

ELEVATED HOLIDAYS IN COLORADO 2025

curated by

Anne Carlson

Global Luxury Broker

Luxury Mountain Living at Coldwell Banker



Colorado's holiday season is nothing short of magical — from snow-dusted mountain towns to glittering city lights, from cozy firesides to alpine adventures. This year's guide was created to inspire joy, connection, and a little sparkle as you explore everything our state has to offer. Whether you're sipping cocoa beneath twinkling lights, dressing up for a night at The Brown Palace, or escaping to a mountain hideaway, I hope this collection helps you celebrate the beauty and warmth of the season.

With gratitude,

Anne



Get your FREE Home equity report here ➡



COLORADO HOLIDAY CLASSICS

Afternoon Tea at The Brown Palace – Denver

A timeless Denver tradition. Sip tea and champagne beneath the hotel's gilded ceilings, surrounded by poinsettias, live music, and festive treats.

Gingerbread Workshops at The Broadmoor – Colorado Springs

Create your own confectionery masterpiece at this iconic resort. Guided by The Broadmoor's pastry chefs, it's a holiday memory for kids and grown-ups alike.

Colorado Ballet's The Nutcracker

November 29 – December 28, 2025 | Ellie Caulkins Opera House, Denver

The beloved classic returns with Tchaikovsky's score, stunning choreography, and spectacular sets. A must-see holiday tradition for generations.

👉 coloradoballet.org

Santa's Adventure Train – Georgetown Loop Railroad

Mid-November–December 2025

Step aboard a historic train through the snowy Rockies. Kids meet Santa, sip cocoa, and take in mountain views. A nostalgic Colorado favorite.

👉 georgetownlooprr.com

NOTEWORTHY THIS SEASON

Aspen's 12 Days of Christmas – Aspen

December 20–31, 2025

Live music, ice skating, visits from Santa, and fireworks ring in the New Year in true Aspen style.

Winter Glow at Chatfield Farms – Littleton

November 23, 2025 – January 5, 2026

Wander through illuminated tunnels and glowing trees at Denver Botanic Gardens' Chatfield Farms.

Après at Altitude – The Broadmoor, Colorado Springs

Weekends in December 2025

The Broadmoor debuts its new “Après at Altitude” series — featuring fireside champagne tastings, live jazz, and cozy outdoor lounges overlooking Cheyenne Mountain. It's elegance, Colorado-style. *(Luxury Tip: Reserve the private fire pit experience — it comes with a signature s'mores kit and top-shelf spirits.)*

Ice Castles – Cripple Creek or Dillon

Late December 2025 – February 2026

Step into a fairytale of ice tunnels, frozen archways, and LED-lit sculptures that sparkle under the night sky. Colorado's Ice Castles return this winter with an all-new design — perfect for families, photographers, and anyone looking to experience winter's magic firsthand. *(Luxury Tip: Go at twilight for the best lighting and bring a thermos of hot cocoa — or stop by a nearby mountain café for dessert afterward.)*



FESTIVE FAMILY FUN + LIGHT DISPLAYS

Breakfast with Santa – Downtown Aquarium, Denver

December Weekends 2025

A magical morning featuring a breakfast buffet, Santa visits, and family crafts.

The Polar Express – Colorado Railroad Museum, Golden

November 10 – December 23, 2025

Hot cocoa, caroling, and a reading of the classic tale as the train steams toward the “North Pole.”

Christmas Walk in the Woods – Loveland

November 22 – December 24, 2025

An enchanting, walk-through light experience featuring glowing tunnels, themed displays, and synchronized music set against the backdrop of the forest. Perfect for families and couples alike, it’s an immersive alternative to the traditional drive-through show.

Christmas at Gaylord Rockies – Aurora

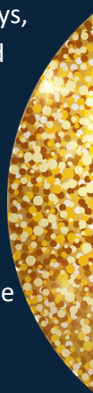
November 21, 2025 – January 5, 2026

A full holiday extravaganza featuring ICE! — The Polar Express™, tubing, skating, gingerbread workshops, and live shows all under one grand roof. Families can spend the entire day (and night) in a winter wonderland of lights, snow, and festive fun.

Garden of Lights – Fort Collins

December 6, 2025 – January 1, 2026

The Gardens on Spring Creek transform into a sparkling light garden with animated displays, live music, and family activities. A local favorite that balances whimsy with natural beauty.



Old Town Fort Collins Lights + Santa Visits

November–January

Thousands of twinkling lights transform Old Town's streets into a holiday postcard, complete with Santa visits on select weekends.

Denver Zoo Lights – Denver

November 23, 2025 – January 5, 2026

Eighty acres of glowing displays, animal sculptures, and festive music.

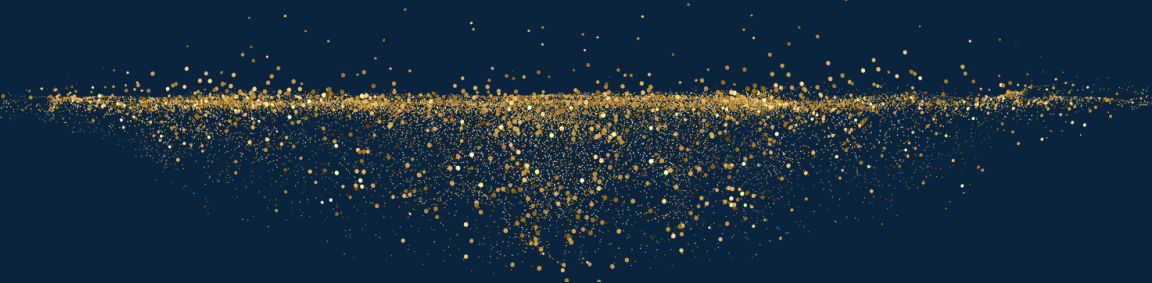
👉 denverzoo.org

NoCo Winter Wonderland – Fort Collins

December 2025 – January 2026

A drive-through light show synchronized to music, perfect for cozy nights with cocoa and carols.

👉 nocowinterwonderland.com



Winter Weekends & Mountain Escapes

Vail & Beaver Creek

Ski by day, indulge by night. Cozy up for après-ski at The Remedy Bar, then take a moonlit sleigh ride through snow-dusted trails before dining fireside at Zach's Cabin or Splendido. Elegant shops, art galleries, and twinkling lights line the village for a truly storybook escape. *(Luxury Tip: Ask your concierge about a private snowcat dinner in Beaver Creek or book a ski-in massage at The Sebastian Spa in Vail.)*

Aspen

Art, elegance, and alpine air define Aspen in winter. Wander the galleries downtown, shop designer boutiques, or enjoy après-ski cocktails by the fireplace at Hotel Jerome. End the evening at Cache Cache or Element 47 for fine dining amid candlelight and conversation. *(Luxury Tip: Book a treatment at Remède Spa at The St. Regis, then enjoy live jazz at The Living Room Lounge.)*

Steamboat Springs

The perfect mix of adventure and relaxation — ski fresh Champagne Powder, then soak beneath the stars at Strawberry Park Hot Springs. Explore local dining favorites like Laundry Kitchen or Café Diva before cozying up at a mountain chalet. *(Luxury Tip: Schedule a couples' soak at Strawberry Park followed by dinner at Harwigs, a longtime Steamboat gem.)*

Estes Park

Rustic charm meets Rocky Mountain majesty. Book a cabin with a hot tub overlooking Longs Peak, then head into town for local boutiques, cozy coffee shops, and carriage rides under the glow of holiday lights. Rocky Mountain National Park offers peaceful snowshoe trails and wildlife sightings. *(Luxury Tip: Visit Qi Lounge Spa for a restorative massage after a morning hike, and don't miss dinner at Bird & Jim for a true taste of Colorado.)*

DATE NIGHTS + HOLIDAY COCKTAILS

Social – Fort Collins

Lavender Sour: vodka, ginger cognac, lavender syrup, and lemon for a floral winter refresh.

(Luxury Tip: Reserve the cozy corner table and pair your cocktail with their charcuterie board — it's a hidden local favorite.)

Ace Gillett's – Fort Collins

Winter Wonderland Martini: vanilla vodka, white chocolate liqueur, and peppermint schnapps, rimmed with crushed candy cane.

(Luxury Tip: Stop by on jazz night — the underground lounge ambiance feels straight out of Old Hollywood.)

The Whisk(e)y – Fort Collins

Maple Old Fashioned: smooth, smoky, and perfectly spiced for cold evenings.

(Luxury Tip: Ask your bartender for their private whiskey list — they'll often pour limited releases not on the menu.)

Miracle Pop-Up Bars – Denver & Boulder

Over-the-top holiday décor, themed glassware, and joyful chaos — don't miss the Christmapolitan.

(Luxury Tip: Go early in the evening before the crowd builds and request a seat near the fireplace for the best photos.)

Sippin' Santa at Ay Papi – Denver

A tropical twist with rum, amaro, and gingerbread syrup — Christmas in paradise.

(Luxury Tip: Try their secret menu cocktail — "The Sleigh All Day" — a mix of spiced rum, coconut, and cinnamon.)

MAKE-AT-HOME HOLIDAY COCKTAILS

Cranberry Champagne Spritz

3 oz prosecco, 1 oz cranberry juice, splash of St. Germain, garnish with rosemary. Elegant, simple, and festive.

Mountain Mule

2 oz vodka, 1 oz apple cider, top with ginger beer, garnish with cinnamon stick. A Colorado twist on a classic.

Snowberry Fizz (Mocktail)

2 oz white cranberry juice, 1 oz sparkling water, splash of lime juice, sugared rosemary garnish. Refreshing and festive for all ages.



SHOP LOCAL + WINTER WELLNESS

Cira Boutique – Fort Collins

Chic fashion finds and locally inspired gifts.

(Luxury Tip: Ask the owner for personal styling — they'll curate pieces that fit your winter aesthetic.)

A Line Boutique – Denver

Designer style with a mountain edge — the perfect holiday splurge.

(Luxury Tip: Request a private shopping appointment for champagne service and personal fitting sessions.)

Alpine Arts Center – Vail

Local art, pottery, and glass ornaments crafted by Colorado makers.

(Luxury Tip: Sign up for their small-group painting or pottery nights — perfect après-ski creative unwind.)

State 38 Distilling – Golden

Handcrafted spirits distilled from organic blue agave and Colorado honey. State 38 is known for its tequila-style spirits and holiday releases like barrel-aged whiskey and spiced bourbon.

(Luxury Tip: Book a private tasting experience — they often include limited-release pours not available in stores.)



Denver Christkindlmarket – Downtown

Denver

Traditional German market with handcrafted gifts, mulled wine, and live music.

(Luxury Tip: Head to the Glühwein tent after sunset — it's the best place to warm up and mingle with locals.)

Vail Holiday Market – Vail Village

European-style market set against the backdrop of the mountains.

(Luxury Tip: Visit early morning for artisan shopping, then stay for après drinks at The Remedy Bar)

Winter Wellness Retreats

Recharge at Spa Anjali in Avon, Halcyon Spa in Cherry Creek, or Sunrise Ranch in Loveland. Try a Winter Solstice sound bath or a cold plunge — the ultimate Colorado refresh.

(Luxury Tip: Book weekday spa appointments — you'll often get bonus treatments or complimentary mimosas during off-peak hours.)

PAWS & SNOW + HOLIDAY BITES

Paws & Snow

Pet photos with Santa at Jax or Scheels, Garden of Lights “Dog Night,” and snowy hikes at Pineridge or Lily Lake — perfect for your four-legged family members.

Holiday Bites

The Emporium – festive brunches and holiday pastries

Urban Egg – peppermint pancakes and seasonal specials

Little Bird Bakeshop – cookies, cocoa bombs, and holiday cakes

Rebel Popcorn – peppermint bark, caramel spice, and holiday tins



HANDS-ON HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS & EXPERIENCES

Holiday Wreath Workshop at Rosy Rings Studio – Denver

November 29, 2025 | 5:00 PM

Create your own elegant wreath using dried botanicals and gold ribbon. Includes champagne and light bites. *(Luxury Tip: Book a private session for groups of four or more — it includes upgraded materials and sparkling rosé.)*

👉 rosyringsstudio.com

Holiday Wreath Workshop at Birdsall Garden – Denver

December 11 2025

Craft a one-of-a-kind wreath surrounded by evergreens and holiday fragrance. *(Luxury Tip: Stay after class to browse their winter greenhouse — it's one of Denver's best-kept secrets for indoor photo ops.)*

👉 birdsallgarden.com

Wreath Workshop at Yetman Family Farms – Northern Colorado

December 6, 2025 | 12–2 PM

Rustic charm, local greenery, and plenty of hot cocoa. *(Luxury Tip: Stop by their farm stand for locally made jams and honey — perfect for holiday gifting.)*

👉 yetmanfarms.com

DIY Wreath Night at BrewDog – Denver

November 11, 2025

Hands-on fun, laughter, and craft beer. *(Luxury Tip: Order their seasonal porter — it pairs perfectly with pine and cinnamon-scented creativity.)*

👉 eventbrite.com

The Teaching Kitchen at Ginger & Baker – Fort Collins

Seasonal cooking classes like Holiday Pies and Cookies 101 fill quickly. *(Luxury Tip: After class, visit the upstairs Wine Cellar Lounge — they serve one of Fort Collins' best espresso martinis.)*

👉 [.gingerandbaker.com](https://www.gingerandbaker.com)

Uncorked Kitchen & Wine Bar – Denver Tech Center

Select December Dates

Cook side-by-side in their Christmas in Tuscany class — equal parts culinary and romantic. *(Luxury Tip: Reserve the Chef's Table for a more intimate experience with private wine pairings.)*

👉 [uncorkedkitchen.com](https://www.uncorkedkitchen.com)



HOLIDAY POP-UP BARS & COCKTAIL EXPERIENCES

Miracle at Union Station – Denver

November 15–December 24, 2025

The Great Hall transforms into a holiday wonderland with whimsical cocktails and tinsel galore. *(Luxury Tip: Go early in the week to skip the crowds and grab a fireside seat for the perfect holiday photo backdrop.)*

👉 denverunionstation.com

Miracle at The Eddy – Golden

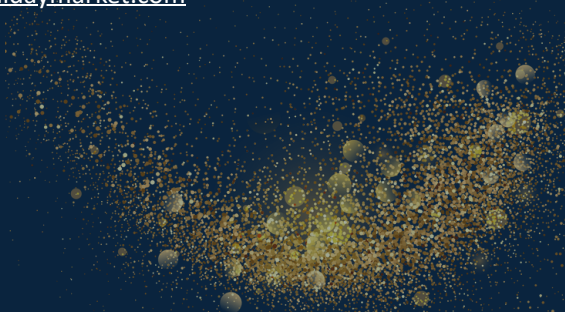
A mountain-chic version of the Miracle pop-up with themed drinks and glowing décor. *(Luxury Tip: Stay overnight at The Eddy Taproom & Hotel — their holiday packages often include complimentary cocktails.)*

👉 theeddygolden.com

Mistletoe Lounge – Cherry Creek Holiday Market

Sip mulled wine and holiday cocktails in a cozy two-story lounge surrounded by lights and laughter. *(Luxury Tip: Visit midweek for a more relaxed vibe and order their seasonal mocktail flight.)*

👉 cherrycreekholidaymarket.com



Snowdrift at Adrift – Denver

Tropical tiki meets tinsel at this festive pop-up filled with creative holiday cocktails and beachy holiday vibes. *(Luxury Tip: Their Kris Kringle Colada pairs perfectly with the house coconut shrimp — a tropical Colorado holiday combo.)*

☞ adriftbar.com

Sippin' Santa – Bernard's Tiki Room (Arvada Tavern)

November 2025 – December 31, 2025

Step into a tropical holiday oasis where tiki meets Christmas. Sippin' Santa offers whimsical décor, holiday mugs (available for purchase), and a playful menu of seasonal cocktails like Frosty the Merman and Holiday on Ice.

(Luxury Tip: Reserve your 1h15 slot early — the themed mugs and photo moments make it perfect for holiday nights.)

☞ 303-690-6269 or arvadatavern.com/sippinsanta

Happy Camper – Denver

Fire pits, twinkle lights, and winter cocktails under the stars — a casual holiday favorite. *(Luxury Tip: Order the seasonal hot toddy and grab a fire pit table for an Instagram-worthy evening.)*

☞ happycamper.pizza



Lifestyle & Living: The Colorado Way

Luxury isn't just a place — it's a feeling. From softly lit mountain evenings to homes that glow with warmth and texture, the holidays are a time to embrace beauty, comfort, and connection. Whether you're curating your perfect space or slipping into Colorado's sparkling nightlife, these moments remind us what it means to live — and celebrate — in true Colorado style.

Anne



Holiday Home Styling Tips: Bringing Mountain Luxury Home

This season, create your own mountain-inspired retreat — a space that feels as warm and inviting as a fireside evening in Vail. With just a few thoughtful touches, you can infuse your home with cozy sophistication and Colorado holiday charm.

1. Layered Textures

Mix soft knits, faux fur, and woven neutrals to add warmth and depth to your living spaces.

Think cashmere throws, wool pillows, and cozy rugs underfoot.

(Luxury Tip: Drape a faux fur throw over your favorite armchair — it instantly elevates a room and photographs beautifully.)

2. Natural Greenery

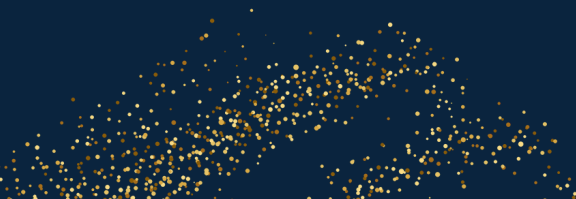
Bring the outdoors in with evergreen garlands, eucalyptus, and pine-scented candles. These simple accents transform your home with that crisp Colorado-mountain scent.

(Luxury Tip: Source fresh greenery from Bath Garden Center or Mill Brothers in Fort Collins for long-lasting quality.)

3. Metallic Accents

A touch of champagne gold or brushed bronze adds a soft holiday glow. Use metallic candlesticks, ornaments, or even a few shimmering ribbon accents on your mantel.

(Luxury Tip: Mix matte and glossy finishes for a modern, layered look that catches candlelight beautifully.)



4. Signature Scents

Create a sensory experience with candles or diffusers in notes of cedarwood, vanilla, or fir.

Subtle fragrance adds instant warmth to any space.

(Luxury Tip: Layer complementary scents throughout your home — lighter citrus in entryways, warmer woods in living areas.)

5. Gather Around the Glow

Whether it's a fireplace, candles, or twinkle lights, soft lighting brings people together. Add votives to your coffee table or wrap a strand of fairy lights around greenery for understated sparkle.

(Luxury Tip: Use dimmable warm-white LED lights — they cast the same golden glow as candlelight without the upkeep.)

6. Local Touches

Showcase Colorado craftsmanship with pottery, woodwork, or textiles from local artisans. These pieces not only support small businesses but also add authenticity and story to your décor.

(Luxury Tip: Visit Old Town Fort Collins or Cherry Creek North for boutique finds that blend rustic charm with refined design.)

Colorado After Dark: Where the Nights Sparkle

When the sun dips behind the Rockies, Colorado transforms into a wonderland of twinkling lights, live music, and mountain-town magic. From candlelit cocktails to symphony performances and rooftop celebrations, these after-dark experiences capture the sophisticated side of the season.

Union Station New Year's Eve Gala – Denver

Ring in 2026 beneath the grandeur of Union Station's illuminated arches. The evening features live music, craft cocktails, and champagne toasts under a canopy of lights in the Great Hall — one of Denver's most iconic celebrations.

(Luxury Tip: Book a night at The Crawford Hotel upstairs for a seamless, all-night experience — and breakfast in bed to start the year right.)

Holiday Jazz at The Grotto – Surf Hotel, Buena Vista

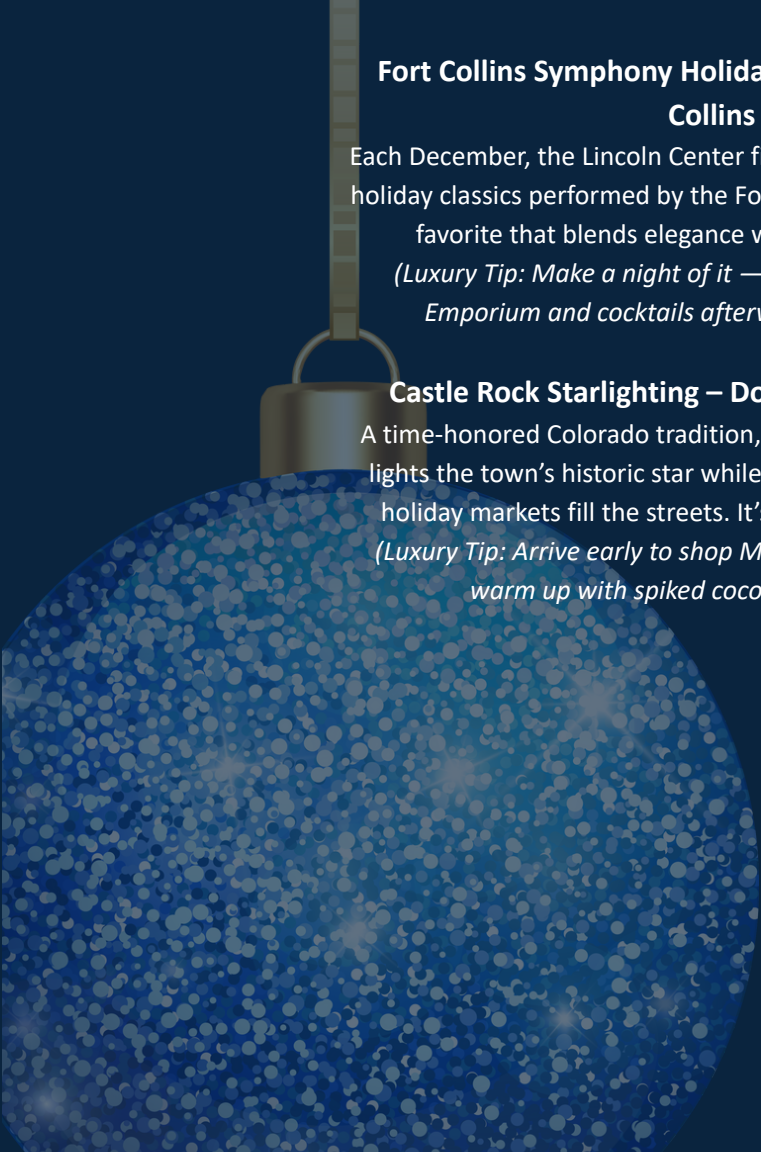
Nestled along the Arkansas River, The Grotto's candlelit lounge sets the scene for intimate live jazz and seasonal cocktails. It's a hidden gem where locals and travelers alike gather to slow down and savor the season.

(Luxury Tip: Order the Winter Negroni — it's infused with pine and citrus — and stay for brunch at Wesley & Rose in the morning.)

Aurum Food & Wine – Steamboat Springs & Breckenridge

After a day on the slopes, unwind at Aurum with small plates, fireside seating, and handcrafted cocktails. The atmosphere is sleek yet cozy — the perfect end to a mountain evening.

(Luxury Tip: Request a table by the window to watch the snow fall, and don't skip the house-made s'mores dessert board.)



Fort Collins Symphony Holiday Pops Concert – Fort Collins

Each December, the Lincoln Center fills with music, laughter, and holiday classics performed by the Fort Collins Symphony. A local favorite that blends elegance with community spirit.

(Luxury Tip: Make a night of it — start with dinner at The Emporium and cocktails afterward at Ace Gillett's.)

Castle Rock Starlighting – Downtown Castle Rock

A time-honored Colorado tradition, this November celebration lights the town's historic star while carolers, food trucks, and holiday markets fill the streets. It's pure small-town magic.

(Luxury Tip: Arrive early to shop Main Street boutiques, then warm up with spiked cocoa at Lost Coffee.)

Winter Events to Look Forward To—January–March 2026

Steamboat Winter Carnival – Steamboat Springs

February 4-7, 2026

A century-old celebration featuring ski-jumping, fireworks, and horses pulling skiers down Main Street — a true Colorado spectacle.

(Luxury Tip: Book lodging early; the parade view from Aurum's patio is unmatched.)

International Snow Sculpture Championships – Breckenridge

January 24–February 3, 2026

Watch artists from around the world carve 20-ton blocks of snow into incredible works of art.

(Luxury Tip: Visit at night when the sculptures are illuminated — it's pure magic.)

Aspen X Games – Aspen

January 23–25, 2026

Extreme sports meet mountain luxury — enjoy the energy of world-class athletes with après-ski parties and champagne lounges.

(Luxury Tip: Reserve your après table at The Wine Bar early — it's Aspen's hottest ticket that weekend.)

Loveland Sweetheart Festival – Loveland

February 2026

Live music, fire performances, and ice sculptures line the streets for this family-friendly event that lights up downtown.

(Luxury Tip: End the night at Desk Chair Workspace's rooftop bar — warm drinks, mountain views, and no crowds.)

QR Bonus: My Favorite Colorado Winter Weekends

For those who love the beauty, flavor, and rhythm of the season as much as I do, I've created a bonus digital feature: "My Favorite Colorado Winter Weekends."

Scan the QR code to explore my hand-picked itineraries, from snowy mountain escapes to cozy local brunch spots and hidden trails perfect for bluebird days. It's a behind-the-scenes look at how I unwind, recharge, and enjoy everything our incredible state has to offer — from après-ski evenings to spontaneous winter road trips.

Here's a sneak peek of what you'll find:

Best Après Spots in Vail – Fireside champagne and alpine glamour.

Fort Collins Holiday Brunch Favorites – Comfort food, mimosas, and charm.

Hidden Cabins & Cozy Lodges – Weekend retreats with breathtaking views.

Favorite Holiday Markets & Mountain Town Finds – From artisan crafts to mulled wine strolls.

A Local's Guide to Colorado Winter Trails – Snowshoe, sip, and stay awhile.

(Luxury Tip: Save the link to revisit all year — the itineraries update seasonally with my newest discoveries across Northern Colorado, Denver, and the mountains.)



👉 Scan the QR to explore my personal travel map and blog: "Live the Colorado Lifestyle."



REACH OUT FOR ALL OF YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS!

Anne Carlson

Global Luxury Broker/Luxury Mountain Living

612.272.0738

anne@luxurymountainliving.net

luxurymountainliving.net

