

# PERFECT RUNS

A selection of 2017 frontside carving skis tested at Aspen.

by BARBARA SANDERS

*SNOW Magazine* hosted its annual Ski Test last April on Colorado's Aspen Mountain. David Stapleton, past U.S. Ski Team member, pro racer, shop owner, and Gorsuch manager, acted as test director, selecting a number of high end boutique skis new on the market for 2017. In this edition we're presenting test results for frontside carving skis; in our next edition, we will focus on all-mountain boards.

With the help of professional skiers — all testers came from a ski teaching or ski racing background — *SNOW's* goal was to find the “perfect run” for each ski. As these professionals have skied many famous resorts, we asked testers to match each set of boards with an iconic run. It's a fun way to give our readers a quick and easy snapshot of every ski.

We also asked participants to test skis for functionality: How do they hold at speed? How do they perform in the bumps, in the trees, on smooth groomed runs, or on steep, challenging terrain? At Aspen, the team skied these frontside carvers on perfectly groomed packed powder.

*SNOW's* testers included Joan Valentine, Kimberly Mann, Trent Jones, Nick Hill, P.J. McGovern, Lizzie Talenfeld, Scott Kane, Shelby Rogala, Lindsy Brandbury, and Greta Muxworthy. Here are their findings:



## BOMBER AM TIMBERLINE

124 x 77 x 110  
Perfect run: *Ruthie's Run*,  
Aspen Mountain

“I can see why Bode loves them!” says tester Lindsy Bradbury, an ex-ski racer. “I felt like I could tip them up early and trust them to come around. They have brilliant edge hold. They are stable at both high and low speeds, and they feel damp and solid.” Tester P.J. McGovern, ex-ski pro and on skis 150-plus days per year, adds: “You can tell this ski is made the old-fashioned way. Awesome!”



## ZAI TESTA

122 x 73 x 102  
Perfect run: *Born Free*, Vail

“These skis are ideal for medium radius cruising, with good edge hold at speed,” says Shelby Rogala, a ski pro at Aspen Highlands. P.J. McGovern adds: “These skis are light to carry, but ride like a heavy, damp ski. They're perfect for someone spending time on frontside groomers.”

