

LAUGHING MOON CHOCOLATES
STOWE, VT.

Sweet Nothings

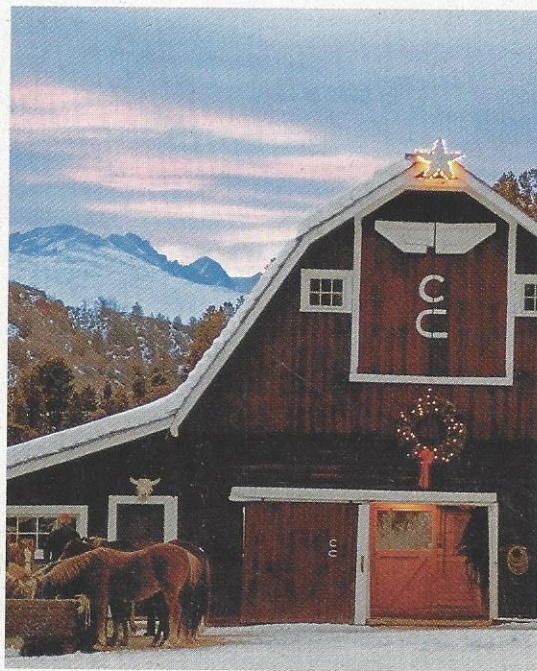
🟡 This month, the way to a skier's heart is through his sweet tooth. By Ann Lindemann

▶ **BÉQUET CONFECTIONS, Bozeman, Mont.** Lauded for her creamy homemade caramels, Robin Béquet followed her stomach after a 25-year career in technology sales tanked. Today, Béquet Confections has garnered acclaim for its rich caramel flavors including Celtic sea salt, chipotle and pomegranate. bequetconfections.com

▶ **ATELIER ORTEGA, Jackson, Wyo.** These award-winning airbrushed chocolates are almost too beautiful to eat, but eat you will. Like a mad scientist, Oscar Ortega infuses his confections with complex flavor combinations that wake the taste buds. Try the Cabernet Reduction, Ginseng & Black Tea and Almond Praline. atelierortega.com

▶ **LAUGHING MOON CHOCOLATES, Stowe, Vt.** Leigh Williams prides herself on using local ingredients in her hand-dipped chocolates. Signature truffles are made with not only local dairy products, but also local liquors such as Vermont Apple Brandy and Green Mountain Sunshine Vodka. laughingmoonchocolates.com

▶ **CRISTINA'S RESTAURANT, Sun Valley, Idaho** In the petite kitchen of her renowned café, native Italian Cristina Ceccatelli Cook painstakingly crafts chocolate-dipped candied orange peels that are prized by locals and savvy visitors alike. cristinasofsunvalley.com



Inns

C Lazy U Ranch, Granby, Colo.

▶ **Don't let the name fool you.** There's nothing lazy about this place. True, in winter the ranch's 200 horses get a reprieve as guests opt for snowcat rides up Baldy Mountain for backcountry skiing on 400 acres. (Winter Park is 20 miles away.) Or busy yourself with everything from snowshoeing to trap shooting. Après-sports call for a soak or massage at the Lazy U Spa, followed by a family-style dinner at the 1947 timber lodge. Finally, scattered about in hillside lodges are 40 rooms with stylish Western décor; request a deluxe suite with a stone fireplace and whirlpool tub. After all, you've played hard. *From \$250 per person, per night, including meals; clazyu.com*



APRÈS-SKI

2010 TORCH COCKTAIL

This fiery cocktail from Fifty Two 80 Bar at the Four Seasons Resort Whistler is a sight: Flames erupt from a tasty mix of Zubrowka Bison Grass vodka, Moncavie Acai Berry energy drink, Hill's Absinthe, pear purée and sugar. fourseasons.com/whistler