







## BY RACHEL PRESTON

ith 280 sunny days per year, Taos Ski Valley is the perfect place to play . . . and playing here is the perfect time to shed the skis or hiking boots at the Bavarian, the valley's favorite place to relax and enjoy a sociable environment with excellent food and drink. Named one of this year's "30 Best Romantic Getaways" by Travel and Leisure magazine, the 15-year-old timber-framed lodge recalls the atmospheric alpine restaurants of Europe's finest ski resorts.

Thomas Schultze and his wife, Jamie, offer a unique fusion of Old World accommodations and savory fare. Visitors are invited to soak up the sun on the spacious deck with a view of 12,480-foot Kachina Peak, or get toasty warm at the massive Kachelofen tile stove inside while enjoying Spaten beer on tap, exceptional wines, and hearty German delicacies served up by staff in lederhosen and dirndls.

The refined German fare includes succulent jagerschnitzel, käsespätzle served in a sizzling aromatic iron skillet, delicious fresh sausages, and a spicy goulash with tender morsels of meat bursting with flavor. Commitment to quality keeps locals and visitors alike traveling up the mountain for a dining experience unlike any other-Old World hospitality in a spectacular New World setting.

