

such intriguing dishes as “new-style” salmon sashimi and petal-like slivers of live scallops layered over scallop shells. Behind them, cooks work flaming woks and grills for dishes such as halibut cheeks with pepper sauce and the signature black cod in sweet miso. Upstairs, a smaller sushi bar and adjoining bar and lounge offer a more laid-back dining experience.

**Montagna, 675 East Durant Avenue, thelittlenell.com**

For pure palate pampering, Montagna delivers on every detail. Its location in The Little Nell hotel at the base of Aspen Mountain is

**The Wild Fig, 315 East Hyman Avenue, thewildfig.com**

The Wild Fig (above right) crams big tastes into a tiny brasserie setting that features a small marble bar (you can peer into the busy kitchen while you nibble marinated olives and sip martinis), French windows and doors, red leather banquettes and a batch of linen-topped cafe tables. Local restaurateurs Craig and Samantha Cordts-Pearce opened the place and it regularly attracts a trendy crowd for fare from the mirror-board menu. Start with Serrano ham or bresaola, move on to *baba ghanouj*, or a brothy bowl of clams and chorizo, then add fig-

(below right), where resident and visiting foodies alike meet at the convivial bar or in the bustling, mountain-chic dining room. While Marino’s menu changes with the seasons, signature dishes, such as Roman artichokes braised with mint, garlic and red pepper, are a must-try. Favourites this season include pequillo peppers stuffed with meatballs and sauced with salsa rossa, organic veal ravioli with crimini mushroom sauce, and Colorado farm-raised venison lasagna. During the day, try Piadina (Italian flatbread) at Marino’s newly renovated, circus-style Popcorn Wagon around the corner.

cauliflower puree, prime flatiron steak frites, or grilled Berkshire pork chops with white heirloom grits. Chocolate pot de crème makes a sweet ending to your trip.

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**Linda Hayes**



## Big deal

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You still have time to book that romantic getaway and Urbane Nomads, “the travel mixologists”, have you covered.

Stay at the Tugu Bali, in a villa seemingly suspended above a tranquil

lily pond and dedicated to the memory of Belgian painter Adrien-Jean Le Mayeur and his muse, the Javanese dancer Ni Polok, complete with plunge pool, outdoor bath and dining pavilion.

Enjoy breakfast in bed with a twist - the bed is on the beach with views across the Indian Ocean.

An additional cupid’s touch is a picnic complete with blindfolded desert-

tasting. The package costs US\$862, including breakfast, dinner picnic on the beach, a foot and shoulder massage and sunset high tea. Go to [www.urbanenomads.com](http://www.urbanenomads.com) for bookings.