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| RED LODGE, MT

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Red Lodge, Montana has always been home to western excitement. The mile-high community half-way between Cody, Wyoming and Billings, Montana was established in 1884 around rich coal deposits and grew up fast. In 1897, the Sundance Kid (Harry Longabaugh), in his pre-Butch Cassidy days, robbed the Red Lodge Bank. By the turn of the last century, the town's ritzy brick hotel had hosted the likes of William Jennings Bryant, Frederick Remington and Buffalo Bill Cody. The town was also home to mountain man John "Liver-Eating" Johnston who remains legendary for reasons that have nothing to do with goose pate. If you've seen Robert Redford's film *Jeremiah Johnson*, you know the gist of the story. If not, well, Red Lodge history is just one of dozens of great reasons to visit. Here are a few of our favorites:

### YEAR-ROUND FISHING AND OTHER RECREATION:

It's possible to fly-fish throughout the year in the rivers and creeks around Red Lodge. When the weather warms, this part of Montana is a slice of heaven on earth. Wildflowers carpet high meadows; pine scent perfumes the air. The Custer National Forest and the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area offer more than 700 miles of trails that access stunning mountain vistas punctuated with lakes, rivers and waterfalls. Mountain biking, horseback riding, mountaineering and backpacking opportunities abound. So do whitewater rafting experiences on the Stillwater and Yellowstone rivers. More sedentary travelers can get up close and personal with Montana's stunning landscape and get their own adrenaline rush while driving across the Beartooth Scenic Byway to Yellowstone National Park. Credited as one of the nation's most beautiful roads, it's a bit of a white-knuckle climb to more than 10,000 feet. The views of the wilderness area make the heart pounding well worth it.

**WINTER SPORTS:** Red Lodge offers it all—from snowmobiling to ice climbing to alpine skiing. The Red Lodge Mountain ski resort is a friendly, affordable place with almost non-existent lift lines and plenty of options, including a 2.5-mile intermediate run and a terrain park for snowboarders. There's a great ski school, too. Best of all, it's just five miles from downtown. Cross-country ski enthusiasts can enjoy 15 kilometers of groomed trails at the Red Lodge Nordic Center just two miles from town.

**ART AND ENTERTAINMENT** draws on Red Lodge's proud heritage and pristine setting. The inspiring landscape attracts working artists by the dozens. Downtown is home to a half-dozen galleries and studios. The Carbon County Arts Guild and Gallery, housed in the historic train depot, is a cooperative group of more than 200 painters, photographers, sculptors and craftspeople. This is the place to find exceptional Western art and jewelry.



Helen the mountain lion, is one of the current residents at the Beartooth Nature Center.

A view of the Palisades area from Red Lodge Mountain Resort.

For a taste of Red Lodge's wild side, visit the Beartooth Nature Center. Tourists hoping to get a glimpse of Montana's most elusive wildlife are treated to a close encounter here. The facility cares for native animals that can no longer live in their natural environments due to injury or human interference. Current residents include mountain lions, bears, wolves, fox, bobcat, coyote, elk, deer, porcupine, donkeys, horses and an array of birds.

The Carbon County Historical Society and Museum has all you want to know about that old liver-eater John Johnston, as well as plenty of info on the area's evolution. The museum also provides an excellent self-guided walking exploration of

interesting historic sites, including the town's original hotel—still functioning as the fully renovated Pollard. The tour also features the palatial residences of mine operators, as well as ethnic neighborhoods once inhabited by laborers from Italy, Scandinavia and Eastern Europe.

**CREATURE COMFORT:** Whether you opt for fresh air adventure or choose to poke around the quaint downtown, time in Red Lodge works up an appetite. Local eateries offer a vast selection, including the steakhouses you'd expect in ranching country and ethnic eateries. Lodging options range from cozy cabins and bed-and-breakfast inns to the Pollard Hotel's historic luxury. ■

HELEN: BEARTOOTH NATURE CENTER

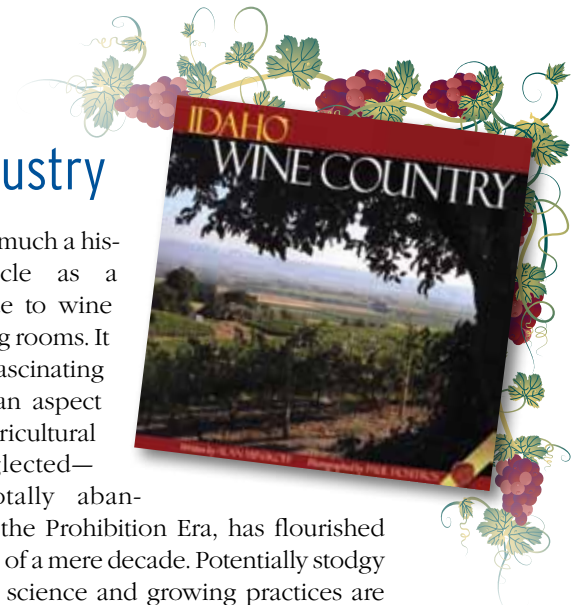
| IDAHO WINE COUNTRY

## NEW BOOK Celebrates Emerging Industry

"Wine touring is a deliberate act that sharpens the senses," according to Alan Minskoff, author of *Idaho Wine Country*, a definitive guide to the Gem State's rapidly emerging viticulture industry. Savvy travelers must agree. Visiting vineyards, wineries and tasting rooms is an exceptional way to get in touch with local landscape, culture and personalities. But then, so is Minskoff's recent release from Idaho's Caxton Press.

Whether you're planning an Idaho visit or simply interested in knowing more about the state, the flashy soft-cover book is a valuable resource. Minskoff's elegant prose is bolstered by the creative imagery of Paul Hosefros, retired *New York Times* senior photographer. The collaborators spent 15 months traveling throughout the expansive state. From the high desert plateaus of the Snake River Plain to Northern Idaho's vast green Palouse, they visited more than 50 vineyards and wineries and delved into the art, science and business of wine.

The book is as much a historical chronicle as a hands-on guide to wine trails and tasting rooms. It reveals the fascinating story of how an aspect of Idaho's agricultural heritage, neglected—albeit not totally abandoned—since the Prohibition Era, has flourished over the course of a mere decade. Potentially stodgy topics like soil science and growing practices are presented in a manner that makes every aspect of the process seem like a grand adventure. Engaging interviews with people who love what they do and where they live inspire a great appreciation for the entrepreneurial spirit that marks Idaho. It also makes one wonder how long before Idaho's slogan "famous potatoes" is replaced with "great grapes" or "wonderful wines." ■



| SALT LAKE CITY, UT

## MAKE THE MOST of a Layover



It only takes 15 minutes to get from the airport to downtown Salt Lake City where there is so much to experience. Making the trip is extra easy with free airport shuttle service to Temple Square, the historic, spiritual center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Air passengers with at least a two-hour layover can enjoy a highly informative, 40-minute Temple Square tour and more, according to Dale Sansom who directs the program. Regularly departing shuttles wait at two

locations. Ask a customer service agent for the location nearest you. The shuttles also return passengers to the air terminal.

The service is sponsored by the Visitor Activities Section of the church, in cooperation with the Salt Lake Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Utah Travel Council, the Salt Lake Downtown Alliance and the airlines. ■