

OUTDOORS *Super Dave facts*

Join the first nighttime snowshoe race on Mount Seymour this Saturday the 24th. Check out www.theyeti.ca for more information. Dave's hot sites this week are: www.snowbirdlodge.ca, www.outdoordiscoveries.com, www.bigwhite.com

Silver Star a great romantic getaway

By DAVE NORONA
for Metro Vancouver

LIGHT SNOW WAS falling as Kim and I cruised up the alpine road to Silver Star Mountain just outside of Vernon, B.C. The lights from the quaint, little cabins surrounding the village lit up the evening sky and made the falling snow look like miniature diamonds.

Silver Star is one of our favourite places to ski. The incredible terrain, perfect snow conditions and beautiful on-hill accommodations make this one of the world's finest resorts.

As we entered our room at the new Snowbird Lodge we were blown away. This luxurious apartment had cork floors, 18-foot ceilings, a flat-screen TV and our own personal hot tub. We wasted no time opening a bottle of wine and getting wet.

The next morning we awoke to 12 centimetres of light, fresh snow. After catching the Comet Six-Pack Express for a few warm up runs, we made our way to the Powder Gulch Chair, with its endless black diamond and double black diamond runs. The middle of the week also meant that we had the slopes and fluffy powder to ourselves.

The next day we hit the Telus Terrain Park. Kim and I are used to the big jumps. However, the last time I hit a rail, about a year ago, I landed on my hip and spent the rest of the day and night downing Advil and regretting what I had done. We played rock, paper, scissors to see who was to go first and, unfortunately, I lost. I approached the box, slid along the top and vaulted off the end to an easy landing. I felt the adrenalin surge through my body and turned around to cheer on Kim. She dialed it perfectly and after slapping hands we headed back up for more.

That evening we signed up for



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVE NORONA

Kim and Dave, above, capture the moment on Silver Star's Comet 6-pack Express Chair. Dave, right, gets some fresh Silver Star powder and some air time.

Outdoor Discoveries' Valentine's Day Snowshoe evening. Owner Rosanne Van Ee, an outdoor naturalist, led our group on a wonderful evening snowshoe through the sub-alpine forest complete with scenic vistas and epic powder downhill.

Suddenly we found ourselves at a little cabin in the woods. The Wild Horseman Hut was lit up with candles and as we entered the cabin, we exchanged our winter coats for a glass of champagne and sat down to an awesome belgian chocolate fondue.

The look on Kim's face was priceless and it was great to spend this awesome adventure with her. Just when she thought it couldn't get any better, the silence outside was broken by the cool sound of horses. No more hiking for us as we boarded a giant horse sleigh for an awesome journey into the night, back to the village and our awaiting hot tub. If you are looking for a perfect ski getaway then check out www.skisilverstar.com or 1-800-663-4431 and head off into the mountains!



GEAR *guide*

COLUMBIA MIGHTY HIGH SOFT SHELL

Description: The four-way stretch fabric of Columbia's Mighty High Soft Shell makes it extremely comfortable and perfect for spring skiing, boarding or touring. It is highly breathable, windproof and completely waterproof.

Price range: \$239

Where to find it: www.columbia.com



GIRO NINE

Description: Giro's Nine helmet is for any ski or snowboard ripper. Impact absorbing EPS liner is surrounded by a Hardbody shell. Goggle Notch, 12 massive vents with Weatherstrip vent plugs for colder days and Tune-Ups compatible.

Price range: \$130

Where to find it: www.giro.com



WOMEN'S SUGOI ACER HOODY

Description: The Acer Hoody will stretch and move with you while you tackle any extreme sport or take a simple walk along the seawall. Technifino material moves sweat away from your skin to keep you dry in warm or cool conditions. Two front-scoop pockets and a practical hood keep you warm and offer terrific style.

Price range: \$99

Where to find it: www.sugoi.ca



SPY ORBIT GOGGLES

Description: Hit the park with these technical Spy Orbit goggles. Scoop ventilation system eliminates lens fogging on the spherical dual lens with anti-scratch protection. Triple-layer thermoformed face foam, dual adjustment strap for a secure fit and 100 per cent UV protection.

Price range: \$189

Where to find it: www.spyoptic.com