

# AMERICAN WAY

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## BIG THREE

The whole world is watching CNN's **Wolf Blitzer, Jake Tapper and Dana Bash** cover the U.S. presidential election



PIOV

## Mountain Mastery

A pair of custom skis from Wagner will have you looking stylish this winter BY ADAM PITLUK

**SERIOUS SKIERS OWN** their own skis, just like serious golfers own their own clubs: just like Judge Smalls owns the oil Billy Baroo. But even if you're an alpine novice, having a pair of your own skis that only you are allowed to look at, let alone ride, makes your ski trips that much more personal. But which ski should you buy? The answer is that you shouldn't buy any of those factory, mass-produced sticks. You should have your own pair custom-made by **Wagner Custom Skis** in Placerville, Colorado, just outside of Telluride.

"We want your skis to be a part of your skiing experience," says founder Pete Wagner. "Like a custom ski boot, our skis are adapted to you."

Everything about the experience is tailored to you, including the fitting process.

First, you have a conversation with one of Wagner's design consultants. (You don't have to go to Colorado for this meeting — they have telephones over at Wagner, although going to Colorado would be more fun.)

Then you review your custom ski specifications and design recommendations to make sure no part of your ski expectations was neglected. Finally, you choose your graphic.

Wagner Custom has been in business just under a decade, and already, the Skier DNA design process has created and shipped more than 5,000 pairs of tailor-made skis around the globe. And Pete Wagner is so confident that you'll love your custom skis that he implemented Wagner Custom's guarantee: If you're not 100 percent happy, he'll refund your money or build you another pair. With a deal like that, it's easy to grin. [Wagnerskts.com](http://Wagnerskts.com)



### BOATS, BIKES AND BREWS IN BURLINGTON

The cozy boutique **Hotel Vermont** in Burlington pairs luxury digs with a sense of rugged adventure BY SAVANAH DICKINSON

#### BOATS

Test your balance on a paddleboard or row a kayak across Lake Champlain, nicknamed the "Sixth Great Lake." Try floating yoga on a board in the water, or stroll the coastline with a maple Creemee (Vermont's version of soft-serve ice cream) and enjoy the scenic views.

#### BIKES

Bop around Burlington on one of Hotel Vermont's six custom, colored Budnitz Bicycles, handcrafted just blocks away. After biking the 7 miles of lakeside trails, finish off the night by chowing down at the hotel's Juniper bar and restaurant. On Nov. 4, the restaurant will be hosting their second annual fish-and-game dinner, benefiting Vermont Fish & Wildlife and Lake Champlain International.

#### BREWS

There's no better place for beer buffs than Burlington, home to a number of the most sought-after brews in the world, like Zero Gravity Craft Brewery ([Zerogravitybeer.com](http://Zerogravitybeer.com)) and Queen City Brewery ([Queencitybrewery.com](http://Queencitybrewery.com)). Hop from brewery to brewery down Pine Street and soak in the sunset with a seasonal brew from Foam Brewers ([Foambrewers.com](http://Foambrewers.com)). [Hotelvt.com](http://Hotelvt.com)

### A BIGGER BANG

Curator Ileen Gallagher has pulled out all the stops with "**Exhibitionism**," the Rolling Stones-sanctioned interactive touring exhibit that arrives in New York on Nov. 12 for a four-month stay. Fans can immerse themselves in the Stones' iconography with nine galleries displaying more than 500 rare items, including Mick Jagger's lyric books and Keith Richards' guitar that fell apart at the end of recording "Gimme Shelter." [Stonesexhibitionism.com](http://Stonesexhibitionism.com) —BRYAN REESMAN

