

**THINK SNOW: WHAT'S NEW AT SIERRA SKI RESORTS**

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## SPEND THE NIGHT

### NORTH LAKE TAHOE

In mid-December, **Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Resort, Spa and Casino** ([laketahoe.hyatt.com](http://laketahoe.hyatt.com)) will unveil a complete redesign of its 24 lakeside cottages. **The Village at Squaw Valley** ([squaw.com/the-village](http://squaw.com/the-village)) also has completed \$1.2 million worth of renovations of its slopeside condominium suites. Each bedroom in every condominium now has new mattresses and modern, triple-sheet bedding. Many condominiums also have received new furniture, carpet, additional flat-screen TVs and air conditioning.

### SOUTH LAKE TAHOE

**Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel** ([tahoresort.com](http://tahoresort.com)) is working toward

replacing its past identity as Embassy Suites by investing \$5 million in renovations. By winter, the resort hopes to infuse more of an alpine ambiance into the lobby, where you'll be able to play checkers or chess or read in front of a dual-sided fireplace. In the remodeled all-suite rooms, sink into new Serta perfect sleeper mattresses and snuggle up under 300-thread-count sheets. Other touches include new flat-screen TVs in the suites' living areas and bedrooms, new bath surrounds, granite countertops and new headboards.

Other hotels that have undergone renovations include Timber Cove Lodge, which has become **Beach Retreat & Lodge at Tahoe** ([tahoebeachretreat.com](http://tahoebeachretreat.com)); **Tahoe Beach & Ski Club** ([tahoebeachandski.com](http://tahoebeachandski.com)), in its



Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Resort, Spa and Casino

third year of a five-year renovation; and **The Ridge Tahoe Resort** ([ridgetahoeresort.com](http://ridgetahoeresort.com)), which just added a new pickle-ball court (a mix between tennis and pingpong) as part of a 10-year plan that includes more than \$10 million in improvements.

Plus, a high-end boutique hotel overlooking Lake Tahoe called **Landing Resort & Spa** ([thelandingresortandspa.com](http://thelandingresortandspa.com)) has replaced The Royal Valhalla Lodge.

### KIRKWOOD AREA

**Sorensen's Resort** ([sorensensresort.com](http://sorensensresort.com)) in Hope Valley is hosting several

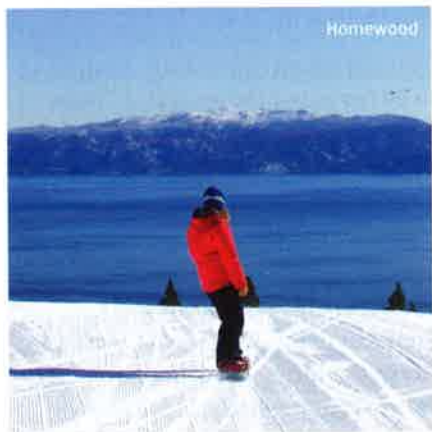
new events this winter. On Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m., relive the adventures of John "Snowshoe" Thompson as he makes the trek from Genoa, Nev., to Placerville in the late 1800s. It's a great deal for kids (\$5) and adults (\$10). But be prepared: You might hear the siren call of Sorensen's berry cobbler. Sorensen's lodging guests receive discounts to two other new events, including the Holiday Cards in Woodblock Printing Class Dec. 3–4, where you'll walk away with unique, handmade holiday cards. And on March 1, take a guided tour in search of bald and golden eagles in the nearby Carson Valley.



Landing Resort & Spa

Championships March 28–30 on the moguls of Gunbarrel. Freestyle skiers such as U.S. Ski Team athlete Sho Kashima will showcase their talents.

**Best Off-Slope Adventure:** Families can take a spin around the ice skating rink at **The Village at Heavenly** or at the **South Lake Tahoe Ice Arena** ([tahoearena.com](http://tahoearena.com)). Or they can watch a hockey game at the South Tahoe rink.



Homewood

Singles finish their ski day at Heavenly's **Unbuckle at Tamarack**, rated the No. 1 après ski party in North America by *Forbes* and CNN Travel. This year, the party—3:30–5:30 p.m. daily—moves to the patio.

### HOMEWOOD MOUNTAIN RESORT

Moms, dads, grandparents, kids and grandkids can spend quality time together at Homewood with the Heritage 3 Generations Pass. Two adults, two children/teens (ages 5 to 18) and two seniors or "super seniors" (70 and older) receive unrestricted Homewood season passes for \$1,299.

**Best Off-Slope Adventure:** Admire moonlight reflections on Lake Tahoe during the full moon snowshoe tours at **Sugar Pine Point State Park**. Call West Shore Sports to ask about this year's dares and to reserve your space. (530) 525-9920

### JUNE MOUNTAIN

Mammoth Mountain's neighbor, June Mountain, re-opens with full operations beginning in mid-December. Mammoth Mountain MVP season pass holders can ski or ride at either resort.

**Best Off-Slope Adventure:** Drive to nearby **Mono Lake** and admire the tufa towers rising up from the shoreline or get a glimpse of volcanic craters. Serious shutterbugs with SLR cameras can participate in the workshop *The Forgotten Season: Winter Photography in the Mono Basin* Jan. 17–19. Call to register. (760) 647-6595

### KIRKWOOD

Want to know how well your children are doing on the slopes? Enroll them in Kirkwood's Ski and Ride School and, as part of EpicMix Academy, you'll receive a report card of your children's lesson. Track their accomplishments online by