SOONER THAN YOU THINK: MONEY ● **Cashless society** ● **Automating rainmakers** ● **Satoshi land** 37

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Pot of Gold?

ELEVATE YOUR PORTFOLIO!

So you want to invest in marijuana... 13

founder of U.S.-based PowderQuest Tours. His most adventurous skiers are heading to Hokkaido's underexplored Otaru and Furano areas rather than risking mediocre conditions closer to home. Some are even considering investing in luxury condos such as Yu Kiroro, a new ski-in, ski-out development where three-bedroom residences list for $1.6 million.

Barotz, the financial planner, sees Japanese real estate as having potential down the line. But for now he's starting slowly—with regular trips. "I love Colorado, but skiing in Hokkaido is truly the total package," he says, raving about everything from the Ja-pow to the ramen. "I thought it would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience, but it needs to be an annual pilgrimage."

Have an Après-Ski Adventure

Sure, you could make a beeline for the bar. But wouldn't those drinks feel more rewarding after a hike through ice tunnels?

Bear Tracks

East of Davos is Arosa Lenzerheide, one of Switzerland's most scenic ski spots. It just opened a 7-acre sanctuary for rescued bears. Its first resident, Napa, is a former circus performer from Siberia. Take the Arosa-Weisshorn gondola to see Napa and as many as four other bears who will be introduced here.

Viking Vibes

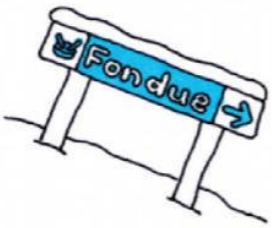
Go heli-skiing at Eleven Experience's Deplar Farm in Iceland, and you'll be rewarded with fire and ice—but mostly ice. The property's traditional "sauna" is actually a cold outdoor tub; you'll be helped along in the "mind over matter" muscle-recovery ritual with Viking battle cries and shots of brenavin, a local spirit.

A Magic Sled Ride

In Chamonix, the Evolution 2 ski school can send you for an exhilarating final run on a traditional wooden sled shaped like an oversize ice skate. The ride leads to a yurt in the woods where a true Savoyard feast awaits, cheese-smothered *tartiflette* and all.

Glacial Flight

Hop on a sunset helicopter ride from the Four Seasons Resort & Residences in Whistler, and you'll get to fly over Canada's largest and southernmost ice cap. The seasoned pilots will touch down to let you explore a series of stunning blue ice chambers.



Fondue al Fresco

When the moon is full, the visibility in St. Moritz is so good, you can ski without a headlamp. Stay at the Grand Hotel Kronenhof Pontresina just outside town and try it—working your way to an outdoor fondue dinner right on the mountain.

Galaxy Watch

Want some excitement after happy hour? At the new 15-room Compass Rose Lodge, set in a Dark Sky Reserve next to Utah's exclusive Powder Mountain, you can view the rings of Saturn or one of Jupiter's moons through a high-powered telescope in the hotel observatory. *—N.E.*

ILLUSTRATIONS BY OSCAR BOLTON GREEN. SKIS: COURTESY VENDOR

Turn It Up

The one type of ski that will truly take you everywhere

There's a new, perfect all-terrain ski in town, and it's a roughly 100-millimeter-wide plank with a lifted tip and tail. Sound like the pair you already own? It's not—not really. Skis have been constructed at this stable underfoot width for years, but it's taken advances in materials science to get them to feel so light and nimble. Take the **Head Kore 99** ($699), which uses graphene—the thinnest and strongest material known to man—to gracefully slalom through moguls and grip ice. Or the **Salomon QST 99** ($725), which uses a cutting-edge basalt construction (made of crushed volcanic rock) for better dampness and hold. Just as important are the skis' shapes and designs. Many 100mm skis have wider tips now to allow them to float above deep snow; camber, a slight convex arch that acts like suspension; and that upward-curved rocker shape for easier turns. Combine all these enhancements, as the **Völkl Mantra** ($699) does, and you get skis that are so forgiving, almost anyone improves just by clicking in. *—Gordy Megroz*