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SPECIAL ISSUE

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BEST OF THE BEST



2010 LUXURY PORTFOLIO | ASTON MARTIN

AUDEMARS PIGUET | BUGATTI | CHOPARD | HAWKER BEECHCRAFT | JAEGER-LECOULTRE
MERCEDES-BENZ | PATEK PHILIPPE | PERINI NAVI | RITZ-CARLTON | ROLLS-ROYCE



BEST OF THE BEST JOURNEYS

* *The Ritz-Carlton Highlands, Lake Tahoe* *



The Ritz-Carlton Highlands, Lake Tahoe

Ski-in/ski-out has never been so simple as it is at the new **Ritz-Carlton Highlands, Lake Tahoe** (530.562.3000, www.ritzcarlton.com) in Northern California. Opened in December, the 170-room property sits atop a rise overlooking the Northstar-at-Tahoe ski resort's mid-mountain chairlifts, a location from which it would be easy enough to hit the slopes on your own. The Ritz-Carlton's mountain

concierge, however, makes the process effortless—retrieving your gear, strapping you in your boots, and escorting you to your skis and poles, which are pointed downhill on a groomed slope that runs past the resort's main swimming pool.

The pool area provides an ideal place to recuperate after a day on the slopes, as do the Ritz-Carlton's fireplace-filled living room and 17,000-square-foot spa.

Dining and entertainment options are no less inviting, most notably the resort's fine yet informal restaurant led by San Francisco chef Traci Des Jardins. The Ritz-Carlton also offers direct gondola access to the newly revamped Village at Northstar, which is home to several additional restaurants as well as bars, boutiques, and an outdoor ice-skating rink. (\$250-\$4,000)

—BRUCE WALLIN 