

# DISCOVER VAIL

## **Vail Village: The Heart of Entertainment, Culinary & Outdoor Adventures in the Rockies**

**Vail, Colorado – Summer 2025** – Every mountain town has a main street but only Vail offers a pedestrian-first village that captures the spirit of its Bavarian roots to connect all facets of the vacation experience. The village shapes every experience from setting the stage for events, festivals and cultural events to effortlessly connecting guests to immersive outdoor experiences. The destination also offers dynamic and diverse dining options throughout the village including Michelin recognized restaurants and innovative cocktail programs woven into the experience. This summer, culinary experiences and outdoor adventures top what's new and exciting in Vail complemented by a season-long series of cultural, music and culinary events.

### **Village Built for Dining: Michelin Rated Dining & Cocktails to Creative Culinary Classes**

Vail's food scene is as diverse and dynamic as the village itself. The pedestrian layout creates a natural rhythm where dining feels effortless with restaurants, cafés and bars woven into the experience of exploring town. Michelin recognition, innovative cocktail programs and a strong sense of culinary pride set Vail apart from other mountain destinations. Whether sipping wine along Gore Creek, enjoying après in a lively plaza or dining under the stars, food is an essential part of the Vail experience.

#### **Elegance at Elevation Series at Michelin Recommend Sweet Basil**

Michelin Recommended Sweet Basil is offering Elegance at Elevation, a series of exclusive wine-pairing meals situated in the restaurant's wine cellar. Each event will feature a multi-course meal with a curated selection of wines and specialty cocktails prepared by Wine Director Jeremy Gramling and Chef de Cuisine Will Edwards. Guests will be wined, dined and educated on a journey around the world with each bottle of wine and cocktail selected. Dates for the Elegance at Elevation series are June 11-14, June 17-21, Sept. 30, Oct. 4 and Oct. 7-11. Reservations are mandatory and open 30 days before each event.

#### **Four Seasons Resort Vail and Frasca Hospitality Group Open Tavernetta Vail**

Four Seasons Resort and Residences Vail and Frasca Hospitality Group recently partnered to open Tavernetta Vail. Like its namesake in Denver, Tavernetta Vail offers a menu that explores the whole of Italy, capturing the rich flavors of the north and the vibrant tastes of the south, while honoring the mountain culture and diverse cuisine of the country's Alpine regions. Tavernetta Vail also offers an all-Italian wine list, as well as a full Champagne selection and an extensive Italian-driven spirits list and digestif program. Tavernetta Vail, located in the space previously held by Flame Restaurant, offers multiple indoor/outdoor spaces featuring a new bar and lounge as well as cozy booth seating ideal for après-adventure dining or a morning bite before a day of adventuring. A renovated private dining room anchors the farthest end of the restaurant and is ideal for small meetings, family gatherings, and milestone life events. Other furnishings incorporate delicate details to underscore considered craftsmanship, with nods to renowned Italian architect, Gio Ponti.

### **Sweet Basil Receives Michelin Exceptional Cocktails Award**

Sweet Basil, a Michelin Recommend restaurant, recently added to its accolades from the renowned guide as Managing Partner of Operations Jessenia Sanabria received a MICHELIN Guide Colorado 2024 Exceptional Cocktails Award. The special award recognizes those who consistently craft innovative cocktails. Sanabria began her career at age 17 in Miami, where she discovered a passion for cocktails and bartending. Moving to the Sweet Basil family of restaurants in 2017, Sanabria quickly impressed multiple generations of guests with her delicious creations. Today, with the support of Beverage Manager Bru Phillips, she focuses on spotlighting local partners and incorporating new ingredients, while never sacrificing originality. Cocktail favorites at Sweet Basil include the Stagecoach with Blade & Bow Bourbon, St. Elizabeth Allspice Dram, Archetype Cinnamon Distillate and Pumpkin as well as the Garden Nectar with Condesa Gin, Svol Dill Aquavit, Archetype Dill Distillate, Chateau Aloe Liqueur, Beet and Lemon.

### **Taste & Create: Sake & Sushi at Makoto Vail, Home to an Iron Chef America Alum**

This summer, the team at Makoto is offering a series of new, bookable experiential events.

- *Sake Tasting with sommelier, Rodrigo Santillan* - This informational sake tasting can host 6-8 guests and is led by Makoto Vail's General Manager and Sommelier Rodrigo Santillan. Rodrigo is extremely well-versed in Japanese sake and spirits and provides an enlightening experience into the world of premium Japanese sake during this tasting.
- *Sushi Rolling with Makoto Vail Sushi Chefs* - This interactive class is taught by our sushi chefs and provides a hands-on experience of sushi rolling (and eating!) for up to 4 guests. The chef will have mise en place stations set up for each participant and will show them step by step how to properly prepare and roll sushi.

### **Village Immersed in Nature: New Summer Adventures & Educational Programs**

Vail Mountain rises directly from the village with gondolas ready to take visitors to alpine trails, ridgelines and biking routes. Gore Creek winds through town, offering a quiet retreat just steps from the plazas. Beyond the village, the Gore Range stretches into one of the most pristine wilderness areas in North America. With no history of mining, its rugged peaks and deep valleys remain untouched, home to thriving wildlife populations. Whether setting out on an adventure or simply taking in the fresh mountain air, nature is always within reach. In Vail, guests can access outdoor adventure on llama lunch hikes, guided mountain biking tours, guided fly fishing on gold medal streams and new this summer are tubing, e-biking and immersive nature experiences.

### **How Vail Became a Model for Supporting America's Public Lands**

As federal public lands face increasing budget and staffing cuts, Vail offers a compelling blueprint for how destinations can step up to support the outdoor places we love. Located in the nation's most-visited national forest, Vail has long invested in [partnerships and programs](#) that preserve access and protect natural resources. Among the standouts is the town's "Bus It to Hike It" initiative, which encourages visitors to take advantage of the free local bus system to access popular trailheads, easing congestion and reducing environmental impact on federal lands. Volunteer Trail Hosts, organized by the town, who assist visitors with trail and parking information, wayfinding, and promote Leave No Trace principles in the pristine Eagles Nest Wilderness. Partnerships with local nonprofit organizations like Walking Mountains Science Center also provide educational resources and programming to inspire environmental stewardship through natural science education. This summer, Vail demonstrates that even among the most popular federal lands, local action can make a big difference in safeguarding their future.

### **“Habitats” Developed by Smithsonian Gardens at Highest Alpine Garden in the World**

The Betty Ford Alpine Garden is hosting a new exhibit called "Habitats," which was developed by Smithsonian Gardens. Habitats provide homes for all living things, from the tiniest ant to the tallest tree. The Habitat exhibition explores the critical need for varied habitats, how interconnected and fragile they are, and what we can do to protect them. The experience showcases art and the unique habitats throughout the gardens and landscapes of the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens.

### **Only E-Mountain Biking Tours in the Vail Valley**

Sage Outdoor Adventures is launching its new E-Mountain Bike tours. Guests will get picked up in Vail and transported to Sage's private 6,000-acre ranch. Guided tours offer an exciting and accessible way to explore over 100 miles of scenic, private trails that wind through varied terrain, including rolling hills, wooded forests and expansive vistas. The only guided e-mountain bike experience in the Vail Valley, Sage offers its guests a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in nature while enjoying the convenience of electric bikes that provide a boost for a longer, smoother ride. Each tour is led by a professional guide to ensure safety while sharing their expert knowledge of the land. Sage provides all the necessary safety gear, including helmets and pads, to make sure guests have a secure and enjoyable adventure.

### **New Tubing Experience on the Colorado River**

New this summer, Sage Outdoor Adventures also is offering tubing on the Colorado River from Dotsero Landing to the entrance of Glenwood Canyon. Sage will pick guests up in Vail to take them to their Dotsero boat house to gear up for the float which takes place on a mellow, yet invigorating stretch of the Colorado River.

### **Art & Nature Intersect at new Vail Art Studio**

This summer is the highly anticipated opening of the Vail Art Studio in Ford Park. The intimate art studio, overlooking the Gore Creek in Ford Park and adjacent to the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens, is Vail's first dedicated space to the visual arts. Designed by Harry Teague Architects, the building is both a working artist studio and a sculpture itself integrated into the landscape of the park. Vail's Art Studio will serve as the cultural hub for the Town of Vail Art in Public Places Program, which was established more than 35 years ago.

## **Village Sets the Stage: Summer-Long Event Series**

Vail Village is more than a place to stay, it's a living venue where events unfold naturally. Live music fills the plazas, seasonal festivals reshape the streets and sporting competitions turn walkways to arenas. This summer music can be heard almost nightly throughout Vail's walkways with street performers, concerts at Solaris and larger performances at the 2,500-seat Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater, which is home to signature events like the Bravo! Vail Music Festival, The Amp Summer Concert Series and Vail Dance Festival.

### **GoPro Mountains Games Kickoff Summer Events Season**

Some of the best athletes in the world will compete in Vail at the Vail Valley Foundation's GoPro Mountain Games June 5-8. The annual GoPro Mountain Games are the country's most celebrated festival of adventure sports, art and music, bringing together competitors across nearly 50 disciplines to test their skills in everything from whitewater rafting to kayaking to slacklining to mountain biking and beyond. New this year is the Mountain Games Athlete Team. The inaugural team of nine professional and amateur Mountain Games-sponsored athletes, each with a passion for human-powered mountain sports, an active outdoor lifestyle, eco-consciousness, and a spirit of adventure. These athletes, spanning a wide variety of ages and disciplines, were selected from hundreds of applicants to be the first-ever faces of the Mountain Games for 2025. They will represent the Mountain Games all year leading up to and during the

competition, offering social media check-ins, training updates and more, to showcase all the work that goes into the competition and to act as role models for aspiring athletes.

### **August Wine & Cheese Weekend**

Get ready for a weekend that perfectly pairs Vail's vibrant event scene with the ultimate indulgence. From August 7-10, the Vail Wine Classic will showcase more than 100 wineries, offering tastings, wine hikes, and gourmet pairings. Meanwhile, the legendary String Cheese Incident will light up The Amp with electrifying performances on August 8 and 9. This unique pairing represents the best of Vail as a backdrop for music and events.

### **Bravo! Vail Music Festival Features Five Internationally Acclaimed Orchestras**

Bravo! Vail Music Festival returns June 19–July 31 with over 60 concerts and now expanding to present five internationally acclaimed orchestras. Season highlights include Yefim Bronfman soloing in both Brahms Piano Concertos; premieres from Jessie Montgomery, Gabriela Lena Frank, and Sophia Jani, and performances by Yulianna Avdeeva, Wu Man, Pablo Sáinz-Villegas, Gil Shaham, and Alisa Weilerstein.

### **Vail Dance Festival Returns with 14 Performances and Over 30 Events**

The 37<sup>th</sup> annual Vail Dance Festival scheduled to take place July 25 – August 5 throughout the Vail Valley, including Beaver Creek, Avon and the Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater in Vail. Led by Artistic Director Damian Woetzel, the internationally acclaimed Festival will include 14 performances and over 30+ events throughout the season celebrating excellence and innovation in the world of dance. Anchoring the season are five major companies that will present performances and repertory specially curated for this year's Festival: Alonzo King's LINES Ballet, Paul Taylor Dance Company, A.I.M by Kyle Abraham, Colorado Ballet, and BalletX.

### **Event Highlights**

May 23-25	SpringFree Bluegrass Music Festival
May 25	Amp Summer Series Kickoff featuring Leon Bridges
June 13-14	Vail Craft Beer Classic
June 15	Vail Farmers' Market & Art Show (every Sunday through early October)
Mid-June	Kickoff to Hot Summer Nights free concert series at The Amp
June 19	Kickoff to Thursday Meadow Market series each Thursday 1:30-5:30 p.m. through Sept. 18
July 4	Vail America Days
Aug. 7-10	Kids Adventure Games
Aug. 7-10	Vail Wine Classic
Aug. 30-Sept. 1	Vail Jazz Party
Sept. 5-7 & 12-14	Oktoberfest
Sept. 12-14	Vail Concours
Sept. 12-14	Movies in the Mountains

For more information on the destination's year-round visitor experience, lodging and more, please visit [DiscoverVail.com](http://DiscoverVail.com).

There's no place like Vail for year-round recreation, outdoor pursuits, and cultural experiences in the heart of the Colorado Rockies. Nestled at the foot of Vail Mountain just two hours west of Denver, Vail's fresh air, rugged beauty, and charm await visitors. At the heart of Vail is the iconic Vail Village, whose Bavarian design and pedestrian-first approach ensure seamless connectivity between events, dining, nature, and culture. The villages serve as a dynamic stage for concerts, seasonal festivals, and cultural events, all unfolding naturally in its plazas and walkways. Two gondolas link Vail Village and Lionshead to the mountain, providing easy access to hiking, biking, and snowsports. Vail's layout encourages effortless exploration, with

everything within reach. By day, it is a launch point for adventure; by night, it transforms into a lively gathering place. Whether it's summer or winter, Vail offers a unique and welcoming atmosphere that makes every moment memorable. Learn more about Vail at [DiscoverVail.com](http://DiscoverVail.com) or follow on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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