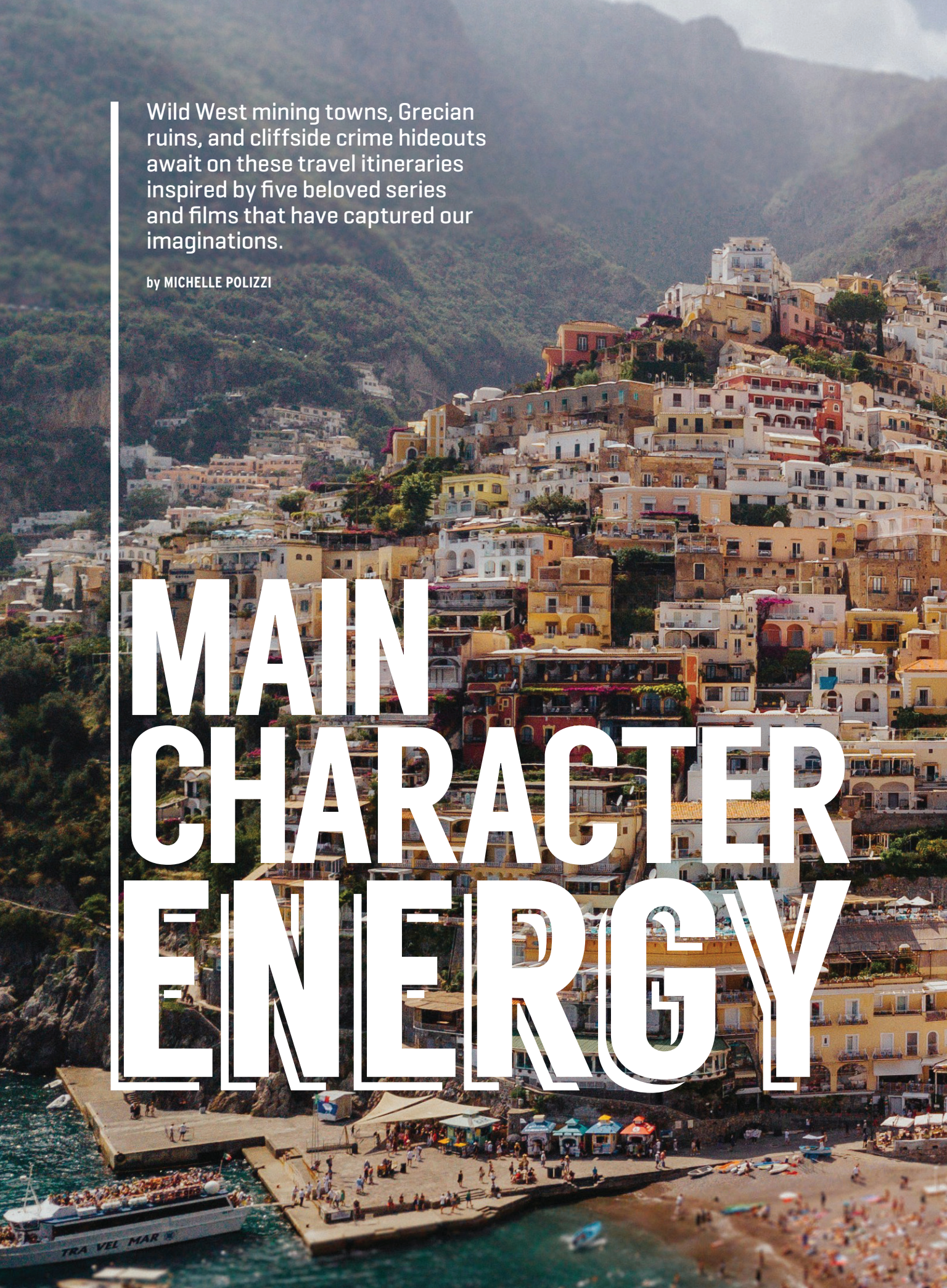


Wild West mining towns, Grecian ruins, and cliffside crime hideouts await on these travel itineraries inspired by five beloved series and films that have captured our imaginations.

by MICHELLE POLIZZI

MAIN CHARACTER ENERGY







Streaming services have given us unfettered access to any movie or show we want, whenever we want it. Which means that the stories told on film—and their magnificent settings—occupy a greater space in our minds than ever before. It's not just that we're watching a story through the television, it's that we're envisioning ourselves there. And it's never been easier to step into the shoes of your favorite main character, embodying the world in which they live, breathe, sleep, and eat. Some call it "set-jetting." Others see it as a way to explore a place to which they've become virtually connected. With these five itineraries, you can truly immerse yourself in a beloved tale, and maybe even tap into your inner movie star. Whether it's the actual filming location that draws you in, or the place a show is convincingly set, taking a trip inspired by your favorite film or series allows you to finally become part of the story that's long been part of you.

MASQUERADE AS A CONMAN IN AMALFI

TV SHOW: *RIPLEY*

DESTINATION: AMALFI COAST, ITALY

The picture-perfect blues, pinks, and whites of the Amalfi Coast set the stage for the adaptation of Patricia Highsmith's 1955 thriller novel, *The Talented Mr. Ripley*. Netflix's 2024 *Ripley* miniseries stays true to the original story, following the cunning scam artist Tom Ripley (Andrew Scott) as he seeks to ascend the ranks of society by befriend[ing] New York City's elites. The story really gets interesting when Tom takes a job from a rich on-and-off couple, Marge Sherwood (Dakota Fanning) and Dickie Greenleaf (Johnny Flynn), that sends him to Italy, opening up an entirely new world of deception and debauchery.

A visit to Italy's Amalfi Coast is always a good idea, and it's easy to immerse yourself in the world of *Ripley* by simply existing in this stunning cliffside region known for its Mediterranean cuisine and bass-heavy beach clubs. You can visit the following destinations on your own schedule—or book a tour with Black Tomato (blacktomato.com), a luxury travel operator specializing in private, immersive experiences—to follow Tom in his depraved (albeit cinematic) quest.

From Rome, head to the picturesque, lemon-drenched town of Amalfi. Enjoy the coast's stunning views and pebble beaches, then walk to the panoramic church terrace where Tom is seen arriving by bus in the show. From Amalfi, hop on a ferry to the island of Capri. There, you can see the luxe lifestyle lived by Tom's wealthy victims, stopping to shop or dine in the charming, upscale village of Capri. Don't miss a boat tour of the area, which provides a different perspective—perhaps that of someone fleeing the island after deceiving their so-called friends—to see the stunning sea grottos and limestone cliffs.

You'll eventually find your way to Naples, where you can stroll the neighborhood of Rione Sanità, depicted in numerous *Ripley* scenes; see Caravaggio's "The Seven Works of Mercy" masterpiece in the Pio Monte della Misericordia church; and take photos of Palazzo San Felice, a famous baroque palace. Finally, when you're back



Andrew Scott as Tom Ripley in Netflix's 2024 *Ripley*.

on the busy streets of Rome before flying out, retrace Tom's getaway by cruising the Roman Appian Way, an ancient Roman road (among the world's oldest) featuring catacombs and other remains of the former empire. Normally, it's best to walk or bike the route, but on the Black Tomato tour, you'll get to cruise in a Fiat 500 like Tom does. We'd argue there's no better way to feel like a main character than that.



DIRECTOR'S CUT

There's a plethora of stunning places to stay on the Amalfi Coast, ranging from economic finds to luxury splurges. One of the best options for *Ripley* fans is Villa Torricella, which serves as Dickie's home in the series. Now an Airbnb (airbnb.com) available to rent, this historic home sleeps six guests and features lush gardens and a terrace with a dining table overlooking the sea.



OPENING SPREAD: TOM ROBAY/UNSPASH; COURTESY NETFLIX; JORDAN STERNAN/UNSPASH

WRITE YOUR OWN GRECIAN EPIC

FILM: *THE ODYSSEY*

DESTINATION: THE PELOPONNESE, GREECE



Rocky coastlines, remote beaches, and tempestuous seas set the backdrop for Christopher Nolan's film adaptation of humanity's most epic story, *The Odyssey*. If Homer's timeless tale of the hero Odysseus

(Matt Damon) returning to Ithaca after the Trojan war inspires a quest of your own, there's no better destination to seek than Greece's Peloponnese Peninsula.

This region was a key filming location for the movie, and it's one of the best places to get up close and personal with real-life ruins from the Mycenaean era—the time period in which the film and the original poem that inspired it are set.

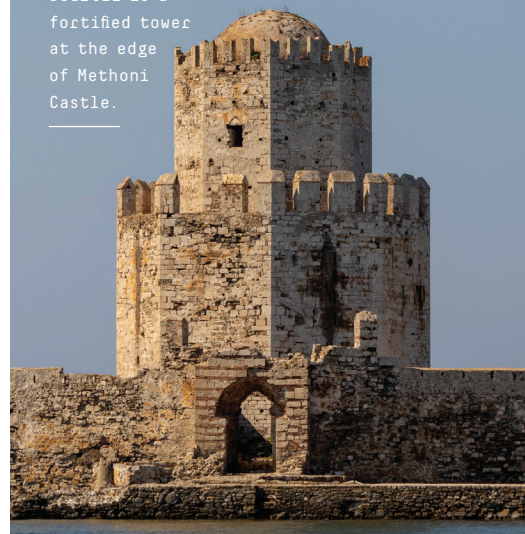
Begin your journey in Athens, then rent a car and drive toward the town of Corinth to reach Acrocorinth, a sprawling fortress surrounded by a walkable perimeter that spans nearly two miles and boasts an ocean view at the summit. Greek media outlets have con-

firmed the Acrocorinth as a filming location for *The Odyssey*, reporting that both Damon and Tom Holland, who plays Odysseus' son, Telemachus, were seen on site. Next, drive across the peninsula to its quiet southwest corner and visit the trailhead for the Gialova Lagoon Circular. This 5.5-mile moderate hike rewards you with a view of Voidokilia Beach, a horseshoe-shaped bay home to Nestor's Cave, where Nolan filmed the classic Polyphemus (man-eating cyclops) scenes in *The Odyssey*.

Villas dot the hillsides here, some of which can be rented for an authentic homestay. For a luxury option, consider the Mandarin Oriental, Costa Navarino resort, where tranquil suites and villas offer ocean and mountain views of the wild, ancient Messenia region.

No tour of Homer's world would be complete without a stop at Methoni Castle, a strategic seaside fortress built in the 13th century to help Venetians defend their civilization and control key regional trade routes. Methoni Castle serves as a backdrop for key action scenes in *The Odyssey*, and a visit to the impressive stronghold affords views of the clear Ionian sea and rocky Sapienza island. Off of this small island's waters, you'll find numerous shipwrecks and artifacts that can be explored by scuba diving, including the haunting array of stone coffins in the Roman "Sarcophagi Shipwreck."

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Bourtzi is a fortified tower at the edge of Methoni Castle.



DIRECTOR'S CUT

Book a trip with Hoper [flyhoper.com], a private helicopter charter company. Its Athens sightseeing tour provides unparalleled views of the Acropolis, which Homer references in the original poem *The Odyssey*, and The Parthenon, which historians say was inspired by the mythical landscape that Homer describes in his epics.



PLAY OUTLAW IN THE AMERICAN WEST

FILM: *BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID*

DESTINATION: SOUTHWEST UTAH

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid may have been released in 1969, but its status as one of the very best westerns isn't changing anytime soon. This movie follows two Wyoming outlaws, Butch Cassidy (Paul Newman) and Harry Longabaugh, aka the "Sundance Kid" (Robert Redford), as they attempt to flee the American West for South America. Much of the filming for this classic movie took place in Utah, capitalizing on the region's dramatic red rock landscapes and deep canyons to set the tone for horse



chases and cliff jumps. Experience the Old West for yourself in the Robert Redford's Sundance Scenes Tour compiled by Visit Utah (visitutah.com). It's a 464-mile, four-day journey that begins in

Park City and leads to Provo Canyon, the land Redford purchased in the 1960s before it became the inspiration of Sundance Film Festival. In Sundance Resort Village, stop for a pint at Owl Bar, an oak-lined Irish pub rumored to have been frequented by

the real Butch Cassidy. Next stop? Prepare for an adventure of epic proportions as you descend upon the towering rock faces of Kolob Canyons in Zion National Park. Nearby at Kolob Terrace Road, the film's iconic Hole-in-the-Wall Gang face-off took place between Butch and Harvey Logan. Cave Valley, the specific filming site, is now closed for natural protection. However, the Kolob entrance to Zion is filled with scenery akin to what you see in the movie, and you can relish some of the best views on the five-mile Taylor Creek Trail.

Zion isn't the kind of place to seek shelter in a windowless hotel room. Instead, feel a sense of freedom with a stay at Open Sky Zion, a glamping retreat just outside the national park with private access to nature. Perks include private firepits, stargazing telescopes, and dinner at Black Sage—a farm-to-table dining concept that incorporates seasonal and local ingredients.



DIRECTOR'S CUT

Drive south to visit the massively underrated Snow Canyon State Park, immortalized in the movie's chase scene. The area is known for its defined rock climbing areas and Whiptail Trail for hiking and biking.



STEP INTO DUTTON FAMILY HISTORY

TV SHOW: *1923*

DESTINATION: BUTTE, MT

Montana has seen a huge uptick in TV-related tourism since director Taylor Sheridan's *Yellowstone* debuted on Paramount in 2018. And while Yellowstone National Park itself will always be a bucket-list trip (whether inspired by the show or not), it's not the only Montana destination depicted in Sheridan's franchise that's worth a visit. The show *1923*, featuring Hellen Mirren and Harrison Ford, was primarily filmed in Butte, MT. This town's rich, real history of mining, brothels, and speakeasies makes it the perfect place for *Yellowstone* fans to get in touch with the director's vision, see real filming locations in Dutton family lore, and

stroll part of the largest National Historic Landmark District in America. Butte-Anaconda Historic District comprises 6,000 buildings (many are said to be haunted).

Butte's saturation of copper earned it the nickname "Richest Hill on Earth" in the late 1800s. See for yourself at Butte's World Museum of Mining, where you'll pull on a hard hat and descend 100 feet underground for an educational tour that gets you up close and personal with the area's historical copper mining industry. Another way to get underground: Take a tour with Old Butte Historical Adventures, where you can see the infamous Rookwood Speakeasy and set eyes on the jail cell where Butte-born stunts-

man Robert Kniewel earned the nickname "Evel Kniewel."

For an above-ground history lesson, take a guided tour of Dumas Brothel, which was open from 1890 to 1982, making it the longest-running brothel in the U.S. In Uptown Butte, walk to the section of Main and Montana Streets that served as a backdrop for *1923* scenes, stopping at specific filming locations such as the Butte-Silver Bow County Courthouse, Opal's Diner, Butte Water Building, and the Carpenter's Union Hall. Some of the signage from the series still remains on buildings, so you'll know when you're in the right place.

Where should you stay in Butte? The Miner's Hotel, built in 1913, is an intimate boutique lodging option where each room is named after a local mine. Downstairs at the hotel's speakeasy, Fifty-One Below, you can experience a former fur vault turned modern bar, complete with a secret entrance.



DIRECTOR'S CUT

When you start itching for the wilderness of Southwest Montana, which is best enjoyed during the late spring through early fall, head to Thompson Park to travel sections of the old Milwaukee Railroad, which includes two train tunnels, a 600-foot steel trestle, and views of the Continental Divide. Cast your rod out into the Big Hole River, a mecca for fly-fishing and home to the last fluvial Arctic grayling in the lower 48 states, plus four varieties of trout.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: PARAMOUNT+; LAURA NYHUIS; COURTESY VISIT SOUTHWEST MONTANA

EXPLORE THE LAST BASTION OF CIVILIZATION

TV SHOW: *THE LAST OF US*

DESTINATION: JACKSON, WY

When a fungal zombie outbreak descends upon the world, there's no better hide-out than a remote mountain community far from crowded urban zones that breed infection. That's exactly what *The Last of Us* characters Joel (Pedro Pascal) and Ellie (Bella Ramsey) find when they get to Jackson, WY. At first, Jackson is more than they ever could've dreamed. There's electricity, community, and a functioning democracy, all things they thought were gone forever when the cordyceps-driven apocalypse shattered their world.

The Last of Us was actually filmed in Alberta, Canada, but the show is explicitly set in the town of Jackson, where digitally imposed views of the unmistakable snow-capped Grand Tetons rise up in the background. The actual Jackson is usually thought of for two things: skiing in winter, or visiting Grand Teton National Park in summer. But locals know that the best move is to visit in the winter months to see wildlife.

As we see in the Wyoming portrayed on the *The Last of Us*, wintertime can be cold and harsh in the Tetons, but with it comes a great sense of beauty and serenity. For instance, winter is the best time to see elk at the 24,700-acre National Elk Refuge,

just a few minutes' drive from downtown. The lack of crowds also guarantees you'll get lucky searching for wildlife with Eco-Tour Adventures (jhecotouradventures.com), where you'll be led by a guide who knows all the top places to see moose, bison, coyotes, and even wolves—not to mention the majestic bald eagles that often soar overhead.

Just off Jackson's town square, you'll find The Rusty Parrot Lodge and Spa (rustyparrot.com), where every room feels less like a hotel and more like a personal retreat. Think gas fireplaces surrounded by riverstone, deep soaking tubs, eucalyptus pillow spray, and daily turndown service that comes with specialty chocolates—essentially everything you'd miss the most if you really were living in the world's last civilized community.

In the same vein, any weary traveler who's been fighting zombies for months would dream of the exact dinner spread you

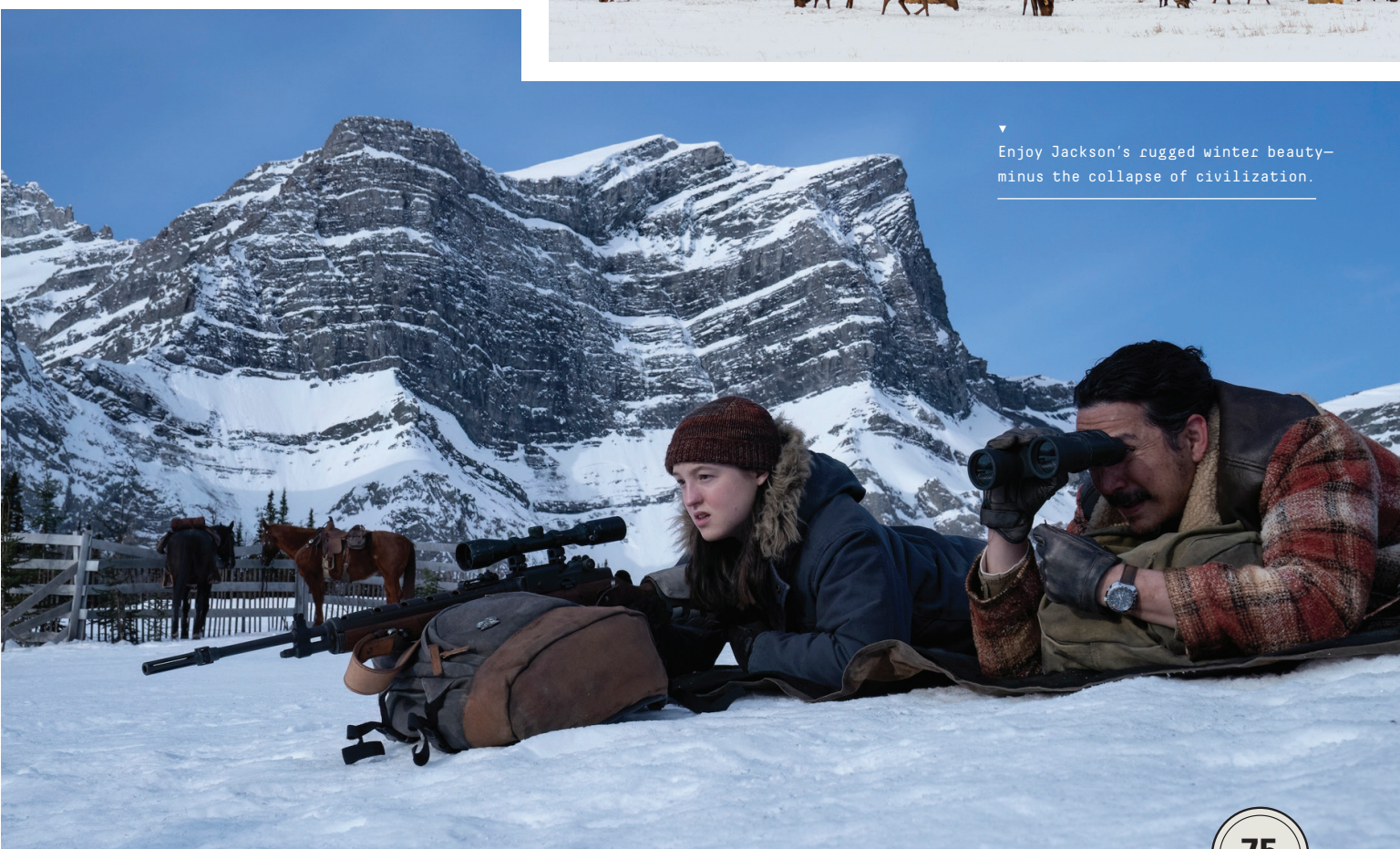
can get at the hotel's indulgent fine-dining restaurant, The Wild Sage, which has an extensive wine list and a menu that draws inspiration from local seasonal game and produce, French classics, and the Mountain West.



DIRECTOR'S CUT

The best place in Jackson to learn Western swing dancing is the historic Silver Dollar Bar inside the Wort Hotel (worthotel.com), where live music lights up the stage four nights a week and a tasty selection of beer always awaits on tap. If pool is more your vibe, head down the street to the Million Dollar Cowboy Bar (milliondollarcowboybar.com), a late-night honky-tonk and steakhouse.

FROM TOP: T. SCHOFIELD/GETTY IMAGES; HBO MAX



▼
Enjoy Jackson's rugged winter beauty—minus the collapse of civilization.