





OFF-SEASON MEDITERRANEAN Provence, France

In summer, visitors descend on this picturesque region of southern France, clogging its beaches and lavender-riddled countryside. But in the spring, despite blossoming fruit trees, irises, and wildflowers, the country roads are empty-and perfect for cycling. All you need to do is sign up for a bike trip arranged by Gray and Co., a custom-travel company whose itineraries include guides, shuttle service, hotels, meals, and even a mechanic. With no need to look at a map or worry about dinner reservations, it's surprisingly easy to fall into a daily rhythm. Pedal through vineyards, orchards, and limestone gorges each morning, stopping to explore the crumbling ruins of a medieval castle or the narrow lanes of a hilltop village. After a leisurely lunch of Provençal specialties like bouillabaisse and ratatouille, you'll retire to properties like the new Domaine de Manville, a former farming estate in Les Baux de Provence. Afternoons are a blank slate for a glass of rosé by the pool or an amble through fields with views of the Mediterranean. From \$1,500; grayandco.ca

NO EASY WAY DOWN

Silverton, Colorado

You won't be distracted by nightclubs or fancy dining at Silverton Mountain, a one-lift, mom-and-pop operation deep in southwest Colorado's San Juan Mountains, two hours from Montrose and the