Greetings from wintry Montana!

The temperatures are dropping and the snow is steadily falling, making it the perfect time of year to put on your cozy layers, gather with your loved ones and…head outdoors!

Come wintertime, a thick blanket of snow covers The Resort at Paws Up® in 37,000 acres of pure possibility. Rolling hills transform into thrilling snow-tubing runs, and open fields set the scene for merry ice skating and horse-drawn sleigh rides. And as for the 100+ miles of trails at The Resort? That depends entirely on your favorite mode of transportation.

You’ll find a picture-perfect locale for an invigorating morning of cross-country skiing or snowshoeing. Thrill-seekers can cover some serious ground on e-bikes and snowmobiles. Add some more horsepower with a scenic horseback trail ride, or you might opt to be whisked through the wilds of Montana by Alaskan huskies on a dogsledding adventure.

At a time of year that traditionally sees everyone retreating indoors, it often comes as a surprise to people just how many outdoor adventures we offer during winter. As Paws Up’s activities director, nothing thrills me more than introducing guests to activities that they’ve never tried before—and now is the ideal time for the unique and unusual. As you read on you’ll discover activities you may have never heard of, such as skijoring (shown on cover), and learn about equestrian excursions and activities you won’t find anywhere else.

Of course, snow-packed pursuits are just the beginning. You’ll also get an inside look at the many ways we make the most of the season at Paws Up, from culinary events such as WinterFest and Winter Wine Weekend to unique indoor activities the whole family will love.

It’s our hope that the Winter Adventure Journal leaves you excited and inspired for the coming months, whether you’re spending them at home or planning a visit to Paws Up. And if you do visit, I hope you’ll come see me—I’d be more than happy to help you find ways to make this your most adventurous year yet.

Will Smith
Director of Activities
The Resort at Paws Up
Remember that feeling of being a kid playing out in the snow? Then, when mom called you inside, playtime was over. Here at Paws Up, we believe the fun shouldn’t end, especially when there’s so much to do inside. Of course, we’ve practically cornered the market on cozying up by the fire and watching snowflakes fall through large picture windows, but there’s lots of playing to be done as well. Start at the Equestrian Center and finish up at the bar:

Spark a little friendly competition with Cow Croquet
Channel your inner cowgirl/cowboy and round up the cows in a Team Penning competition
Watch in wonder as a wild mustang is “gentled” in our one-of-a-kind Horsepower: Where Mustangs and Mindfulness Coexist demo
Challenge your fellow guests to a board game or billiards
Peruse the Western wares at our Wilderness Outpost
Enjoy a live musical performance with a cocktail in hand at Tank

For the most rewarding afternoon you can have while standing still, take aim at the shooting sports offered at The Resort. An expansive mountain view serves as a stunning backdrop for sporting days, or you can take a more rustic approach to sharpshooting at our Old West .22 Rifle Range.

Of course, it’s only natural to feel overwhelmed when faced with so many options for adventure. Why not take it all in at once? Hop in a hot air balloon and fly up and over the landscape, surveying the miles of scenery as you gently nudge the clouds. As you rise and dip among Montana’s stunning winter wonderland, you’re reminded: at Paws Up you don’t just have experiences—you have experiences of a lifetime.

When you’re ready to bundle up for adventure, you’re in the right place. Even during the winter, Paws Up offers more activities than any other resort in the U.S. Spend an afternoon racing friends and family downhill and experience the best part of the ride: no trudging up to the top. Taking here means you’ll have a snowmobile chauffeur to drive you back after every run. Even better: you can hang on and enjoy a thrilling ride as you’re towed around one of The Resort’s expansive meadows.

You’re also in just the right place to settle the debate of the ages: skiing or snowboarding? While we can’t promise families will come to an agreement, you’ll find both just a 45-minute drive away at Montana’s Snowbowl, with a multitude of runs that are perfect for intermediate to advanced skiers.

Looking for a unique way of exploring the 100+ miles of trails at Paws Up? Fat Tire electric bikes can be used year-round, though winter certainly has an edge. The all-terrain bikes zip smoothly over snow-packed trails at speeds of up to 20 miles per hour, and with ages 12 and up invited on the ride, it’s an adventure your kids will be talking about for the rest of 2020.

In the “never thought I’d do that” category you’ll find skijoring, which takes its name from the Norwegian word for “ski driving.”
You’ll strap on skis or a snowboard and skid gleefully across the landscape as you’re pulled by a horse. For a sport that’s a completely different kind of animal, the whole family can experience the rush of powering through the snowy terrain behind a pack of fittest champion Alaskan huskies.

In the new year, why not make a resolution to try something totally new? Especially when you can find endless ways to challenge yourself, both inside and out.
Temperatures in the thirties. Wines rated in the nineties. Has there ever been a more ideal pairing? Winemaker Michael Silacci of Napa Valley’s venerable Opus One Winery is returning to Paws Up this January 17–19 for Winter Wine Weekend, a celebration of all things vintage in a region that’s perfectly chilled. You’ll taste outstanding varietals that evoke Napa Valley’s cool air, gentle rain and warm sun—all while surrounded by Montana’s freshly fallen snow. And sipping is only half the fun. Because not only will Silacci help you uncover the depth of key Opus One vintages, but you can also race across a landscape piled high with white stuff.

With plentiful pours, exquisite cuisine from Executive Chef Sunny Jin and a vast array of snowy adventures, it’s a world-class weekend that celebrates the very best of wine and winter.

We asked Hollingsworth to chat about his restaurants and how being at Paws Up will influence his approach to cuisine.

Q: While the menu at your restaurant Otium is eclectic, it feels like seafood is a passion. What are your favorite dishes?

A: At Otium, our menu is constantly evolving and changing, but ultimately, we like to reflect on what is seasonal, while also having reliable dishes that remain on the menu. My favorite dishes right now would be the Hamachi dish with avocado, the winning Black Cod dish from The Final Table and the Santa Barbara prawns.

Q: Might we see one of those three here at WinterFest 2020?

A: The Black Cod, or a variation, will likely make an appearance.

Q: Montana is cattle country—could you talk a bit about your renowned beef dishes?

A: I really like to do something in a large format because it allows me to put love into it. For instance, I like to do a big tomahawk steak on the grill for a long time, so I can really put in flavor. One of our beef dishes is served with a bone marrow vinaigrette, which is one of my favorite sauces, because it has the veal sauce and bordelaise sauce, with bone marrow added, as well as aioli with lemon, red wine vinegar, tarragon and shallots.

Q: Do events such as WinterFest pose creative challenges?

A: I wouldn’t necessarily call them challenges, as I think it gives us the opportunity to be creative and try new things. I definitely try to bring in my own style by preparing foods that are my signature dishes and demonstrate my influences. My goal is to show how an outsider utilizes local ingredients for an audience to try something new.

Q: Do you enjoy sharing techniques with other chefs?

A: It’s always fun to get to know others and their different cooking styles and flavor profiles. When you collaborate, it allows you to constantly learn and try things you’ve never done before.

Q: Your newest restaurants—C.J. Boyd and Free Play—reveal a sportier side. Could we see you on the back of a horse—or a snowmobile—in Montana?

A: Yes, absolutely. I love competitive and outdoor-related sports. I grew up riding horses and do so even into my adult life, just for fun. I’ve always wanted to try going on a snowmobile, and look forward to it when I’m in Montana.

Q: What else draws you to Montana?

A: I’ve had a lot of opportunity to travel outside of and within America, but mostly to major cities. I think Montana is one of the most beautiful states in this country, and I am excited to visit and familiarize myself with the terrain in this region.

Groomed at The French Laundry for 13 years and winner of both a James Beard Rising Star Chef of the Year award and of Netflix’s The Final Table, Los Angeles Chef Timothy Hollingsworth is now destined to become part of Paws Up’s culinary lore. For this coming WinterFest, February 14–17, he’ll be cooking alongside Executive Chef Sunny Jin, Chef Waylynn Lucas (star judge of Cake Wars) and Chef Brooke Williamson (the 2017 Top Chef winner).
A brand-new resort with a long history

A hundred years ago, when the land was a patchwork of homesteads, fields and woods, the scion of a wealthy businessman brought his dream of establishing a Montana ranch to realization. His name was Paul Greenough, and he acquired 3,800 acres of land, stocking it with herds of sheep, cattle and horses.

A man with a great sense of humor, Greenough decided to brand his sheep by painting a big green “O” on their backs. Years later, the town of Greenough would be named in his honor, and the Green O resort, located on the expansive Paws Up Ranch, would be named for his famous sheep.

Sophisticated—and surrounded by trees

Tucked deep in the woods, the Green O blends untamed nature with sleek, modern sensibilities. It offers 12 exquisite, perfectly secluded Houses, each designed to make the most of the outdoors while helping you center on what’s deep within. Wake up to panoramic views of lush wilderness. Step out to your private terrace and sink into your hot tub beneath the sun-dappled canopy. Take a short scenic stroll to the green o’s private restaurant and lounge for an innovative, unforgettable culinary experience straight from the mind of visionary Executive Chef Sunny Jin.

Relax, renew and play.

At the Green O, it’s easy to reconnect—with yourself, with your partner, with nature. Find your bliss with a mineral mud wrap or a couple’s massage at nearby Spa Town®. Or, bring the spa right to your House with an in-home treatment, surrounded by a crackling fire and gently rustling leaves. Make your heart race by rappelling down the sheer face of a mountain, or take time to reflect with a mindful hike in the forest. The vast array of adventures offered at nearby Paws Up are fully available to guests of the Green O.

Be among the first to experience the Green O.

Ready to explore another side of Montana—and yourself? Talk to a reservations specialist today by calling 877-251-2841, and get a closer look by visiting thegreeno.com.

Opening Summer 2020
Glorious winter! There’s so much to do outside, playing like a kid in several feet of snow. You can earn your rich gourmet hot chocolate by snowshoeing, dogsledding or skijoring. You can exert yourself making snow angels or building igloos. But if you want to stick strictly to your fitness program, you might opt to come indoors.

Fortunately, winter is just as glorious inside the Huff-n-Puff Fitness Center at Paws Up. Opened in 2018, it puts you right in the middle of the wilderness, giving you spectacular views of the falling snow gently blanketing the branches outside. “My favorite part is looking out at the forest while running on the treadmill,” says Paws Up Spa and Wellness Director Laura Russell-Nygard. Set your incline at zero, or set it so high you feel like you’re climbing up those distant mountains.

The Huff-n-Puff is accessible 24 hours a day, all year-round, and features everything your gym back home has, including Precor® treadmills and elliptical machines, plus free weights and stationary bikes, along with fresh fruit on the go.

And don’t miss the Yoga Studio, just down the frequently shoveled path. In winter, “we offer Vinyasa flow, power yoga, morning rise yoga, GlideBarre. Yin yoga and s’morega,” says Russell-Nygard. “Yes, you read that last one right. Ask Russell-Nygard what s’morega is, and she’ll tell you.”

“’That’s where we snowshoe to an area and then do yoga poses and stretching.’”

The important thing about winter, Russell-Nygard says, is this: “Stay active—get out there and take advantage of the brisk, cold air. Take a trail run, and stop and do some breath work.”

Paws Up Director of Activities Will Smith agreed. If you have specific fitness goals, “don’t let the cold get you down,” he said. “Find 30 minutes a day to move, regardless of intensity. A hike, walk or trip to the Fitness Center should do the trick.”

Of course, there’s always the spa. When the cold weather hits, The Resort’s Spa Town closes up its tents and moves its operations to the elegant Saddle Club. In addition to massage therapies and body wraps, the spa offers all kinds of luxe skin treatments.

For the winter,” Russell-Nygard said, “the menu includes a candy cane scrub, pomegranate face mask, pumpkin enzyme body treatments and decadent body scrubs such as pecan pie or s’mores scrub.” After all, it’s the perfect time of year to exfoliate and hydrate—sloughing off the old and making way for the new.
It only made sense that Smith got the call when it came to deciding who would coordinate and execute fireworks here. Paws Up typically has displays at bigger events, including WinterFest, Montana Master Chefs, the Fourth of July, Montana Master Chefs, and New Year’s Eve. But it’s also an option for guests to request a personal display.

“I did a display that was set up as a surprise for a guest’s birthday. Everyone gathered for what she thought was just a magic trick and at the climax, I started the display with a huge bang. The family loved it and it’s since been one of my best displays,” Smith said recently.

Ringing in 2020 in a big way

And Smith has more surprises planned soon. “This year’s New Year’s display will be one of our largest ever,” Smith said. “I think the snow adds an element to the display to make it stand out versus the Fourth of July show. The color light up the landscape much better in the snow.”

Of course, fireworks aren’t the only thing planned for December 31. The Josh Farmer Band is set to perform, with staff described “jinky rock and soul”-assisted, and guests will enjoy a gourmet meal by Executive Chef Sunny Jin paired with vintage wine and bubbly.

And brightening the morning?

On New Year’s Day, Paws Up favorite and James Beard Award winner Chef Mindy Segal will prepare a brunch like no other, including her signature velvety hot chocolate. Segal was recently inducted into the Chicago Chefs Hall of Fame. Her recipes range from a rich and spicy Mexican hot chocolate to creamy Oreo fudgesicle hot chocolate spiked with whiskey.

From the dazzling fireworks display display to delicious details on the table, December 31 through January 1 is a wonderful time for families to make all sorts of new memories.
Why just ride a horse when you can go on an unforgettable journey? Paws Up Equestrian Manager Jackie Kecskes has never been satisfied with typical trail rides. She prefers finding an undiscovered path or coming face-to-face with a wild mustang. And with free rein to follow her heart, she’s designed one of the most innovative equestrian programs in the country, caring for a herd of domesticated horses and adopted mustangs as if they were her own children.

HERE ARE HER TOP 5 FAVORITE HORSE ADVENTURES DURING THE WINTER SEASON:

Winter Horseback Riding
Listen carefully—do you hear that? It’s the sound of silence punctuated by the crunching of horse hooves in the snow. Winter horseback rides calm the mind and soothe the soul as you take in the crisp air and admire the wide-open expanses of our Montana ranch.

Horsepower: Where Mustangs and Mindfulness Coexist
What does it mean to take a horse from wild to mild? Spend one to two hours watching in wonder as Kecskes shows you what it means to “gentle” a mustang. You see how the smallest things—from the pitch in her voice to the placement of a hand—can calm and train these free-spirited animals. With determination, patience and unbridled affection, you share in an experience that few others ever get the chance to see.

Horse Whispering 101 and 201
In the first workshop, you work with a ranch horse, helping it get warmed up, then brushing and saddling your horse before heading out on a ride. In the second, you step inside the ring with a wild mustang as a wrangler shows you how to be a confident leader. In both, you’re establishing trust, building a relationship and taking part in an awe-inspiring, breath-taking experience.

Skijoring
This is definitely not your average horse ride. In fact, you’re not saddling up at all—you’re strapping on skis or a snowboard for a thrilling ride as a horse pulls you along on trails. You make plenty of fresh tracks and have all kinds of fast-paced fun.

Sleigh Rides
They’re not just for Santa, and our sleigh rides are full of merriment. Join our Percheron draft horses for a ride through the property as you’re regaled with stories and treated to hot chocolate, spiced cider or coffee. It’s a magical way to sit back and enjoy the season.

JACKIE KECSKES IS NOT HORSEING AROUND
PAWS UP’S EQUESTRIAN MANAGER GETS SERIOUS ABOUT WINTER RIDING

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Paws Up and Lexus: A Match Made for Montana
These days, guests traveling the dusty—and often snowy—roads of The Resort can do so in even more comfort and safety than before. World-renowned automaker Lexus is now the official supplier of Paws Up vehicles. A new fleet of sleek Lexus NX models provide all-wheel drive and all the latest features you’d expect in a luxury vehicle.

“The timing between our resort and Lexus was perfect,” said Managing Director Steve Hurst. “As Lexus continues to grow awareness of the versatility and toughness of their luxury vehicles, we’re able to provide a high-quality driving experience to our guests.”

There are other new wheels around The Resort, as well. Guests are being driven by Paws Up staff in LX vehicles, Lexus’s flagship luxury SUVs.

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WINTER 2019–2020 | UPCOMING EVENTS

December 24–29
HOLIDAY TREATS WITH CHEF AMANDA ROCKMAN

Watch and listen as Jean Banchet Pastry Chef of the Year Amanda Rockman demonstrates her well-honed baking skills. You’ll learn the secrets behind her award-winning cookies and, of course, get to taste plenty of sugary samples.

December 25
A MONTANA CHRISTMAS

Ever heard real jingle bells? Whether you’re riding a sleigh, building gingerbread houses, downhill tubing or telling Santa your wish list, celebrating Christmas at Paws Up means getting the gift you wanted most: holiday time with your favorite people.

December 31
A NEW YEAR’S CELEBRATION

End the year on a high note. Join us as we count down to 2020 with fireworks, live music, bubbly and a lavish New Year’s Day brunch with Chef Mindy Segal, James Beard Award winner and inductee of the Chicago Chefs Hall of Fame.

January 17–19
WINTER WINE WEEKEND WITH OPUS ONE

Let us fill your glass with California’s finest. Opus One winemaker Michael Silacci returns to share tasting notes and impart his knowledge of terroir. Expect him to be pouring vintages worthy of the 92+ ratings his wines frequently earn.

February 14–17
WINTERFEST

Come over Valentine’s weekend for delicious bites from some of Los Angeles’ best restaurants. With three of the city’s top chefs, you’ll get to experience cooking demos: wine, beer and spirits tastings; curling matches and frosty outdoor adventures.

February 28–March 1
THE FRENCH LAUNDRY UNFOLDED

Get to know veteran chefs from the world-famous French Laundry. Executive Chef Sunny Jin is hosting fellow alumni from the restaurant for a reunion of epic eating and storytelling, plus all sorts of wilderness activities to work up an appetite.

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