

TRAVEL + LEISURE

FAMILY

WINTER 2007/2008

**ORLANDO
DO'S & DON'TS**

ROMAN HOLIDAY

**GIFTS FOR THE
WHOLE GANG**

plus

**11 AFFORDABLE
ALTERNATIVES TO
BIG-TICKET TRIPS**



**Costa Rica
Made Easy**



SKI REPORT

THE DOPE ON THE SLOPES

This winter, the action at three top resorts isn't only on the mountain. In Colorado, **Snowmass** (970/925-1220; aspensnowmass.com) opens its \$17 million Treehouse Kids' Adventure Center, with playrooms for children as young as eight weeks, a climbing gym, and space for teen dances and movie nights. In Vermont, **Stowe Mountain Lodge** cuts the ribbon on a 139-room red-cedar resort (802/253-3560; stowemountainlodge.com; doubles from \$435) where kids can strap on snowshoes and ID moose tracks with the house naturalist. And in California, **Northstar-at-Tahoe** (800/466-6784; northstaratahoe.com; condos from \$279) beefs up its base village with 100 new condominiums near the central plaza's outdoor skating rink, ringed by s'mores-roasting stations.

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Pick your next pit stop with two Web sites that rate public potties. **Thebathroomdiaries.com** details comfort stations in 119 countries, while **mizpee.com** will lead you to loos in major North American cities—browse locations on your cell phone, and go!

GEAR

NOW WE'RE COOKING

Add water to the portable **Dutchtub**, light a wood fire within the coil, and soon you'll be soaking in your own mini-spa. Made of ultralight fiberglass in customizable colors, Holland's hot export fits on a roof rack and comes with a wok, so you can stir-fry while you steep. 518/524-2151; dutchtub.com; \$6,000.



TOP: ANDREW BANNECKER, BOTTOM: JEFF HARRIS



EATS

NOT SO PLANE LUNCH

Just say no when your kids ask for fast food at the airport. Instead, pick up the perfect carry-on picnic at **Cibo Express Gourmet Market** (otgmanagement.com). The growing enterprise, now with 36 locations, is stocked by a former Whole Foods buyer with fun-shaped sandwiches from Kidfresh grocery, fruit-and-cheese plates, juice-sweetened licorice, and an encyclopedic array of organic energy bars. Never settle for airline pretzels again!