



WINTER 2021-2022 PAWS UP

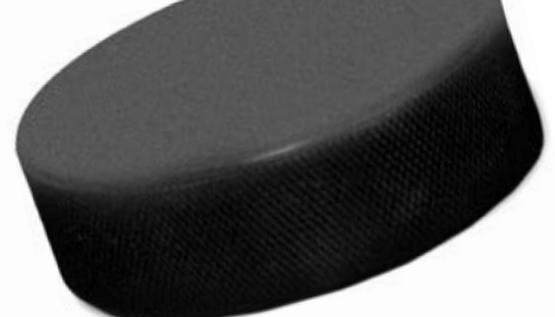
ADVENTURE JOURNAL







# THE OFF-SEASON? OH, IT'S ON!



**F**or anyone who's ever been to Montana in the middle of winter, you already know: there's no better time to come outside. Once autumn's golden leaves have fallen, we're left with a lush thicket of evergreens silhouetted against vibrant blue skies. The air is crisp, and the silence in the hills and along the rivers brings incredible peace and clarity. We love going out into the coldest of days in our sweaters and vests and feeling the chill on a brisk, long walk. It's a vital part of the experience at Paws Up, and it puts most everyone in tune with the cycles of nature.

Once we're blessed with the first real snowfall of the season, our 37,000 acres magically transition into a winter wonderland. Christmas is a special time, thanks to our many returning guests and a general sense of joy from our entire team. Catching a glimpse of Santa on his sleigh ride is enough to make anyone believe in miracles, and a Big Sky full of fireworks is a heck of a way to welcome the new year.

After the holidays are over, it's time to play! We host more than 25 seasonal outdoor activities in a picture-perfect landscape, from thrilling snowmobile rides to invigorating snowshoeing treks. At the end of each day, you're beckoned home to the crackle of a fire, a soothing glass of wine or a smooth sip of whiskey and the incredible food our culinary teams create. Oh, and this winter, we've got some special new dishes that we can't wait to show you.

In June, we opened the green o: our brand-new adults-only resort featuring private Hauses that are designed to show off the surrounding woods. But during construction last winter, before the soaring windows were installed, it was easy to wonder if January would perhaps be the ideal time to visit. We already imagined waking up in soft linen sheets to see glistening snowflakes falling gently all around.

We're excited to see so many things in the coming months. And we hope you'll be here, too, to bask in the sheer beauty of it all while gathering with friends or family.

The Lipson Family, Proprietors  
The Resort at Paws Up





## HOW REPEAT VISITS TURN KIDS INTO LOCALS

with travel writer Wendy Altschuler



When you're a kid growing up in western Montana, nature is your playground. Whether you're cowboy camping under the Milky Way, feeding horses hay out of the back of a pickup truck, hiking in the wilderness or swimming in creeks and rivers, Big Sky Country is the grit that gets under your fingernails.

No matter what time of year it was, we were outside, romping around, getting dirty. In the wintertime, when harsh winds sculpted snow and ice into massive snowdrifts, we would dig out caves and tunnels and watch our breath billow out of our mouths. Trips to Yellowstone National Park in the colder season would reward us with not only fewer tourists, but also with bighorn sheep, mountain goat and elk sightings. Watching brawny bison, with snow-caked winter fur, dip and swing their massive heads side to side, grunting and snorting as they foraged for grasses and sedges, is an image burned into my brain.

Now, as a mother of three boys, I make regular trips from our home outside Chicago back to the forests of lodgepole pines and creeping junipers so I can teach my kids about the importance of spending time in nature's embrace. On one winter hiking adventure in Glacier National Park, where we saw more snowshoe hares than people, my boys skipped rainbow-hued rocks across a frozen Lake McDonald. We hiked to a waterfall, sipped hot chocolate out of a thermos and looked for animal tracks in the snow. It was an experience of discovery, of inquisitiveness. We buried our noses into fallen fragrant pinecones, shook branches to make it snow and created snow angels on the side of the trail.



The Blackfoot River Valley, which extends from the river's start, above the Continental Divide, to its confluence with the Clark Fork River, just east of Missoula, is the picture-perfect setting for winter adventures. Carved out by glaciers long ago, this valley holds the whispers of past explorers like Lewis & Clark and Robert Marshall as well as other foresters and conservationists.

This is where I'd like to bring my boys next, to go snowshoeing in squeaky deep powder, cross-country skiing across large swaths of land and dogsledding on trails that wind through the lofty trees.

Montana is a wild place, where intrepid folks with adventuresome spirits thrive. It's here that you'll find contemplation and peace, where near-soundless places aren't hard to find. It's the song of the wind in the trees, the prowling nighttime critters, the spruce needles

mixed with snow underfoot and the craggy peaks off in the distance that allure me back to the homeland that shaped and molded me. While in some ways you really can't ever go back home again, you can instill in your children some of the values and ideals you hold dear. After all, if your children love and play in rugged landscapes, they'll want to protect it for generations to come.



## Feeling younger by several degrees<sup>o</sup>

With temperatures dropping, it's not only kids who get to have fun. Paws Up has plenty of smile-inducing activities for all ages. Never mind if something is completely new to you: Part of tapping into your inner child means doing things you're not quite good at...yet.

### THIS IS WHAT ADULTING LOOKS LIKE HERE:

Hitch a ride with man's best friend and book a **dogsledding** outing. Led by a frisky team of Alaskan Huskies, your journey is split between sledding through the snow and offering some well-deserved belly rubs to your four-legged chauffeurs.

Unless you're a native Norwegian, there's one sport we can almost guarantee you've never tried: **skijoring**. Strap on some skis and hold on tight to the reins of a resident horse, who can't wait to pull you along through the powder.

If you haven't gone **snow tubing** in a while, you're in for a treat. Paws Up has its very own tubing hill and arsenal of inner tubes to accommodate free spirits of all sizes. The adult advantage: gaining some major speed for a spectacular slide down the hill. And don't forget about the runs at Blast Mountain, too.

Yes, riding your bike through powdery snow is as magical as it sounds, and downright easy with **fat tire electric bike tours**. Outfitted with 26-inch fat tires and environmentally friendly lithium-ion batteries for a quiet ride, our e-bikes handle snow-packed trails with stability and ease, providing off-road access to wilderness draped in white.



Nothing tells the tale of human ingenuity quite like the history of snowshoeing. What began as a way to hunt and explore was later used to fight great battles. But after several frigid millennia have passed, this clever means of transportation has finally landed its adherents in a state of peaceful bliss.

It was roughly 6,000 years ago when some fur-clad human had the novel idea to strap slabs of wood to his or her feet in order to trudge across a frozen tundra. That's when the first known prototypes of snowshoes emerged in the world's Eurasian region.

Primitive snowshoes have been found at great elevations in the Dolomites and dated to the subboreal Neolithic period, according to *The Snowshoe Book* by William Osgood and Leslie Hurley. These artifacts, fashioned of bent birch and twine, may be the oldest snowshoes known to man.

It's believed that when the Inuits migrated from Asia to North America, their snowshoes made it possible to cross the Bering Sea land bridge. And when the terrain changed, they perfected new prototypes. Algonquin and Yukon snowshoes evolved into narrow, six-foot-long shoes, laced with deer and moose hide and designed for speed and the ability for those on foot to keep up with dogsleds.

Montana's natives have been using snowshoes for centuries, but it wasn't until the mid-1800s fur trade and gold rush that European-descended miners and trappers began using them to access the wilderness during the winter and to move from town to town.

Once the equivalent of wooden tennis rackets strapped to feet, today's snowshoes are lightweight aluminum, with synthetic decking, traction cleats (or crampons), heel lifts for steep terrain and interchangeable flotation tails to levitate atop heaps of white.

These new designs have created a boon for recreational exploring, and Montana is now a haven for the taxing yet relaxing sport: treks along frozen riverbeds, backcountry glades and mountainous switchbacks converge with dry-as-a-bone powder to provide breathtaking scenery.

Come wintertime, "Most people default to snowmobiling or dogsledding because of the promise of speed and adventure," says Paws Up Director of Activities Will Smith. But there's a reason snowshoeing is gaining in popularity—the unexpected joy of seeing nature up close, quietly and contemplatively, with no one else around.

Smith says Paws Up's guided trips to Jones Pond and the adjacent Lubrecht Forest trails, Hunter's Pointe or along Elk Creek or the Blackfoot River are available whenever conditions allow, and snowshoes can easily be checked out for exploring on your own.

# Not to be flaky, but ...

Snowshoes are so easy to use, the only tricky part is putting them on. Practically anyone can become an expert at snowshoeing with little to no learning curve.

Add a camera, and winter at Paws Up becomes immediately accessible, says Paws Up Photographer and Filmmaker Stuart Thurlkill. Photo safaris in the winter are particularly stunning for discovering breathtaking beauty.

"The quiet of snowshoeing is amazing—just being immersed in silence and allowing the other senses to take over," Thurlkill says. Across 37,000 acres of ranch land, a series of methodical steps can lead to animal habitats, ice formations, beautiful forest settings and grand hilltop views.

Lean over to discover hoar frost (crystalline deposits of frozen water vapor) clinging to trees along the Blackfoot River. Add a backdrop of winter's pastel skies, herds of bison blanketed in snow, bald eagles and great-horned owls in tree hollows, and the whole ranch turns into a stunning tableau.

To see snowshoeing in action, visit [pawsup.com/snowshoeing](http://pawsup.com/snowshoeing).



## THE NEXT BEST THING TO

walking on air



## NO SNOW? NO PROBLEM.

While winter in Montana is often marked by powdery flakes, sometimes it's downright mild. Of course, we never measure how much fun we're having by inches of snowfall. And with plenty of activities on hand, you won't either.

Here's how to strap on the fun even if you're not lacing up the snowshoes:

### HORSE AROUND

Foundational Horsemanship  
Horse Whispering  
Mustang Mindfulness  
Cow Croquet  
Team Penning

### GET A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

Fat Tire Electric Bike Tours  
Nature Hikes  
ATV Tours

### CHALLENGE YOURSELF

Sporting Clays  
Yoga  
Huff-and-Puff Fitness Center  
The Sky Line™ Aerial  
Adventure Park

### TREAT YOURSELF

Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides  
Warm Craft Cocktails  
by the Fire at Tank  
Artisanal S'mores  
A Dip in Your Private Hot Tub  
Under the Stars  
Blackfoot River Rocks  
Hot Stone Massage, Anyone?





# Dirty Stains and all

Things could get messy at The French Laundry Unfolded, and that's precisely the point.

No one's more buttoned-up, clean-pressed and starched than a chef at legendary restaurant The French Laundry. Celebrated the world over for their exacting standards, Chef Thomas Keller and his team have earned a coveted Michelin-three-star rating every year since 2007. Chefs from all corners of the globe compete for a spot in this revered kitchen. The elite few who have earned their place are perfectionists extraordinaire.

Wouldn't it be fun to watch them get a little rumpled?

After spending years at the Napa Valley institution, Paws Up's Senior Executive Chef Sunny Jin loves to blow off steam with a few of his former colleagues. So, every late winter/early spring, he invites them here to The Resort for a three-day weekend full of culinary playfulness and outdoor adventure.

At first, in 2019, "It was really just a gathering of old friends—one where guests have the benefit of these chefs having fun and being creative," Jin says. "I reached out to my old friends Courtney Park, Jeremy Miller and Erik Anderson." It was a hit with guests, and the chefs simply fell in love with Montana.

Fellow TFL alum Chef Courtney Park especially enjoyed the reunion. Now the executive pastry chef at the highly lauded Otium in Los Angeles, she reflects, "You have no personal life when you work [at The French Laundry]. But," she adds, "you do get lifelong friends who become family."

"We've all grown up together," says Jin. "Watching my friends grow and accomplish so much—it's rewarding." Chef Jeremy Miller, who lives in his native Georgia and has launched a vegan doughnut venture, credits Jin with helping him survive the experience. "It was a dream to work there, such an amazing experience in a magical place, but it was also really hard," explains Miller. "Sunny is just a great guy, chef and leader."

Now, whenever Jin organizes a get-together, there's plenty of reminiscing, and maybe even a little therapy—but it's also a chance to let loose and get muddy. "Sunny really wants us to have a good time," says Park. From snowmobiling and skeet shooting to horseback riding, the chefs have time to relax, and guests have the chance to get to know them. Of course, the highlight for everyone is always the food. "We all get the chance to team up and cook together again, and it just works so well," says Jin.

You're welcome to join the party and watch them mix things up at The French Laundry Unfolded, March 4–6, 2022. For more information, visit [pawsup.com/TFL-Unfolded](https://pawsup.com/TFL-Unfolded).





When the sun sets early,  
it's only natural to add some  
**festive sparkle.**

From do-it-yourself gingerbread houses to elegant dishes masterfully prepared, this coming winter offers plenty of reasons to bring family and friends together amid snow-covered mountains.

DEC  
25  
2021

**A MONTANA CHRISTMAS**

*Christmas cheer  
spread across  
37,000 acres*

There's nothing quite as magical as the holidays at Paws Up. Take in the wonderland from a sleigh ride across the wintry landscape, expel some energy tubing down Blast Mountain or bake some cookies with guest Chef Amanda Rockman—just be sure to save a few morsels for Santa.

DEC  
31  
2021

**A LUXURY NEW YEAR'S  
EVE CELEBRATION**

*Let other people wait  
for one measly ball.*

Bid farewell to 2021 with fireworks, live music and bubbly. Reflect on the year that's been with serene spa services, then get a jump start on 2022 with invigorating expeditions across the frosty terrain. On New Year's Day, enjoy brunch with James Beard Award winner Chef Mindy Segal.

JAN  
2-9  
2022

**WINTER BREAK**

*A getaway (snow)  
packed with  
adventure*

The holiday season? Done. Back to school? Not quite. Winter Break at Paws Up is the perfect way to take advantage of a cozy stretch of in-between time with a getaway in Montana. Guest Chef Jessica Foster will be ready to warm you up with her signature chocolate workshops.

FEB  
18-21  
2022

**WINTERFEST**

*The excitement  
around wintry food  
and adventure is  
snowballing.*

Spend Presidents' Day weekend with a whirlwind of outdoor adventures and winter eats and treats. From cooking classes to dogsledding, winter-themed meals to skijoring and snowmobiling, it's a packed weekend full of Montana-sized fun with all-star guest chefs.

MAR  
4-6  
2022

**THE FRENCH LAUNDRY  
UNFOLDED**

*A reunion of  
epic eating*

The French Laundry is the culinary institute where scores of award-winning chefs got their start. It's also the old stomping ground of our own Senior Executive Chef Sunny Jin. Join him and fellow French Laundry alums for a foodie fest not to be soon forgotten.

## Hibernation Libations

Whether it's a festive celebration or just a cozy Saturday evening lit by a roaring fireplace, winter is the perfect season for entertaining at home. It's also the season of comfort food, tempting desserts and evocative cocktails. Add one of these two cocktails, created exclusively by Tank, to the menu, and in just one sip, you'll be transported to Montana—without ever leaving your living room.



### ◀ Polson Potion

**Ingredients**

1 oz. Glacier Distilling Fireweed Cherry Bourbon  
1 oz. sweet vermouth  
1 oz. Shivelight Flathead Cherry Shrub  
1 oz. fresh orange juice

**Directions**

Combine ingredients in a shaker. Strain over ice in a rocks glass.

### Three Apples ▶

**Ingredients**

1 ½ oz. Gold Miner Apple Brandy  
1 oz. Shivelight Bitterroot Apple  
and Cinnamon Shrub  
¾ oz. simple syrup  
3 drops chocolate bitters  
2 oz. dry hard cider

**Directions**

Combine ingredients in a shaker. Top with cider and garnish with a lemon or a fresh apple slice. Serve in a martini glass or on the rocks.





**Quick**—what’s the fastest animal on earth? The cheetah? Nope. Picture instead a creature almost as fast as a Formula One race car.

If that proves hard to imagine, take a look around. The Blackfoot River Valley is home to, and a breeding ground for, an assortment of peregrine falcons, owls, eagles, kites and hawks. In pursuit, falcons and hawks can fly up to 69 miles per hour. But when they dive-bomb their prey, they can plunge through the air at an astonishing 200 miles per hour.

You do not want to be that prey.

But despite being considered apex predators, these formidable raptors need protection of their own. In fact, educator, writer and artist Kate Davis raises two of them inside her home. With a 45-day-old fledgling named Maizee on the coffee table, Davis tells how her fascination with falcons started and where it led.

After reading a children’s book called *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George, she says, “I immediately wanted to run away from home, live in a hollow tree and fly like a peregrine falcon.” Rather than frightening her parents with that idea, she waited until age 13, when she joined the Cincinnati Zoo’s Junior Zoologist Club and learned to care for raptors, along with mammals.

# AROUND HERE, THERE’S NO SUCH THING AS KEEPING UP WITH THE NEIGHBORS.

In 1978, she enrolled at the University of Montana to earn a degree in zoology. There, her interest only soared. In order to share her love for these majestic birds, she eventually created a nonprofit, Raptors of the Rockies. Today, her organization not only educates groups throughout Montana and Idaho using live demonstrations, it cares for raptors that are permanently disabled. The broader goal is to promote wildlife conservation and habitat preservation for the country’s wild bird populations.

In 33 years, Davis has delivered over 1,800 programs—to a staggering 136,000 students—and has guided more than 1,000 tours of her Florence, Montana, raptor facility. Her life alongside raptors has also informed a catalog of impressive artwork. Her etchings, pen-and-ink drawings and photographs are sought after by bird lovers worldwide. She’s an accomplished falconer, the author of seven books and one of the most preeminent raptor experts in the United States.

On this morning, Davis walks from enclosure to enclosure, feeding mice and small quail to a cadre of non-releasable falcons, eagles, hawks and owls. Her largest birds are a bald eagle named Sonny and a golden eagle named Nigel—a bird the size of a small toddler. Considering their beaks and talons are as sharp as Bowie knives, most people will never stand this close to a bird as wild.

Davis also cares for a peregrine named Sibley, who’s now 18 and has 650 educational programs to his credit.

But it’s her new falcon Maizee that she’s most proud of. Fully feathered after just six weeks, the new fledgling has been carefully imprinted since birth. “If a young bird imprints on humans, they will identify with humans for life,” Davis says. And it’s true: observing the conservationist with her newest charge, the attachment between them is palpable. It’s also the culmination of Davis’s decades-long love affair with raptors.

Now 61, Davis isn’t planning to train anyone to take her place, but she’s gratified knowing she’s been able to realize her lifelong passion of being surrounded by these impressive birds of prey.

To learn more about Raptors of the Rockies and to donate, visit [raptorsoftherockies.org](http://raptorsoftherockies.org).

## WINTER’S THE PERFECT TIME FOR WINGING IT.

Raptors are among the greatest predators in nature, and Greenough, Montana, is home to a trove of them, from eagles and falcons to hawks, owls and kites. Guests at Paws Up and the green o can expect to find a multitude of viewing opportunities, and the coldest months are no exception.

“All of these raptors are nonmigratory, with the exception of certain falcons,” Raptors of the Rockies founder Kate Davis says. That’s because songbirds migrate, and those falcons who prey on songbirds follow them south.

How do the remaining raptors survive winter’s elements? Quite simply, they adapt—without additional feathers or relocation of nests. While food can be scarce, most hawk species, including rough-legged and red-tailed hawks, continue to hunt hare, voles, mice, ducks and small geese.

And when rivers are frozen and fish are in short supply, bald and golden eagles whet their appetites primarily on roadkill.





# Take it all in.

When wintertime comes, most Montanans

head for the hills—or mountains—soaking

up as much outdoor time as possible.

Guides at Paws Up lead thrill seekers on

snowmobile excursions, dogsledding

treks and skijoring jaunts. Guests of all

ages find their bliss while snowshoeing

or cross-country skiing. And after each

journey, the home base awaits. It's a

place to gather and get ready for the next

outing—or clean up for a satisfying meal at

Pomp, followed by cocktails at Tank.

But if you take a moment to stop and

linger, you'll find an adventure you didn't

expect. All you need to do is notice. Step

inside with us. We'll take you for a tour

and awaken your senses. Because from the

first morning light until the last twinkling

of the stars above, everyday mindfulness

is richly rewarded.



■ Coffee brewing in the kitchen awakens you and your fellow slumberers ever so slowly. As you step out of your bedroom, a faint reminder of last night's roaring fire hangs slightly in the air. Cup in hand, you venture out on your home's deck to survey the surroundings. The frigid air is as enticing as it is chilly.



■ Right before your eyes, an expansive snow-covered meadow glistens in the morning sun. A family of whitetail deer stomps quickly past, breaking the silence momentarily. A soothing wind sways the branches of Ponderosa pines and shakes a last leaf to the frozen floor.



■ As you take in the scenery, a burst of gigantic clouds whispers by, decorating an impossibly Big Sky. In the distance, you notice a herd of bison nuzzling together and gently moving along, a blur of brown hides. Birdsong fills the air effortlessly, reminding you of the surrounding great outdoors.



■ Back inside, sinking into the overstuffed leather couch, you survey the trail maps and pick possible destinations for the morning. You notice the sounds of kids waking up—feet in socks pitter-pattering. You slide on your chunky Danner hiking boots and survey the impeccable kitchen.



■ At the adjacent table, an easy morning breakfast of granola and fruit sets the foundation for a winter hike. Honey adds sweetness to the simple meal. Looking forward to tonight, your eyes smile as you review the menu for tonight's yummy in-home pizza delivery. You can almost taste the delicious sauce and cheese.

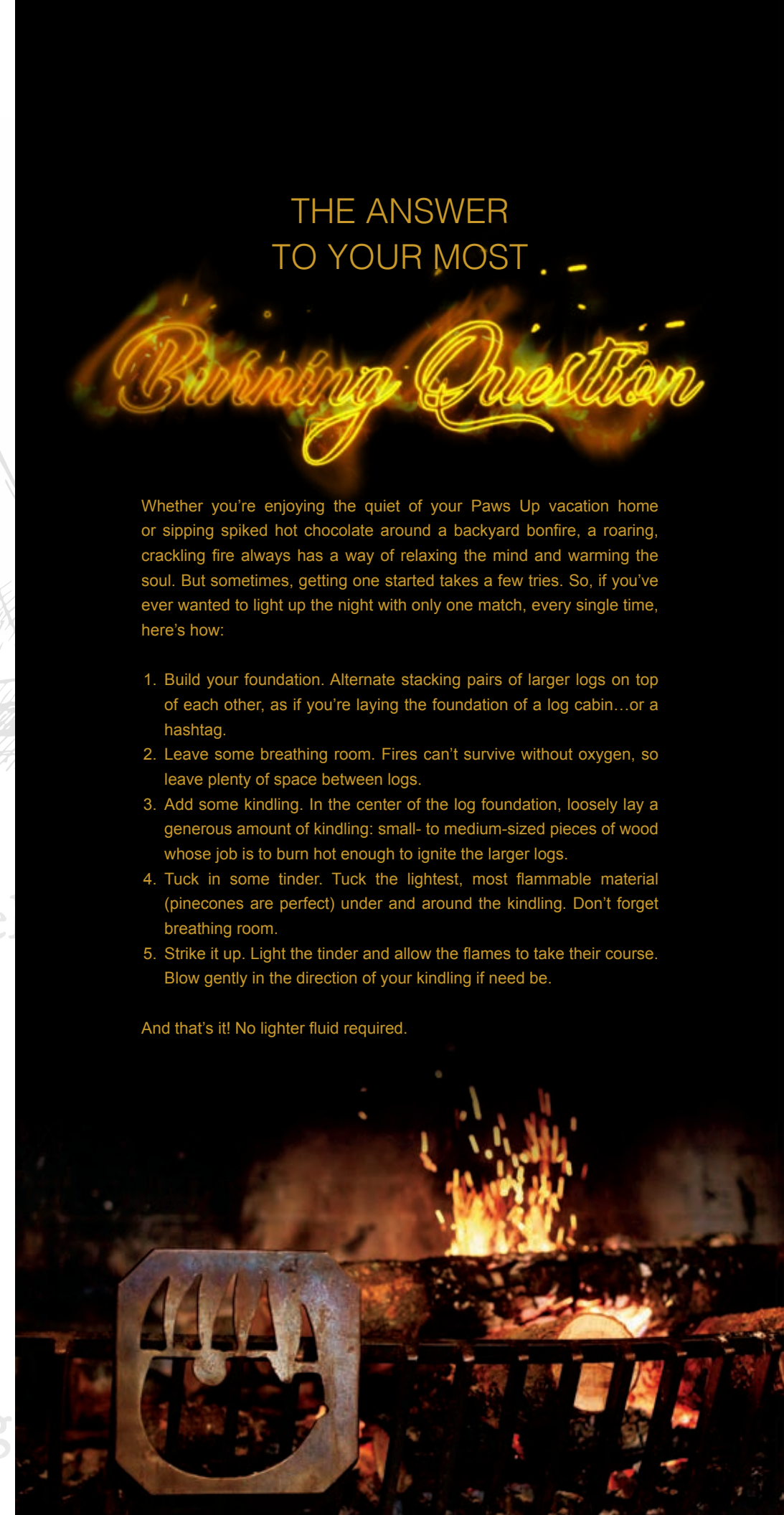
## THE ANSWER TO YOUR MOST . . .

## Burning Question

Whether you're enjoying the quiet of your Paws Up vacation home or sipping spiked hot chocolate around a backyard bonfire, a roaring, crackling fire always has a way of relaxing the mind and warming the soul. But sometimes, getting one started takes a few tries. So, if you've ever wanted to light up the night with only one match, every single time, here's how:

1. Build your foundation. Alternate stacking pairs of larger logs on top of each other, as if you're laying the foundation of a log cabin...or a hashtag.
2. Leave some breathing room. Fires can't survive without oxygen, so leave plenty of space between logs.
3. Add some kindling. In the center of the log foundation, loosely lay a generous amount of kindling: small- to medium-sized pieces of wood whose job is to burn hot enough to ignite the larger logs.
4. Tuck in some tinder. Tuck the lightest, most flammable material (pinecones are perfect) under and around the kindling. Don't forget breathing room.
5. Strike it up. Light the tinder and allow the flames to take their course. Blow gently in the direction of your kindling if need be.

And that's it! No lighter fluid required.







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