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Forecasts for Mild Winter Don't Threaten Chestnut Mountain's Monster Snow Guns

GALENA, Ill. ~ Winter sports fans needn't fret that some prognosticators are predicting a milder-than-normal season for the Midwest this year. If Mother Nature is stingy with big snows, Chestnut Mountain Resort's 75 monster state-of-the-art snow guns will provide both skiers and snowboarders with an ample --and well-groomed-- base for swooshing.

The slopes will be open from Friday, Nov. 24, the day after Thanksgiving, through St. Patrick's Day weekend in mid-March.

Chestnut installed 12 new snow cannons last season, giving the Galena, Ill., resort the largest snow-making capacity in the entire Midwest. "This year we added two more runs --*Bobcat* and *Mineshaft*-- giving us a total of 19 groomed ski runs that slice their way down through the woods to the Mississippi River," says Mike Murphy, general manager. "All that, plus our seven-acre terrain park for snowboarders, makes Chestnut a winter sports-lover's dream."

Indeed, *SKI Magazine* recently ranked Chestnut among the top 10 ski resorts in the Midwest, and the magazine's readers voted the resort #2 out of more than 150 destinations.

The runs vary from "easy" to "expert," and range up to 3,500 feet in length with a 475-foot vertical drop. They are serviced by two quad chairs, four triple chairs and three surface lifts with a total capacity to serve 10,000 guests per hour. *Farside*, Chestnut's seven-acre terrain park, is the Midwest's largest and most diverse snowboard facility. A dedicated triple chairlift takes boarders to an exciting array of quarter pipes, tabletops, box jumps and half pipes, plus more than 20 different types of rails.

The 20,000-square-foot Village Ski Center is the hub for outdoor fun. It houses ticketing, equipment rental, an apparel shop, ski patrol, guest services and the ski/snowboard school. The Bunny Run and Rookies Ridge Bowl are serviced by three triple chair lifts, a handle tow and a "magic carpet" conveyor lift, making Chestnut Mountain the premier place to learn to ski and board. Lessons are available daily for kids ages four to 12, and for teens and adults of all ages.

Après ski, the Bavarian-style lodge features 120 rooms and family suites, restaurants, cocktail lounges, indoor pool, Jacuzzi, sauna, arcade, live music, free wireless internet and a "play-care" program, making Chestnut an ideal winter getaway for the whole family.

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As a thank-you to eager skiers, Chestnut offers two early-season specials:

- **\$10 Lift Days**, Nov. 24-30. Each lift ticket purchased in November can be redeemed for \$10 off a regular-priced lift ticket throughout the 2005-2006 season.
- **Dollar Days**, Dec. 1-15. The date that day is the lift rate you pay. (For example, on Dec. 2, lift tickets are only \$2!)

For those who want to maximize their slope-time, Chestnut has all-inclusive packages:

- **No Frills, Just Thrills:** Two night's lodging and a two-day lift ticket for \$99 per person, per night, based on double occupancy. Each additional person over age six is \$49 per night. Two-night minimum required. Black-out dates may apply on weekends and holidays, and from Christmas Eve through New Year's Eve.
- **Ski & Zzzz:** One night's lodging and a one-day lift ticket for \$69.95 per person, based on double occupancy, Sunday-Thursday only. Each additional person over age six is \$30. Black-out dates may apply on holidays and from Christmas Eve through New Year's Eve.
- **Weekend Ski Package:** Two night's lodging, two breakfasts, two lunches, one dinner, two lift tickets, one group ski/snowboard lesson for \$299 per person, based on double occupancy. Each additional person over age six is \$159. Not available from Christmas Even through New Year's Eve.
- **Midweek Sneakaway:** Two night's lodging, two breakfasts, two lunches, one dinner, three lift tickets, one group ski/snowboard lesson for \$209 per person, based on double occupancy. Each additional person over age six is \$139. Not available from Christmas Even through New Year's Eve.

Especially for day-trippers or guests who want to sleep at another hotel, Chestnut offers Sunday-Friday specials that include various combinations of lift tickets, lessons, ski/board/blade rental, lunches and drinks.

Chestnut Mountain Resort is on a high bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, where Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin converge, just 15 minutes from Galena, IL, and 30 minutes from Dubuque, IA. For more info about Chestnut's specials, packages and rates, phone toll-free 800.798.0098 or log on to www.chestnutmtn.com. For reservations or to talk to a real live person, phone toll-free 800.397.1320.

Galena is a popular vacation destination tucked away in the rugged hill country of northwest Illinois, about a two-hour drive from suburban Chicago, Cedar Rapids, Madison and the Quad Cities. For more info about Galena, log on to www.galena.org.

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