

2016 GEAR GUIDE

# skiing

FIRST CHAIR TO LAST CALL

## BEST GEAR OF THE YEAR

SKIS, BOOTS, JACKETS, PANTS, GLOVES, PACKS, GOGGLES & HELMETS

PLUS  
GETTING INTO  
CHRISTINA  
LUSTI'S KIT

skiing  
magazine

SKI OF THE YEAR

- 2016 -

# 285

GAZILLION  
PRODUCT  
REVIEWS



SPECIAL ISSUE 2015  
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SHRINKED AND PINKED?  
THE TRUTH ABOUT WOMEN'S SKIS

TRIBAL TRAILS  
IN REMOTE MONTANA

THE WALKIE-TALKIE  
THAT CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

## GIZMOS

## GOPRO HERO4 SESSION

GO AHEAD: CAPTURE YOURSELF SOME MORE.

As you've most likely heard by now, GoPro has a new camera, and it's really, really small. The GoPro Hero4 Session is the company's smallest and most durable action camera to date, and comes in a 35-millimeter by 35-millimeter cube that can fit pretty much anywhere.

Although for video quality it's not as good as GoPro's other \$400 camera, the Hero4 Silver edition, there are still some reasons why you'd pay for lesser quality. Did I mention how small it is? It's really, really tiny. It's half the weight of its predecessor and it's completely waterproof, so it no longer needs that annoying plastic housing. And the audio totally kicks ass. Also, remember how small it is?

One con of this little guy is that it's harder to manage settings without pairing the device with your cell phone or the GoPro Smart Remote. So if you're over 50, you might need to enlist your offspring when learning how to use it. But like we said, it's really small. **[\$400] —LESLIE HITTMEIER**



The lobby at The Lark.

## COOL DIGS

## COWTOWN HIPSTER MOTEL

BOZEMAN PUTS A NEW SPIN ON THE CLASSIC MOTEL. BRING YOUR SKINNY JEANS.

Bozeman, Montana, has always been a soulful skier's pilgrimage site. The hike-to ridge of nonprofit Bridger Bowl sits just 16 miles up the road, and Big Sky's honking 5,800 acres of serious terrain and nonexistent liftlines beckon from just an hour away. Add in a college-town vibe—hipster havens and distilleries meshed with the occasional bar where you can get your ass kicked—and you have *ski-vana*. But what has always been missing in this ski-bum niche was a decent place to stay.

Enter The Lark, which opened in April. The place was born when a group of local investors and architects bought the remains of the old Imperial Inn—an erstwhile landmark motel that had fallen into a *Breaking Bad* state of dilapidation. But instead of blowing up the place, the team kept the basic structure and refurbished it into a comfy industrial hangout. Walls and slanted walkways eliminate that car-headlights-in-your-window-at-1-a.m. effect. You can hang out by the outdoor fire pit while drinking craft brews from brown paper bags. Each room features Montana art, including life-size paintings of the biggest fish of each species caught in the state. Oh, and best of all, the Victory Taco truck pulls up in a semipermanent space in the parking lot, doling out street food and ice cream. **—DOUG SCHNITZPAHN**



## GADGETS

## GARMIN RINO 650T

A WALKIE-TALKIE THAT CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE.

The Garmin Rino 650t is the ultimate adventure gadget for skiers who get off on technology—and safety. The Rino 650t is the latest model of GPS-infused two-way radios, and it's more than just a walkie-talkie on steroids. It has a massive communication range of 20 miles and it comes loaded with detailed topo maps (unlike other Garmin products we've tested, for which maps cost extra). We were impressed with how fast the GPS acquired a signal, and the elevation data are on-point. The screen is pressure-sensitive, so you can work it with gloves on, and you can share positions and written messages with your radio buddy. It also transmits National Weather Service warnings and watches. It comes with software like BaseStation and BaseCamp, which let you view and organize maps, waypoints, and routes and lets computer users at home track your movements across the backcountry. **[\$550] —LH**