

TRAVEL

Colorado's new diamonds

Nearly 60,000 properties are inspected and rated annually by AAA across the United States, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean. This year, only 113 hotels and 62 restaurants achieved the highest rating—the AAA Five Diamond Award.

Colorado has three Five Diamond lodgings—The Little Nell in Aspen, The Ritz-Carlton Bachelor Gulch in Beaver Creek and the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs. Colorado also has one

Five Diamond restaurant, The Penrose Room at the Broadmoor.

Joining the ranks of Four Diamond lodgings this year are the St. Julien Hotel & Spa in Boulder, the Hyatt Regency Denver Tech Center, Capella Telluride and The Arrabelle at Vail Square. Newly rated Four Diamond restaurants are Spago and Splendido at the Chateau (both in Beaver Creek) and Onyx Restaurant at Capella (in Telluride).

For more information on the AAA rating system, visit

Four-Diamond Lodgings

Aspen: Hotel Jerome; St. Regis Aspen Resort

Beaver Creek: Beaver Creek Lodge; Park

Hyatt Beaver Creek Resort and Spa

Boulder: St Julien Hotel & Spa

Broomfield: Omni Interlocken Resort; Renaissance Boulder Suites Hotel at Flatiron

Colorado Springs: Antlers Hilton Colorado Springs; Cheyenne Mountain Resort; Old Town GuestHouse

Deckers: Lost Valley Ranch

Denver: Brown Palace Hotel and Spa; Grand Hyatt Denver; Hotel Monaco Denver; Hotel Teatro; Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center; Hyatt Regency Denver Tech Center; JW Marriott Denver At Cherry Creek; The Ritz-Carlton Denver; The Westin Tabor Center Denver

Durango: Apple Orchard Inn; General Palmer Hotel

Edwards: The Lodge & Spa at Cordillera

Englewood: The Inverness Hotel and Conference Center

Glendale: Loews Denver Hotel

Keystone: Keystone Lodge & Spa

Manitou Springs: The Cliff House at Pikes Peak

Telluride: Capella Telluride; Fairmont Heritage Place Franz Klammer Lodge

Vail: The Arrabelle at Vail Square; The Lodge at Vail; Vail Cascade Resort & Spa; Vail Marriott Mountain Resort & Spa

Westminster: The Westin Westminster



St. Julien Hotel & Spa, Boulder

Courtesy of St. Julien Hotel & Spa

www.AAA.com/diamonds.

Following are Colorado's 2009 Four Diamond lodgings and restaurants. ■

Four-Diamond Restaurants

Aspen: Montagna; Syzygy

Beaver Creek: Grouse Mountain Grill; Mirabelle at Beaver Creek; Spago; Splendido at the Chateau

Boulder: Frasca; The Flagstaff House Restaurant

Colorado Springs: Charles Court; Summit

Denver: Palace Arms; Restaurant Kevin Taylor; Rioja

Keystone: Alpenglow Stube; Keystone Ranch Restaurant

Manitou Springs: The Cliff House Dining Room

Ouray: Tundra Restaurant

Telluride: Onyx Restaurant at Capella

Vail: Ludwig's Restaurant; Restaurant Kelly Liken; The Wildflower

AUTOMOTIVE

Car buying without pain

Finding a car can be time-consuming, and most people find it stressful to deal with high-pressure sales tactics or negotiate a price. AAA Colorado's popular service, AutoSource, takes these problems out of the car-buying experience when it helps approximately 150 members every month to buy new or used vehicles.

Here's how it works. Tell a AAA Colorado AutoSource consultant

what you want—make and model, year, price range, options, even the color if that's important. The consultant will research the best deals available, searching multiple dealers. When a suitable car is found, it can be delivered to a AAA office near you for a test drive, or the consultant can accompany you to a dealership for the test drive, ensuring there is no sales pressure.

If you decide to buy, the

AutoSource consultant handles all the negotiations and paperwork, including trade-ins and financing if necessary.

The bottom line? "People get the right car at the right price, without any of the hassles. It's the easiest way to buy a car," says manager Dave Adair. There is no additional fee to AAA members for using AutoSource. See page 15 for more information. ■