

You Ought To See Yosemite

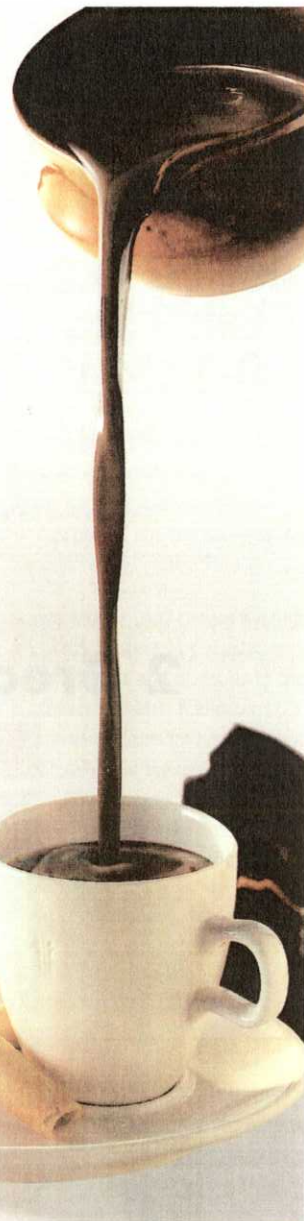


When the mercury drops and the summer crowds dwindle, Yosemite becomes a cool-weather wonderland. There's no better place to experience its pleasures than at the Evergreen Lodge, a newly renovated hideaway at the western edge of the park. Cozy and accommodating, the lodge offers a range of off-season activities, from guided snowshoe hikes to outdoor s'more-making to nighttime storytelling beneath a full moon. Private cabins cost as little as \$79, but the experience is rich. (800) 935-6343. www.evergreenlodge.com — J.S.



LOCO FOR HOT COCOA

If you've ever tasted "hot chocolate" in Europe, you've had this happy sensation: Your neurons burble, "Whoa, boy! This is not Mom's watered-down mix, this is the real deal." Starbucks knows that thrill. Witness Chantico. Introduced to the coffee giant's menu last month, it's a sinfully rich drinking chocolate, handmade from top-notch cocoa powder, cocoa butter, and whole steamed milk. And we wholeheartedly approve. But why the funny name? Seems Chantico is the Aztec goddess of the hearth. Bet she never went for the watered-down stuff, either. — R.B.



Snug As A Bug In A Rug



A five-for-one hot deal, Exped's Wallcreeper functions as a down sleeping bag, blanket, liner, vest, or jacket. Step inside, adjust its hood, and a feeling of warmth will wash over you. A two-way locking zipper assures a snug fit, while an insulated lining provides protection from the elements. Arm and foot openings even let you get cozy with a companion. \$229 (regular size), \$239 (large size). www.exped.com — S.S.

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