

Robb Report

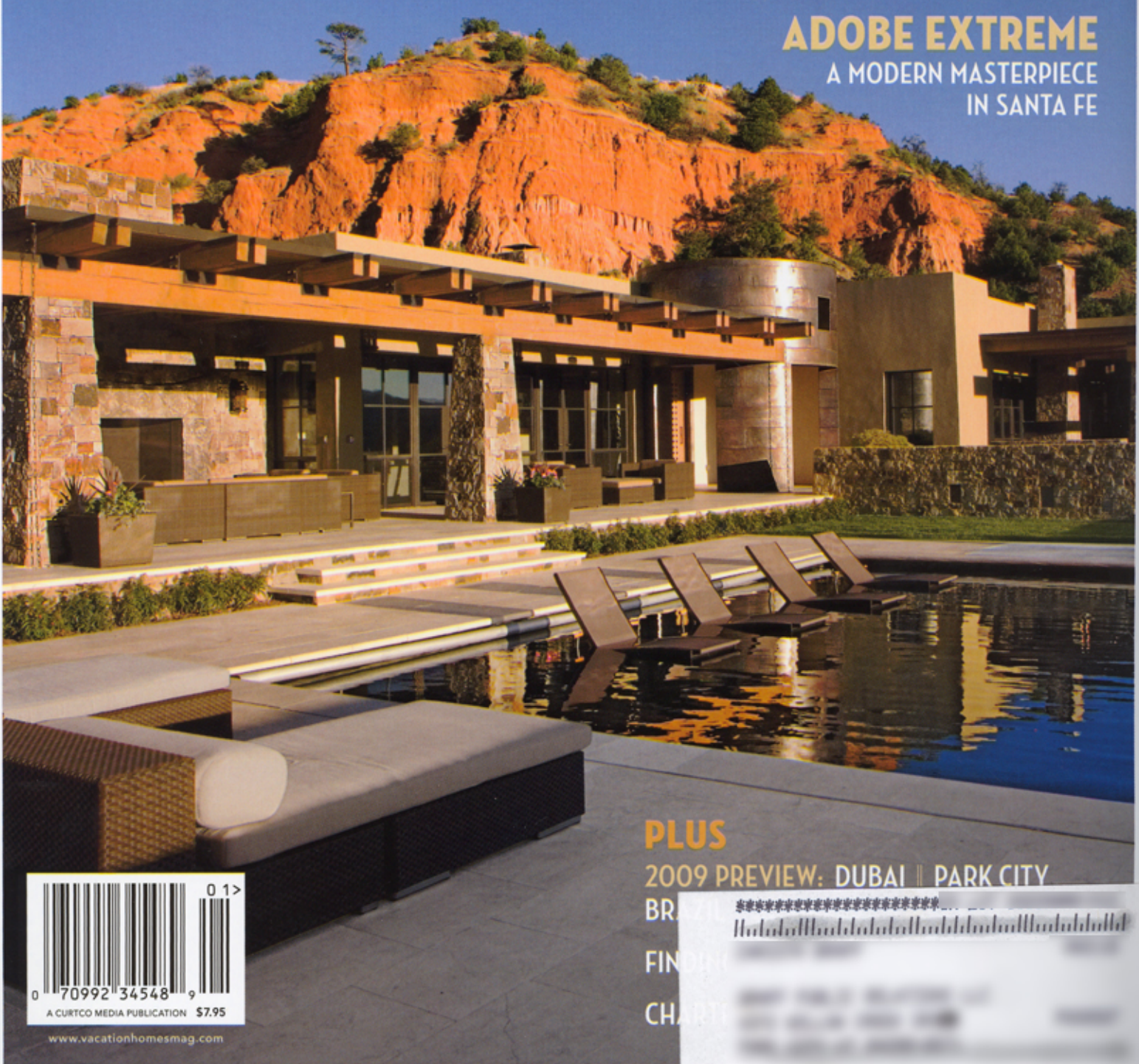
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THINKING OF BUYING A HOME IN PARK CITY, UTAH?



WITH ITS HISTORIC MAIN STREET and mining-town roots, Park City still possesses a genuine Old West charm, despite the influx of development that started with the 2002 Winter Olympics and turned it into one of the country's preeminent mountain resorts. The 17.7-square-mile town, located at an elevation of 7,500 feet, is home to three major ski resorts: Park City, the Canyons, and Deer Valley. The area's authentic atmosphere, combined with luxury amenities, light and fluffy snow, and easy accessibility, has made it a desirable second-home destination for buyers across the country.

During the first half of 2008, the median sales price of a single-family home in Park City proper was \$1.9 million, a 14 percent increase compared to the prior year. However, in the more affordable outlying areas of Snyderville Basin, located seven miles north of Park City, and Kamas Valley, located 12 miles east of Park City, prices dropped 8 percent to \$700,000 and 5 percent to \$322,900, respectively.

Though the number of single-family-home sales in the greater Park City area for the first half of 2008 dropped 45 percent from the year before to 244 transactions, and condo sales fell 34 percent to 280 transactions, new developments from brands such as the Waldorf Astoria, St. Regis, and Montage are slated for completion in 2009 and 2010, and will surely raise interest in the area over the long term.

WHAT TO EXPLORE WHILE LOOKING FOR A HOME:

Stay: For those seeking more space than a hotel can offer, the 13,000-square-foot Casa Nova villa (shown above) offers four master suites, a wine cellar, a 15-seat home theater with THX-certified sound and a 133-inch screen, and 13 ski lockers with boot and glove warmers. Winter rates start at \$53,500 per week.

Casa Nova, 800.978.5002, www.skicasanova.com

Sport: At Utah Olympic Park's bobsled driving school, visitors can learn the sport and race up to speeds of 80 miles per hour. Bobsledding is one of the many activities offered at the Utah Olympic Park, site of the 2002 Winter Games.

Utah Olympic Park, 435.658.4200, www.olymparks.com

Dine: Local chef Bill White's five restaurants are continually ranked among the city's top eateries. From the crown roast of barbecue spareribs at the Southwestern-themed Chimayo to the pork osso buco at Ghidotti's Italian Restaurant, all of White's dishes offer a satisfying way to end a long day on the slopes.

Bill White Restaurant Group, www.billwhiteenterprises.com

Après-Ski: The fourth-floor Sky Club bar at the top of the Sky Lodge hotel offers a cozy indoor area and an outdoor patio with lounge chairs, heat lamps, fire pits, and views of downtown.

The Sky Lodge, 888.876.2525, www.theskylodge.com

Imbibe: The High West Distillery, the state's first distillery to open since the end of prohibition, will debut its rye whiskey and oat vodka at its Park Avenue saloon in early 2009. [Samantha Brooks]

High West Distillery, 801.972.2566, www.highwestdistillery.com