next year's survey.

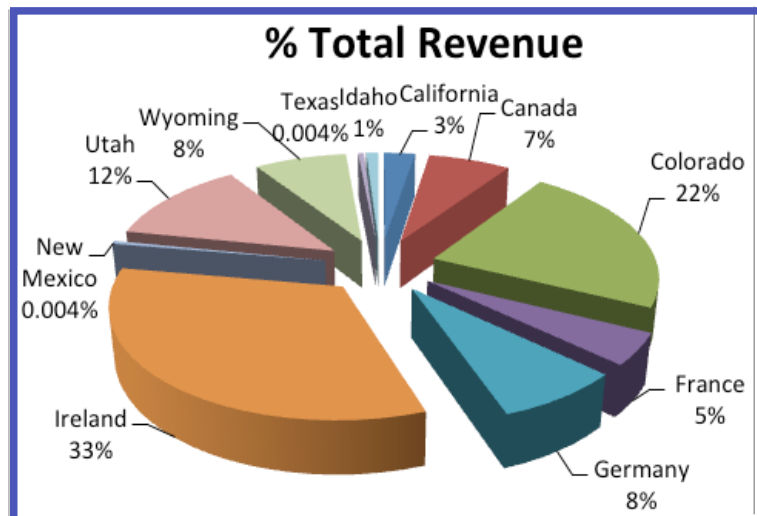
The table and chart show the summary results

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of the survey. The TSC and the member clubs had over 1,800 participants (16% more than the previous year) and spent over \$2.6 million last year. The total revenue appears down from last year, but in reality it may be about the same due to a flaw of the survey - the tracking of air travel. The survey's air fare revenue has dropped for several years on paper, but we all know air fares have risen significantly. The lower reported air fare value is due to many participants getting their own air and the clubs do not track this. The important thing to take from the survey is that the participant numbers continue to rise.

This last season, the TSC took two of their big trips to non-Colorado locations, resulting in lower numbers for the usual leader, Colorado. However, overall, North American ski trips accounted for 50% of the total revenue. Foreign ski trips and the Summer Expedition brought in 46% of the revenue; with the remaining 4% being domestic non-ski travel. Ireland's whopping 33% is probably the first time that the Summer Expedition had significantly more revenue than the highest revenue ski state. The trip to Ireland was a new locale for many and offered a lot of sightseeing activities which was of great interest. Some of the larger clubs supplement the TSC trip schedule with their own club trips. The "All Trips" column includes those additional club trips. Overall, the



<b>Category</b>	<b>All Trips 2013-14</b>	<b>TSC Trips 2013-14</b>	<b>% TSC</b>
Participants	1,823	918	50%
Participant Days	11,782	6,644	56%
Lift Ticket Days	4,479	2,313	52%
Lodging Revenue	1,468,729	923,597	63%
Airline Revenue	\$466,302	\$333,272	71%
Lift Ticket Revenue	\$272,260	\$151,910	56%
Ground Transportation	\$69,893	\$25,511	36%
Foreign Extensions	\$189,939	\$170,335	90%
Foreign Excursions	\$90,963	\$60,834	67%
Daily Resort Revenue *	\$1,178,200	\$664,400	56%
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$2,632,607</b>	<b>\$1,738,399</b>	<b>66%</b>

\* Daily Resort revenue is conservatively estimated at \$100 per day for food, beverages, rentals, and incidentals.

TSC is an important contributor to the ski and travel industry.

For most clubs, trip sign-up is just beginning for the 2015 trips and there are some wonderful destinations. The schedule starts with a terrific trip to Beaver Creek, Colorado in January. Next

is Madesimo, Italy - a new location for TSC, but quite popular among Italians. There are pre and post-trip extensions to Lucerne and Florence. Then there is Mammoth in sunny California. The last ski trip will be to an old, familiar favorite – Breckenridge. The season will end with the Summer (actually Fall) Expedition to Tuscany with pre and post-trip extensions to Cinque Terre and Rome. 2015 seems to be the year for Italy.

We are reviewing the Request for Proposals (RFP's) that will be sent out in late November. If you have suggestions for improving these documents, please send them to me at [marketing@texas-ski.org](mailto:marketing@texas-ski.org). And be sure to mark your calendars to meet again at Bid Fest in San Antonio, April 10 -12, 2015 where we will see what other great destinations we can check off our bucket lists.

THANK YOU to all the TSC member clubs for participating in the annual Marketing Survey and to all of the travel industry partners who arrange our trips and let us escape our daily routines.

## A Message from Our President

By Camille La Roe — President

Summer playtime is over for the kids and we must all return to the daily grind! However for those avid travelers, skiers and adventurers, our playtime is just beginning. Beginning in a big way with our first trips to S. Africa come and gone and the final group getting ready to depart this month. I know this has and will be the adventure of a lifetime and I am so glad the TSC was able to offer such an exciting bucket list destination.

I have been getting newsletters and seeing Facebook posts from all the Texas clubs starting to kick off their 2014/2015 calendars of events. I think

it is great when I see the clubs using social media to promote their activities and trips. We have probably been behind the curve embracing social media versus the ink and paper we have grown to love. A few years ago we weren't distributing electronic newsletters that we can now so easily pass on to a friend or a coworker. I have seen some happy faces at pool parties, photos of lions and elephants, camaraderie at happy hours, boat outings and wine tastings throughout the summer that make me want to join in the fun! Perhaps some of your Facebook friends will pick up on the post and join your clubs on your next adventure. Keep hitting that "Like" button and move your club's post and the TSC posts to the top of the list!

I know all of the clubs have been busy this summer pricing TSC trips, organizing club destinations and putting together a great calendar of so-

cial events for the summer and the New Year. I encourage each club to check out the individual TSC club websites as I see some fantastic club trips being organized. We want to promote the spirit of sharing between the clubs and hope you will welcome your fellow TSC members in joining you on your next adventure. I think this partnership will allow us to reach more destinations and only strengthen the clubs. Check out the TSC website for links to the various clubs websites.

Later this month, I will be attending the National Ski Council Federation's Annual Summit Meeting in Park City, Utah. In reviewing the agenda I see a lot of topics centered on how to motivate our current members and how to lasso more members! This has been the topic of conversation on the club level for many years and we spent some time at the last delegates meeting sharing some ideas. Delegates showed business card samples with trip schedules on the reverse, pamphlets that they can distribute as needed. Success stories were told regarding the use of "meet up" and putting your

club on the community's map by volunteering at local charities, public broadcast radio fund raisers and athletic events like Marathons. Space City even shared their venture into radio promotions on a sports radio station that has begun airing this month. Ross sent an audio out to the delegates so be sure and check it out!

Speaking of Facebook I saw a post just yesterday that summer is officially over in Jackson Hole as they are receiving their first snowfall! Read on to see the final preparations our Trip VP's are putting on both our Domestic and International trips that will be right around the corner. We have three fabulous Domestic destinations including Beaver Creek, Mammoth and Breckenridge. We also have a new Winter Destination in Madesimo, Italy and another one of those bucket list items with next fall's Tuscany trip. As we start to think about 2016, put BidFest on your calendar for April 10-12, 2015 as we return to San Antonio. In the meantime keep those tips up or that sunscreen applied wherever you might find your next ski trip or adventure!

## Beaver Creek - TSC Traditional — January 10-17, 2015

By Mary Wine, VP of TSC Traditional

There's less than ninety days before Beaver Creek Resort receives a storm like no other—the Texas Ski Council! Contracts have been signed by your clubs to accommodate 480 people – the largest group the council has assembled in several years. I continue to work with Winter Ski and Sports and the resort to create a memorable experience.

Beaver Creek's motto is "Not Exactly Roughing It." The sentiment is visible from the moment you arrive to the moment you leave. In addition to the luxurious lodging that will be your temporary home, you will find that you can walk most anywhere you want to go or use complimentary shuttle services provided by the resort and/or your lodging property. In the European-style village, you will find heated sidewalks and escalators that connect you to lifts, warm cookies at the base of the mountain at the end of the day and a wide variety of shops, restaurants and bars. Beaver Creek has everything you need readily accessible, but

we all know that Texans love a river walk. If your Texas energy calls, the neighboring town of Edwards is a 10 minute cab ride away and boasts of its own river walk. It offers several more shops, restaurants and bars.



The 1800 acres of skiable terrain speaks for itself and discounted ski rental packages will be available to help you explore. However, non-skiers find plenty to do at Beaver Creek as well. In addition to shopping, snowshoeing and Nordic skiing, there are opportunities for snowmobiling, dog sledding, horseback riding, fly fishing, zip lining, tubing, ice skating, swimming, spa appointments, gallery tours, wine tasting, art classes and food tours. Snow coach tours at Camp Hale, where the 10th Mountain Division trained during World War II, are also available. Your lodging concierge



can direct you to these activities.

We continue to fine tune the agenda for the week, but the tentative schedule is as follows:  
**1/10 Saturday:** Arrival Day – Distribution of items to trip leaders

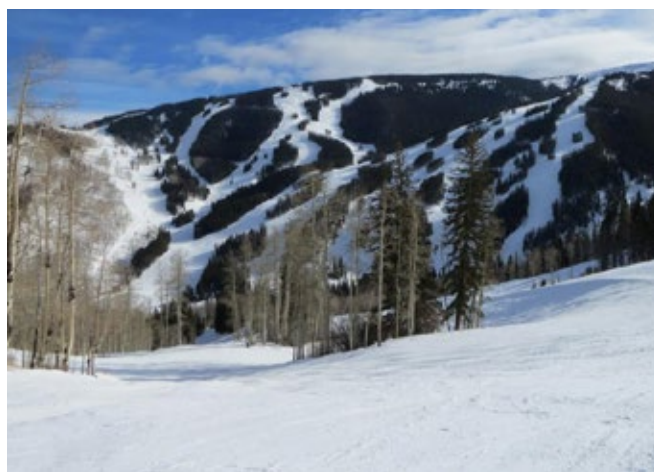
**1/11 Sunday:** Ski day - Welcome Reception at The Charter

**1/12 Monday:** Ski day – Alternate date for Après Ski Event

**1/13 Tuesday:** Ski day – Proposed date for Après Ski Event

**1/14 Wednesday:** Ski day – Race Day

**1/15 Thursday:** Ski day – Race Awards/Fare-



well Dinner and Dance at the Park Hyatt (live entertainment by Dave Thomas)

**1/16 Friday:** Ski day – No events planned

**1/17 Saturday:** Departure day



This is a trip you do not want to miss. Contact your club trip leader to secure your spot. They will also receive the details of the trip as they are secured. You can get help identifying a club in your area and the trip leader by following <http://www.texas-ski.org/members/members.htm>. Pinterest users can find lots of great information specific for our trip at <http://www.pinterest.com/TexasSkiCouncil/>. See you in Beaver Creek!

## Madesimo, Italy - TSC Winter Expedition— Jan 23 - 31, 2015

By Tere Mayne, TSC Expeditions Coordinator

### Madesimo – You’re Gonna Love It!

Ok, I know you have never heard of Madesimo. I hadn’t either until just two years ago. And many



Europeans haven’t heard of the place either, but it is fast becoming one of Italy’s favorite resorts. You will find this charming little mountain village with friendly people, uncrowded slopes (except on the weekends) and modern lift sys-

tem, a treasure. It has high altitude, east-facing slopes which allow for a long ski season. Don’t let this undiscovered “gem” get by you this year, because you are going to love it!



Madesimo is located in the Italian lakes district of Northern Italy, right on the border of Switzerland about a two-hour drive North of Milan. In fact, in its early days, Madesimo was the only route you could take to go between Italy and Switzerland by way of the famous Splu-

gen Pass. The road today hasn't changed much since that time except of course the dirt is now covered with asphalt.

Madesimo in the 19th century was well known for its mineral waters before becoming a popular ski resort. But today it is the "classic" Italian mountain resort popular for winter sports, and offers a



variety of slopes and hills for both skiing and snowboarding. It is where the "ski-holiday" was born in 1911, organized by the Italian Touring Club. Madesimo has one of the most modern lift systems in Europe. There are 12 ski lifts with the highest lift going to 2880 meters. This altitude ensures good snow on all the 36 miles of downhill ski trails of the resort. It breaks down to 19% expert runs (black) with 2 off-piste routes, 46% intermediate slopes (red) and 35% beginner runs (blue). The snowpark called "MadePark" has a half pipe, rails, jumps, a spine ramp and a quarter pipe for those boarders and skiers looking for some thrills. In addition, there are 20 km of cross-country trails. Sounds like there is something for every kind of snow sport enthusiast on this trip. And if that is not enough, the resort also offers night skiing for those who want to ski both day and night! That could be the best of both worlds – tour during the day and ski at night.

For those wanting something other than skiing, Madesimo offers a variety of activities. There

are 70 km of groomed signposted snowmobile trails. You can even take a skidoo (snowmobile) across

the Splügen mountain pass to the Swiss border. Nearby are snow groomer Tours inside an actual snow grooming vehicle. You can take snow walks on kilometers of well-trotted paths. Or take a guided snowshoe excursion in one of the many valleys surrounding Madesimo. If you are looking for more excitement, plan a few hours of ice driving where you can take a course to learn how to drive in extreme winter conditions and like it! There is even a frozen waterfall climbing excursion for those who want to just "hang" around.

For non-skiers Madisemo offers many sightseeing opportunities. There is an excellent museum in nearby Compolocino which is a 15 minute bus trip away. Also a visit to Chiavenna, just a 45 minute by bus, to explore, dine, and shop the medieval town is a must. Try a day trip to St. Moritz, which is only an hour's drive from the resort. Or, how about a day excursion into Milan for a day of site seeing and shopping.

After all this activity you will be ready to settle into your hotel. Our Madesimo trip has a couple of hotel options for us all at an altitude of 1550 meters. The four-star Hotel Andossi run by the Masanti family is an incredible hotel with a wonderful pool and spa. Set in a quiet area, this hotel is only 400 yards away from the





centre of Madesimo and only 200 yards away from the ski slopes. What makes this hotel great is the staff, the excellent breakfast and overly abundant dinner with a hors d'oeuvre buffet followed by a 3-course meal. The rooms at the hotel are spacious by European standards and comfortable with fabulous views of the slopes and some even come with a balcony. The family is what really makes the place - so friendly and welcoming, and happy to help. You will feel like you are really getting the Italian family experience. <http://hotelandossi.it/en/>

Go back in time with the Hotel Le Meridiana, a three-star hotel that years ago was the summer mountain retreat of the famous Villa D' Este on Lake Como. Surrounded by natural valleys and ski slopes, Hotel Le Meridiana is set in the centre of Madesimo. It offers a wellness centre, its own restaurant and bar, and the main gondola

and slopes are just outside the front door. The family-run hotel, has fresh, bright rooms with en suite bathroom, satellite TV and Wi-Fi access. But once again it is the staff that makes this hotel so memorable. <http://www.hotel-lameridiana.com/home.jsp?idpag=5>

Visit the ski resort town of Madesimo for an intimate and satisfying ski experience in the beautiful countryside of Northern Italy. Ski and snowboard enthusiasts will be impressed by the variety of ski runs and mountain terrain that Madesimo has to offer, while non-skiers will appreciate the charm and allure of the resort's surrounding areas. You will also find the Italian men and women of this small town extremely friendly. Oh, I forgot to mention the great Italian food at our hotels! So what's not to love about Madesimo? Don't miss this jewel of a trip!

## Mammoth – TSC Winter Shootout—Jan. 31- Feb. 7, 2015

By Sarah Granbery, VP of TSC Winter Shootout

TSC is heading for sunny California January 31, 2015 for a week of unforgettable skiing and socializing. There will be a group of almost 150 Texans to liven up the Sierras! Mammoth Lakes is known for winter adventures that will get your adrenaline flowing! It is home to the world-class Mammoth Mountain, one of the largest skiing and snowboarding areas in North America. It boasts the highest skiing elevation in California with an 11,053 foot summit and over 3,500 acres of skiable terrain which includes heart-pumping



steep chutes, wide open bowls, tree skiing, bumps, gullies and wide open, well groomed trails

suitable for all ability levels. With an average of 400 inches of snow, Mammoth has one of the longest skiing seasons in true California fashion.

In addition to traditional alpine skiing and snowboarding Mammoth Mountain offers nineteen miles of cross-country and snowshoe terrain, snowmobile adventures through the Sierra backcountry and heated luxury snowcat tours with stunning scenery. If you are still looking for more winter fun, try fishing, dog sledding, ice skating or snow tubing at Woolly's Tube Park. Scenic hot air balloon rides and helicopter rides are available year-round. For a unique experience, instructions to learn the basics and enjoy world-class ice climbing are just a short drive north of Mammoth Lakes.

  
Mammoth



Mammoth has one of the leading ski and snowboard schools in the nation. Their professional staff of AASI and PSAI-certified instructors from all over the world will help improve your skills so you will have a more enjoyable experience on the mountain. Perhaps they

can help some of you become better racers so your club can take home the winning trophy!

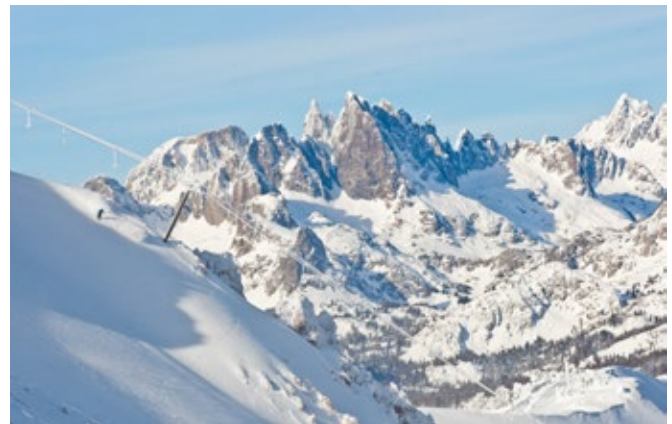


TSC will keep the fun going off the slopes with planned gatherings throughout the week. The resort will host a welcome party on Sunday eve-

ning at the Main Lodge. On Monday night an optional Pub Crawl is being organized by Mammoth Mountain staff so we can familiarize ourselves with some of the local watering holes for sustenance throughout the week. Be sure to get limbered up on Tuesday for NASTAR-type racing on Ralphies Run Wednesday morning from 10:30-12:30. The cost to race will be \$10. Another optional activity is the "Dine Around" (~\$45pp) at The Sierra Nevada Resort. Your club can organize this experience and try three restaurants, Asian, Greek, and Classic Californian cuisine, with tastings and drinks at all three. To round-out the weeklong ski vacation we will have our final dinner and awards ceremony on Friday night at the Main Lodge from 7-10.

Juniper Springs Condos and Mammoth Mountain Inn are the two lodging choices selected by the clubs.

Come join in on some TSC fun and get the 2015 ski season started off with a bang!



## Breckenridge – TSC Final Showdown—Feb. 28- Mar. 7, 2015

By Zoe Wright, VP of TSC Final Showdown

### *Go Breck 2015 - TSC Final Showdown*

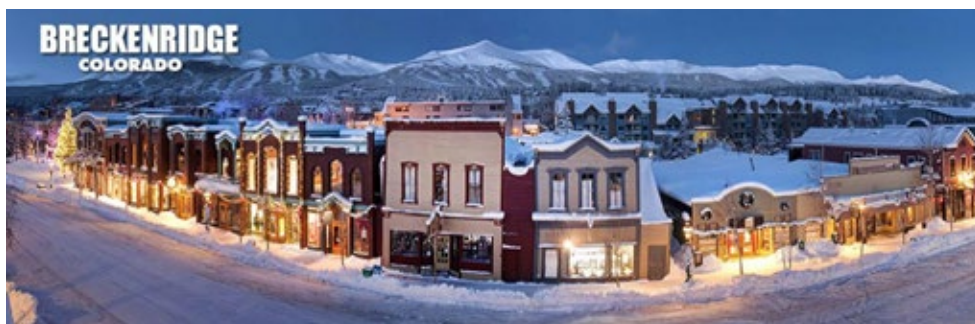
Come to Breckenridge and see why it is consistently recognized as not only one of the most



popular ski resorts in the country, but a perennial world-class destination, with a flavor all its own! "Breck" (as the Summit County lo-

cals call it) is located approximately 104 miles west of Denver airport. Sports America Tours, Breckenridge Ski Resort, and the Texas Ski Council (TSC) make a great team! Breckenridge Ski Resort is owned and operated by one of the world's leading ski operators, Vail Resorts, Inc. When you sign up for Final Showdown-Breckenridge, you are signing up for one of the best ski destinations in Colorado.





## *The Perfect Mountain Town*

It is no surprise that Breckenridge has been referred to as the perfect mountain town. The town is full of history and character. Breckenridge has rich Victorian heritage. Breckenridge was originally a mining community. Prospectors discovered gold when they founded Breckenridge in 1859. Today, the now-historical buildings are home to fabulous restaurants, boutiques, and other après ski hang-out spots. Breckenridge has plenty of dining options – too many to list! There are over 200 restaurants, pubs, and retail shops combined.

## *Lodging*

Breckenridge has become known for the quality and variety of its lodging selections in comparison to many other mountain towns. The three lodging properties (Beaver Run Resort, The Village at Breckenridge, and Sawmill Creek Condominiums) that were selected, have their own unique set of amenities and special features. Two of the properties, Beaver Run Resort and The Village at Breckenridge are ski-in/ski-out, and Sawmill Creek Condos is a ski-in/shuttle out property. All three lodging properties have countless comforting amenities. You can check out the three lodging properties on the Sports America Tours website: [www.sport-samerica.com](http://www.sport-samerica.com)

## *Activities - Texas Ski Week*

**Sunday Evening:** TSC Welcome Party at Beaver Run Resort

**Monday Afternoon:** Race Directors Meeting

**Tuesday:** Optional group ski day at Vail Resort. Dedicated bus will transport you to Vail Resort with a modest transportation fee. Your Breckenridge ski pass can be used at Vail Resort.

**Wednesday Evening:** Pub crawl

## *Optional Activities*

Daily complimentary mountain tours that are offered at the base of Peak 8 and Peak 9  
Gold Runner Alpine Coaster (located at the base of Peak 8)

TenMile Flyer Zipline (entrance at bottom of Rip's Ride Chair Lift-Peak 8)

Dog sledding with Siberian Huskies

Snowmobiling

Cross Country Skiing

Snowshoeing

Shopping!

## *The Perfect Mountain*

The Breckenridge Ski Resort ski area features



five main peaks that are all interconnected by chair lifts. Breckenridge offers more than 2,908 acres of amazing ski terrain, with roughly 353 inches of snowfall per year. There is a wide variety of beginner and intermediate terrain. There are over twenty beginner runs ranked among the world's best and longest learning terrains. Every beginner and intermediate trail is groomed nightly so you can enjoy endless turns throughout your day. With 3,400 ft. of vertical drop, Breckenridge has no shortage of steep and deep.



## Mountain Characteristics

<b>Base Elevation:</b>	<b>9,600 feet</b>
<b>Summit Elevation:</b>	<b>12,998 feet</b>
<b>Vertical Rise:</b>	<b>3,398 feet</b>
<b>Skiable Area:</b>	<b>2,893 acres</b>
<b>Trails:</b>	<b>187</b>
	<b>14% beginner</b>
	<b>31% intermediate</b>
	<b>55% advanced/expert</b>

## What's New?

Breckenridge Ski Resort added Peak 6 to their skiable terrain during the 2013/14 season. This huge expansion provides more above tree line skiable terrain for intermediate and expert skiers and riders. Peak 6 features a total of 543 additional acres (400 acres of lift-served terrain and 143 acres of hike-to terrain). This expansion is one of the most notable ski area expansions in the past decade. This major ad-



dition increases Breck's skiable terrain by 23%. The new terrain is served by the Kensho SuperChair, a high-speed, six-pack lift. This lift will soar over 12,300 feet, the highest in North America.

Breckenridge Ski Resort has recently upgraded Peak 8's Colorado SuperChair from a quad express to a six-passenger express to provide a 30 percent increase in capacity for Peak 8's primary and most-used lift. This will help spread skiers more evening among the new Peak 6, as well as Peaks 7 & 9.

## Final Showdown Participation

There will be six (6) TSC clubs that will participate: Armadillo Ski Club, Austin Skiers & Boarders, Clear Lake Area Ski Club, Dallas Ski Club, Lone Star Skiers & Adventure Club, and Space City Ski & Adventure Club. If your club is not participating in the TSC Final Showdown, then join us with one of the TSC clubs through the TSC trip reciprocity. Make sure to mark your calendar with "gone skiing" from February 28 – March 7, 2015 and come join us for a fun-filled week in Breckenridge.

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## Discover The Best of Tuscany – TSC Summer Expedition

Six Departure Dates: Beginning Sept 3, 2015 through Oct 30, 2015

By Tere Mayne, TSC Expeditions Coordinator

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Tuscany was the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance and its artistic heritage includes architecture, paintings and sculptures, collected in dozens of museums. The best-known is the Uffizi in Florence, but also found in virtually every small town and city in the region. One cannot pass through this land without being aware of medieval Tuscany. Still visible are the small walled towns, which are a testimony to the Middle Ages just as much as its great cities. Tuscany was the birthplace of Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Dante Alighieri ("the father of the Italian language"). Tuscany is known for its wines (most famous of which are Chianti, Morellino di Scansano and Brunello di Montalcino) and the production of olive oil.

**Our Base- Montecatini Terme**, known for its thermal waters, is one of Italy's top spa towns. It has several historic spas and spas with modern equipment for beauty and wellness treatments.



Terme Tettuccio is a lavish classic spa with music performances daily during the season, worth a visit just to see the Liberty style architecture. The town itself is pleasant and a good base for visiting central Tuscany, just 25 miles north of Florence. The 4-star hotel is a short quarter mile from Montecatini Centro Train Station and will be our home for 6 lovely nights.

**Hotel Ercolini and Savi** is a family-run hotel, in a 19th-century Art Nouveau-style building, which opened for business in 1910. The 81 air-conditioned guestrooms at Ercolini E Savi include minibars and safes. The rooms are simple and classic with either carpet or wooden floors and the beds have pillow-top mattresses. The rooms include a flat screen TV with Italian and foreign channels and complimentary wireless internet. After a day out sightseeing or shopping you will love to come back here to simply chill out and relax.

**Meals & Sightseeing Included:** Breakfast (B) is included every day and so are 5 dinners (D) with wine. Each day you will have the pleasure of visiting an enchanting location such as Assisi, Siena, San Gimignano and Florence, where you will have a local guide walk you through the best parts of each towns, all included. The trip consists of 6 nights in Montecatini Terme and two nights in Rome.

#### **Itinerary at a Glance:**

**Thursday:** Overnight Flight

**Friday:** Rome (D)

**Saturday:** Rome, Assisi & Montecatini Terme (B,D)

**Sunday:** Siena, return to Montecatini Terme (B)

**Monday:** San Gimignano, return to Montecatini Terme (B,D)

**Tuesday:** Florence, return to Montecatini Terme (B)

**Wednesday:** Relax or Optional tour of Lucca & Pisa (B)

**Thursday:** Florence, return to Montecatini Terme (B,D)

**Friday:** Montecatini Terme to Rome (B,D)

**Saturday:** Your tour Ends (B)

It would be hard to decide which of these villages is the best of Tuscany. Each sun-soaked town offers the quintessential Italian experience:



homemade pasta, cypress-lined driveways, fortified 16th century farmhouse and tasty wines. The medieval walled city of Assisi, the birthplace of the patron saint of Italy, St. Francis, is beautifully preserved and rich in history. Siena is situated atop three hills with red-brick lanes cascading every which way, seem to be every Italy connoisseur's favorite medieval town. Or it could be San Gimignano, one of the most picturesque hilltowns in Tuscany, with its 14 medieval towers. At one time there were 72 towers which allowed one to travel by roof top across the town. Then there is Florence, the birthplace of our modern world, which has the best Renaissance art in Europe. In one day you can see Michelangelo's David, check out Botticelli's Birth of Venus, climb the modern world's first dome, and tour the Pitti Palace. Join us on this unforgettable trip to Tuscany and find your favorite location.

Should you want to extend your trip to Italy, we have both a pre-trip and post-trip options. The



pre-trip is 3 nights in the picturesque region of the Cinque Terre. The post trip is a 2 night stay in the historic city of Rome. If you can't decide on which extension to take, then do both and really see the best Italy has to offer!

**Cinque Terre:** Beautiful beaches, rugged cliffs, crystal-clear turquoise waters and plentiful restaurants make Cinque Terre a must-see destination in the Italian Riviera. "Charming" and "breathtaking" are adjectives that get a workout when traveling in Italy, but it's rare that both apply to a single location. The Cinque Terre is such a place. The area is made up of five tiny villages clinging to the cliffs along a gorgeous stretch of the Ligurian coast. Each town has maintained its own distinct charm and views from the trails in between are breathtaking. The group will be staying in near-by Sestri Levante, just a short 30 minute train ride north of Monterosso al Mare.

Cinque Terre hiking trails offer picturesque views of the sea and villages from above. It's perfect for a day trip which requires about 5 hours to complete and takes you to all five villages. Hiking is not the only way to see the Cinque Terre. If you are in for a less strenuous experience, you can take the inland train running between the towns

instead. The local train line stops at each of the Cinque Terre villages several times each day. In addition, two ferry lines run along the coast and stops at four of the villages.

**Rome:** Rome is not a place where you walk up, snap a picture, and say "All right I've seen it." The famous saying – "Rome, a lifetime is not enough." is right! There are so many "must see" sights that it is impossible to take them all in during a day. So it best to have a plan and enjoy the adventure. There is so much here, you are bound to make discoveries you hadn't anticipated.

Among the sites, The Pantheon, St Peter's Square and Basilica, Galleria Borghese, Castle St. Angelo, Ancient Rome and the Colosseum are just a few to add to your must see list. Of ancient Rome's remains, the Pantheon is the best preserved and most impressive. It was the largest dome ever built until 1960 when the Astrodome surpassed its size. Art lovers can pay homage to the tomb of Raphael, who is buried there.

This is just a tip of the iceberg when it comes to Rome. Have a plan and strike a balance between major sites and leisurely strolls. The Spanish Steps is a great place to sit and people watch.

There are scores of piazzas, fountains, shops and restaurants to spend the afternoon exploring. Rome is one of the most culturally rich plots of land in the world. One can never get too much of it or Italy!

For more information about this trip and the various options, contact your local Texas Ski Council ski club. Space is going fast so don't delay. Make that call today.

## Important TSC Dates

<b>September 12-23, 2014</b>	<b>TSC SUMMER EXPEDITION - S. Africa Group 2</b>
September 12, 2014	Newsletter Email Target
September 15, 2014	Tax Return Due
<b>September 19-30, 2014</b>	<b>TSC SUMMER EXPEDITION - S. Africa Group 3</b>
<b>October 1, 2014</b>	<b>Lodging Requests/Club Deposits Due for TUSCANY Trip 2015 (\$500/club)</b>
October 11, 2014	Board of Directors Meeting – Houston
<b>November 8, 2014</b>	<b>Quarterly Delegates Meeting – Teleconference</b>
<b>November 26, 2014 **</b>	<b>Participation Fees due to TSC Treasurer for TRADITIONAL</b>
<b>December 9, 2014 **</b>	<b>Participation Fees due to TSC Treasurer for WINTER EXPEDITION</b>
<b>December 17, 2014 **</b>	<b>Participation Fees due to TSC Treasurer for WINTER SHOOTOUT</b>
<b>January 10-17, 2015</b>	<b>TSC TRADITIONAL – Beaver Creek, CO</b>
<b>January 14, 2015 **</b>	<b>Participation Fees due to TSC Treasurer for FINAL SHOWDOWN</b>
January 16, 2015	Ski Area Bids for 2015-2016 ski season due
January 18, 2015	TSC 2015-2016 Officer Applications due to Nominating Chair
<b>January 23-31, 2015</b>	<b>TSC WINTER EXPEDITION – Madesimo, Italy</b>
<b>January 31-February 7, 2015</b>	<b>TSC WINTER SHOOTOUT – Mammoth, CA</b>
February 20, 2015	Articles due for TSC Newsletter and TSC Web
February 27, 2015	Newsletter Email Target
TBD	Deadline for Bid Meeting Room Reservations & Registration
<b>February 28- March 7, 2015</b>	<b>TSC FINAL SHOWDOWN – Breckenridge, CO</b>
March 14, 2015	Board of Directors and Pre-Select Committee Mtgs – Dallas
<b>April 1, 2015 *</b>	<b>Participation Fees due to TSC Treasurer for SUMMER EXPEDITION</b>
<b>April 10-12, 2015</b>	<b>Quarterly Delegates Meeting – San Antonio</b> <b>Ski Area Bid Selection, Officer Election &amp; Installation</b>
TBD	Officer Training/Planning Meeting & Board of Directors Meeting - TBD
<b>Summer 2015</b>	<b>TSC SUMMER EXPEDITION - Tuscany</b>





The Texas Ski Council Youth Foundation (TSCYF), a 501(c)(3) organization, was created by the Texas Ski Council to help promote opportunities for children to actively participate in winter activities and learn the sports of skiing and snowboarding in a family atmosphere.

Since 2005, TSCYF has been helping families hit the slopes together.

Visit [www.Texas-ski.org](http://www.Texas-ski.org) to find an affiliate club near you.

### START YOUR PLANNING NOW!

TSCYF is taking reservations for our trips.

Contact your nearest TSC-affiliated ski club at <http://www.texas-ski.org> or check our website <http://www.tscyf.org>

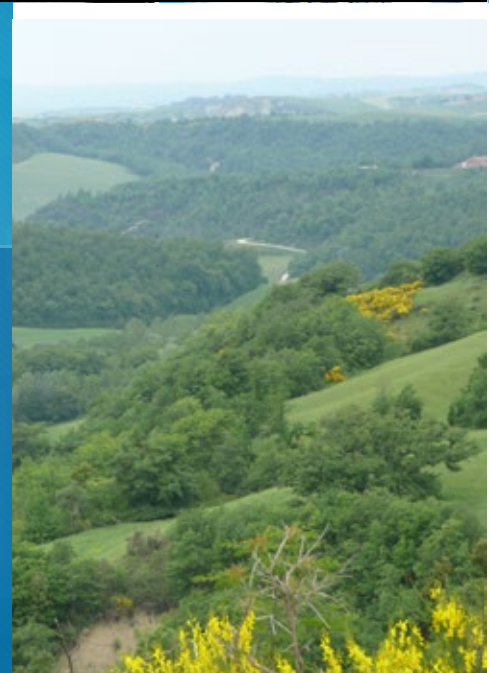
For more information or questions, please, contact us:

Shannon Owen, President  
info@tscyf.org  
www.tscyf.org



## TSCYF Checklist for trip reimbursement

- ◆ TSC member club?
- ◆ Club or TSC sponsored trip?
- ◆ Minimum # of kids ages 14 and under (5)
- ◆ Minimum # of ski lesson days (10)
- ◆ Trip does not overlap TSC sponsored trip by more than 2 days?
- ◆ Have you submitted package to TSCYF for review?



# TEXAS SKI COUNCIL SPONSORS 2014-2015



## **PLATINUM LEVEL**



# Mammoth

## **GOLD LEVEL**



## **SILVER LEVEL**



## **BRONZE LEVEL**



HOLIDAYS

