

# CHECK IN/CHECK OUT

AVON, COLO.

## WESTIN RIVERFRONT RESORT AND SPA

### THE BASICS

For better or worse, Vail — one of North America's most popular ski destinations — is in the midst of a billion-dollar upgrade. Sprawling resorts and condominiums are sprouting, and new luxury hotels are opening. Among the newest is the Westin Riverfront Resort and Spa, a 210-residence hotel in the nearby town of Avon. Opened in September, the Westin is part of a mixed-use village that includes vacation condos, a full-service spa, retail shops and a gondola. The Westin also strives to be green by offering such amenities as preferred parking for hybrid cars, an organic garden and biodegradable detergents.

### LOCATION

Down the hill from Beaver Creek Mountain, Vail's sister mountain. Instead of requiring guests to hop on a shuttle bus, the hotel complex has its own high-speed gondola that whisks skiers to Beaver Creek Landing, where there are connecting lifts to the ski trails. It's not quite ski-in, ski-out, but it certainly beats having to wait for a bus or packing the car.

### THE ROOM

As you enter the room, the first thing you see are large windows that frame the snow-covered mountain. The pine trees look close enough to touch. The room itself was modern and crisp, decorated like a plush mountainside cabin with dark wood floors, beige walls, fluffy white linens and cream-colored upholstered chairs. Larger residences also have fireplaces, terraces and kitchenettes. Despite the hotel being green, there are plenty of energy guzzlers at your disposal, including a coffee maker, a flat-screen TV, a Bose iPod-docking stereo, a cordless telephone, Wi-Fi and a humidifier. But at least there's a recycling bin in the room.

### THE BATHROOM

Warm and spa-like, with white marble floors, shiny chrome faucets, dark wood cabinets and a large walk-in shower with low-flow shower-heads. A separate bathtub

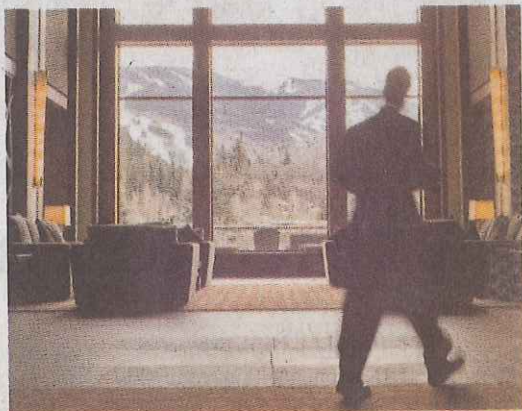
is deep and has built-in water jets.

### ROOM SERVICE

An abbreviated menu from the Restaurant Avondale is offered 24 hours a day. Like the hotel itself, the Avondale strives to be green and serves simple, West Coast-inspired fare like braised Colorado lamb shoulder with vegetables (\$25). A fantastic chicken soup with pastina (\$12), ordered at 11 p.m., arrived fast enough to still be steaming.

### AMENITIES

Plenty of four-season perks. Depending on the time of year, you can go fly-fishing with a guide or do yoga



KEVIN MOLONEY FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

The lobby of the Westin Riverfront Resort and Spa, which opened in September.

on the wedding lawn. The 23,000-square-foot Spa Anjali offers a Zen-style interior and a variety of treatments. There is also a fitness center that overlooks Eagle River. Other amenities include a minimarket stocked with imported Italian meats, an outdoor lap pool and three big riverside hot tubs.

### BOTTOM LINE

Another luxury hotel in the Vail Valley, but this time with an environmentally friendly twist. Rates during the ski season start at \$249 for a studio suite, \$519 for a one-bedroom suite and \$1,499 for a three-bedroom. Westin Riverfront Resort and Spa, 126 Riverfront Lane, Avon, Colo.; 970-790-6000; [www.westin.com/riverfrontavon](http://www.westin.com/riverfrontavon).

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