Vail Resorts Newsroom

Crested Butte Celebrates 65 Years of Keeping Things Fun, Funky, and Extreme



Crested Butte Mountain Resort kicks off its 65th anniversary season on Nov. 25, 2026 with skiing and riding off the Red Lady Express

- Known as the birthplace of North American in-bounds extreme skiing and riding, the resort will celebrate its anniversary milestone all season long with legendary terrain and signature costumed events, plus new sleigh ride dinners, food and beverage specials, and mountain infrastructure enhancements
- The best way to ski and ride Crested Butte, plus resorts in Colorado and around the world, is with an Epic Pass. Last chance to purchase this season is Dec. 6

CRESTED BUTTE, Colo., Nov. 18 – Crested Butte Mountain Resort (CBMR) will kick off its 65th winter season on Nov. 25, 2026, with the traditional Opening Day first-chair banner break at 9 a.m. and skiing and riding off the Red Lady Express. From a season-long lineup of anniversary celebrations and signature events to food and beverage specials and investments to the on-mountain ski and ride experience, there's no better time to experience everything that makes Crested Butte a legendary mountain destination.

“For 65 years, Crested Butte Mountain Resort has been more than a mountain. It’s been a gathering place, a proving ground, and an important part of a community that has always done things a little differently," shared JD Crichton, General Manager and VP of CBMR. "Generations of employees, locals and guests have shaped this place, shared its traditions and created the stories that make Crested Butte what it is today. As we celebrate 65 years, I’m incredibly grateful for everyone who has been part of that story, and excited for what is still to come."

As we gear up for an unforgettable season, here's what we're looking forward to most:

Reasons to Celebrate from Base Area to Summit

From dining, to retail, to our extreme terrain, and everywhere in between, CBMR is stoked to infuse our anniversary season excitement into every part of the mountain experience and make this winter of skiing and riding a special one:

- **Butte 65:** For the season, base-area restaurant Butte 66 becomes Butte 65, complete with anniversary-themed food and beverage specials. Guests can join the new Brew Club with one of just 65 exclusive anniversary mugs, available for $65. Additional specials will include daily $19.61 lunch offerings and select $0.65 wing specials throughout the season.
- **NEW Remote Avalanche Control Systems (RACS):** CBMR invested in the installation of new Remote Avalanche Control Systems (RACS) to support avalanche mitigation efforts in both the North Face terrain of Tower 11 Chutes and Frontside Extremes. This cutting-edge technology will help the resort manage and open its legendary extreme terrain more efficiently.
- **NEW Sleigh Ride Dinners:** An old favorite returns for this historic anniversary season, with sleigh ride dinners at Uley's Cabin! Sleigh ride dinners will be hosted once monthly, January through March, and will give guests the opportunity to enjoy a memorable on-mountain dining experience in an exclusive, after-hours setting.
- **Limited-Edition Apparel:** Guests looking to commemorate CBMR’s milestone season will find a special collection of limited-edition merchandise, including custom-designed shirts, hats, stickers, and more in our retail locations and online at EpicShop.com. These exclusive keepsakes are the perfect way to celebrate the season and take home a lasting memory of the mountain.

Action-Packed Events

From longtime guest favorites to special anniversary celebrations, CBMR's 65th season will feature plenty of reasons to celebrate and embrace the Crested Butte spirit. Mark your calendars for these season highlights:

- **Nov. 25: Opening Day** – The Butte is back on Nov. 25! In addition to skiing and riding off the Red Lady Express, Opening Day attendees can look forward to a first chair banner break, a live DJ performing a three-hour set, limited-edition, custom-designed Opening Day poster giveaways, and a complimentary screening of a ski film by local production company, Matchstick Productions.
- **Dec. 19: Santa Ski Day and Aaron Blunck Rail Jam**– Once the world record holder for "Most Skiing Santas" CBMR is thrilled to bring back a favorite guest tradition to get the holiday spirit going. Later that same afternoon, guests with a competitive streak can join Olympian and local legend Aaron Blunck for a rail jam competition. Both events are sure to be a great start to the holiday season!
- **Feb. 2: World Tutu Day** – World Tutu Day (2/2, or "tutu") returns to CBMR for its third year! Bring your best tulle to the mountain or arrive early for a free handout while supplies last.
- **March 13: 65th Birthday Party** – Spring Break and party vibes go hand-in-hand at Crested Butte! Alongside event sponsor Outer Range Brewing, CBMR is thrilled to invite guests from near and far to celebrate the terrain, community, and traditions that have shaped CB for the past 65 years.
- **March 19 & 26: Last Tracks** – CBMR is thrilled to bring back Last Tracks for a second season! At this event, guests are invited to an exclusive après experience at Uley's cabin after the lifts stop spinning, followed by a private descent on freshly groomed corduroy back to the base area.

In addition to these highlights, CBMR will also be hosting several other live music and après events throughout the season. For the complete events calendar and additional details, visit kicb.com.

Taking Things to Extremes

When the North Face Lift opened in 1987, CBMR ushered in a new era of skiing and put itself on the map as a pioneer of lift-served extreme terrain. Accessing some of the steepest and most intimidating in-bounds terrain in the country, the lift attracted skiers and riders willing to push boundaries, send it big, and test their limits against the mountain. Crested Butte quickly became known as the "Birthplace of Extreme Inbounds Skiing and Riding", an honor that was solidified when the resort hosted the second-ever U.S. Extreme Skiing Championships in1992.

Today, whether guests are taking on Rambo, the steepest in-bounds tree-cut run in North America; descending directly off the summit of Mt. Crested Butte; or taking powder turns in coveted hike-in, hike-out terrain like Third Bowl and Teocalli 2, CBMR's 150+ named zones within the Extremes continue to challenge even the most daring skiers and riders.

Consider This Your Invitation

A lot has changed over the past 65 years, but the adventurous, independent spirit that defines Crested Butte remains stronger than ever. From some of the most legendary extreme terrain in North America to a town where costumes are worn no matter the occasion, traditions are proudly unconventional, and community runs deep, there's nowhere quite like Crested Butte. It's a place that marches to its own beat, celebrates the weird, and delivers the kind of skiing and riding that belongs on every mountain lover's bucket list.

Whether you're here to test your limits on the steeps, join in on the shenanigans, or simply experience the unmistakable spirit of this mountain town, CBMR invites you to be part of the next chapter. Come see what 65 years of keeping it fun, funky, and extreme is all about. Plan your visit at skicb.com.

---

https://news.vailresorts.com/crested-butte-65th-anniversary