

# THE COOL CLUBS

Aspen's private clubs have advantages. Some memberships require community service, while others simply serve exclusivity from the community at large, and though many are named for animals, they all allow you to get a little wild.

By Oliver Sharpe

From top: The Aspen Mountain Club shares a structure with the Sundeck, but membership is the only way to get through its doors; inside the Aspen Mountain Club, members find the comforts of home at 11,212 feet.

**Aspen Mountain Club**, Aspen Skiing Company's private hilltop hideaway on Ajax, offers an elegant lunch alternative to the adjoining Sundeck. Both spaces boast commanding views of the Elk Mountains, but that is where the similarities stop. After ditching ski boots and fixing helmet hair in the well-appointed locker rooms, Mountain Club members don comfy slippers and are treated to an impressive lunch at antique Austrian tables—along with arguably the country's most crab claws served at 11,212 feet. Also included are two lifetime SkiCo ski passes and a ski locker below the Silver Queen

Gondola, making hitting the slopes—or just grabbing lunch—a breeze. **Membership Requirements** \$220,000 initiation, \$6,900 annually, [thelittlenell.com](http://thelittlenell.com)

The **Caribou Club**, brainchild of legendary Aspen impresario Harley Baldwin, has been the private pleasure den of choice for fine dining, dancing and late-night debauchery since 1989. "The 'Bou," Aspen's first members-only club, lies behind an unmarked door at the end of an "alley" and fully delivers on the Rocky Mountain millionaire aesthetic that is often associated with the town. The British CONTINUED...



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