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Mt. Rose, Diamond Peak and Homewood are smaller resorts with soul in the Si...



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While Vail's corporate model of acquisition and development is evident by the recent purchases of Kirkwood and Northstar at Tahoe, following Heavenly becoming part of the Vail family of resorts a few years back...independent ski areas seem to be a dying breed. Look no further than Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows under the ownership of another Colorado company, to understand how traditional mountain communities are feeling the heat. Still, a trio of local classic mountains remain that still have a soulful spirit. Mt Rose is a Reno local hill that features some extreme terrain in "The Chutes"..Diamond Peak at Incline with it's heavy emphasis on families and kids programs...and Homewood ski area on the west shore of Lake Tahoe, with some of the Sierra's most breathtaking views...when it's clear. Unfortunately, last week when members of the North American Snowsports Journalist Association from the West Region visited Homewood, it rained. With plenty of coverage despite an obscene lack of snowfall for the past three month, the spring skiing conditions at Mt. Rose and Diamond Peak were outstanding. Mt Rose may be considered Reno's private mountain playground, but here are plenty of visiting skiers and riders who stay in the "Biggest little city in World" and enjoy the option of lodging at one of the numerous hotel/casinos in town. Perhaps the most convenient location is the closest to Reno airport and to Mt. Rose. The Atlantis Hotel Casino and Spa recently invested over \$100. Million to upgrade rooms, improve the dining experience, and present one of the most spectacular Spa facilities to be found anywhere. After a day on the slopes, skiers and riders can soak in several hot tubs of differing temperatures, experience body treatments, enjoy numerous relaxation rooms with aroma therapy, top notch changing rooms, co-ed meditation areas and virtually any other health oriented service imaginable. The dining is superb and varied, with hotel rooms tastefully appointed with large flat screen TV's, free internet, and an assortment of other vacation essentials. The Atlantis hosted our Snowsports Journalist group, providing a base location for a daily visit to the 3 local mountains mentioned, that have not, as yet yielded their individual charms to corporate conquest.

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