



Winter visitors get to enjoy the deep, muffled silence of a snow-covered landscape.

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The three lodges can also be booked separately: [crrm.com/emerald/](http://crrm.com/emerald/)  
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**Rentals:** Wilson Mountain Sports in Lake Louise offers top quality ski rentals. For backcountry, ask for their Scarpa boots and Dynafit TLT Radical FT Bindings, considered by experienced skiers to be the best on the market today.

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Emerald Lake Lodge's Mt. Burgess dining room was ranked in the '101 Best Hotel Restaurants Around the World' by The Daily Meal.

# Safe skiing regardless of conditions

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Canadian Rocky Mountain Resorts sources caribou from northern Quebec. Elk and bison come from the company's own ranch south of Calgary, where the animals are raised on pasture year-round and without hormones or antibiotics.

### Purcell Mountain Lodge

I've toyed with the idea of backcountry skiing for years, but the thought of being caught in an avalanche has been a powerful deterrent. Plus, many backcountry lodges are a little too rustic — I'm past hauling water to cook, for instance.

Then I discovered Purcell Moun-



A spectacular 15-minute helicopter flight from Golden takes you to the Purcell Mountain Lodge 'in the middle of nowhere.'

tain Lodge.

"This is a hotel in the middle of nowhere," said lodge manager and professional ski guide Doug

Latimer, showing us around after a spectacular 15-minute helicopter flight from Golden.

The compact main lodge boasts

10 bedrooms and four bathrooms upstairs (with fluffy white towels and bathrobes, no less), while downstairs there's a dining room, living room with fireplace, drying room and a modern kitchen where the chef turns out hearty meals.

A separate chalet dubbed the Honeymoon Suite offers extra privacy.

Best of all, this comfort doesn't come at a cost to the pristine environment.

Even though the lodge is 25 years old, its self-contained sewage treatment plant and small hydro-electrical system are "still the gold standard," says Latimer.

We certainly have no complaints about the lodging, but what about those pesky avalanches?

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