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# HAUTE LIVING

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026

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# THE QUIET WEST: WHY McCALL, IDAHO IS THE LEGACY SANCTUARY YOU'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR

BY CLAUDIA ROSS

IN THE HIGH-ALTITUDE WORLD OF LUXURY REAL ESTATE, the conversation is shifting. For decades, the compass pointed predictably toward Aspen, Tahoe, and Park City—destinations that, while iconic, have succumbed to the weight of their own popularity. Today, the modern affluent traveler seeks something scarcer than a ski-in/ski-out condo in a crowded village: they want room to breathe. Enter McCall, Idaho.

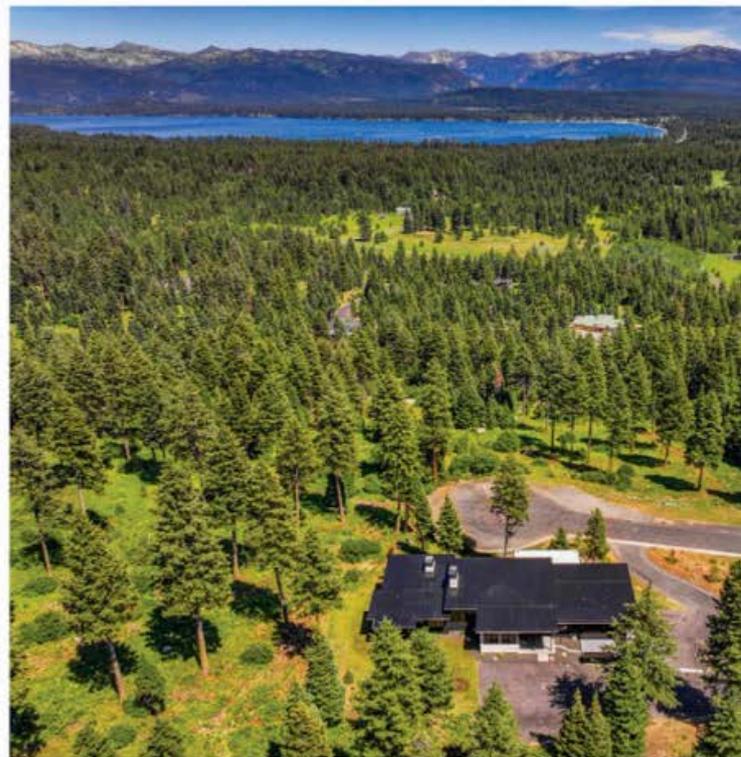
Tucked away in the Salmon River Mountains, McCall is perhaps the last great mountain-lake town that still feels undiscovered, authentic, and delightfully unpretentious. At the heart of this “quiet luxury” movement is Whitetail Club, a private community that offers not just a home, but a return to a simpler, more soulful American West.

To understand the allure of Whitetail Club, one must first look to the water’s edge. Since 1948, Shore Lodge has anchored this community, serving as the multigenerational gathering spot for families who value memories over status. This is not the place for flashy après-ski scenes or over-programmed resort chaos. It is a place where parents and children unplug to play board games by the fire, wake surf on the glacial waters of Payette Lake, and soak in natural hot springs. Shore Lodge provides the nostalgic, human heartbeat of the area—a reminder that true luxury is about belonging. Residents

of Whitetail Club enjoy full access to the lodge and its award-winning spa, The Cove, seamlessly blending private club exclusivity with the warmth of a historic hotel.

As prices in Deer Valley and Aspen reach dizzyingly new heights for shrinking square footage, McCall has emerged as the sophisticated alternative for the “smart luxury” buyer. In the current market, \$5 million in the marquee ski towns might secure a dated condo or a modest lot with compromised views. At Whitetail Club, that same investment opens the door to expansive acreage, panoramic mountain vistas, and a true private-club lifestyle. But the appeal goes beyond the tangible. This is a purchase driven by a desire for privacy and peace—a rejection of the “velvet rope” economy in favor of a life defined by nature and simplicity.

While the real estate can stand on its own, it’s the landscape that captures hearts. McCall is a town for the “ski purist”—someone who cares more about the quality of the snow than the label on their jacket. Nearby Brundage Mountain claims the title for the “Best Snow in Idaho,” boasting some 320 inches of powder annually. With Tamarack Resort adding big-mountain vertical nearby, Whitetail Club residents have access to untouched bowls and wilderness without the stress of commercial lift lines.



Come summer, the focus shifts to the Andy North-designed golf course—lauded by *Golfweek* as one of the best in the nation—and the private Fish & Swim Club. Whether it's trout fishing in the morning or gathering for fireside cocktails at the lakefront clubhouse in the evening, the energy here is rooted in genuine adventure.

For those looking to plant deep roots, Whitetail Club has recently introduced its newest evolution: Legacy Ranch. Spanning over 365 acres, this enclave offers rare, large-scale valley lots ranging from five to over 20 acres. This is the pinnacle of the Whitetail promise. These homesites are designed for multigenerational compounds—places where you can build not just a main residence, but guest cottages, toy barns for outdoor gear, and private sports courts. Legacy Ranch offers a rare opportunity to construct a family seat that will endure for decades, set against a backdrop of rugged mountain majesty.

In a world that feels increasingly loud and crowded, Whitetail Club offers a different kind of wealth: the luxury of time, space, and a legacy to call home. [whitetailclub.com](http://whitetailclub.com)